

local Government, are, first, that we are not able to pay the expenses of such a government; that there are no roads by which the members could travel to the seat of the government; and, lastly, that we have not sufficient material amongst us to form legislators. God knows, if those that use these arguments had the same opinion that I have of the qualifications necessary to make a legislator, they would not make such a fuss about it. These are the only arguments that I have heard against the establishment of a local government at Newfoundland, they are so contemptible I shall not reply to them—our opponents may have the full benefit of them.

As I have before stated, local governments have been ceded to all the other English Colonies. It has been given to Bermuda, containing only twelve thousand inhabitants, eight thousand of whom are slaves; and to the other Slave Islands; to Prince Edward's Island, containing only thirty thousand inhabitants, and to many other places; whilst from Newfoundland alone the advantages of such a government have been withheld. The just and statesmanlike reasoning of Mr. Baring on the subject of Colonial legislation, when presenting a petition a few days ago, in the House of Commons, from the inhabitants of the Cape of Good Hope, expresses so much better what I would wish to say, that I cannot resist the temptation of inserting his words; they bear particularly on the situation of Newfoundland, and say all that can be said on the subject:

“The Right Honourable Gentleman had said that there were other Colonies in which the same system of Government prevailed. That was true, and disgraceful it was to this country. But the colony of the Cape of Good Hope was different in its character from the Colonies to which the Right Honourable Gentleman had adverted. It was not inhabited by the stewards of individuals, who themselves, perhaps, resided in Portman-square. It was settled by English farmers, by men of English habits and feelings. It was not circumscribed in extent like a West India island. Its population might eventually be augmented to many millions. The cases, therefore, were wholly dissimilar. The Right Honourable Gentleman talked of the Cape not being ripe for the enjoyment of free institutions. It never would be ripe unless these institutions were introduced.