

resolutions adopted by the assembly and the Commercial Society respectively, on the subject of Free Trade, I would observe, that the resolutions of the assembly passed that body unanimously, Protestants and Roman Catholics alike supporting them; that I am not aware of any monopoly in Newfoundland, other than that advantage, which, where the laws are equal, the possession of capital will always give, and that whatever might be said of the Newfoundland merchants of a former time, who, residing altogether in England, looked upon the colony in accordance with the settled policy of the Imperial Government as a station where they might fish, but could not reside; the merchants of the present day, a very different class of men, are too closely connected with it by many and powerful ties, not to be as deeply interested in its permanent prosperity as many, who, having no real stake in the colony, with a suddenly acquired zeal, make loud professions of disinterested patriotism,—and that the recent offer of the Commercial Society, made in anticipation of the loss of the Revenue Bill, voluntarily to continue the payment of Customs duties, an offer, unparalleled in Colonial history, sufficiently attests, that in opposing the views of the majority of the assembly, they are influenced, not by selfish and sectional motives, but by a desire to promote the best interests of the country of their nativity or their adoption. Again, it is alleged by the Roman Catholic party, that, taking the aggregate result of the five general elections which have been held since the first establishment of the Legislature, a majority of Protestants have been returned to the assembly, but an investigation of this point will shew that the fact is not so, a majority of Roman Catholics having been returned, as will always be the case under the present division of districts, and deducting the first house which was elected before parties were organised, and when the interference