

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Addresses from the  
House of Assembly.

In Canada and New Brunswick the development of the internal resources of these countries, and particularly the fostering care exhibited by the British Government towards their agricultural improvement, at the expense of the Imperial Treasury, have produced, long since, a native gentry to compose the Councils there, having all their interests in common with the interests of the body of the people. In Newfoundland, on the contrary, the policy heretofore pursued by the parent Government was at first to forbid residence, then to restrain settlement, anon to decry agriculture; in fine, to fetter the resources, and cramp the energies, and blast the prospects of the people, has produced the natural result. Native gentry there is none; a resident landed proprietary there does not exist, and consequently society in this colony is reduced to two classes, the one mercantile, composed not of native, but stranger "merchants and adventurers," and indeed to a considerable extent even these non-resident, to whom may be added the officers of the Government, all strangers too; the other, the humble fishermen, whose destinies are riveted to the soil of their nativity.

May it please Your Majesty, the interests of the mercantile class of society in Newfoundland by no means bear that intimate analogy with those of the fisherman, which, in the provinces referred to, subsists between the several classes of the people. The native inhabitants of Newfoundland are sighing for the promotion of agriculture for the full development of the internal resources of the country. The merchant sees in the accomplishment of their wishes the grave of his monopoly; for if agricultural produce be raised in the country, the profits of the merchant, in the importation of provisions, must proportionably decline. The native inhabitants of Newfoundland, regarding its soil with affection,—it is the natal place of his grandsire and his children, and he looks upon it as destined to envelope the last relics of his mortality,—pants for its improvement; the adventurer only desires the accumulation of wealth for its ultimate removal, to the great depression of the people from whose means it was derived, the aggrandisement of a distant land.

Thus, may it please Your Majesty, has it been judged advantageous in this country to suffer the supplies to appear in Bills of miscellaneous appropriation, thereby exhibiting a difference from the systems pursued both in England and in the neighbouring provinces, corresponding with the difference between their respective political and social constitutions.

In the present year, Your Majesty's faithful Commons, with these views, renewed the temperate assertion of their right, so well and so justly established; but again has their exercise of that right been obstructed by Your most Gracious Majesty's Council; and, determined once more to seek redress by soliciting in humility the protection of Your Majesty, and in order to afford no pretext for the embarrassment of the country by the ultimate rejection of the whole supplies of the year, until the result of Your Majesty's most gracious consideration of our claims had been learned, this House, immediately upon that interruption, acceded to their views, and separated the original Bill into three; viz. one for the support of the civil government, one for the defrayal of the legislative contingencies, and a third for the liquidation of certain law costs and other charges connected with the proceedings of the delegates to England, and the prosecution, by the late chief justice and present high sheriff, of certain members of this body, for acts done in their legislative capacity.

The proceedings of Your Majesty's Council, may it please Your Majesty, upon these Bills, will more fully exhibit the inapplicability in this country of those principles which perhaps may work advantageously in the neighbouring provinces, because that while the mercantile portion of the Council support the official in passing the Bill for the civil salaries and expenditure, the official supports the commercial in the rejection of Bills contemplating public improvement, defraying the cost incurred in seeking redress of grievances, or the just and legitimate remuneration for services honestly and zealously performed, because performed by persons selected by the representatives of the people.

House of Assembly, }  
25 Oct. 1838. }

(signed) *Will. Carson*, Speaker.