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generally indisposed to political agitation of any kind, have hitherto contented themselves for the most part with offering through the local press and by the votes of their representatives in the Assembly, a consistent opposition to the efforts of the Roman Catholics; and the receipt of the despatch of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, of the 21st February last, which while it conceded the principle of Responsible Government to Newfoundland in common with other North American Colonies, based that concession upon certain conditions absolutely necessary to its just and practical operation, shewed that this confidence was not misplaced. Regarding the Despatch as a final settlement of the question of responsibility, the Protestant minority of the Assembly, in the session which has recently closed, were prepared earnestly to co-operate with the Roman Catholic members in fulfilling its conditions, and although themselves desirous, in common with their constituents, of a complete and extensive subdivision of the districts in order to a fair and full representation of the whole constituency, yet knowing that the Roman Catholic Members had, from an alleged fear of mercantile influence, always been strongly opposed to subdivision, they were willing to waive their desires upon this point and to acquiesce in such an arrangement, as while it confined division to two districts only, would enable the Protestants to return that reasonable majority of members to which their numbers alone would entitle them.

The Roman Catholic members, however, who as the majority of the Assembly initiated the Representative Bill, brought in a measure which, while they assumed that it would produce a return of fifteen Protestants and fourteen Roman Catholics, would in fact, as is shewn by the Table A, place the majority on the other side and thus perpetuate their present ascendancy. The majority professed to base their hypo-