

TO THE
MOST NOBLE THE MARQUIS OF NORMANBY,

Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

MY LORD,

As one of the representatives of the district of St. John's in the Colonial Assembly of Newfoundland, I hope I may be allowed the privilege of humbly addressing your Lordship, in reply to the charges recently made against the character of the people of Newfoundland, but more particularly against the acts and proceedings of the House of Assembly, and contained in a petition from the Chamber of Commerce of St. John's, and in memorials to her Majesty's Government, from the merchants of London, Liverpool, Bristol, and Poole, engaged in the trade.

I am ready to admit the respectability of the parties who make these charges; they compose a great majority of the merchants engaged in the trade and fisheries, and if their complaints are well founded, they are fully entitled to the most favourable consideration from her Majesty's Government.

The allegations against the people and the House of Assembly may, in substance, be classed under the following heads:—

Firstly,—That society in Newfoundland is in a disorganized state,—life and property insecure, owing to the violent acts and proceedings of the House of Assembly.

Secondly,—That the members have held treasonable correspondence with the leaders of the rebels in Upper and Lower Canada, and have endeavoured to propagate amongst the people principles of sedition and disaffection to her Majesty's Government.

Thirdly,—That the Catholic clergy are the chief advisers and promoters of these violent proceedings,—that they exercise unbounded influence over the House of Assembly and the electors, who are mere instruments in their hands.

Fourthly,—That the House of Assembly have squandered the public revenue,—involved the country in debt, and have greatly injured the interests of the country.

Fifthly,—That the proceedings of the electors and their representatives in the House of Assembly, since the establishment of a