

It is well known, that the mercantile houses, which accumulated all their capital in this trade, have in prosperous times, made profits of from 20 to 30,000 pounds in one year, a sum more than adequate to the support of a civil government.

The Committee beg further to state to your Lordship, that the people of Newfoundland have been paying for many years duties on spirits and wine, out of which a considerable revenue has arisen; also a considerable revenue is raised from the rents of the public ship-rooms let under the authority of the Act 51 Geo. 3. c. 45. with the rents for lands in the vicinity of Saint John's, let out for the purposes of agriculture, for which from 2s. 6d. to 20s. per acre is annually obtained. Considerable additions will be made to the revenue of the country from the duties on foreign goods that may be imported under the free-port Act. There are many other sources of revenue which could be resorted to without inconvenience, and which there can be little doubt would enable the country amply to pay the charges of a civil government.

Local governments have been ceded to the Canadas, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Bermuda, and some of the most inconsiderable islands in the West Indies; while Newfoundland, of equal importance to the parent state, the most ancient of her possessions in America, is deprived of similar advantages.

The Committee in concluding their Report, beg most respectfully and earnestly to press on your Lordship, the necessity of a government such as they recommend. Nothing else can be of much service to the country, or satisfy the just wishes of the people.

The Committee have been informed, that it is the intention of his Excellency the Governor to recommend to your Lordship, that a Governor and council should be appointed with legislative powers;—such an unconstitutional government would be, most obnoxious, and the people would prefer remaining in their present state. The Committee, therefore, most humbly request, that your Lordship will not give your sanction to such a system of government.

(Signed as the preceding Letter.)