

fairly asked of the English Minister, whether the money that has been expended in the improvement of Canada, and the other provinces, did not as effectually promote the ambitious views of the republic of the United States, as if it was laid out in the improvement of New York or Boston. It may be stated, that this expenditure is for the purpose of enabling a successful defence to be made in the event of an invasion on the part of the Americans. I fear that *canals* or *locks*, no matter how large they may be, must present but a weak barrier to the ambition of that power, from whom more danger is to be apprehended from the federal principles of their Government, (which insidiously pretends to conquer only to give freedom and independence) than even the power of their arms. It is only a native Government, that will identify itself with the country and people, that can promote the prosperity of Newfoundland, and give inducements to the seamen and fishermen to remain there. I am clearly of opinion that the establishment of such a government must be of equal advantage to the parent state; what would forward the interest of the one would be equally advantageous to the other. If I saw that granting a local representative government to Newfoundland would be opposed to the interest of the mother country, I should consider her case as hopeless: for the first consideration with an English Minister (and with none more than with the distinguished individual who has lately been placed over the Colonies) is his country; the second is his country; and the third is his country. However high my opinion of that individual is, I fear, if justice to Newfoundland was placed on the one hand, and the interest of England on the other, even *he* would incline to the side of his country. However, I am quite sure, if he turns his liberal and enlightened mind to our neglected situation, he will see that justice can be done to Newfoundland without compromising, in the slightest degree, the interest of England; but, on the contrary, be the most effectual way to promote her welfare. It is time to take us in Newfoundland out of leading strings; three hundred years is in all conscience a sufficient minority. We are now of sufficient age to take care of our private affairs. The arguments, if arguments they can be called, which have been, from time to time, adduced against our obtaining a