

settlement of which we deem essential to the useful existence of the popular branch of the Legislature, of paramount importance to the country, and indispensable to the better administration of the Government.

In conclusion, while we do not hesitate to assure your Excellency that you will be indemnified for any outlay that has been made or may be rendered necessary for the relief of the poor and the telegraph labourers, we deem it our duty to inform your Excellency, with the utmost reliance upon your Excellency's good sense and impartial judgment for a favourable construction of the motives influencing our conduct, that we have deliberately come to the conclusion to await the decision of the Imperial Government upon the right of the people of this old and loyal dependency of the British Crown to the possession of self-government, in the constitutional acceptance of the term, rather than waste our time and exhaust the patience of the public in witnessing a renewal of fruitless attempts at legislation under the present constitution.

John Kent, Speaker.

House of Assembly, 13 February 1854.

To which his Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I HAVE not received a reply to my despatch forwarding the memorial of the House, praying for a change of the constitution of the colony; and I cannot adopt the irregular and inconvenient proceeding of laying before you correspondence on a subject referred to the Crown, and upon which a decision has not yet reached me. Indeed, upon this topic the delegation from your Honourable House appears to have received assurances which have not yet been communicated to myself.

I thank you for your assurance of indemnifying me for any outlay that has been made or may be rendered necessary for the relief of the poor.

I must, however, express my great regret that you have come to the conclusion to defer legislation on subjects—particularly those of vital importance to the colony—which it has been my duty to bring before you. Whether the public interests have been consulted in arriving at the determination to which you have come, is a question for your own consideration; and, with you will rest the responsibility for any detriment to those interests, which may result from the course you have resolved to pursue.

Enclosure 2, in No. 2.

Encl. 2, in No. 2. REPORT of DELEGATES to the Imperial Government, on the Subjects of Responsible Government, Free Trade with the United States of America, and other Affairs of the Colony of Newfoundland.

THE House of Assembly having hitherto struggled in vain against the local Executive for the establishment of a thorough British system of government in this island, and their repeated addresses to the Crown for justice having been met by evasions or direct refusals, it was resolved, during the last Session of the Legislature, that delegates should be sent from the Assembly to London, for the purpose of placing the affairs of the colony before the Imperial authorities in their true light, as a conviction existed in the public mind that they had not been fairly represented, or the parent Government would have long since conceded to Newfoundland its constitutional rights and privileges.

We are accordingly honoured with the important trust of representing the views of the country, as expressed by the Assembly, on the present system of government, the general state of the colony, and particularly the claims of this old and loyal dependency to the establishment of responsible government, and reciprocal free trade with the United States of America.

In the discharge of our duty, we now respectfully submit an outline of our proceedings for the information of the public and the Assembly.

Having proceeded to Halifax in the steamer "Ospray," and thence to Liverpool in the R. M. steamer "Niagara," we arrived in London on the 18th July last, and immediately applied ourselves to the fulfilment of the trust reposed in us.

Having prepared the annexed statements, Numbers 1 and 2, on the general affairs of the colony, we transmitted copies thereof, with our credentials, to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, requesting at the same time an interview with him on the several matters which formed the subjects of our delegation.

(No. 1.)

My Lord Duke, Tavistock Hotel, London, 20 July 1853.
We have the honour to acquaint you, that the House of Assembly of Newfoundland, in the last Session, appointed us its delegates to proceed to London for the purpose of promoting the establishment of self-government in that old and loyal dependency of the British Crown, and reciprocal free trade between it and the United States of America. We therefore,