

of that old and loyal colony, in the meantime, that we may be enabled to avail of that only opportunity of direct steam communication likely to be had for some time, in completing our voyage of over 6,000 miles, and bearing, as we fervently hope, to the homes of our fellow-colonists a guarantee of your impartial justice and sincere interest in their peace and welfare.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.

We have, &c.
(signed) Philip F. Little.
Robert J. Parsons.

(No. 3.)

SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT.

My Lord Duke,

Tavistock Hotel, London, 28 July 1853.

ON behalf of the House of Assembly of Newfoundland, we beg to tender our sincere acknowledgments for the cordial and gratifying manner in which your Grace was pleased to receive us, in company with Mr. Hume, on the 26th instant; for the marked attention paid to our statement of the affairs of that important colony; for the frank expression of your enlightened opinions, and the lively interest manifested by you in the great objects of our mission. By the spirited subjects of that ancient dependency, who have been heretofore treated with more than ordinary neglect, the details of our interview with your Grace will be received with lively gratitude and unfeigned satisfaction. In regarding the views expressed by your Grace as the indication of an earnest desire for a reform in its Government, and a compliance with the wishes of its inhabitants, we feel confident that we form a correct estimate of your high and honourable character as a British statesman, and of that wise and just colonial policy which you have adopted as a general rule, in conferring self-government upon the colonists wherever it is practicable.

In the course of our interview with your Grace, there were two points which appeared to have some weight with you, in reference to the propriety of conceding responsible government to Newfoundland; though you very fairly stated that you did not regard them in the light of insuperable objections. The first was the supposed difficulty of finding a sufficient number of persons in the colony qualified to conduct that system, and justify an adequate increase of its representatives; and, secondly, the alleged existence of such sectarian differences among the population as might interfere with its harmonious working. In accordance with your kind permission, we shall briefly address ourselves to these objections; and, we trust, to the entire satisfaction of your Grace.

Looking at the pursuits of our population and their communication with all quarters of the world; the extent of their trade, and the knowledge they must possess to transact their affairs, and the amount of political information acquired by them in the exercise of their political rights, as well as from the agitation of constitutional questions in that and the neighbouring colonies, we would respectfully submit, that in such a population of 120,000 there would be no difficulty in finding a sufficient number of persons, qualified by their local knowledge and general intelligence, as well as by their position in society, and their professional and other pursuits, to manage their own public affairs.

It is difficult to adduce direct proof of the existence of such intelligence in the mass of the population of Newfoundland as would qualify them for representative institutions. It is only by analogy, or comparison with other colonies which possess self-government, that we can best exhibit to your Grace their fitness for the reception of those rights which, as British subjects, the people of that colony claim at your Grace's hands. We state it advisedly when we declare, that neither Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, nor Prince Edward Island has, for the extent of its population, the aggregate of intelligence enjoyed by Newfoundland. Her merchants, planters, and middle class generally, are inferior to none in ordinary intelligence; and it is from these classes, who are sufficiently numerous, that the future legislators of the colony will invariably be drawn. The electors, the greater proportion of whom include the mechanics and fishermen who are householders, are not in the least of an inferior grade to the same class in England—possessed of great morality, discretion, and peculiar genius and industry, rarely to be met with elsewhere among the same class of men. It is no uncommon occurrence in Newfoundland for a planter to fell and bring out of the forest timber and other materials necessary to construct a vessel, to build her from keel to topmast himself, and afterwards to take charge of and navigate her in prosecuting the trade of the colony. Surely, then, such men are not to be supposed devoid of that intellectuality which would qualify them to become the recipients of a system of constitutional rule, under the enjoyment of which they observe their sister colonists thriving, and excelling in every social respect, while they are struggling beneath an anomalous representative form of government in which they place no confidence.

An objection similar to the first was urged by Earl Grey with reference to Prince Edward Island, with its more contracted population and resources, where it was more likely to hold good than in Newfoundland; but practical experience has shown that even there, under the enlightened administration of Sir Alexander Bannerman, there existed no real foundation for the assumption.

The increase of our representatives has been deemed desirable by the Assembly, for the despatch of public business, with a due regard to the proper subdivision of legislative labours,