

The prompt attention that the Governor has given to the calls for relief from various portions of the Island, must convince the House of Assembly and the community at large, of his anxious desire to meet every case of distress by corresponding alleviation, and that his endeavours are only bounded by the limited discretion with which he is invested.

When the Governor informed the House of Assembly that he considered himself warranted in providing for the Civil Government of the Colony until the first of April, his views were confined to its ordinary and usual disbursements. And although the Governor has been induced, by the appeals of distress which have reached him, to make very large and serious advances, he feels he has already exceeded the limit contemplated by the King's Government; and that further to indulge those feelings which have hitherto guided him, particularly now that the Legislative Government is in full operation (and in a case which peculiarly belongs to the Local Government to provide for), would be to subject his conduct to just animadversion; the more so, as, great as the distress has been represented to be, no public meetings have hitherto been called in the capital or other towns with a view to its relief.

Under these circumstances the Governor has left him but the choice of one of two modes of proceeding, and he will be most happy to adopt that which will best accord with the wishes and views of the House of Assembly; either to meet such supplies as may be raised by public subscription for the relief of the Petitioners, by an advance to a corresponding extent on the part of Government—and the responsibility of which the Governor will take upon himself, notwithstanding the vast additional expense that has already been imposed on the mother country during the last twelve months—or the Governor will be happy to advance, on behalf of the Local Government, such sum of money as the House of Assembly may deem requisite to meet the necessities of the occasion, the same to be refunded from the first duties levied, unless His Majesty's Government shall think proper to relinquish their claim thereto.

*Ordered*, that the said Message do lie on the Table.

On motion of Mr. THOMAS,

*Resolved*,—That, in reply to His Excellency's Message, a strong and respectful remonstrance be presented to him, setting forth the distressed state of the Petitioners, and pressing upon His Excellency the absolute necessity of affording them some present relief.

*Ordered*,—That Mr. THOMAS, Mr. HOYLES, and Mr. PACK, be a Committee to prepare an Address to His Excellency, in pursuance of the foregoing Resolution.

The said Committee thereupon retired to the Committee Room, and shortly afterward Mr. THOMAS reported that the Committee had prepared the draft of an Address to His Excellency,

in reply to His Excellency's Message, presented to the House this day; and he delivered the same in at the Clerk's Table, where it was read, and is as follows:—

*To His Excellency Sir Thomas John Cochrane, Knight, Governor, and Commander-in-Chief, in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.*

May it please your Excellency,

The House of Assembly having taken into their serious consideration the Message of your Excellency, relative to the Petition from the distressed inhabitants of the Northern Shore of Conception Bay, regret exceedingly the determination which your Excellency has found yourself compelled to adopt.

If the House of Assembly had any funds under their immediate controul applicable to the relief of the sufferers, they would not have hesitated, under the alarming and appalling accounts of distress and starvation that have been pressed upon their notice, to apply such funds to their relief; but, being without any present revenue, they cannot allow their individual feelings so far to interfere with their sense of public duty, as to accede to the proposal of your Excellency, that the House of Assembly should borrow money from the Parent Government, and pledge the expected Revenues of the Colony for the repayment of such loan—a measure fraught with the most ruinous effect on the finances of the Colony, involving it in debt at its first step in Provincial Legislation, highly dangerous as a precedent, and calculated to fix an incubus on its independence, which, in the course of time, might work its destruction.

In reply to the other proposal, the House of Assembly beg leave to inform your Excellency, that a public subscription has been raised in Carbonar for the relief of the distressed inhabitants of some parts of Conception Bay, which, although inadequate to their support throughout the winter, has assisted (together with numerous private charities, which have been more extensive this year than was ever before known) in maintaining the distressed to the present time.

That the accumulated misery now so apparent may be attributed in a great measure to a total failure of the potato-crop, a circumstance which has not occurred to so alarming an extent for the last thirty years.

The House of Assembly therefore earnestly, yet respectfully, press upon the consideration of your Excellency, the wants of the Petitioners from Conception Bay, and feel a confidence that your Excellency will consider yourself warranted by the exigency of the case, strengthened by the pressing application of the House of Assembly, in granting, on the part of His Majesty's Government, such relief as the Petitioners actually stand in need of.