

elapse before they were ceded to Newfoundland,—the oldest English colony,—the first fruits of the naval enterprise of England. Earl Ripon, in his noble despatch to Sir Thomas Cochrane, in the year 1832, conveying the King's charter, said,—“It was superfluous to accumulate reasons in proof of the propriety of establishing in Newfoundland that form of Constitution which generally prevails throughout the British transatlantic colonies; the difficulty would consist rather in finding valid arguments for withholding it.” To gratify a heartless, withering monopoly, the people of Newfoundland were so long deprived of their inherent rights of British subjects. This, my Lord, is the cause, and the only cause, why Newfoundland has lagged behind in the onward course of improvement and civilization; centuries rolled along, and she remained in a state of pristine barbarism, until the “atrocious acts” of her “unprincipled” House of Assembly for six short years have brought into life and animation more of her long neglect, her inexhaustible internal resources, than the centuries of despotism that preceded. I do not wish to hide the fact, that, at this moment, society in Newfoundland is in any state but that of unruffled calm: it is greatly agitated: there is a war of conflicting opinions. No reflecting mind can be surprised at it; the sudden transition from almost absolute despotism to freedom will account for it. After all, it is not more so, than in more favoured colonies in her immediate neighbourhood. The people of Newfoundland join in the universal resistance to local oppression and irresponsible government. Agitation in Newfoundland, as in every other colony, will be interminable, if this master grievance is not redressed, no matter what may be said by interested parties, by vain, presumptuous charlatans. If, my Lord, you wish to make your rule over the colonies permanent, you must adopt the wise counsel of Lord Durham, and allow the colonies in all local concerns to govern themselves. It is, I believe, Mr. Burke that said, “if you wish to please any people, you must give them what they ask, not what you think best, for then such an act may be a wise regulation, but it is no concession.”

The attempt to direct the local affairs of the colonies by decrees from Downing-street, has signally failed. When the late able, benevolent, high minded Secretary could not succeed, I shall have no confidence in those who may succeed him, even though he possessed the wisdom of a Lycurgus, a great Lord Bacon, or Sir Francis Bond Head himself. At the moment of concluding this hasty letter, the unwelcome intelligence has arrived of the resignation of Her Majesty's Ministers. Your Lordship may be the successor of Lord Normanby, and, without intending the shadow of offence to your Lordship, I should most heartily regret it. Referring you to my memorial to Lord Normanby,

I am, my Lord,

Your obedient Servant,

PATRICK MORRIS.

Liverpool, May 8, 1839.