

NEWFOUNDLAND. of an interview with the noble lord at the head of Her Majesty's Government, who was pleased to say that the statements then submitted to his lordship should be taken into consideration.

Addresses from  
Public Bodies and  
Individuals.

That the memorialists remain deeply impressed with the necessity of some essential change being made in the legislative government of the island, in order to allay the violence of party and political feeling amongst the people, and to restore commercial confidence and credit, which are suffering severely under the pressure of the evils referred to

That the memorialists complain both of the constitution of the House of Assembly and of its proceedings: of its constitution, inasmuch as the candidates require no other qualification than that they shall have been householders in the island for two years; and the electors, that they shall have been householders for one year, the description of house occupied by either class not being regarded. As respects its proceedings, it may suffice only to mention to your Lordship, that, during the last session, the Assembly, in the exercise of its privileges, first imprisoned a highly respectable individual, a surgeon of St. John's, who had had a quarrel with one of the members, and then ordered into custody both the judge and the high sheriff who had judicially discharged him; for which grievances it now appears, by a decision of the Supreme Court, that there is no redress in the colony.

That, with so low a qualification for both candidates and electors, in a population the great mass of which is composed of fishermen, it falls out, in the practical working of the system, from dictation on the one hand and terror on the other, that the merchants and wealthier classes are totally unrepresented in the Assembly; and this is the case, while the experience of its past acts creates very reasonable apprehension as to its proceedings in future.

That the island, being dependent for its supplies of provisions upon the merchants, it is most important, both that their credit in the European markets should be unimpaired, and that their apprehensions of disturbance in the colony should be removed, otherwise there is ground to fear that adequate supplies will not be sent out, whereby the people must be subjected to privation and suffering, and the fisheries to serious harm and loss.

That with these views, the memorialists wait now upon your Lordship, and humbly and earnestly pray,

That your Lordship may be pleased to take the state of Newfoundland, as respects its government, and especially as respects the constitution of the House of Assembly, into consideration, inquiring into the same by commission or otherwise, if such course be deemed advisable, with the view of applying an early and efficient remedy to the existing evils.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c. &c. &c.

Liverpool, 7 March 1839.

[18 Signatures.]

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— No. 16. —

To the Most Noble the Marquis of *Normanby*, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

May it please your Lordship,

WE, the undersigned merchants and others of Dartmouth, in the county of Devon, carrying on business, having property and otherwise interested in the Island of Newfoundland, being about to invest capital to a large amount in forwarding our usual annual supplies for the outfit of the fisheries, and for other purposes, beg leave to call your Lordship's serious consideration to the perilous state in which property is placed in that island, in consequence of political dissensions arising from a defectively-constituted House of Assembly, and its outrageous proceedings, and which has been brought under the notice of Her Majesty's Government from time to time, by petitions and memorials, as well from those interested in its trade and fisheries on this side the Atlantic, as from a great number resident in the said island. We trust we shall not be considered obtrusive in repeating that we have serious apprehensions for the safety of our property in Newfoundland, and do most earnestly entreat your  
Lordship