

produce, the prospect of increasing the demand, and consequently enhancing the value of colonial labour.

France has, for several years past, given annual bounties of 3,900,000 francs, for the encouragement of her cod fishery, mainly prosecuted on the banks and shores of Newfoundland; and on the 22d July 1851, the National Assembly passed a law, continuing the bounties until the 30th June 1861, and extending them to 20 francs per quintal metrique of fish the product of their fisheries, exported to "transatlantic countries, provided the same be landed at a port where there is a French consul." This new provision is doubtless intended to meet our exports in the American continental markets, and in the West Indies. And should we act wisely in permitting them, after having injured our trade with Europe, to exclude us from the American markets, without making a struggle for our existence. If we, in common with the neighbouring colonies, can induce the Americans by any reasonable concession on our part, to receive our produce on more favourable terms than they should be inclined to admit the produce of the French fisheries, we should have achieved a triumph for our colonial interests, the importance of which would be incalculable to the colonies in a commercial view.

A few days before we left the colony for England, we learned that the local Executive addressed a letter to a commercial society formed in St. John's for the protection of their own interests, requesting their opinion on this subject, in view of our mission. Now, we simply ask, was this a fair way to meet the question? The Legislature was in session four months and a half, and only closed in the middle of June; the Assembly having unanimously adopted the foregoing resolutions on the 23d February last.

A delegate was thereupon sent by the Assembly to Washington to promote its views with the British Minister and the American Government, and we have reason to hope that the interests of this colony will be considered by the Imperial Government before any treaty shall be concluded on the subject. In the meantime the Council was doing comparatively nothing, except obstructing the progress of the Assembly in useful measures. Why the mercantile portion of that body did not take action on the question can only be thus answered:

That they preferred trusting to the "secret despatches" of the executive and the combination of self-constituted "cliques," representing no interests but their own, rather than either openly brave public opinion themselves, or oblige their allies, the paid officials of the Government, at the Council Board, to do so. The Assembly, as the only legitimate organ of public opinion, would have been a sufficient guide for a constitutional executive, and a reference of such a question to a private party sitting with closed doors would not be thought of out of Newfoundland, especially where that body are doubly represented in the Council.

We shall conclude with a few general remarks on the conduct of the Executive in the transaction of the ordinary affairs of the Government. In the distribution of its patronage, it has not been guided by considerations of merit or the qualifications of recipients for the discharge of their duties. Men who were formerly degraded for misconduct in public positions have been appointed to offices of trust in preference to more deserving and competent persons. The formation of a "family compact," and the promotion of individuals in whom the public have no confidence, are characteristics of its policy. Persons who have rendered themselves odious to the popular party by their offensive conduct have met with especial favour in the estimation of the Executive; and we do not hesitate to say that one person, at least, connected with a press in the colony, the publisher of what is termed the government organ, has been encouraged by the Executive in fomenting discord among the people, by every means in his power, that divisions may be created and extended among them, and that it may appear to strangers, through that contorted medium, that the community is so divided by sectarian and other differences, as not to be fit for the enjoyment of self-government.

The colony has been deeply involved in debt through the extravagant system of government pursued, and the public have not received benefits by any means adequate to the amount of money expended on public works or local improvements. Peculation, defalcation, and a total disregard of the law have been of frequent occurrence in several of the public departments.

Favourites of the Executive have been screened in their defalcations, and the Assembly, even during the last Session, was denied the papers necessary to enable them to investigate a charge of defalcation against an outport sub-collector of customs. While the sureties of the late treasurer have been proceeded against, and his family's property has been seized under a writ of extent by the Crown, for alleged defalcations in his department, only discovered it is said after his decease, amounting to over 6,000*l.*, and extending over several years; the sureties of the present treasurer have been expressly exonerated by their bonds from liability by reason of any loss that may occur from depositing the public monies, which pass through his hands, in a local branch of a private bank, chiefly owned by parties not resident in the colony.

For over 20 years has Mr. Secretary Crowdy held his present position as Colonial Secretary and chief adviser of every successive Governor, occasionally acting as administrator of the Government. It is notorious that whoever may be the Governor, he ultimately becomes the ruler of the island. All the evils and abuses of the Government have occurred during his connexion with it; and it has often been a matter of surprise to many, that defalcations could have happened in the treasury department on which he drew, or must have known all the warrants that were drawn on the late treasurer, without his being able to detect and expose them, during the lifetime of his co-official. By an Act of the local Legislature of