

15th May, 1861.

His Excellency Sir Alexander Bannerman, Knight, Governor.

We regret to find that pauperism has augmented, notwithstanding its demoralizing effects have been strongly, and, we may venture to add, justly denounced in various influential quarters; and we confidently hope that the Legislature, by a judicious arrangement, may succeed in lessening to some extent this increasing evil so burthensome upon the public Revenue.

With reference to the Reciprocity Treaty existing between this Country and the United States of America, we entirely agree with Your Excellency, and fully appreciate the sentiments expressed by Your Excellency on this subject; and we feel persuaded that the Government here will not depart from any course of policy or principle which their predecessors have entered into by treaty with the United States, and sanctioned by the Legislature.

We regret that Your Excellency has not yet been put in possession of the desired information upon the Fishery question, and are quite prepared to ascribe the delay to those causes adverted to by Your Excellency. We, however, assure Your Excellency that we confidently rely on the deep interest always manifested by the Imperial Government in the prosperity of this important dependency, and that in the negotiations which are now progressing none of the maritime or territorial rights which the people of this Island possess under existing Treaties will be ceded to any foreign power. At the same time, we are gratified to find that in the negotiations now pending a measure is being perfected in the contemplated establishment of a suitable marine police, under certain rules and regulations, in order that the stipulations of existing Treaties may be fully carried out.

We assure Your Excellency that we do deeply deplore the lamentable events which have taken place in the neighboring Republic, and sincerely trust that God in his infinite mercy will avert the horrors of civil war, and consequent loss of human life; and we agree with Your Excellency that the people of this Island ought to be grateful to the Almighty for the blessings hitherto bestowed upon them, and trust with Your Excellency that peace and harmony may prevail throughout the Colony.

LAURENCE O'BRIEN,

*President.**Council Chamber, May 15th, 1861.*