

— No. 1. —

CORRESPONDENCE relative to the PROPOSED CONTRACTS with the NORTH ATLANTIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY for the Conveyance of Mails between this Country and *Newfoundland*.

The Attorney General of *Newfoundland* to Mr. Wilson.

42, Upper George-street, Bryanstone-square,  
27 June 1857.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have received a definite offer in writing from the North Atlantic Steam Navigation Company to run suitable steamers between Liverpool and some North American port, calling at St. John's on their outward and homeward voyages, and conveying our mails fortnightly, for five years, at 13,000 *l.* a year. This sum, I may observe, I consider rather high, and I have little doubt they may be induced to take something less. They have requested a reply within a specified time, which I have asked may be extended, to enable me to ascertain what amount you are disposed to allow, on behalf of the Imperial Government, for carrying the mails direct, in addition to the annual allowance of 7,000 *l.* voted by the Local Legislature for this service.

I therefore trust you will not deem me importunate in respectfully soliciting your early attention to a matter of such importance to the commercial interests of *Newfoundland*; and I shall be happy to wait upon you, according to your polite intimation, at any time you shall have the kindness to name, for the purpose of conferring with you upon the subject.

I have, &c.

(signed) *P. F. Little,*

Attorney General of *Newfoundland*.

James Wilson, Esquire, M. P.,  
&c. &c. &c.

• Mr. *Merivale* to Sir *Charles Trevelyan*, K. C. B.

Sir,

Downing-street, 10 July 1857.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Labouchere to transmit to you the copy of a letter from Mr. P. F. Little and Mr. L. O'Brien, both members of the Executive Council of *Newfoundland*, bringing under the notice of Her Majesty's Government the claims of that island to pecuniary assistance from Great Britain towards the establishment of direct steam communication with this country.

Mr. Labouchere requests that you will represent to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury that he regards it of great consequence to provide *Newfoundland* as soon as possible with the means of ready and convenient communication with this country; and that, reviewing all the circumstances of the case, he is disposed to recommend to the favourable consideration of their Lordships that a sum not exceeding three thousand pounds (3,000 *l.*) per annum be applied for a specified number of years to this object.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Herman Merivale.*

Sir *Charles Trevelyan*, K. C. B.,  
&c. &c. &c.