

have deprived us of suitable markets.

Address read.

But to the more enlightened and liberal policy of Your Majesty's Government, we confidently look for a remedy for those evils which are daily becoming more apparent ; and in the full hope that those measures may be adopted which will operate for the advantage of this Colony, no less than for that of the Empire at large, we would most humbly crave leave to submit, more particularly, to Your Majesty's notice a few of the circumstances which have induced us to address Your Majesty on this occasion.

From the estimates laid before us by His Excellency the Governor of the Island at the commencement of our Session, it appears that the sum required to defray the charges of the Civil government during the present year,—including the salaries as well of the Officers of Your Majesty's Customs as of his Excellency the Governor, and every other Officer of the Civil and Judicial departments of the Government, together with Contingencies,—will amount to about Twenty seven Thousand Pounds ; and although it shall be our earnest endeavour, in providing for the support of the Government, to enforce the strictest economy, consistent with a due regard for the public service, yet we are painfully sensible that the amount of our Revenue, arising from duties imposed on articles imported into the Colony, as well by Acts of the Imperial Parliament as of our own Legislature in its last Session, will be greatly inadequate for that purpose.

On a review of the public expenditure of the Colony for some years past we lament to find that the charges of the Civil Government have enormously increased, while, at the same time, we also regret to observe, that by the Act of the second and third of Your Majesty, chapter seventy eight, which placed at our disposal the duties collected under Acts of the Imperial Parliament upon the importation of articles consumed in the Colony, the greatest portion of those duties—amounting in all to the sum of Ten Thousand Pounds—was reserved and placed entirely beyond our controul, for the payment of fixed salaries to the Governor, Judges, and Attorney General, Colonial Secretary, and to the Officers of the Customs—thus actually leaving but a very small surplus at our disposal.—We also feel it to be a hardship that whilst we are called on to provide for the payment of a salary to the Surveyor General, and other officers concerned in the management of the Revenues, accruing to Your Majesty from the proceeds of the sale and Rents of the Crown Lands and Ships' Rooms in the Island, yet that the appropriation of these monies has not been placed at our disposal.

Independent, however, of the support of the Civil Government, we feel that a more equal and satisfactory administration of Justice in all parts of the Colony—the promotion of education—the encouragement of agriculture and the Fisheries—the internal improvement of the Island, and other objects of the deepest importance to the welfare of the Colony, demand our earliest care and attention ; and that for the advancement of these objects a much larger amount of Revenue than that which is at present at our disposal will be required. But taking into consideration the present depressed state of the Trade of the Island—the deteriorated condition of the Fisheries, and, especially, the almost entire failure during the past Season of that branch of them carried on at the Labrador—the failure of the Potatoe Crop for the last two years,—and the unprecedented falling off in the price of the staple commodities of the Colony,—owing chiefly to the poverty and disturbed state of those countries which have hitherto afforded the best Markets,—together with the continued excessive duties levied on our staple commodities in those Markets, it would be highly unwise and impolitic, under existing circumstances, to overburthen the already weakened means of the Colony, by imposing additional tax-