

purpose of affording us an opportunity of laying our case before him, an act of kindness for which we felt deeply grateful. We found that gentleman manly and straightforward in his views of colonial government, and after discussing the affairs of Newfoundland, in which he manifested a lively interest, expressing surprise that the Government should have withheld the concessions demanded by the colonists, he cheerfully consented to use his exertions, in unison with Mr. Hume and other Parliamentary friends of colonial reform in the Imperial Parliament, in vindication of our rights, should occasion require them.

We subsequently received the following official despatches from Mr. Peel, the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, one of them having been sent to the local Government for us.

Gentlemen,

Downing-street, 13 August 1853.

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to acquaint you, that, in compliance with your request, his Grace has presented to the House of Lords the petition from the House of Assembly of Newfoundland, on the subject of responsible government, referred to in your letter of the 4th instant.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Frederick Peel.*

P. F. Little, Esq., and
R. J. Parsons, Esq.

Tavistock Hotel.

Gentlemen,

Downing-street, 13 August 1853.

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, transmitting a supplementary statement of the claims of Newfoundland to responsible government.

In reply, I am to acquaint you that, with every disposition to accede to your wishes, for an early intimation of the decision of Her Majesty's Government on the important question to which your letter and its enclosures refer, it will be impossible for his Grace to announce that decision until the prorogation of Parliament shall have afforded the requisite leisure for considering the subject. But no unnecessary delay shall take place in undertaking that investigation.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Frederick Peel.*

P. F. Little, Esq., and
R. J. Parsons, Esq.

Tavistock Hotel.

Having allowed sufficient time to expire, after our return to the colony, to enable the Imperial Government to obtain the views of the local Executive on the statements and charges made by us, and to arrive at a decision upon the two principal questions submitted by us, we addressed a letter to Mr. Hume, requesting him to ascertain if any decision had been come to, and if not, to urge the affairs of the island upon the attention of the Duke of Newcastle, that we might be enabled to obtain definite information as to the contemplated policy of the Government before the opening of the Assembly. We give the correspondence upon this renewed effort, with the exception of the letter of the Duke of Newcastle to Mr. Hume, of the 21st November, which we regret we cannot publish, as it is marked "private," and was only transmitted to us for our guidance.

Dear Sir,

St. John's, Newfoundland,
17 October 1853.

UNDERSTANDING by information of a reliable character, which we have just received from Washington, that negotiations are progressing between the British Government and that of the United States, on the subject of reciprocal free trade between the latter country and the British North American colonies, and that Mr. Crampton, the British Minister, has not yet received any definite instructions from the Imperial Government with reference to Newfoundland, we are therefore obliged respectfully to request you to apply to the Duke of Newcastle on this important question, and ascertain if the Cabinet have arrived at a decision upon it, and the more important one of responsible government. Fearing that foreign questions have engrossed the attention of his Grace, and that we may be driven to adopt a course similar to that resorted to by the Assembly of Jamaica, if redress be not granted without any further delay, we are, therefore, under the necessity of soliciting you to remind his Grace of his promise to you and to us that he would take up the affairs of this colony as soon as leisure would permit after the rising of Parliament. The people of this island