

the "unbounded influence of the Catholic clergy." The Catholic population and the members of the House of Assembly, according to the statement of the Chamber of Commerce, are mere tools and instruments in their hands,—so many *automata*, ready at their bidding to commence the work of destruction. This appears the master grievance, that the Catholic priests and Catholic electors, "of late years emigrants from the south of Ireland," monopolize the whole of the representation. In reply to this statement, I have only to refer your Lordship to the late census, by which it will appear that the great majority of the electors are Protestants, not Catholics.

The electoral district of

Conception Bay, majority Protestants, return 4 members.

Trinity Bay, great majority Ditto..... 1 ditto.

Bonavista..... dittoDitto..... 1 ditto.

Fogo, dittoDitto..... 1 ditto.

Burin, dittoDitto..... 1 ditto.

Fortune Bay ... dittoDitto..... 1 ditto.

By this statement it will appear that the portions of the island where the Protestants are the great majority, return nine members.

The district of

St. John's, majority Roman Catholics, return 3 members.

Faryland, ditto.....Ditto 1 ditto.

St. Mary's and Placentia, Ditto 2 ditto.

The Protestant majority return nine members; the Catholic minority only six members. Admitting that the Catholic priests have great influence over the Catholics, it will not be *said* that they possess equal influence over the Protestants. Can Newfoundland be an exception to a rule that holds good in every other country where the majority rules the minority? In the face of these facts, the Chamber of Commerce boldly assert that the present House of Assembly are the mere nominees of the Catholic priests. I do state, without fear of contradiction, that the Roman Catholic priests did not nominate one single member of the House of Assembly. Some of the priests joined their Protestant and Catholic brethren at the late elections; it was this union that carried the elections, and made opposition to the Liberal interest altogether powerless. I do not deny that the influence of the Catholic clergy in Newfoundland is considerable; but there is no greater error than to suppose they can lead the people as they please in political matters. The Chamber of Commerce of St. John's may be forgiven for falling into this error; much higher persons in the state, and with vastly more experience, have deluded themselves with the same error. As a Roman Catholic, I boldly assert, that it is not the people who follow the priests, but the priests who follow the people in political matters. If the Roman Catholic priests of Newfoundland joined with the Chamber of Commerce of St. John's in their petitions to Her Majesty for the establishment of despotic