

Bannerman, from which the following extracts are taken. His Excellency says:—

On my arrival here I was naturally desirous to obtain statistical and other information relative to the colony, the Government of which I was sent to administer. . . . . In the spring of 1860, I was informed by the Colonial Minister that in all probability the Prince of Wales would first set foot in the Western Hemisphere on this, the earliest Colonial Possession of the British Crown, and the Duke of Newcastle desired me to send any recent work, with such local and historical information as might be interesting to His Royal Highness. I forwarded to him Reeves' history of the Government of Newfoundland, and Anspach's more general history of the country, which the Prince read on his passage out.

My Council readily agree with me in giving you access to the Records, which I believe will furnish you with the materials of the history which you propose to write. Containing as they do many thousand pages, I have only been able to take a cursory glance at them, but this has been quite sufficient to convince me of their value, and that they will throw much light on the early history of this ancient possession of the Crown, as they show what Newfoundland was a century ago and even later, when it was recognised as a fishery only and not a colony — when the planters were ruled over by unscrupulous men called Fishing Admirals, these being under the control of the West of England merchants, whose influence was all powerful with the Boards of Trade and Plantations — when penal laws existed and were sharply enforced in this colony—laws which happily no longer disgrace our Statute Book.

Subsequently, I forwarded to His Excellency a portion of the MS. of the work, in reference to which