

mies. Before the establishment of a House of Assembly, there was not ten miles of a good road in the whole island; now, there are upwards of two hundred miles about being completed. Before the establishment of the House of Assembly, there was not one school in the island supported at the public expense; now, there must be more than fifty.

Agriculture has improved; cultivation has increased; the annual value of agricultural produce is now worth more than £170 ~~per~~ annum. In twenty years it will be five times that amount. Little more than twenty years ago it was a penal offence to cultivate the soil.

Instead of lending your name to inflame the hatred of local and contending parties, I wish your Lordship would join in the good work of improving the physical and moral condition of the people of Newfoundland. You were quite mistaken in the opinion that the soil of Newfoundland is not capable of improvement. Give Newfoundland the same encouragement that you have given your other colonies, and you will find it capable of giving employment and subsistence to millions of inhabitants. Make inquiry into the state of her fisheries, completely monopolized by the commercial rivals of England; acquaint yourself with the fact that there are at this moment more than twenty thousand French seamen, and an equal number of American, employed on her shores, ready, at a moment's warning, to be called on to man their respective navies. The Government of France grants upwards of £300,000 for the encouragement of her Newfoundland fisheries, and on the condition that the fishermen when called on are to man the navy of France.

These are subjects worthy the deep attention of the British senator. Believe me, my Lord, such a course on your part would be more honourable and more useful than bringing unjust and unfounded charges against the House of Assembly, and the people of Newfoundland.

Notwithstanding your Lordship pledged yourself for the statements made by the petitioners, yet you said you were not prepared to go the full length with them; you could not agree to the destruction of the Newfoundland Constitution. I cannot conclude this short address to your Lordship without expressing my sincere thanks even for this avowal. I naturally feel a parental affection towards that Constitution. I have devoted the best part of my life, and expended much of my property, to obtain it. I may say I sat by its cradle; and, indeed, it would be to me a bitter day if I should live to "follow its hearse." I entertain the strongest faith in the miraculous power of free British institutions. With Sir James Mackintosh, I believe them to be the parent of arts—the parent of commerce—the parent of wealth—the parent of every virtue.

Free British institutions were granted to all the other English colonies in their infancy. Nearly three ~~years~~ were allowed to

*Centurion*