

NEWFOUNDLAND.

as amounting to almost "universal suffrage," yet there are circumstances attaching to the unsettled and migratory character of a certain portion of the population of this island, which may perhaps be regarded as constituting a sufficient cause for not at present interfering with the enlarged privileges granted to them by the Royal Proclamation of July 1832, but which would perhaps rather render it advisable to leave any limitation of these privileges (beyond perhaps extending the qualifying period to two years' residence) to the good sense of the representatives of the people themselves, and to future legislative enactment.

The modifications which I have above suggested are, therefore, the only propositions which I deem it necessary to submit your Lordship at present; but as these, in the event of their receiving your Lordship's concurrence and approbation, can only be effected, I apprehend, by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, there will be sufficient time for me to learn your sentiments on the subject, and to offer such further suggestions as further information or more matured consideration may appear to render advisable.

I respectfully submit, that the members of the Council, as it now exists, should be allowed to retain their legislative character, and that I should be permitted to recommend to Her Majesty such additional members as I may consider fit and proper persons for raising that body, in point of numbers, to the amount which Her Majesty may be pleased to assign to it. The several interests of the colony (and these are not limited to its trade and fisheries) might thus be duly represented in the Legislative Council, and that body would then assume its proper constitutional character, as a separate branch of the Legislature, independent alike of the throne and the people.

I have thus endeavoured to possess your Lordship of the result of my own observations, and of the information derived from other sources, during the brief period of my residence in this island, and in doing this, I have endeavoured to divest that information of all tincture of local prejudice, and while applying to it whatever of practical experience I may have acquired in North American colonial affairs, I have assuredly not sought to bend facts or circumstances to any preconceived theory or previously formed opinions; on the contrary, should further experience induce me to alter any of the views which I have now presented to your Lordship, I shall not hesitate in frankly bringing such changes of opinion, with the grounds upon which they may rest, to your Lordship's early knowledge.

Bespeaking your utmost indulgence for this early exposition of my impressions in relation to this ancient, loyal and valuable appendage of the British Crown, and soliciting as early an intimation as may consist with your Lordship's convenience, as to how far the principles upon which my suggestions are based have your Lordship's concurrence, or otherwise,

I have, &c.
(signed) *J. Harvey.*

P. S. Although I have forbore to place this report in the series of numbered despatches, in consequence of its being of a somewhat confidential nature, yet I should be happy to receive your Lordship's permission so to record it, should you see no objection.

(signed) *J. H.*

— No. 2. —

(Confidential.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Lord Stanley to Governor Sir John Harvey, K.C.B., dated Downing-street, 19 November 1841.

No. 2.
Extract Despatch
from Lord Stanley
to Sir J. Harvey,
19 Nov. 1841.

I HAVE had under my consideration your confidential despatch of the 6th of October, addressed to my predecessor, which, in compliance with your expressed wish, I have directed to be recorded in this department among the numbered despatches.

It affords me great satisfaction to learn that, so far as you had been able to form an opinion, the inhabitants of Newfoundland generally appeared unfeignedly loyal and firmly attached to British connexion; that political excitement was subsiding, and the internal prosperity of the colony, in reference to its trade and revenue, steadily upon the increase. In such circumstances, I regret that recent events should have imposed upon Her Majesty's late servants the necessity of directing the suspension of the representative and legislative privileges conferred upon the island in 1832; at the same time that I understand it to be your own