

That in proof of their disinterestedness they beg to assure your Grace, that should the course now pursued by the Assembly render necessary any change in the constitution of the colony, your memorialists would much regret any loss that might arise to its revenues from the expiration of the present Revenue Act, during the delay that may be necessary in that behalf, and although of all others most interested in a pecuniary point of view in a suspension of the Customs' duties, they humbly pray that the Revenue Act now shortly to expire may be continued by an Act of the Imperial Parliament for such time as may be necessary to enable Her Majesty's Government fully to deal with this important subject.

St. John's, Newfoundland,
23 February 1854.

(signed) *Peter M'Bride,*
President.

— No. 3. —

(No. 50.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Duke of *Newcastle* to Governor *Hamilton*.

Sir,

Downing-street, 17 March 1854.

I HAVE received your despatch, No. 86*, of the 23d of February last, transmitting copies of the speech with which you opened the Session of the Legislature of Newfoundland, and of the answers returned thereto, a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce, and an address to myself from the House of Assembly.

I consider that I shall best consult the convenience of your Government and the interest of the colony, by refraining from any discussion upon the contents of your despatch and the documents accompanying it. I will therefore merely refer you, and the public bodies which have addressed me, to my despatch of the 21st ultimo, and express my earnest hope, that the concession of "responsible government" to Newfoundland may be attended with all the benefits which the advocates for that system of Government anticipate.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Newcastle.*

— No. 4. —

(No. 85.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hamilton* to the Duke of *Newcastle*.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
20 February 1854.

(Received, 13 March 1854.)

(Answered, 21 March 1854, No. 52, page 38.)

My Lord Duke,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Grace a copy of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Crowdy, on the subject of certain assertions injurious to him contained in a statement* laid before your Grace by the delegates from the House of Assembly of Newfoundland.

I have already had occasion to inform your Grace that that statement consists in a great measure of fabrications, having but the very slightest foundation in truth; and this is an instance in which partial truth is used so as to produce the effects of total falsehood in regard to Mr. Crowdy; the partial truth of the assertions having no relation to him, and the superadded falsehoods being injuriously made to apply to this meritorious public officer.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Ker B. Hamilton.*

Enclosure 1, in No. 4.

Encl. 1, in No. 4.

Sir,

Secretary's Office, 7 February 1854.

THE Delegates appointed by the House of Assembly to bring certain matters under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government have made a Report which contains a statement said to have been laid before his Grace, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in which are assertions and insinuations of a character injurious to me.

No. 3.
Duke of Newcastle
to Governor
Hamilton.
17 March 1854.

* Page 2.

No. 4.
Governor Hamilton
to the Duke of
Newcastle.
20 February 1854.

* Page 16.