

No. 42.

*(See Page 266.)*

The Committee to whom were referred the Petition of the Inhabitants of Brier Island, in the County of Digby, praying to be set off into a separate District for the support of the Poor, and a Bill for carrying out the prayer of said Petition; also a Petition of the Inhabitants of Long Island, praying that no such Act may be passed—beg leave to report :

The Committee, after giving the subject their best consideration, have come to the conclusion that with so large a body as those subscribed to the Petition from Long Island being so strongly opposed to the passage of such an Act; and also that the Township of Westport comprising the said two Islands, being but a small Township—they cannot recommend the passage of any Act for dividing the said Township.

The Committee cannot but indulge the hope that the two parties, apparently so nearly equal upon this subject, will come to an amicable arrangement among themselves, thereby rendering any Legislative interference unnecessary.

All which is respectfully submitted.

STEPHEN FULTON,  
HUGH McDONALD,  
JOHN CAMPBELL.

Committee Room, Halifax, Feb. 10th, 1849.

No. 43.

*(See page 267.)*

(CIRCULAR.)

*Downing Street, 20th January, 1849.*

SIR—

A Census of the population of England and Wales will be taken in the year 1851, and the Registrar General has suggested to me that it would be desirable to publish a similar Return for all Her Majesty's Colonial possessions.

I transmit for your information and guidance a copy of Major Graham's letter, together with a copy of the Memorandum to which it refers, and I have to instruct you to cause a return of the population of the Colony under your Government, to be prepared in the manner prescribed in the annexed form as far as may be practicable, without incurring expenditure which cannot be conveniently provided for.

Although I concur in Major Graham's opinion that it would be desirable that a Census in each of the Colonies should, if possible, be taken on or about the same day as that on which it may be fixed to be taken in this Country, this suggestion can of course only be acted upon in the event of the Legislature of Nova Scotia having it in contemplation to direct such a Return to be made, in which case it would be expedient to submit the recommendation of the Registrar General to their consideration, with the view to the adoption of such measures as they may deem necessary for securing this object.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

GREY.

Lt. Governor Sir John Harvey, &c. &c.

General