

Address read.

loyal attachment of the Inhabitants of this Colony to Your Majesty, and their affectionate regard for the Mother Country, induce them to expect.

In again expressing our fervent gratitude to that Sovereign to whose justice and liberality we are indebted for granting this ancient Colony those long sought-for institutions of freedom, without which it was impossible either morally or physically to improve the condition of a large and rapidly increasing population, or to place within their reach the resources of this valuable Island, we beg leave briefly to remind Your Majesty of a few of the acknowledged claims upon the favourable consideration of the Parent Government which this Island, from its great political importance, possesses; and, at the same time, most humbly to represent to Your Majesty, the present unusually depressed state of the means of the Colony.

Unlike others of Your Majesty's Colonial Territories, to which the policy of the Parent State was induced to extend that form of Government and those institutions which, while they gave to the inhabitants of those Colonies the full and sole command of their resources, and enabled them to project and mature, from their first settlement, plans of permanent improvement and prosperity, it has been, Sire, from the earliest history of this Colony, the withering policy of the Government of the Mother Country by every possible means to prevent the adoption of any measure which might tend to improve the condition of a large and increasing portion of Your Majesty's faithful subjects, who had made this Island their home.

Whilst during a long series of years the public charges of the Colony were trifling and insignificant, enormous sums of money accumulated in the Island by persons engaged in the prosecution of its Trade and Fisheries, were not only transferred to the Mother Country to swell her Capital and increase her Commerce, (thus withdrawing from the Island those fertilizing means which, under the policy invariably pursued towards the rest of Your Majesty's Colonies, would have made this one of the most flourishing of Your Majesty's Foreign Possessions), but during a small portion of that period—of not more than eleven years—it appears, from Parliamentary Returns, that a sum amounting to upwards of One Hundred and twenty thousand pounds, collected from duties paid by the resident Inhabitants upon articles imported into this Colony, was remitted directly to the Treasury of the United Kingdom.

It is, here, perhaps superfluous to mention the vast political and commercial importance of which this Island ever has been and still is to the Empire—the unlimited employment which its fisheries have given to her shipping both in peace and in war, thereby affording the most efficient nursery for seamen to man Your Majesty's Navy, and thus aiding more than any other cause in the support of that naval sway which we trust our beloved Empire will ever maintain—the great consumption of British Manufactures, and those necessary articles which the Colony is not yet enabled to produce,—and, lastly, the contiguity of it to Britain, which identifies the Interests of this Island with those of the Mother Country, and renders it improbable that it will ever be separated from the Parent State. We would, however, humbly beg leave to state, that whilst the Inhabitants of this Colony will yield to none of Your Majesty's Subjects in a desire to promote the general welfare of the Empire at the expense of their individual interest, they cannot but feel that the Treaties which have secured to our Foreign Rivals the exclusive right of taking and curing fish on the most valuable parts of the shores of the Island, have very greatly pressed upon the energies of the Country—particularly when it is borne in mind, that the bounties paid to our Foreign Competitors by their respective Governments, added to the poverty of those Countries which have hitherto been the great consumers of our staple commodities,