

TO HIS GRACE
THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE,

HER MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE COLONIAL DEPARTMENT.

MY LORD DUKE,—

I have taken the liberty of addressing to you a few remarks on a subject which I have reason to believe will not fail to interest your Grace, as it has done your predecessors in the high office which you hold under our most gracious Sovereign.

Certain popular views of the tenures of Land in Prince Edward Island have been long entertained, on the one hand favorable to the present position of the Grantees of the Crown; and on the other, denying the validity of the titles under which they hold.

My views on this interesting question, in which I am in no way personally interested, are opposed to the proprietary claims; but I have been slow to adopt them; and in the following pages I have collected a few of the main facts and authorities which exist to support the opinion I now entertain. I must, however, premise that what I have put together affords a mere abstract of voluminous authorities and documents on which this case depends. I am not aware that the subject has ever been treated in the same manner. When I was recently a member of the Island Government, I had access to papers, of which, perhaps, it would not be easy for me at the present moment to obtain an equally deliberate perusal. I have thought it expedient and just to treat of the explanations supplied by existing instruments, because I hear it stated broadly, by persons whose position should give the assertion weight, that the original conditions of settlement contained in the Charters have been so modified by time and by concessions that their existence can scarcely be said to be now recognised. I believe these assertions to arise either from an