

against the members of the House of Assembly in their addresses, I shall only say that I defy them to bring the slightest proof of their allegations. I confidently state, and I challenge them to prove to the contrary, that no member of the present Assembly, in the House or out of the House, was ever guilty of writing or uttering sentiments of disloyalty to the Government, but quite the reverse; they have been loud in their expressions of loyalty, and have invariably inculcated the same principles amongst their constituents. For the deliberate and unanimous opinion of the House of Assembly, I must again refer you to their last address to her Majesty. In that address, they state that the crime of disaffection to the Government was unknown in Newfoundland,—that the charge of treason or sedition was not, within the recollection of the oldest inhabitant, made against any British subject in Newfoundland. This is the statement of the House of Assembly to her Majesty. I repeat the same, and confidently appeal to the records of her Majesty's courts of justice in confirmation. If the Chamber of Commerce of St. John's have stated any thing like truth in respect to the conduct of parties in Newfoundland, what have the Executive Government been about? Have they allowed the apostles of rebellion to stalk about the land, corrupting the loyal principles of the people, unheeded and unpunished? In justice to the gallant individual who represents her Majesty in that country, as well as the Attorney-General, I must defend them from the charge. If they remained silent spectators of the acts charged against the leading members of the House of Assembly, they are more guilty than the offending parties.

The humble individual who has now the honour of addressing your Lordship may possibly claim the unenviable honour of being ranked amongst the leading members of the House of Assembly. From his youth he has taken a prominent part in the public affairs of the colony. I have been an active, if not a useful, agent in bringing about the various changes in the Government of Newfoundland,—it has been the chief object of my life to obtain free institutions for Newfoundland, based on the principles of the unequalled Constitution of England. Possibly I have written and spoken more on the subject of Newfoundland than any other man. I may have been mistaken,—I may have been misled; but my sole object was to cement the connexion between Newfoundland and the parent country by the strong bonds of mutual interest and kindred affection. I was profoundly impressed with the conviction, that any measures calculated to promote the best interests of the one must be beneficial to the other.

I crave pardon from your Lordship for this personal reference; but as I must come in for a share of the general charge, I think it only justice to my own character to make this defence. I now shall dismiss that part of the charge against the House of Assembly, and call your Lordship's particular attention to the next charge—