

ADDRESSES FROM THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
TO HER MAJESTY.

— No. 1. —

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Addresses from the
House of Assembly.

May it please Your Majesty,

WE, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Commons of Newfoundland, in General Assembly convened, have most humbly and reverently to approach Your Majesty, to acknowledge, with the most profound feelings of gratitude, the attention which Your Majesty has been graciously pleased to give to the complaints of the people of this Your ancient and loyal colony of Newfoundland.

We have now particularly to express our deep sense of Your Majesty's solicitude for the protection of the people of this colony, in permitting their complaints against the state of the administration of justice to be inquired into by Your Majesty in Council; and we have to express our full, complete, and perfect satisfaction at the result of that inquiry.

Your Majesty's loyal subjects of Newfoundland, being either natives of the United Kingdom, or their immediate descendants, have at all times entertained the strongest desire to be governed by the laws of England; the rights and immunities of British subjects they value beyond all price; they feel anxious to preserve them for themselves, and to transmit them unimpaired to their children; it was, then, a cause for unmixed joy and delight to find these mild and merciful laws, and the incomparable constitution of England, confirmed to them by the just decision of Your Majesty, aided by the advice of Your Majesty's Council.

It is with feelings of indignation, which we cannot command language sufficiently strong to express, that we have heard that statements have been made to Your Majesty and to the other branches of the Imperial Government, imputing to the people of this colony disaffection and disloyalty to Your Majesty's sacred person and Government, as well as resistance and disregard to Your Majesty's laws. In justification of the people of Newfoundland, and in reply to these unfounded and ungenerous imputations, we fearlessly assert that in no portion of Your Majesty's wide-spread dominions are the people more sincerely, devotedly, and unanimously attached to Your Majesty's royal person, throne, and Government, than are Your Majesty's faithful subjects of Newfoundland. And we further state, without fear of successful contradiction, that, within the recollection of some of the oldest inhabitants, and which takes in the time of the French war, the late American war, and down to the present period, the high crime of disloyalty to the Crown and Government of England was not, even in one solitary instance, exhibited in Your Majesty's courts in Newfoundland against a British subject; but, on the contrary, the people came forward on those occasions, and are even more ready now to come forward, were it necessary, to risk their lives and expend their fortunes in support of the sovereign and just rights of Your Majesty, and in upholding and cementing the union and connexion with the parent country.

The House of Assembly, the representatives of the people of Newfoundland, not only repudiate the foul charge of disloyalty, but further claim for their constituents a character which they have justly earned, of submitting and acting in obedience to the laws; they also claim for them a moral and religious character, not inferior to that of the people of any other portion of Your Majesty's dominions.

Newfoundland is nearly as large as England; the inhabitants are settled in various harbours along the coast, far distant from the capital and from each other, and we regret to say surrounded, with little exception, by the unimproved wilderness; there is not, except in St. John's, a fort, garrison, or soldier; and