

— No. 9. —

(No. 92.)

No. 9.
Governor Hamilton
to the Duke of
Newcastle.
24 March 1854.

Copy of a DESPATCH from Governor *Hamilton* to the Duke of *Newcastle*.

Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland,
24 March 1854.

(Received, 10 April 1854.)

My Lord Duke,

* Page 41.

WITH reference to my despatch, No. 90,* of the 23d instant, enclosing a copy of my message transmitting to the House of Assembly your Grace's despatch No. 49, of the 21st ultimo, on the subject of responsible government, I have the honour to inform your Grace that I received from that body on the evening of yesterday, the 23d, the enclosed Address, requesting me to cause the mail steamer to be delayed for a period of 24 hours, to enable them to forward by this mail what they termed "a reply to such despatch." This request I complied with.

2. I have just received an address from the Assembly to your Grace, which I enclose herewith.

3. This address states that the concession of responsible government, on the conditions attached by your Grace, instead of being received with approval by the people, would be rejected without hesitation; but the accompanying "Public Ledger" * of this day—the ablest and most influential journal of this colony, which represents the sentiments of the Protestants, that is, of the majority of the people—in addition to saying that the terms of your Grace's despatch exactly meet the prayer of their recent petition to the Queen, has the following statement: "And we have no doubt that the Protestant population generally will be gratified at the opportunity of evincing how much they concur in the justice of the principles contained in the despatch of the noble Duke, who has so much entitled himself to their best and warmest thanks."

4. The enclosed minutes of this day's proceedings show the opinion of the minority of the House in the shape of an amendment which confirms the statement above referred to.

5. As to the stereotyped observations respecting the Council, I need not occupy your Grace's time by remarks upon them.

6. The principles of a subdivision of the more populous districts, and an increase of the representation on a fair basis, adopted in your Grace's despatch, and so earnestly insisted on by the Protestants of the country, ought not, I think, on any account, to be abandoned, as the result of such a course would be that which I have so frequently pointed out.

I have, &c.

(signed) *Ker B. Hamilton.*

Encl. 1, in No. 9.

Enclosure 1, in No. 9.

To his Excellency *Ker Baillie Hamilton*, Esq., Governor, &c.

May it please your Excellency,

THE House of Assembly respectfully beg leave to thank your Excellency for the promptness displayed by your Excellency in laying before this body the despatch of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle upon the subject of responsible government, and respectfully request that your Excellency will be pleased to cause the mail steamer to be delayed for the period of 24 hours, to enable the Assembly to forward by this mail a reply to such despatch.

(signed) *John Kent*, Speaker.

House of Assembly,
23 March 1854.

Encl. 2, in No. 9.

Enclosure 2, in No. 9.

Sir,

Government House, 23 March 1854.

ALTHOUGH the mail steamer is already behind time, I have not hesitated to request the agents to detain her for some further time, not having myself that power. I shall, therefore, be enabled to receive anything that may be forwarded to me from the Assembly for transmission to the Secretary of State up to two o'clock P.M. to-morrow.

(signed) *Ker B. Hamilton.*

His Honor The Speaker.