

as reproductive as circumstances would allow, and of averting the debasing influences of a purely gratuitous relief, by affording timely employment in public work to those whose destitute condition, if not thus assisted, there was good reason to anticipate.

By a Despatch from the Secretary of State, which will be laid before you, you will learn that Her Majesty's Government are anxious to establish a system by which the cost of erecting and maintaining Light Houses situated in the great Tracks of Commerce, may be more equally imposed upon the shipping deriving benefit therefrom.

It is the intention of the Imperial Government, that the Light House about to be erected upon Cape Race, should be maintained under this plan, and the ready adoption of the system, the advantages of which to this Colony can scarcely, I think, be doubted, may not improbably lead to its extension to the Light already established upon Cape Pine.

Personal communication between the Government and the chief promoters of the important project which has received the sanction and encouragement of the Legislature, for connecting Europe and America by Electric Telegraph, through the city of St. John's, justifies the expectation that, notwithstanding a recent disaster which has retarded the operations of the Company, the year upon which we have just entered will witness not only the establishment of the contemplated communication between this Colony and the American Continent, but also the initiation of direct intercourse by Steam with the United Kingdom, without which indeed, the great object of securing the rapid and regular transmission of intelligence across the Atlantic Ocean could not, for some time to come, be accomplished.

There are not wanting practical and experienced observers, who believe that the obstacles to such a project, which are attributed to the peculiarities of our situation and climate, are even less formidable than those encountered in a similar service upon the shores of the neighbouring Continent.

Should this opinion prove well founded, this Colony will at length receive the due advantage of its unrivalled geographical and commercial position; some conception of which may be derived from the simple fact, that its annual exports—the produce of the sea alone, and probably undervalued at a million and a quarter—are the results of the hardihood and skill of no more than some 40,000 of its inhabitants, and even those employed during only a portion of the year.