

with which public opinion has been treated by that body, we have exercised no ordinary degree of prudence and forbearance thus long, in submitting our will and independence to those who are our superiors in no constitutional view, in the hope that this system of misgovernment would be abolished in Newfoundland, as it has been in all the neighbouring colonies, where it had invariably produced similar results.

We respectfully submit that the principles of executive responsibility are the birthright of the people of this colony, as British subjects, that they have been recognised as the only true and just rule of colonial government by the most eminent British statesmen since 1839, when Lord John Russell embodied them in his famous Declaration of Colonial Rights, that they have been since practically demonstrated and successfully adopted in all our neighbouring colonies, where they have conferred the most substantial benefits upon the people. That in none of the British American possessions were the evils of the old system more severely felt, or more justly condemned, than in Newfoundland, which has been suffering from misgovernment from the time of its settlement to the present day; while its resources, and the extent of its trade, the number, intelligence, fitness, and desire of its inhabitants for the exercise of a constitutional form of government, paying their own Civil List, contrasted with the condition and circumstances of the adjacent dependencies, justified us in claiming a participation in the privileges which have been granted to them.

We have adopted every prudential and necessary measure in our power to prepare for the advent of a reform which we have deemed inevitable; but nearly all our efforts in this respect have been opposed by the Council; an increase in the number of the Members of this Assembly has been frequently attempted by the Assembly; the other branch would agree to none that would secure the honest and independent exercise of the elective franchise throughout the island, and we have accordingly abandoned all hope of coming to a satisfactory arrangement with them on this subject. But, reposing the utmost reliance in the avowed colonial policy of the present Ministry, we have anxiously looked for their impartial decision to terminate these difficulties, and place the political institutions of the country upon the broad and solid foundation of those principles of constitutional freedom, which have been tested for ages in the mother country, and form the great element of progress and improvement in the neighbouring colonies.

Owing to the disturbed condition of affairs in Eastern Europe, we presume that your Grace has not had sufficient leisure to come to a definite conclusion upon our Memorial of last Session; and we have deliberately come to the resolution no longer to waste our time, and exhaust the patience of the public, in fruitless attempts at legislation under the present constitution, but to await, as we fervently trust we are justified in expecting the satisfactory and impartial decision of the Imperial Government upon the right of this colony to the blessings of self-government. We feel that, before coming to this conclusion, we had done all that loyalty to the Crown, and only what our duty to the people demanded, in advocating the rights of the latter, and respectfully placing Her Majesty's Government in possession of such unquestionable data as will enable it to arrive at a correct and just conclusion upon the subjects of our well-founded complaint and constitutional demand.

We, therefore, most humbly pray that your Grace will be graciously pleased to take the premises into your favourable consideration, and without further delay secure for this old and loyal dependency of the British Crown, the long-desired boon of responsible government, similar to that in successful operation in the other North American colonies; and for which, as in duty bound, we shall ever pray.

Passed the House of Assembly, 21 February 1854.

(signed) J. Kent, Speaker.

Enclosure 4, in No. 2.

To His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

The Memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of St. John's, Newfoundland.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT the House of Assembly of this colony having resolved to do no further business under our present form of local government, and having in pursuance of such resolution adjourned for the period of one month; your memorialists deem it their duty respectfully to invite your Grace's attention to an address forwarded by your memorialists to the Colonial Office on the subject of responsible government in February 1852, and to assure your Grace that their sentiments on this subject remain unchanged.

That although unfairly and untruly charged in the report of the late delegates from the Assembly with being influenced solely by selfish views, with being actuated only by a spirit of monopoly, and, impliedly with combining to fix a price below its value on the staple produce of the country, and to establish and confirm a credit and truck system ruinous in its effects upon the operative population; your memorialists feel deeply interested in everything that concerns the welfare and prosperity, and the moral, political and social progress of this country; and on that account are desirous that responsible government should not be conceded to Newfoundland until all classes of its population are fairly represented in the Assembly.

That