

*28th January, 1858.*

FOURTH SESSION, SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 21st VICTORIA.

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as all foreigners are bound to observe the municipal laws of the country in which they are resident."

I have been much gratified that the labours of the Newfoundland fishermen last season were attended with success, and that they obtained a good price for their fish. The merchants must have sustained loss from the low price of some of their exports, in consequence of the pecuniary embarrassments which prevailed in the latter part of the year 1857, in all parts of the Commercial World.

In that year, however, the labouring population of this Colony, and they are principally fishermen, were enabled to enjoy comforts from their honest industry, and, by their additional consumption of dutiable articles, they must have materially contributed to the increase of the Revenue.

I wish, only, that some employment could be found for the population during the winter; and I believe, if the fish are properly protected, the fishermen of Newfoundland may, when the weather permits, in the winter season, practice the fishery, as is done upon the Coast of Scotland.

Direct communication by Steam, with the mother country, would secure, among other advantages, a ready market for wet, cured fish, particularly at a season of the year when the fishermen most require a good price. I hope I shall be enabled to assure Her Majesty's Government that direct Steam Communication with England, to touch at some Port of the United States on the passage out and home, is still considered of vital importance to the future welfare of this Colony, and the interests of its people; and, that the Legislature will not object to the continuance of the liberal contribution which was voted last year in addition to the Three Thousand Pounds which has been granted by the Imperial Government; and, I trust that the exertions of the Gentlemen who were deputed to proceed to England on this important subject, will soon be crowned with complete success.

On the 17th of March last, my Predecessor alluded to the ne-