

NEWFOUND-
LAND.

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 the civil force to preserve the peace in these distant settlements, do not exceed one or two constables, and, in many harbours, not even one constable; yet, notwithstanding, a civil or criminal process issuing from Her Majesty's court at St. John's, can be executed without difficulty in the most distant part, and most populous district in the island. As an example, we humbly beg to call your Majesty's attention to one case, amongst others, which occurred during the heat and excitement attending the general election of 1836. A number of persons were charged with a riot at the election that took place at Harbor Grace, in Conception Bay; that warrants were issued for the apprehension of the parties accused from the Supreme Court at St. John's; one single constable proceeded to what was then and is now stated to be a "disturbed district," arrested all the parties, and brought them, a distance of upwards of 30 miles, to St. John's, where they were delivered over into the hands of justice. This is only one example, from hundreds we could adduce, to prove the readiness with which your Majesty's subjects in Newfoundland submit themselves to the laws, even at a time when it was universally considered that these laws were administered corruptly, partially, and unjustly.

We can further refer your Majesty to the official documents annually transmitted from the local authorities to your Majesty, which will show the account of criminal prosecutions and convictions, and must prove the peaceful and moral character of the people of Newfoundland.

Should your Majesty desire to have further information on the subject, we pray your Majesty to command our late beloved and venerated Chief Justices Sir Francis Forbes and Richard Alexander Tucker to make a report thereon to your Majesty; and we would unhesitatingly appeal to the expressed opinions of these learned, wise and good men, as a full defence against the calumny so unjustly heaped upon your faithful subjects of Newfoundland.

May it please your Majesty,

There is nothing more calculated to bring the administration of justice into disrepute with the people of any colony, than to find persons placed by your Majesty on the judicial bench so far forgetting their duty, as to mix themselves up with the disputes of contending political parties; and it is to be lamented that individuals should in this country be placed in those responsible stations, who so far forget their duty to your Majesty and the people, as to lend the sanction of their names and stations to the foul and unfounded charges made against the loyal inhabitants of this colony.

We cannot conclude this humble address to your Majesty, chiefly intended to defend the people of Newfoundland from the foul charge of disloyalty, without expressing our sincere sorrow and regret that any portion of your Majesty's subjects, inhabiting your North American possessions, should be so far misled as were the people of Canada, to make the slightest opposition to the Government of your Majesty.

It affords us the most sincere pleasure to state that we have reason to believe that, even in the provinces lately disturbed, the vast majority of the clergy and people remained steady to their allegiance, and that even those that were led to open acts of resistance to your Majesty's Government were not fully aware of the enormity of their offence, and had no wish to throw off their allegiance to your Majesty; and we have now every hope that these misguided individuals, impressed with gratitude for the indulgence of your Majesty, will become your Majesty's grateful and attached subjects.

We have most sincerely to congratulate your Majesty on the complete suppression of the temporary insurrections in these Provinces; and we have also to acknowledge your Majesty's great anxiety to promote the general interests of the North American Provinces, and to secure their permanent connection with the parent State, by placing over them at this crisis a nobleman so competent to heal the distractions and to detect the defects of the existing constitutions of the colonies, a statesman so distinguished as the present Governor-General Lord Durham.

And we have furthermore sincerely to congratulate your Majesty on the signal success which has already attended his Lordship's mission, and we cannot avoid expressing our decided opinion that there is no part of his Lordship's proceedings more calculated to confirm the people of these Provinces in loyalty and attachment to your Majesty's Government than the manner in which he has carried the well-known wishes and commands of your Majesty into effect, by exercising the highest attribute of Royalty in extending mercy and indulgence to the misguided individuals in Canada who subjected themselves to the highest penalties of the law.