

monious and effective working of such a government. These obstacles might exist, for instance, in communities which were not of one description of people; where from the nature of the population and the limited representation, it might be difficult to find a sufficient number of persons qualified to carry out the system and justify the necessary increase of representatives for that purpose, or where divisions occur between different denominations of Christians. Now, with reference to the present application, he would wish it to be clearly understood that he did not mention these as insuperable obstacles, or that he regarded them in that light; but as matters that should of course be considered with the whole question in all its points of bearings before he could be expected to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion.

Mr. Hume here said to his Grace, give the colony responsible government and all the usual requirements will be found to carry it on, as they have been found in the other colonies, particularly in the smaller island of Prince Edward, which was inferior in point of population and resources to Newfoundland; that the sectarian difference to which his Grace referred, if they existed, would soon find their level and their best corrective in the principles of executive responsibility and free government. That he was acquainted with the views of some parties, formerly connected with the trade of Newfoundland, and they were under the impression that no change should take place there that would not subserve their class interests, or meet their very contracted policy. That Sir Alexander Bannerman's administration of the affairs of Prince Edward Island formed a remarkable contrast to that of former Governors, who had invariably failed in their efforts to satisfy the people of that colony, or carry on its government successfully.

The Duke remarked, that Mr. Hume knew how sincere his Grace was in his endeavours to carry out fully colonial reform; and the instance referred to by Mr. Little, where his Grace recently expressed his opinions on the affairs of Jamaica, was an evidence of that sincerity, and as such he wished it to be regarded. After a prolonged discussion on the political circumstances of Newfoundland, the delegates requested permission to furnish his Grace with a supplemental statement in answer to the two objections that were regarded with any degree of importance by him, to which he cheerfully assented.

They then referred to the great necessity of reciprocal free trade with the United States, and the impolicy and injustice of excluding this colony from a participation in any arrangement which may be concluded on that subject.

Upon this topic, as well as upon the other, it was evident that the authorities of the Colonial Office had been misled; they believed that until they had seen the resolutions of the Assembly on free trade with the States, that the people of the island were entirely opposed to the proposition; and his Grace was therefore rather taken by surprise, when the delegates assured him that a strong desire existed in the colony to see it accomplished; they further said that it was essential to the prosperity of Newfoundland, seeing that the French had by reason of their bounties, almost excluded the colonists from many of their best foreign markets for their staple produce, and that many of our able-bodied fishermen are leaving our shores to obtain remunerative employment in the United States.

His Grace stated, that he regarded this as a subject of vast importance; that it had been for some time under the consideration of the two Governments, that his views were in favour of the most unrestricted commercial relations, and he could see no reason why Newfoundland should form an exception in any general arrangement that may be concluded with the United States on this subject, provided any deficiency which might thereby be created in the revenue could be otherwise supplied. That he was in this view quite in favour of the proposition. That there was a gentleman connected with his department, who had recently arrived from Canada, conversant with the subject, with whom he would wish the delegates to confer on the details of this question, as it might affect Newfoundland, and also in relation to the French fisheries, adverted to by them; but before concluding that interview, he was most anxious to impress upon the delegates the necessity of abstaining from extremes in reference to the fishery question, that is, with the French and Americans. In the present state of political affairs it was above all things desirable that the greatest caution should be used, one injudicious act on the part of the colonists might involve the Union in a war which might disturb the peace of the world; and rather than such should be the alternative of pressing extreme rights, it would be a question for consideration whether the sacrifice of the whole colony would not be preferable.

The delegates replied that the colonists wanted no more than their rights, fair play for their talents, and a clear field for their industry and enterprise. They had, however, been seriously injured by the competition and encroachments of the French; and added to these causes of discontent, they were stung with mortification to find the local Executive lending their influence to oppose their desire for extended markets for the produce of their labour. That if a system of rule were established in which they reposed confidence, there was no doubt but a majority of the people's representatives would always be found to give practical effect to the views of the Colonial Minister, so long as they were conducive to the welfare of the colony. But at present the people had no motive for consulting his wishes, and any change which had a tendency to relieve the country from its continued and prolonged depression, and elevate their hopes of improving their condition, would be preferable to a system of government, alike contracted in principle and practice, under which the vast and valuable resources of the colony were left undeveloped, its progress retarded, and the political existence of the colonists ignored, except for the purpose of yielding taxes, which it was only candid to assume, they would not long continue to pay, after the successful example of constitutional resistance set by Jamaica, should their reasonable demands be refused, and their legitimate rights be any longer withheld.

His Grace then requested us to furnish some statistical information with the supplemental, in