

The Governor having published the communication made to him verbally by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, on his late visit to this Colony, and laid before the House a short despatch of date the 11th September last,—he can give the House no further information, although he thinks many days cannot elapse when he will be fully informed on a subject of such importance to the Colony.

The Governor avails himself of this opportunity of repeating his individual opinion, which he has frequently expressed before, that France never had, and has not the *exclusive* right of fishery which has been claimed; and further, the Governor believes that the maritime and territorial rights of Newfoundland, under existing Treaties, will be preserved; and it has been a source of satisfaction to him that, pending negotiations between the two nations during the last two years, the English and French fishermen have been pursuing their avocations so quietly, at least no complaint whatever has been made by Her Majesty's subjects, except one from the West Coast, against a French Naval officer, which, on investigation, was found perfectly frivolous.

Government House, }
4th February, 1861. }