

NEWFOUNDLAND.

— No. 6. —

(Confidential.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir *John Harvey*, K.C.B., to Lord *Stanley*, dated Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, 11 February 1842.

No. 6.

THE documents which I have the honour herewith to transmit have been placed before me by the provincial secretary, since the transmission of my despatches by the "Gazelle," on the 7th instant. They embody the opinions, deliberately and advisedly given, of five highly respectable individuals, in the form of answers to a few queries, which were sent to them by my directions, upon the subject of the modifications which it may be deemed advisable to introduce into the representative constitution of this island; and I invite your Lordship's attention to them with the greater satisfaction from the consideration that, proceeding as they do from parties of diametrically opposite political opinions, they will, nevertheless, I think, be found to be substantially in accordance with the views and suggestions which I have considered it to consist with my duty to submit to your Lordship in former communications.

Nos. 1 to 5.

Enclosures in No. 6.

Encl. in No. 6.

ABSTRACT of the Contents of the Enclosures of Sir *John Harvey's* Despatch of 11 February 1842.

Opinions as to a rent or property qualification for voters;

_____, _____, and _____, for a household qualification, with a system of rigid registration.

_____, rental of 10*L.*, in St. John's, and 5*L.* in the out-ports, or a 40*s.* freehold, and in either case two years' residence.

_____, 5*L.* rental, 12 months' occupancy of a house, and two years' residence in district.

as to the qualifications for members;

_____, freehold of 25*L.*, or rental of 50*L.* per annum, or 400*L.* in property of any description.

_____, qualification of Canada (500*L.* real property).

_____ does not consider further qualification necessary, but, if any, suggests 1,000*L.* sterling, free of incumbrances.

_____, income of 100*L.* per annum, or 2,000*L.* over and above debts.

_____, 100*L.* per annum from property or office.

as to the increase of districts and members.

_____, no increase of districts, but double the number of members for each district.

_____, towns possessing 2,000 inhabitants to return one member, 5,000 and upwards, two members, in addition to the present members.

_____ recommends that Conception Bay be divided into four districts, and every district whose population shall exceed 5,000, now returning one member, to return two.

_____ recommends 25 members, and sub-division of electoral districts.

_____, sub-division of electoral districts and increase of members, but no number named.

QUESTIONS proposed by his Excellency the Governor.

VOTERS.

1. WHAT would be the effect, in your opinion, of a rent or a property qualification for voters; what its advantages, and what its objections; and to what extent would it operate disfranchisement in the towns and in the country districts respectively; and if you are favourable to it, at what rate would you fix it?

Calculations as to the probable numbers who would be disfranchised by a qualification of, say 5*L.* to 10*L.* rent in St. John's, and 40*s.* in the country districts, would be acceptable.

2. What are the qualifications for voters which you would suggest, upon the most moderate scale which may accord with your ideas?

3. Do you recommend any increase in the number of electoral districts and of members; and, if so, upon what grounds; and by what means would you propose to effect such increase?

4. What is the minimum amount of qualification which you would recommend for a member of the Assembly?

ANSWERS