

that Constitutional force which presents so prominent and interesting a feature, which exhibits so much of loyal enthusiasm, which constitutes a source of such well-founded confidence, and inspires such a spirit of laudable pride and satisfaction in every other colony of her Majesty's dominions with which I am acquainted, as its '*Militia*.—Nevertheless, in suggesting to you to relieve your Island and its hardy and loyal population from the imputation which at present attaches to it on this subject, by passing a Militia Law, it is far from my wish or intention to recommend,—because the circumstances of the colony do not appear to call for it,—that its provisions should be at all of a stringent or onerous character as respects the periods of musters, trainings or inspections—which might be made very infrequent, and an act be so administered as to avoid any material interference with the ordinary avocations or occupations of the people:—all I would propose, in the first instance, is such a bill as would merely effect the organization of a Militia Force by the enrolment of all the male population of the Island, within certain ages, for the defence or protection of the colony, in cases of foreign invasion, or internal commotion, with power to the Governor for the time being to call upon their services in either of these cases of emergency.—I am not in ignorance of the fact, that the inhabitants of this Island are very generally accustomed to the use of fire-arms, and I am therefore satisfied that a very short training would be found sufficient to put them upon a full equality with the Militia force of any other colony:—but in order to be placed in a state of necessary preparation for such training, it is requisite that the Head of the Government should be empowered by Law to form them into Battalions and Companies, and to appoint Officers, and one or more days in the year for muster, &c. The details of the proposed measure will however, be best explained by the draft of a bill which will be laid before you, and to which I invite your favourable attention.

The entire absence of Steam Vessels of any kind in this Island must be regarded as another circumstance in which Newfoundland exhibits a marked distinction from the other colonies of this Hemisphere.—Its Legislature has, I know, with considerable liberality, sanctioned the application, from the Colonial funds, of a sum of one thousand pounds per annum, for a term of three years, in aid of the conveyance, by Steam vessels, of her Majesty's Mails to and from Halifax, which grant has been met, in a spirit of corresponding liberality, by the Legislature of Nova Scotia, by one for the same object, and for the same period, of half that amount; but it is much to be feared, that without some extension of these grants, or some spirited exertion on the part of individuals or associations, the very desirable object of quick and regular communication with the Mother Country and the neighbouring colonies must remain unattained, and this Island continue to suffer by its exclusion from any participation in those benefits so largely enjoyed in this respect by all the rest of her Majesty's North American Possessions.

The liberality which has usually distinguished the votes of the Legislature for the support of the Poor, satisfies me that I have only to call your attention to the necessity of a provision for the widows, orphans, and impotent, and aged persons, who are comprised in what is termed the "Permanent Pauper List," to insure the extension of relief to those sufferers.—A statement of the sum now due on this account, as well as for the Indigent Sick in the Hospital, and including that class of our fellow beings whose claim upon all our sympathies must ever be regarded as irresistible, "Pauper Lunatics," will be laid before you.

Before closing this part of my subject, I feel myself impelled also to propose that a small sum should be placed at the disposal of the Executive, to be applied in the event of any favourable occasion presenting itself to the solution