

period of the year—inconveniently though I fear it may be as regards the general business of the country—for the purpose of settling the preliminary conditions to the introduction of the system of Responsible Government, and of remedying the inconveniences arising from the circumstances of the last Session having closed without the usual Bill of Supply.

The suggestions and recommendations contained in the Despatches of Her Majesty's Secretary of State leave me little to add beyond the expression of a hope that in the apparently only remaining point at issue between the two Houses, namely, the settlement of the details of the Representation Bill, the discussion of whatever may be proposed will be conducted in a spirit of moderation on all sides; and that such a Bill may be perfected as will be fair, and, I trust, acceptable to all parties.

I have to acquaint you that a Treaty for the reciprocal free interchange of certain staple products of the United States and the British American Colonies was signed at Washington, on the 6th June last, between the Government of Great Britain and that of the United States; and has since been ratified by the two governments. The admission of Newfoundland to a participation in this Treaty is conditional on certain preliminary arrangements, and the action of the Legislatures as well as of the United Kingdom and United States, as of this colony.

I shall cause to be laid before you copies of a Despatch addressed to me by Sir George Grey on this subject; but in the absence of an authentic copy of the Treaty, and of the suggestions from the Governor General of Canada which the Secretary of State has informed me that I shall receive for my guidance in proposing any measure for securing to this colony the advantages derivable from the Treaty, I am not, at present, in a position to invite your further attention to this matter.

During the recess my attention has been directed to the defective sanitary state of St. John's. While we gratefully acknowledge the distinguishing mercy shewn to us by Divine Providence in exempting us from such visitations of sickness as have devastated other countries both of the old and new world, we are warned that even in this climate of extraordinary salubrity we cannot neglect with impunity certain general sanitary laws. I will cause to be laid before you a Report prepared by a competent person with a view to a system of drainage of St. John's, and specifying that part which, being immediately indispensable, I directed to be performed. I recommend this subject to your consideration, and that provision be made for giving effect to such measures for the preservation of the public health as may be approved of by the Board of Health.

Although I regret to say the Fishery during the past season has, to a great extent, failed on some parts of the coasts of the Island, I trust that the general Fishery will, on the whole, be found to have been not below