

(No. 1.)

TAVISTOCK HOTEL, LONDON, }
July 26th, 1853.

MY LORD DUKE,—

We have the honor to acquaint you, that the House of Assembly of Newfoundland, in the last Session, appointed us its Delegates to proceed to London for the purpose of promoting the establishment of Self-government in that old and loyal Dependency of the British Crown, and Reciprocal Free Trade between it and the United States of America. We, therefore, respectfully address you, as a friend of Colonial Reform and Free Trade, and earnestly solicit your co-operation in bringing to a successful issue the arduous struggles of its inhabitants with the monopolists of its Trade and its Government, who have formed a combination for their own selfish purposes, to defeat the popular will on these important subjects.

In direct opposition to these adverse parties, displayed in every possible shape, this colony received a Representative form of Government in 1832, of a nature similar to that which has been successively abandoned in all the other North American Dependencies. In a despatch, dated 27th July, 1832, from Lord Goderich to the Governor of that Island, accompanying the Royal Instructions, which are the basis of its constitution, his Lordship declared that :—

“ It may seem, however, superfluous to accumulate reasons in proof of the propriety of establishing in Newfoundland that form of constitution which generally prevails throughout the British Transatlantic Colonies ; the difficulty would consist rather in finding valid arguments for withholding it. The reasonable presumption seems to be, that a system of colonial government which has been attended with so many advantages in British North America, would produce similar benefits at Newfoundland, if transferred to that settlement. I do not indeed mean to deny that some considerable inconvenience has occasionally resulted from the the adoption, in those dependencies of Great Britain, of constitutions modelled into a miniature resemblance of our own ; but I know not what is the system of which the same might not be truly asserted. It is sufficient to say of the scheme of internal policy in force in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, that in all the colonies to which it has been extended, it has invariably secured the attachment of the people, by giving them a large share in the management of their own affairs ; by affording an open field for the free exercise of talents and public spirit ; by providing honorable ambition with a legitimate object and reward ; by insuring immediate and careful attention to the various exigencies of society ; and by promoting a frugal and judicious administration of public affairs. With the single exception of those colonies in which the people are separated from each other by distinctions analagous to those of caste, representa-