

institutions. With free trade and free institutions, this Colony, *after a few years*, would not know such an affliction as pauperism, and the Colonial Debt, with the exercise of proper economy, would not be felt as a burthen by the people. They could afford to bear increased taxation, if that were necessary, to sustain the credit of the Government, or to promote the improvement of the Country."

Facts and figures have proved that their opinions were erroneous, and that the present financial state of the Colony requires serious consideration. These "few years" have fast passed away, since free institutions were granted—Newfoundland being included, with the assent of its Legislature, in the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States of America ; to make up for the deficiency in the Revenue consequent thereon, additional taxation was laid on dutiable articles, which were then stated to be mostly the *luxuries* of life, but which, [in my opinion, in a Colony like this] were the necessities of life ; and the debt of the Colony is now £180,000 ; but the affliction of pauperism, instead of not being *unknown*, has greatly increased, the demoralising effects of which have been strongly denounced in various influential quarters.

In regard, however, to the Reciprocity Treaty, that is a question upon which I wish to be clearly understood ; for although Newfoundland ceded by that Treaty very great Fishery privileges to American citizens, I, for one, should be sorry indeed to see any Government here departing from any course of policy or principle which their predecessors had entered into by Treaty with the United States of America, and which was sanctioned by the Legislature.

*Mr. President and Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :*

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :*

You will be disappointed to hear that I am not enabled to give you information on the Fishery Question, a subject which you and the people take so deep an interest in. I observe that several gentlemen residing in England, and largely connected with Newfoundland, applied at the Colonial Office for information, and they were acquainted by the Duke of Newcastle that he was not in a position to give them, in an imperfect state, the information which they required. I can only, at present, for my own part, repeat what I said before, that I am under no alarm that any part of the maritime or territorial rights of Newfoundland have undergone any modification, or that any part of those rights which the