

Learned Chief Justice, were acquitted, and the latter was only found guilty of the minor offence, namely, the concealment of the birth of her child.

Being a magistrate, and a member of the grand jury, I pledge myself for the correctness of these statements in every particular.

Your Lordship must find great difficulty in reconciling these facts with the statements so often and confidently repeated. My Lord Aberdeen, in his place in Parliament, at the close of the last session, when presenting a petition from certain parties, stated (no doubt from information he had received) that Newfoundland was in as bad a state as Upper or Lower Canada.

Charges of a similar nature were made not only by the Tory but the Liberal press both in England and Ireland. The merchants of London, Liverpool, Bristol, and Poole have called on the Government to send out an adequate military force to overawe the rebellious colonists, and the Chamber of Commerce at St. John's repeat all the charges, and ask Her Majesty to inflict on the unoffending colonists the highest punishment within the range of Her Majesty's power, even when acting with the other branches of the Legislature, to subvert their Constitution and deprive them of their rights and privileges as British subjects.

The Chamber of Commerce in these petitions to the Queen attribute the illegal conduct of the people to the "atrocious" and "unprincipled" acts of the House of Assembly. If the charge against the people falls to the ground for want of proof, the charges against the House of Assembly must meet the same fate, setting aside the vague and general allegations against the House, which I shall endeavour to reply to by and by. The only clear and tangible charge brought against the Assembly arises out of the committals for breach of privileges of Mr. Kiely, Acting Judge Lilly, and the Sheriff. It must be admitted that the House of Assembly, in these cases, exercised power which should not be used except in cases of extreme necessity; it has created a prejudice against the House of Assembly in this country difficult to remove. The opponents of free representative governments, in Newfoundland and elsewhere, have seized on it with avidity, and made the most of it. It is to be lamented that the House of Assembly should have found it necessary, in defence of their privileges, to act as they did; whether they acted wisely or judiciously, or otherwise, is not the question; it is whether they were legally authorized to commit these persons for what they considered a high breach of their privileges.

Your Lordship will admit, that after taking the first step, it was difficult for them to recede; their privileges were questioned, not only in these cases, but in a variety of others; every species of contumely and insult were heaped upon them. It appeared to be the opinion of the House that the time had come when it was necessary to assert their privileges in the committal of the parties before