

We also addressed many of the Members of both Houses of Parliament, enclosing copies of those documents, and soliciting their support and the exercise of their influence in promoting the objects of our mission.

According to appointment, we then waited on Joseph Hume, Esq., M. P., at his residence in Bryanstone-square, with a copy of the Resolution of the Assembly, soliciting him to present the Address of the Assembly on the subject of responsible government to the House of Commons, and to use his powerful co-operation as an experienced and influential Member of the House of Commons on behalf of the colony. This veteran, consistent and disinterested advocate of colonial reform and popular rights, cheerfully consented to undertake the advocacy of the cause of Newfoundland, and to use every constitutional means in his power to forward the views of the Assembly, stating that he had been for nearly a quarter of a century advocating responsible government for the British American colonies, and his conviction that it was not only the right of these colonies, one and all, to possess it, but he conceived it to be the interest of the mother country to concede it.

Having then entered into a history of the abuses of the present system of rule pursued in the colony, he inquired into the extent of its resources, population, trade, revenue, and public expenditure, and expressed his surprise that Newfoundland had not been in the enjoyment of self-government as well as any of the neighbouring colonies. He then addressed a letter to the Duke of Newcastle, requesting his Grace to fix a day for our interview, and kindly offered his services to accompany us, and offer his assistance at the interview.

We were equally successful in obtaining the advice and co-operation of other influential Members of Parliament of weight with the Government.

In accordance with appointment, we waited on his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, at the Colonial Office, in the afternoon of Tuesday the 27th July. Mr. Hume having expressed his desire to introduce us to the noble Secretary, we waited in the ante-room some few minutes for him, but being engaged on a Committee then sitting on India affairs, as we learned, we sent in our cards, and were forthwith ushered into the presence of the Duke. His Grace received us in the most courteous manner. We presented the Address of the Assembly on responsible government, a duplicate of which, he stated, he had previously received and read, that he was engaged just as we entered in perusing our printed documents (Nos. 1 and 2), and he would be happy to hear any observations which we deemed it proper to offer in addition to the matters therein set forth. He then listened patiently while the grievances of the people of Newfoundland were being unfolded, in the course of which the veteran friend of the colonies, Mr. Hume, came into the office, and was heartily and blandly received by the noble Secretary, and having apologised for not being in time to introduce us, playfully said, "I dare say, however, these gentlemen were well able to introduce themselves." The Duke stated that when Mr. Hume arrived, Mr. Little was giving a statement of the affairs of Newfoundland, which he would be pleased to continue until he had concluded the remarks he intended making. After the delegates had concluded their preliminary explanations and observations, Mr. Hume remarked that the observations and facts which his Grace had thus heard with relation to the affairs of Newfoundland, were in his opinion perfectly correct; they were, however, merely a repetition of those abuses and that state of circumstances which existed under the old system of misrule pursued so long and so unwisely in the other British North American colonies; that they were in fact inseparable from such an imperfect form of government as that in force in Newfoundland; that the only cure for those evils was self-government, the concession of which, when he first demanded it for Canada, in company with the Canadian delegates, would have prevented the rebellion which subsequently occurred and distracted the peace of that fine country. That it was notorious that none of the British American colonies would be satisfied with anything short of the management of their internal affairs, and he expressed his astonishment that this important colony should be denied its rights and privileges, while the neighbouring possessions of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and even Prince Edward Island were progressing, with marked success, since they obtained the control of their own affairs, and that such a denial would amount to an abrogation of the doctrine of the present Ministry.

The Duke declared that he was much pleased to receive the full detail with which he had been favoured by the delegates, of the past and present circumstances of Newfoundland. That his attention had been called to the subject of responsible government some three or four months since, by the Governor of the colony, upon the adoption of the address by the Assembly, and he had given the matter some consideration, though he had not had sufficient time, owing to his Parliamentary and official duties, to decide on the matter; and after inquiring how long the delegates intended remaining in England, on being informed that they awaited his pleasure, he stated his fear that at so late a stage of Parliament, and the great amount of business then falling on him to discharge, it would, he feared, be difficult for him to consider the affairs of the colony in all their bearings upon the important question of a change of constitution during the sitting of Parliament; but that he would, at as early a day as possible, take into his serious consideration the whole case, and submit it for the decision of the Cabinet. It was true, his Grace continued, that he entertained the opinion ascribed to him, that the colonies, wherever it was found practicable, should have the full measure of responsible government conceded to them; that if they were fit for representative institutions, they were certainly entitled to self-government; that it was not the interest of the parent State, nor his desire to withhold that system of rule, but it would be admitted by the delegates, he thought, that there were objections urged against the introduction of that system into the colony at present, which might be obstacles, not insuperable obstacles certainly, but supposed or apparent ones, which, if founded in fact, might interfere with the har-