

the charges made by your Lordship against the House of Assembly and the much-calumniated people of Newfoundland. I might rest the defence of the colony on that plain, simple statement of facts, which cannot be contradicted, but there is some new matter contained in your Lordship's extraordinary speech that I shall pass a few remarks upon.

You have stated that the House of Assembly have usurped the powers of the State; tyrannized over the peaceable, loyal inhabitants. You have stated that the whole fabric of society has been flung into confusion; that life and property is insecure; that the country is on the eve of rebellion; that all these misfortunes have been brought on the colony by the acts of what you call the "base House of Assembly;" and you call on her Majesty's Government to send out an adequate military force to protect the loyal and to overawe the disaffected; and, as a climax to these frightful charges, you say the House of Assembly have laid hands on the public purse, and divided a great portion of it between themselves, their families, and retainers.

I give this summary as a small sample that I have selected from your Lordship's speech. The reckless manner in which the petitioners have made these charges,—and, pardon me, my Lord, if I say, the hasty and inconsiderate manner in which your Lordship repeated them, makes it an easy task to dispose of and controvert them. Were your Lordship not carried away by some of the party spirit of the petitioners you would, at once, have detected the gross absurdity of the charges, and have seen that they carried with them their own contradiction.

It would be following the rude, coarse example of the petitioners if I said they were one tissue of falsehood and misrepresentation from beginning to end. I shall not say it, but I hope to prove them to be so. Your Lordship must know that in courts of justice presumptive evidence is often more conclusive, and more to be relied on, than direct evidence. In the present case that doctrine is exemplified. Your Lordship has adduced the evidence of the petitioners against the House of Assembly and people of Newfoundland. You charged them with the highest crimes; with setting her Majesty's courts of justice at defiance; with sedition, bordering on rebellion; with outrages on persons and property. At the instant your Lordship made these statements, her Majesty's Colonial Minister, whose especial duty it is to watch over her Majesty's Colonies, coolly stated that he was unacquainted with this alarming state of the colony, but that he would immediately write to the Governor, to request that he would enlighten him on the subject.

At the same time, the late Governor-General of the North American Colonies (a few months only returned from the seat of his government) acknowledged that he was equally in the dark.

Here, my Lord, I shall place my presumptive evidence, the