

growing colonies, individual enterprize and improvement have generally *preceded* roads, which have been subsequently constructed for the purpose of connecting detached settlements with each other, or with navigable waters ; but circumstanced as is this Island, having few navigable streams, interior settlement can only *follow* explorations and surveys, and the construction of practicable roads of communication with the common highway, “ the sea.”

In connexion in some measure with the preceding remarks, I would observe to you, that Newfoundland appears to stand alone among the Western Colonies of the British Empire, in several very essential respects ;—1st. That she is without practicable roads of communication for connecting the various settlements of the Island with the Provincial Capital, and themselves with each other,—and 2dly. without a Militia Force of any kind. So long as this unexampled state of things—more especially as respects the Roads—is suffered to continue, this colony must remain—what it would almost appear to have been designed to keep it—little beyond a *Fishing Station*. Emigration to it, beyond the number of labourers required for the prosecution of that single pursuit, cannot be expected, no other encouragement being held out. But by opening up its interior by means of good roads and communications upon lines carefully surveyed and carried through lands,—and it is known that such are to be found—capable of repaying the labour of the settler, and therefore holding out inducement to that class of emigrants, you will, I have elsewhere said, ‘ discover treasures which, though they may not offer ‘ in the first instance rewards so tempting and so immediately available as those ‘ of the surrounding deep, are nevertheless quite as essential to the prosperity of ‘ your Island Home as are the fisheries themselves.’

While on the subject of ‘ Roads,’ I will remind you that several lines of cross and other roads, intended to connect the capital with the neighbouring out-harbours and settlements, have been judiciously commenced, but in almost every instance have been left in an unfinished state for want of funds ; these you will, I doubt not, concur with me in thinking, should be completed at as early a period as may consist with our ability—and there are other lines of roads to the importance of which I anticipate your concurrence with equal confidence,—I refer to a communication to be made practicable for carriages at all seasons for connecting the provincial capital and the Northern and Eastern districts of the peninsula of Avalon, including the shores of Conception and Trinity Bays, with those of St. Mary’s and Placentia, as also that for completing the proposed coast road between St. John’s and Trepassey. It must be wholly unnecessary for me to expatiate to you upon the great importance to the general interests of the Island of such means of access to its western and southern coasts and bays, not only as facilitating intercommunication between many of its most valuable ports and settlements, (with which there exists at present little other communication than by sea,) but also with the sister colonies of British America. These ports being known to be accessible, —particularly Trepassey—to vessels during the winter season, when those to the Eastward are obstructed by ice.—Of the line of road first adverted to, an exploratory survey has recently been made, which, with the report by which it is accompanied, will be laid before you.

With regard to the ‘ Militia Force,’ although I am aware that there are circumstances arising out of the ordinary pursuits of the great body of the adult population of this Island which may be regarded as constituting essential points of difference between them and the population of other colonies, yet I confess myself unable to perceive any which ought to raise so remarkable a line of distinction as is exhibited by the unprecedented fact of the entire absence in Newfoundland of