

Observe, my Lord, the dilemma they have placed themselves in. It is as much as if they said that their views of government are so much opposed to the English and Protestant majority of electors of Newfoundland, that they have given up all hope of obtaining their suffrages to represent their interests in the third branch of the Legislature.

My Lord, the Chamber of Commerce stated that the people of Newfoundland are unfit for self-government, and have petitioned Her Majesty to establish a despotic government. I have to inform your Lordship, that, however ignorant the people of Newfoundland are, and particularly the "Roman Catholics from the south-west of Ireland," they will never exhibit their ignorance of government to such an extent as to join in the prayer for the establishment of despotic power;—they may submit to such a government, they never will consent to it. Here I would ask your Lordship, is there no portion of her Majesty's dominions, no matter how remote, where an Irish Roman Catholic can sit down under the shade of England's laws and constitution, without an offshoot from a certain party in England outraging their feelings as Irishmen and Christians?

The Chamber of Commerce of St. John's, and the merchants in England, have not established a single charge against either the people or their representatives. There is, therefore, no just cause why they should be deprived of their constitution. The mode of government proposed by them to supersede the present is abhorrent to the British Constitution; and until the people of Newfoundland are proved guilty, no power can justly deprive them of their present free Constitution. A Governor and Council with legislative powers is the most objectionable government that could be inflicted on a free British colony. When such a government was established in Canada, immediately after the Conquest, it was denounced by the great Lord Camden as "a civil despotism, in which the inhabitants of that immensely extended province were to be perpetually deprived of all share in the legislative power and support, in life, freedom, or property, to the arbitrary ordinances of a Governor in Council, appointed by the dependents on the Crown."

Your Lordship is not the Minister that will advise such a government for the most ancient and loyal colony belonging to Her Majesty.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's humble and obedient Servant,

PATRICK MORRIS.

London, 22, Crown-street,
March 20, 1833.

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PM