

I am anxious that nothing more should be said in the Commons, and that the deputies should be able to leave England with such an assurance from your Grace as would warrant their going back.

I shall be obliged to you at an early time to give this note, and the request of these gentlemen, your favourable consideration.

The Right Hon.
His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

I remain, &c.
(signed) *Joseph Hume.*

While waiting for a reply to these letters, we determined to request an interview with Frederick Peel, Esq., M. P., Her Majesty's Under Secretary of State for the Colonial Department; and having addressed him a note for that purpose, we received a polite reply from him, in compliance with our desire.

We proceeded to the residence of Mr. Peel, in Whitehall-gardens, on the morning of the 9th of August, and were received very affably. We entered at once into the objects of our mission, having previously furnished him with printed copies of the general statements which we had addressed to the principal of the Colonial Department. We gave him a truthful description of the parties in Newfoundland for and against reform; of its great resources; its healthful and invigorating climate; the nature of its anomalous government; the enormous amount of the Civil List; the abuses of Executive authority; the repeated violations of the Council and the Executive of the privileges of the Assembly; and the misrepresentations of the local authorities to the Colonial Office. After a preliminary discussion, he asked if legislative and executive functions were combined in the Council? How many officials had seats at the Board? And whether all were nominees of the Crown? We particularized the number of officials, and stated that the entire body were Crown nominees; he took notes of our replies. We detailed the number and nature of the Bills of the Assembly which they had rejected; and he seemed astonished that they should have rejected them; particularly the Census Bill.

He inquired if there was no officer of the Government in the Assembly to explain the views of the Executive? We stated there was the Solicitor-general; but he was not a member of the Executive, and was supposed to act only according to instructions; and that he had been appointed to the office since his election. He then asked if there was any obstacle to an officer of the Government being elected? We stated there was none. He said it was not the policy of the Imperial Government to refuse responsible government to any colony which was generally desirous of having it. We said that there was only a small number of monopolists in Newfoundland, who opposed the introduction of that system. Monopolist, he said, was a strong term; how were they monopolists? and having satisfied him on that point, he asked if, in the event of responsible government being conceded, how many offices would be considered political? and having stated our views on this head, by a reference to those considered so in the neighbouring colonies, he asked whether we would consider the Surveyor-generalship one of these, as that was a situation requiring some knowledge of certain duties, and some experience; and he thought the same with respect to the Collector of Customs. We said that we considered these offices as political ones; and with regard to the latter, the Royal Instructions made that official one of the Council, and consequently a political office. He then referred to the number of representatives as very small. We agreed with him, and showed our anxiety to increase the number by duplication, without dividing the districts; and that the Council refused to assent to any increase unless by a division of districts, which would destroy the present impartial basis. He then referred to the nature of the present system of voting; and inquired whether it would not be an improvement to allow each voter to have a vote for each member to be elected; that is, to give a voter in St. John's for instance, if there were six candidates, six votes, and allow him to give the whole six for one candidate; thus, he said, affording the minority, who might otherwise be unrepresented, the power of electing a representative? We did not comprehend how this would answer, and did not, on the impulse of the moment, express any opinion upon it, further than that we should consider it. He asked, had the colony improved or received benefit by the Legislature since its establishment? We replied that it had, but by no means adequate to the amount of taxation imposed on the people. We explained the general nature of the improvements, in opening roads, diffusing education, erecting public buildings, &c. If responsible government should be granted, he asked, would the Assembly assent to a permanent Civil List Bill? We replied in the affirmative, provided the Bill were such a one as would be justified by the circumstances of the colony; that attempts had been made to pass such a measure, having a prospective operation, but as it necessarily reduced the official salaries, it was rejected by the Council; that it was unjust to maintain an Imperial scale of salaries in a small colony, at the cost of the colonists, and refuse them the power or right of reduction; that it was equally unjust to impose upon 120,000 colonists the payment of over 3,000 sterling yearly for a Governor, who was, generally speaking, unacquainted with the island, its people and resources—whose policy was shaped and directed by a few leading officials in the island, who have usually managed to get the Governor to commit himself to them, bring him in contact with the Assembly, and oblige him sooner or later, in self-defence, to malign the people and the popular branch of the Legislature, in justifying himself before the Imperial Government, and endeavouring to retain the confidence of the Colonial Minister for the time being; while the State of Maine