

TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF ABERDEEN.

MY LORD,

That your Lordship (on the *ex parte* statement of a few individuals, greatly inflamed in the "paltry raffle" of colonial faction) should have pledged your high name and character to the truth and justice of the charges which you made against the House of Assembly and people of Newfoundland, and reported from your speech in the House of Lords, on the 26th April last, is to me a matter of surprise. During the short period your Lordship presided over the colonies your instructions to the colonial governors displayed an intimate acquaintance with the state of conflicting parties, and were distinguished for a sound, enlightened, and liberal policy. I am, therefore, the more surprised that your Lordship should be led away by the inflammatory and high-coloured statements contained in the petition presented by your Lordship, and which on the face of it carried its own refutation.

Your Lordship has preferred a bill of indictment against the House of Assembly of Newfoundland. As one of the humble members of that body, and on their behalf, I plead not guilty to the charge; admitting, at the same time, that if you can establish a tithe of the charges, the people of Newfoundland are not worthy to enjoy the benefits of the free constitution granted by his late Majesty, and that it ought to be abrogated.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies, in reply to your Lordship, stated that there were parties in this country connected with the House of Assembly who denied the allegations made by the petitioners, and offered to come forward at any time to disprove their statements. The persons alluded to by his Lordship must be the Clerk of the House, Mr. Wakeham, and myself, the only parties now in this country connected with the House of Assembly. The Marquis of Normanby permitted me to wait on him at the Colonial-office, and, agreeably to his Lordship's wishes, I drew up a short report on the charges made by the Chamber of Commerce of St. John's, and the merchants of London, Liverpool, Bristol, and Poole, against the proceedings of the House of Assembly. This report was written in great haste, and I now submit a copy of it to your Lordship, in which you will observe that I have anticipated