

neighbouring provinces, as to self-government, and a participation in any arrangement that may be effected with the American Government on reciprocity.

It is but candid that we should inform you, that, judging from experience, it will be perfectly useless for the Assembly to attempt any practical legislation with the Council under the present constitution, except at the sacrifice of its rights and the substantial interests of the country to the assumptions of the irresponsible nominees of the Crown. The Assembly has already submitted to so many repeated acts of humiliation, that no independent member in it will feel himself justified in consenting to a renewal of that course. We fear, indeed, that according to our pledges to our constituents, we shall not be able to impose any further Revenue Bill on the country for the support of the present system. Moderation and prudence alike demanded that forbearance, which the Assembly has for the last four years exercised, until the time had arrived when its views could be placed before an able and impartial Minister, who has the power and the disposition to redress the wrongs of which it justly complained.

Your Grace will, therefore, perceive the source of our anxiety for your decision upon the destiny of this colony, as it will influence the course not only of our legislation, but also of our trade, and affect the peace and prosperity of the country, according to the result at which you may arrive.

If Newfoundland should be destined to form a link in a federal or legislative union of the British North American possessions, it is desirable that it should without delay be placed in the enjoyment of those privileges, the proper exercise of which would be necessary to prepare it for a full participation in the advantages of so great and desirable a change.

With reference to the general finances of the colony, as bearing upon the question of reciprocity, we would respectfully remark that nothing would tend more to the improvement of our financial condition than the opening of new markets for the produce of our fisheries; and as the old contracted system of trade, heretofore pursued in this island, is inadequate to the independent maintenance of our operative population, many of whom are consequently at present thrown upon the Government for support, or driven from our shores to seek remunerative employment in the United States, we are persuaded of the necessity for the adoption of some such measure as reciprocity, which would induce capitalists of enterprise to embark in our trade, infuse new life and energy into the pursuits of the people, and develop the vast dormant and neglected resources of this extensive country.

On reference to the accompanying statistical statements, you will perceive that while our imports and exports have increased, or rather have not decreased since 1840, and our revenue has gradually grown from 43,863 *l.* 14 *s.* 1 *d.* in that year to 84,323 *l.* 4 *s.* 2 *d.* in 1852, the condition of the people and the state of the country have not improved by any means either in the ratio of taxation, or the results of the trade in favour of the mercantile body, compared with the bulk of the population, for you will perceive that the amount paid for the relief of the poor in 1840 was only 1,119 *l.* 16 *s.*, while it was in 1852, 8,683 *l.* 0 *s.* 1 *d.*, a large sum, even making allowance for the partial failure of the potato crop.

The colony is also in debt about 120,000 *l.*, and no adequate value has been received by the public for the taxes imposed and the debt incurred.

This is a state of things which, we humbly submit, clearly proves that there is just cause of complaint, and necessity for a reform in our institutions. With free trade and free institutions, this colony, after a few years, would not know such an affliction as pauperism, and the colonial debt, with the exercise of proper economy, would not be felt as a burthen by the people. They could then afford to bear increased taxation, if that were necessary, to sustain the credit of the Government or to promote the improvement of the country.

With undiminished confidence in your Grace, and sincere reliance on your candour and good will, we place these views before you, believing that you will regard them in the spirit in which they are really conceived; for we beg to assure you, that it is our earnest wish to see the affairs of the colony conducted in peace and harmony by properly constituted authorities; and in common with the majority of our fellow colonists, we should be delighted to be enabled to co-operate with a responsible executive in carrying out your views in promotion of the public welfare.

We have, &c.

(signed) *P. F. Little.*
R. J. Parsons.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
&c. &c. &c.