

equitably contribute towards an efficient protective police establishment, particularly in a Colony where the whole amount of Revenue is levied by indirect taxation on dutiable articles consumed by every family in Newfoundland.

It becomes a matter of deep regret that I am unable to congratulate you on a successful fishery ; the reports which have reached the Government from all parts of the Island (with the exception of a very few localities of limited extent) represent the catch of codfish to have been unusually short ; while the Civil War which unhappily exists in America, has become tantamount to a suspension of the Reciprocity Treaty with the *United States*, by the blockade of the Southern Ports, from the markets of which our staple products are now excluded,—which, I fear, must materially affect our Herring Fisheries, and deprive many of our people of the remunerative employment they have been accustomed to find in that branch of industry. I hope the anomalous position in which we are now placed relative to that Treaty with America will not be of long duration, and that commercial enterprise may open to our fishermen other markets ; and they should be reminded that no Bounties are paid or allowed by the Government of France to their Fishermen on Herrings or Salmon,—Cod being the only fish on which large Bounties are paid, a policy which we cannot interfere with, but which, I imagine, will not be continued for many years longer.

Under all these untoward circumstances, applications for Poor Relief have been very numerous, and now (as in the past year) a very large proportion of the Revenue will be required for the relief of the poor, and even to able-bodied men, who during the past spring and summer could not earn sufficient for the subsistence of themselves and their families for the passing winter. All possible means have been taken by the Government to confine relief to such as are really destitute, to diminish its cost—and, where such a condition can be enforced,—to ensure a return in labour. Notwithstanding all these precautions, pauperism,—systematic and anticipated,—has become in Newfoundland an evil of such extent and magnitude as (when considered in connection with the short fisheries of recent years) to give rise to a doubt whether the ordinary pursuits of the people will continue to afford remunerative employment for all who are engaged in them. The question is one of immense importance, for in addition to the Fishery, every exertion must be made to procure employment for our population less precarious than that branch of industry to which they almost all now devote their time and labour.