

vacant territory within the province of New Scotland, as originally bounded, pending the Settlement of the Claim of Right now urged by the Baronets.

"In discharging the duties devolved by the Committee on the Deputation, its members embrace the opportunity of drawing Earl Grey's special attention at this juncture to the fact, that the revival, in British North America, of the chartered rights and objects of the Baronetage of Scotland and Nova Scotia, would be a work of combined justice, policy, and humanity. As regards justice, the crown charters, acts of parliament, and other legal instruments founded upon (upwards of two hundred in number,) demonstrate, beyond all doubt or cavil, that the rights and privileges which they vest in the Order are still valid, subsisting, and effectual. The policy of restoring to activity and usefulness such a great monarchical institute as the Baronetage of Scotland and Nova Scotia, would be a means of rapidly settling, with a loyal and attached landocracy, yeomanry, and peasantry (the main constituent elements of British society,) that portion of our vast trans-atlantic empire which, from geographical position, mineral resources, and water facilities, is, and must ever be, the *ars et domicilium* of British power, industry, and enterprise, in the western hemisphere, is too self-apparent to require comment. Whilst the humanity of hastening the time when regulated emigration and colonization shall become the passion of the great as well as the necessity of the humble, will not be denied after the recurrence of a second Famine Visitation within the space of ten years, by any one who reflects that never was there an age or country in which problems in population of more signal difficulty, or awful importance, arose to demand practical solution, than those which multiply in Great Britain at the present day.

"The Deputation cannot advert to the second matter entrusted to it—viz., to submit that, in lieu of all territorial claims, two-and-a-half millions of acres along the line of the proposed Railway between Halifax and Quebec shall be assigned to the Baronets, out of the twelve million acres of soil now vacant in New Brunswick,—without observing that no possible inconvenience, on the one hand, can arise to the Colonists from closing with a proposition by which all litigation will be avoided; whilst, on the other, and that at a crisis when the pillars of civil order are being everywhere shaken, there would be an entire absence of any disposition on the part of the home government to countenance an infraction of Royal covenants, and a depraving of statute laws. It is a solemn and binding engagement between the Crown and the Baronets, twice ratified and confirmed by parliament, that 'no lapse of time, non-user, or any other adverse circumstance whatsoever,' shall bar the rights and privileges which are vested in the Order by their charters. Nor will the propriety of the restitution of these rights be denied by Ministers to a body that has ever deserved well of the Sovereign and the nation, seeing that, since 1798, no less than ten several consecutive territorial concessions have been made to satisfy the unjust demands of not merely a rival but a revolted state.

"The charters, acts, and other documents referred to in the compilation on the Nova Scotia Question—a copy of which publication is placed herewith in the hands of the Colonial Minister—constitute a complete chain of historical and legal evidence in support of the claim of right preferred by the Baronets. With such indefeasible grounds to proceed upon, and seeing that questions connected with subsistence and population will successively arise to embarrass the nation, the Deputation deem it to be impossible that a wise and paternal government, actuated by due fidelity to the Crown, and love for the people, will fail to recognise the duty of restoring the rights in Nova Scotia of the Scottish Baronetage, and making the Order again subservient for the great and paramount ends for which it was devised by the wisdom and patriotism of former sovereigns, privy councils, and parliaments.

"The duty of restoring the public functions and utility of the Scottish Baronetage, as a body constituted for ever to advance 'the opulence, prosperity, and peace' of Scotland, by and through the right colonization and settlement of Nova Scotia, is one alike onerous upon its members and the Crown. Corruption or non-utility in a great monarchical institute is, under any circumstances, a state evil of enormous magnitude—one which reflects equally upon the reigning Sovereign, as the representative of the Royal founder, and upon those whose titles and prerogatives have descended upon them as retaining fees for personal exertions. When James I. annexed Nova Scotia to his ancient kingdom, 'that its use might arise to the benefit of that kingdom,' and projected the creation of the Baronetage to superintend its plantation, he declared he would make the business a 'Royal work of his own.' And his last injunction to the Privy Council of Scotland, dated from his death-bed,