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VOLUNTEERS- approval of the measures adopted by
Sir Erasmus Cover for enrolling-------------------28 May
expenses incurred by the Adjutant for the
payment of drill sergeants and drummers-----20 Oct.
respecting the practice in the use of arms-
and issue of rations to---------------------------25 Oct.

1809
VOLUNTEERS- clothing and accoutrements necessary
for their duty------------------------------------20 July

1811
VOLUNTEERS- memorial of the Adjutant transmitted
through the Captain Commandant-----------------18 June

1812
VOLUNTEERS- stores requisite for the use of----------5 Nov.

1813
VOLUNTEERS- Application of Brigade Major to be
appointed Inspecting Field Officer of----------1 Moh.
1810

WHALE- fishery- letter of Dr. WM. Carson asking for
Letters Patent for a new method that he has
discovered of taking the whale--------------5 Aug.

1812

WAR- declaration of by United States against Great
Britain- steps to be taken for the
defence of the Island----------------------23 July
Portland Place.


My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Grace's letter of the 26th. last July which but this moment reached my hands together with the enclosures therewith transmitted I shall make a point of forwarding the latter to the Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court at Newfoundland by the very earliest opportunity that might occur that for the Island.

I am &c.

(signed) W. Waldegrave.

His Grace.
The Duke of Portland.

&c.  &c.  &c.
Portland Place.


My Lord,

Having in my letter of the 25th. of October last had the honor of addressing your Grace very feebly upon the subject of the ground contiguous to the Burial Place at St John's Newfoundland I must now decline troubling you any further upon the occasion, although I conceive I cannot consistently withhold from which your Grace the accompanying enclosure which yesterday reached my hands, as its purport appears to me to establish the point that seven years purchase of the ground in question need certainly constitute a full compensation to the owners and as such, be perfectly consonant with the general usage of the Country.

I am &c.

His Grace

The Duke of Portland.

(ac.  ac.  ac.)

(md) W. Waldgrave.
Portland Place.

2 May 1800.

My Lord,

...I do myself the honor to acquaint your Grace that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have thought proper to remove from the Command at Newfoundland, and I therefore submit the expediency of my Successor being furnished with a thority for drawing for the farther sum of £ 200 which your Grace liberally promised to grant for the purpose of completing the New Church at St John's in that Island.

I am &c.

To

His Grace the Duke of

Portland.
St John's.

20th, October 1800.

My Lord,

I do myself the honor to acquaint your Grace that I have paid the several Officers Sheriff excepted of the Supreme Court of Judicature in that Island their respective Salaries up to this day as well appear by the account marked ₤, and receipts numbered from 1 to 4 herewith transmitted.

From a consideration of the Chief Justices representation of the care of Andrew Maloney, Marshall of the Supreme Court numbered 5 I was induced to accede to his Salary being increased to what it was originally appointed and also paid him arrears amounting to £ 10, also which I trust will meet with your Graces approbation.

By adverting to the accompanying statement 1. your Grace will perceive I have appropriated the balance of the Public account amounting to £ 172,2,17, to payment in part of the Salaries of the Officers of the Supreme Court this
this balance arises as follows.

By the Chief Justice's declaration marked B. the whole amount of the Fees and received in the Supreme Court since the 21st. October last has been.........£64,10,0,
From which is to be deducted the expense of serving Wriskand. 141,9,6,
To this sum add the balance of the.........£123,6,6,
District of St John's account 49,16,4,

Balance of the Public account £ 172,2,10.

I further beg leave to acquaint your Grace that I paid at the same time the several Officers employed as Surrogates the sums accorded by my predecessor as an adequate compensation for their Services as will appear by the accompanying account marked C. and receipts numbered from 6 to 11.

I am &c.

His Grace

the Duke of Portland.

(sd) C. M. Pole.
Fort Townshend.
St John's Newfoundland.
23rd. October 1800.

My Lord,

I have this day drawn bills on the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury for £200, Starl. in obedience to your Graces letter of the 1 of July last for completing the Church at St John's and I enclose for your Graces information a report with its accompanying enclosure marked no 1. of the valuation of the land which I was directed in your letter above alluded to fix on at an addition to the Burial Ground there being an unoccupied space on the Barrens adjoining which would be deemed an ample equivalent I have caused it to be surveyed and herewith transmit a report and its enclosure a plan of the same marked no 3 and wait your Graces direction whether the present holders should be remembered by money or land and if the former I beg your Grace will authorize me to draw for that amount on on my return to the Island the ensuing Season.

I am &c.

His Grace the Duke of Portland. (sd) C. M. Pole.
Fort Townshend.

25th. October 1800.

My Lord,

His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent having by Regulations which he has been pleased to establish precluded all supplied of Fuel Candles and from Government House at this Place I have been under the necessity of purchasing these articles which heretofore were furnished the Governor and from time immemorial issued by the Departments of the Barrack or Ordnance Officers but seems the removal of these charges to the Commissioners Department no mention or allowance is made for the Government House I entreat your Grace will please to instruct me in what manner I am in future to be supply.

I herewith transmit vouchers to the amount of £18,12,6, being what I have paid for doing my residence at Fort Townshend.

I feel My Lord under extreme embarrassment in calling your attention to a matter which so personally interests the Governor of Newfoundland but I should not stand acquitted to myself or others if I omitted to make this
this representation to your Grace.

I am &c.

(End) C. M. Pole.

His Grace.

the Duke of Portland.
St John's Newfoundland.

25th. October 1800.

My Lord,

Enclosed I have the honour to transmit your Grace a copy of a letter from the Revd. J. Clinch also an account of Money expended by him in the repair of the Church at that place from the Fair 1792 to 1795 and I beg to submit for your Grace's consideration whether a Gaol should be built and also as what manner that Gentlemen is to be remembered for the expenses incurred in the above mentioned service the extreme good conduct of this Magistrate has I apprehend been frequently noticed to your Grace by my predecessor he is my Lord a most valuable man in his Distrt.
Fort Townshend.

25th. October 1800.

My Lord,

Enclosed I have the honor to transmit for your Grace's information a Petition of the Brass and Iron Ordnance mounted at St John's and Placentia together with the ammunition remaining at those places the 3th. of August last since which time I understand no material alteration has taken place also the Chief Engineer's state of the Fortification and buildings at St John's the 29th. Instant.

I am &c.

His Grace

the Duke of Portland.

(As) G. M. Pole.
St John's Newfoundland.

35th. October 1800.

My Lord,

Enclosed I have the honor to transmit for your Graces information a copy of a general return of the exports and Imports of Newfoundland between the 10th. October 1799 and the 10th. October following at furnished me by the Collector of the Customs.

I am &c.

His Grace

the Duke of Portland.

(signed) C. H. Pole.
St John's Newfoundland.
25th. October 1800.

My Lord,

Hereewith I have the honor to transmit for your Graces information a return of the Fishery as far as I could collect the Fish being in the greatest abundance and containing to a late period is I conceive the cause of the returns not being to perfect at my departure as I apprehend they usually are if I am right in my conjecture your Grace will feel ample satisfaction when the reports are made.

In further confirmation of the general statement contained in my letter of the 14th. of August last of the of the present tranquil disposition of the Inhabitants of this Island I have thought it my duty to send your Grace extracts from the returns made to me by the captains of the Man of War whom I have employed as Surrogate to make enquires at those districts parts of the Island and where the population and Fishery appear most important St John's and Conception bay
Bay being within distance to observe personal information.

On the 3rd. of September the Agincourt returned from Placentia Captain Ryves informed me very few cases were brought before the Court and altho' the People had a sad example of Drunkness and profligacy before their eyes in the person of there then Magistrate and formerly their Clergyman Mr Evans yet they were quiet and no appearance of ill human.

On the 14th. of September the Camalla returned from this Service at Trinity where Captain Lurkeen assured me all appeared orderly and happy which he considers the consequence of the good advice and meritorious example of their Magistrate and Clergman the revd. J. Clinch.

On the 17th. the September the Flute sailed from Fortune Bay where Captain Edgell had investigated the state of the Inhabitants and Fishery and his report is very satisfactory his words are the complaints are too trifling to record.

On the 26th. the Camella returned from visiting Trepassey and St Mary's where no complaint of sufficient importance to be recorded were brought before Captain Lurkeen altho' the Magistrate the revd J. Follet appears
appears to have been some time confined to his Bed and no expectation of his recovery.

The Trepassey cutter returns on the 13th. September from Bonavista Fogo Bay of Exploits and its Neighbourhood to which places I had despatched her with letters and instructions to the several Magistrates respecting the Fisheries to endeavor to obtain some intel licence of the native Indians and of possible to get possession of his or three for which purpose are Officer and four men of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment were embarked with a hope that by great care attention and kindness we might so civilize them as to convince the whole Race that it was the cordant with of the British Government to preventent the ill treatment they have some times received from our Settlers the Trepassey was unsuccessful and brought nothing but some bows and arrows and other implements stolen from them by our Ferriers.

From all I have been able to collect respecting these poor wretches the last made of obtaining possession of two or three would be to offer a reward to the Ferriers accompanied with the strongest assurances that they should not pass unpunishment of they wound or destroy
destroy these persecuted Natives the two principal Ferriers who remain all the Year with their Servants and Families are one named Roussel and the other Miller and are I have no doubt equal to the Service if it should be deemed right to offer a Reward.

(sd) C. W. pole.
London.

31st. January 1801.

My Lord,

I deem it my duty to state to your Grace that I have received returns from the Magistrates at St John's Newfoundland dated the 19th. December acquainting me that every thing remained in the same tranquil and well disposed state in that Island as I have the honor to inform your Grace I left it in.

I am So.

(Ed) C. M. Pole.

His Grace the Duke of Orkland.
London.

30th. January 1801.

My Lord,

Herewith I have the honor to transmit your Grace a copy of a Table of the exports, imports, and shipping of Newfoundland between the 10th October 1799 and 10th October 1800 which I have this day received from the Deputy Naval Officer of the said Island.

I am &c.

His Grace

the Duke of Portland.

(Ed) C. M. Pole.
London.

29th. January 1801.

My Lord,

The Merchants trading to Newfoundland have prayed me to Petition your Grace to submit to His Majesty’s in Council the necessity of their being allowed to import from America Salt Beef, Pork and Butter among and present scarcity and under the necessary and usual restrictions.

I have the pleasure to inform your Grace that I have received letters from the Island of Newfoundland dated the 7th. Instant acquainting me that the most perfect tranquility reigned at St John’s.

I am &c.

(John) C. M. PCole.

His Grace

the Duke of Portland.
M. M. Ship La Concorde.
Newfoundland 6th. November 1801.

My Lord,

By His Majesty's Ship Alcmene which arrived here on the 31st. Ulto. I have the honor to acknowledge the Receipts of a Warrant from under the King's Sign Manual bearing date the 26th. Day of August 1801 appointing me Lieutenant Governor of the Island of Newfoundland with a copy of a Commission also instructions to Rear Admiral Pole for my guidance.

In the execution of which I shall use my utmost endeavours as far as lays in my power.

I am 5c.

(sgd) R. Barton.

To
The Right Honorable
Korit Hobart.
Chandos Street Cavindish Square.

2nd. February 1892.

My Lord,

I have the honor to transmit to your Lordships the enclosed papers which I have received from Captain Barton relative to the state of the Government House at Newfoundland, and beg to request that such directions to given on the occasion as may be judged fit and necessary, the House in question being now in a ruinous state.

I am Sc.

Rt. Honorable Lord Hobart.  (SD)  C. M. Pole.
London.
30th. April 1802.

Sir,

I beg leave to lay before your Lordship an extract of a letter from Captain W. J. Eppes Commissionary of Stores and Provisions at Newfoundland to Captain Bartch, and also an extract from the Inventory of Furniture which accompanied that letter, of such articles as are unserviceable.

As it appears by Captain Eppes letter that the Furniture can neither be replaced or repaired at Newfoundland I have to request your Lordship will give directions to the Office in which department this business lies to provide the articles of Furniture to replace such as are unserviceable, and to send them as soon as may be to Portmouth that they may be put on board any of His Majesty's Ships on that are destined for the service at Newfoundland.

I am &c.  

Right Honorable

Lord Hobart.  

(sd) J. Gambrier.
London.

30th. April 1802.

Sir,

I beg leave to lay before your Lordship an extract of a letter from Captain W. J. Eppes, Commissioner of Stores and Provisions at Newfoundland to Captain Bartoeh, and also an extract from the Inventory of Furniture which accompanied that letter, of such articles as are unserviceable.

As it appears by Captain Eppes letter that the Furniture cannot either be replaced or repaired at Newfoundland, I have to request your Lordship will give directions to the Office in which department this business lies to provide the articles of Furniture to replace such as are unserviceable, and to send them as soon as may be to Portsmouth that they may be put on board any of His Majesty's Ships on that are destined for the service at Newfoundland.

I am &c.

Right Honorable

(3d) J. Gambrier.

Lord Hobart.
London.

2nd. June 1702.

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of His Majesty's Commission under the Great Seal appointing me Governor of Newfoundland together with His Majesty's instructions for my guidance therein.

I have also received His Majesty's order for the restitution of the Islands of St Pierre and Miquelon with your Lordships letter which accompanied the said order, and shall dispatch His Majesty's Sloop Falcon immediately to Newfoundland with directions to the Senior Officer of His Majesty's Ships at this Island to acarry the said order into immediate execution.

I am as.

The Right Honorable

Lord Hobart.
London.

6th. June 1802,

Sir,

I beg leave to acquaint your Royal Highness that I have received from Lieut Hobart His Majesty's order to deliver up the Islands of St Pierre and Miquelon to such persons as may be authorized by the French Government to receive the same, and that I shall dispatch His Majesty's Sloop Falcon immediately to Newfoundland with orders to the Senior Officer of His Majesty's Ships there for that purpose.

Should your Royal Highness have any order to send to General Sherrett for the disposal of any Troops that may be upon the Islands, that may be there the Captain of the Falcon shall be directed to receive your Royal Highness's dispatches and convey them as they may be directed.

I am &c.

His Royal Highness.

The Duke of York.

ac. ac. ac.

(signed) J. Gambier.
Iris St John's Harbour.

Newfoundland 3rd. September

1802.

My Lord,

I beg leave to acquaint your Lordship that in consequence of His Majesty's order, I had directed Captain Edgell of His Majesty's Ship flute to restore the Islands of St Pierre and Miquelon, together with the French Fisheries, to the person authorized by the French Government to receive them, and have the honor to enclose copies of the papers transmitted to me by Captain Edgell, which were exchanged by him with the French Officer at St Pierre on that occasion.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable

Lord Hobart.

(sgd) J. Gambier.
Fort Townshend.

St John's Newfoundland.

11th. October 1803.

My Lord,

I beg leave to enclose the copy of a letter from the Chief Justice of Newfoundland, and to inform your Lordship that under the peculiarly distressing circumstances in which he is placed by the state of his health, I have been induced to consent to his being absent from his duty in this island, trusting he will be able to return early next summer.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable

Lord Hobart.

(Jd) J. Gambier.
Fort Townsend,
St. John's, Newfoundland.
20th October 1802.

My Lord,

I beg leave to inform Your Lordship that I have this day received the balance of the accounts of the Supreme and Surrogate Courts and of the district of Saint John's, which I have appropriated to the payment in part of the salaries due to the Officers of those Courts; and that I have drawn on the Lords Commissionrs of His Majesty's Treasury for six hundred and fifty six pounds six shillings and five pence, three farthings, which is the sum wanting to complete the said payment, and I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship an account thereof.

I have the duty to be,

(Sd) J. Cambier.

To the Right Honourable
Lord Hobart.
Isis,

St. John's, Newfoundland.

27th October, 1802.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 4th August respecting Mr. Thrope, and request you will be pleased to inform the Right Honourable Lord Hobart that I have afforded him the assistance necessary to forward him on his way to Prince Edward's Island.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. CAMBIER.

John Sullivan Esquire.
Isis,
Spithead,
31st November, 1803.

My Lord,

In obedience to His Majesty's Instructions
I have the honour to lay before Your Lordship a Return
of the condition of the Forts and Batteries in the
Island of Newfoundland; and I beg leave to state to
Your Lordship that orders having been given by the
Board of Ordnance that no repairs should be made to
Fort Townshend which is the principal post for the
defence of the Town of Saint John's it would be
advisable to erect barracks and other buildings necess-
ary for the accommodation of Troops, in the post on
the height near the Town, known by the name of Signal
Hill, as, in case of a rupture of the Peace now sub-
sisting with foreign powers, the very important town
of Saint John's would be in a defenceless state,
liable to be taken by surprise, and property to a
great amount either taken or destroyed.

I am &c.,

(Se) J. Gambier.

The Right Honourable
Lord Hobart.
Isis,
Spithesd,
31st November 1803.

My Lord,

I have the honour to acquaint Your Lordship with my return from Newfoundland, having left that Island in a state of order and tranquillity, and shall take up as little of Your Lordship's time as possible in stating my proceedings in the Government thereof.

Previous to my departure from England, I sent a Proclamation to the Magistrates of Saint John's to be published throughout the part of the Island assigned to the French, ordering all British subjects from thence, that the French fishermen might have full enjoyment of the privileges allowed them by treaty. I also in obedience to His Majesty's Order of the 31st of May and to Your Lordship's letter accompanying it, sent orders to Captain Edgell commanding His Majesty's Sloop Pluto, for the restitution of Saint Pierre and Miquelon, which was accordingly performed by that officer on the 20th August, as my letter of the 3rd of September will have informed Your Lordship.

I arrived in His Majesty's Ship Isis in Saint John's Harbour on the 3rd of September, and landing with the usual ceremonies on the 4th caused my Commission to be publicly read, and took the necessary oaths.

On the 7th of September I renewed the appointments of the Surrogates and Magistrates in the several districts except the Surrogate at Burin in Placentia
Bayas I intended to send one of His Majesty's Ships there, the Captain of which, being a Surrogate, would probably administer more impartial justice than a resident engaged in business, who would occasionally sit in judgment on his own cause. For this reason, and also for the administration of Justice, in the other harbours, where there are no Surrogates or Magistrates, I appointed Captain Malbon Barwell, Ommannay, and Dod, Commanding His Majesty's Ships Aurora, Pluto, Falcon, and Calgo, Surrogates and Magistrates, assigning to each his proper station along the coast; and they returned to St. John's a short time before my departure having settled all the causes that had been brought before them.

Captain Hill of the Camilla in performing the service I had ordered him upon, to watch the French, and procure accounts of their fisheries, and from thence to proceed to the Coast of Labrador for the protection of the British fisheries there, and to collect information respecting them, was under the necessity of returning before he had reached that coast, owing to an accident of the Camilla running on a rock in entering the Harbour of Fleur de lis, which was unknown both to Captain Hill and the Pilot he had on board.

I am happy to inform Your Lordship that a perfectly good understanding and friendly intercourse subsisted between the French fishers and such of the English as had before the ratification of the peace been
been engaged in fishing within the limits assigned to the French, the latter having not only cheerfully permitted the British subjects to finish the curing of their fish, but even afforded them assistance.

I must however report to Your Lordship a small misunderstanding that took place with regard to ceremony and the sovereignty of the harbor, between Captain Hill and Monsieur Erpron, Captain of the French frigate Revanche lying at Croque when the Camilla arrived there. Captain Hill has furnished me with a narrative of the circumstances, and the correspondence which I have the honour to enclose herewith for His Majesty's information and I trust that Your Lordship will find that Captain Hill conducted himself on the occasion with propriety, and consistently with the instructions I have received from His Majesty.

I am sorry to observe to Your Lordship that the business of the Supreme Court of Judicature did not pass without a case of a capital nature, and that I was placed in the sad necessity of putting my name to a warrant for the execution of an unhappy man, who was sentenced to death on full and clear proof of a crime of an unnatural kind, which could on no consideration be either pardoned or reprieved. There were no other causes tried in that Court of importance enough to be communicated to Your Lordship.

I thought it expedient dummy stay to issue Proclamations forbidding dieters, buildings and Enclosures
Enclosures, the Emigration of Seamen and Fishermen, and the Retailing of Spirituous Liquors without License copies of which are herewith enclosed. Your Lordship will be informed by another letter of mine what I have done in regard to the Native Indians, and of my proclamation respecting them.

The measure adopted by Vice Admiral Lord Radstock for the relief of the Poor of St. John's having been suspended, I wrote a letter to the magistrates urging the necessity for renewing the collection, and I am happy to say that the principal inhabitants have with readiness consented, and a sum has been raised by voluntary contributions for this purpose, from which the Poor will receive great benefit in the winter. And, as a collateral measure, I have recommended to the magistrates a Plan for the Establishment of Charity Schools, to which a subscription has been liberally made; and I trust it will be attended with the desirable effect of improving the morals of the poorer class of the community.

The Missionary at Saint John's having represented to me that the present Burying Ground adjoining the Church, is so full of bodies as to make it absolutely necessary to have some other place for burying the dead, I have granted permission for a piece of ground at a small distance, thence to be appropriated for that purpose; which I hope will meet His Majesty's approbation.

I have the honour further to inform Your Lordship
Lordship that in consequence of the great reduction of military force in Newfoundland, by the embarkation of the 66th Regiment for England, I have left His Majesty's Sloop Falcon to remain at St. John's in order if it should be necessary to assist the magistrates in preserving the peace and good government. And here I cannot, in justice to the zeal and public spirit of Brigadier General Skerrett, omit to mention to Your Lordship the readiness with which he at all times afforded his assistance in forwarding the public good.

Having received information that an illicit trade is constantly carried on in the spring, on the southern coast of the Island, between Trepasssey Harbor and Fortune Bay, I have stationed the Trepasssey Armed Tender within those limits, in order as much as possible to suppress this practice; and as there is not any Magistrate at Trepasssey, or Saint Mary's, nor any Surrogate residing on that part of the Coast, I have appointed Lieutenant McIllop who commands the said Tender, to be a Justice of the Peace and Surrogate, in order he may attend at the same time to the administration of justice and the regulation of the fishery on his station.

The fishery having been continued till a late period, the returns have not arrived from all the out harbors before my departure. I am therefore unable to furnish Your Lordship, at this moment, with a complete
complete account of the success of it. So soon as I shall have received all the returns, which may be shortly expected, I shall not fail to make a full report of them to Your Lordship. The judgment that may be formed from the information I have received is, that the quantity of fish taken is about a medium of what it is generally— in some parts the success has been very great, and in others less than usual. The increase from adventurers this year has been considerable, but will probably be much greater as soon as the Peace has had its full effect.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. CAMBIER.

The Right Honourable
Lord Hobart.
Isis,

Spithead,

31st November 1802.

My Lord,

I beg leave to inform Your Lordship that in obedience to His Majesty's Instructions I have issued a Proclamation in the parts of Newfoundland most frequented by the Native Indians (a copy of which I have the honor to enclose) strictly enjoining all persons to live in unity and kindness with them. But I am sorry to observe, that owing to the enormities committed on that miserable race, by His Majesty's subjects, who traverse that part of the country in search of furs, there exists so great a degree of animosity and distrust on the part of the Indians, that they fly from their habitations on the approach of any of our people, and at all times use every precaution to avoid them. I am therefore apprehensive that it will be extremely difficult to conquer this aversion, and gain their confidence; nor does such an object appear to be at all attainable unless a permanent establishment is made near them. This establishment should consist of a discreet officer with fifteen or twenty men furnished with arms and provisions to enable them to pass the winter in the vicinity of the habitations of the Indians; where by making them presents of such articles of small value as are most useful to them, an amicable and conciliatory disposition may be manifested to them, which
which may gain their confidence, and encourage them to form a friendly intercourse with the Officer and his party; to whom they should make known their grievances and the ill treatment they receive from the Furriers. These measures I have no doubt would more effectually produce the desired end of civilizing these poor savages, and of making them useful either in the fisheries or the fur-trade, than by adopting the mode which has been proposed to former Governors, of endeavouring to catch one or more individuals of the tribe; and, after having them some time in possession to send them back to give an account to their friends of the kind treatment they had experienced from us.

The attempt to get some of them into our possession by stratagem might not succeed; in which case it would create a greater degree of mistrust and enmity than already subsists between them and the British adventurers, and make it more difficult in future to gain their confidence.

If Your Lordship should approve my suggestion it will be necessary to employ a small vessel for the purpose of landing the party to be employed on his service, and to convey provisions &c. to them for their support in the winter. If the Squadron under my command was increased by the addition of six small vessels, one of these might be employed on this particular service. It would be proper also for me to be furnished with some common blanket ts, hatchets, saws, spike nails, and some other articles of small value much
much prized by the Indians, which I would direct to be
distributed as occasion might offer. By which, with
such other measures as I should order the officer
commanding the party to pursue, I have no doubt of
obtaining this most necessary and desired object.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. CAMBIER.

The Right Honourable

Lord Hobart.
Isis,
Spithad,
31st November, 1802.

My Lord,

In obedience to His Majesty's Instructions
I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship an
account of the French fisheries at Newfoundland, as
obtained by His Majesty's Ships under my Command.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. CAMBIER.

The Right Honourable

Lord Hobart.
London,
13th January, 1803.

My Lord,

I have the honour to enclose to Your Lordship an extract of a letter which I have this day received from Brigadier General Skerrett bearing the most favourable testimony to the worthy character of the Reverend Mr. Farries, Missionary at Saint John's, to which I beg leave to add the high opinion I entertain of that gentleman's merit, and to recommend him most earnestly to Your Lordship's favor.

I have etc.,

(sd) J. GAMBIER.

Enclosed an extract made from General Skerrett's letter of the 6th December last.

The Right Honourable

Lord 


London,

13th January 1803.

My Lord,

In the addition to the representation contained in my letter of the 22nd November last, with a return of the condition of the forts and batteries in the Island of Newfoundland, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship an extract of a letter I have this day received from Brigadier General Skerrett, and beg leave again to suggest to your Lordship the necessity of completing the works on Signal Hill as soon as may be convenient.

I have etc.,

(sd) J. CAMERON.

The Right Honourable

Lord Coburg.
Extract of a letter from Brigadier General Skerrett Commanding His Majesty's Forces in Newfoundland to Vice Admiral Gambier, dated St. John's, Newfoundland the 6th December 1802.

"The Garrison duty we find particularly fatiguing to the Troops, having such a heavy charge of Military Stores, and our Fortifications being extensively multiplied in twenty batteries and one hundred and fourteen pieces of cannon. The point we ought to attend to is the eminence of Signal Hill which I am very anxious should be finished, by the erection of Officers' Barracks, a good supply of water, Storehouses, &c. I am sure Your Excellency will see the necessity of this being done without delay, and to represent the same to the Master General of His Majesty's Ordnance. Colonel Skinner being recalled, I hope his successor will arrive early in the Spring with full powers to complete everything that is actually necessary to be done in this important branch of the service."
London,
32nd January, 1803.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship in obedience to His Majesty’s Instructions, a Return of the Fishery and Inhabitants in the Island of Newfoundland under my Government, in the year 1802, together with the Prices of Seamen’s wages, and provisions in that Island.

I have etc.,

(Sd) C. GAMBLER.

The Right Honourable
Lord Hobart.
Prices of Provisions and Wages in the Island of Newfoundland in the summer of 1802.

Bread 28/- to 18/- per cwt.

Pork L8 ----L8. 18. 0

Flour--------3 to L2.0.0. per bbl.

Butter 1/1-------td. per lb.

Rum-------4/- ---to 3/3 per gallon.

Wolasses 2/6----to 2/- per ditto.

Salt Portugal 21/- to 15/- per Fogshead.

English 15/- to 5/- per ditto.

Cod Fish merchantable 27/- to 32/6 per quintal.

Maderia----------11 to 14 per qtl.

Salmon--------3.16.0 per tierce.

Seal Oil--------24.0.0. per ton.

Cod Oil--------24.0.0. per ton.

Seamen's and Fishermen's Wages from L30 to L50 for the season.
London,

3rd February 1803.

My Lord,

His Majesty's having been pleased by his Instructions to direct me to procure accurate Drafts or Maps of such of the Harbours, Bays and Coast of Newfoundland as have not been surveyed, I beg leave to state to Your Lordship that no survey has ever been taken of a considerable extent of Coast comprehended between Bonavista and the North Point of the Island: a part where fish is found in such abundance as to have induced adventurers for several years past to fit out vessels in the southern ports, and proceed thither to carry on the Fishery; in which they have always been successful, while the shore fishery to the Southward has frequently failed. If a survey of the Coast above described were taken and published, the navigation thereof would be rendered much less dangerous than at present it is found to be, and adventurers would by that means be encouraged to resort to that coast, not only to carry on the Fishery, but also the Salmon and Seal Fisheries both of which might be prosecuted with great advantage there. The latter of these, in particular, may be considered
considered may be considered as an important object to the station, as it is calculated to form the most hardy seamen, being carried on in the winter, and early in the spring, during the most severe and inclement weather, in vessels well calculated to teach men the knowledge necessary to a sea-faring life.

To the want of such a survey may be attributed the accident which had nearly proved fatal to His Majesty's Ship Camilla, in September last. In entering the harbour of Fleur de Lys she struck on a sunken rock in mid-channel (which was not known either to the Pilot or any officer on board) and received so much damage that she was rendered unable to complete the service on which I had dispatched her, of watching the French Fishery, and preventing any of their people from remaining on the Island.

As this service must be performed by some of His Majesty's Ships every year, they will be liable to similar accidents, from the necessity they are under of visiting every harbour where it is prudent for a ship of War to enter.

Having mentioned that part of the Coast, I cannot pass over in silence the illicit trade carried on there by the Americans. I am informed that one
vessel alone carried from thence, the last summer, 

furs to the value of two thousand pounds. To put a stop 
to this practice as well as to the contraband trade which 
is carried on in other parts of the Island, to the detri-
ment of Great Britain, it will be necessary to employ 
smaller vessels than those I have at present under my 
command, such as can follow the Smugglers into the creeks 
and coves, where Frigates and Sloops cannot enter, and 
from their size and appearance would not be known to be 
vessels of war; should your Lordship approve of this 
suggestion I would recommend that six brigs or schooners 
of about one hundred and forty tons burthen each, should 
be put under my command by the Board of Admiralty, with a 
compliment of twenty men, including a Lieutenant and other 
necessary Officers. These vessels would be useful on many 
other occasions, in regulating and protecting the several 
Fisheries, and preserving good order in those parts 
where they may be employed.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. GAMBIER.

The Right Honourable

Lord Robert.
London,

22nd March 1803.

My Lord,

Your Lordship has been made acquainted with the excellent character of the Reverend Mr. Farries the Missionary from the Society for propagating the Gospel at Saint John's in Newfoundland, the circumstances of whose situation are such that I cannot forbear to make known to Your Lordship in the hope that His Majesty may be graciously pleased to order some assistance to be granted him from the Treasury.

Mr. Farries has a family of eight children all at home with him, without any other support for them than the small stipend of a missionary together with the allowance made to him by Government of £50 per annum, making altogether a sum so small as to be inadequate to the maintenance of so large a family in that country, where all the necessaries of life are at a very high price.

The subject on which I now beg leave to trouble Your Lordship is that of his house which is so small as not to lodge his family, without the greatest inconvenience, the whole being crowded into two rooms, besides which it is so much out of repair, that when
it rains, he is under the necessity of moving the beds from one part of the room to the other, to prevent their getting wet, and it is not in his power to get it repaired. The house was purchased a few years ago by a subscription of some well disposed persons for his predecessor's accommodation, and is considered as attached to the Church for the use of the resident Clergyman, but its decayed condition and its great distance from the Church render it very ineligible to be repaired for that purpose.

Presuming Your Lordship will be of opinion with me tht a house for the Clergyman is absolutely necessary for the support of the Established religion in St. John's, I beg leave to solicit your interference to obtain for this purpose the sum of £600 which added to the proceeds of the present house, would be sufficient to build a comfortable house for the Established Clergyman near the Church, where a spot of ground might be appropriated to that use.

I have etc.,

The Right Honourable

(Rev) J. Carpenter.
London,

15th April, 1805.

My Lord,

I have the honour to apprise Your Lordship that I intend shortly to despatch one of His Majesty's ships under my command to the Coast of Labrador, and another to Newfoundland.

I request to be informed if His Majesty has any further instructions to give me respecting the Government of Newfoundland, and have the honour to be &c.

(Sgd) J. Gambier.

The Right Honourable

Lord Hobart.
London,
13th April, 1803.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship a memorial from Jonathan Ogden Esquire Judge of the Supreme Court in Newfoundland accompanied by a certificate bearing testimony to his merit as a Magistrate in that country for many years past; to which I beg to add that from his general character in the Island, and the short knowledge I have had of him, I have formed a high opinion of his personal worth, and zealous exertions in the cause of Government; and therefore beg leave to recommend him to Your Lordship's consideration, as a person whose meritorious services afford him reason to hope under the afflicted state of his health to receive some provision from Government.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. Gambier.

The Right Honourable

Lord Hobart.
London,
19th May (1803).

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter dated the 7th instant, directing me for reasons therein stated, to cause the utmost vigilance and circumspection to be observed in every department of the service under my Government, which I shall pay due attention.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. Gambier.

The Right Honourable

Lord Hobart.
London

18th May, 1803.

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's letter of the 16th instant informing me that in consequence of the unfavourable termination of the discussions lately depending between His Majesty and the French Government His Majesty's Ambassador left Paris the 13th instant; also that His Majesty had been pleased in consequence of this event to order that letters of marque and commissions of privateers should be issued; and shall pay strict attention to the King's Commands therein signified.

I have etc.,

(Sgd) J. Gambier.

The Right Honourable

Lord Hobart.
London,

31st May, 1803.

My Lord,

Being on the eve of my departure to repair to my Government at Newfoundland, and learning that no step has yet been taken for enlisting the Garrison at Saint John's or for completing the works constructed for its defence, on which subject I had the honour to write to Your Lordship on the 22nd November and the 18th January last, I beg leave to point out the urgent necessity that now exists for adopting immediate measures for the security of that place. During the late War that Garrison consisted of two Regiments of Foot and two Companies of Artillery, at present there are not more than sixty-three men of the Artillery there.

As I understand that no Chief Justice is yet appointed to Newfoundland in the room of Jonathan Ogden Esquire whose resignation on account of ill health I had the honour to transmit to Your Lordship on the 18th ultimo, I beg leave if Your Lordship has not a professional gentleman in view to fill that office, to recommend Mr. Thomas Tremlett Magistrate and Surrogate at Saint John's whose legal and local knowledge appears to me to qualify
qualify him for that situation better than any other
man in that country, and of whose integrity I entertain
a high opinion.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. Cambier.

The Right Honourable

Lord Hobart.
London,  
31st May 1803.

My Lord,

There having been no provision made for the relief of the Poor in Newfoundland but what has been raised by voluntary contributions from the well disposed part of the inhabitants who are in circumstances to enable them thereto, I have to request Your Lordship will be pleased to direct that I may be furnished with the opinion of the Crown Lawyers how far the laws enacted in this country for the relief of the Poor are applicable and can be enforced in Newfoundland.

The expense of the repairs of the Churches is also defrayed by voluntary contributions which it is difficult and almost impracticable to raise; I therefore also to request of Your Lordship that I may be furnished with an opinion how far I should be justified in causing money to be levied by rate, as it is one in this country. The Act of Parliament for establishing a Court of Judicature in Newfoundland, directs that all causes shall be decided according to the laws of England, as far as they are applicable to Newfoundland, but as I have
have my doubts as to the power of the Governor to raise money by rates for the above purposes, I am earnestly desirous of being fully informed to what extent my authority as Governor reaches in this respect.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. GAUBEIR.

The Right Honourable

Lord Fobart.
Inspector Generals Office.
11th. June 1803.

Sir,

I return herewith Lord Hobart's letter of the 30th. Uite. with the papers enclosed in it respecting the Ferts Batteries, and Barracks at St John's Newfoundland.

The commanding Engineer at Newfoundland Lieutenant Colonel Skinner, not having returned to England last Winter according to the leave which had been granted to him for that purpose, and an estimate having been received from him for the necessary repairs to the works at Newfoundland orders for that purpose were sent to him in April last.

With respect to completing the Barracks &c. on Signa, Hill, and rendering it the principal post, I agree entirely in opinion with Brigadier General Skerrett upon the expediency of that measure, but it is now too late in the season to send orders from hence for beginning any new works this Year.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable the
Earl of Chatham.

(sd) Rt. Narse.
St James Square.

12th. June 1803.

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge your Lordships letter of the 31st. May with its several enclosures, from Vice Admiral Gambier dated the 31st. November and 13th. January last, respecting the condition of the Forts and Batteries on the Island of Newfoundland, upon which I immediately called for the report of the Inspector General of Fortifications and I transmit for your Lordships information a copy of the answer which has just been received from Lieutenant General Mercer.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable Lord Hobart. (sd) Chatham.

&c. &c. &c.
St John's Newfoundland.
20th. October 1803.

My Lord,

I have the honor to transmit to your Lordship an account of the appropriation of the Monies drawn upon the Treasury for the payments of the Salaries to the Officers of the Supreme and Surrogate Courts, and other Services in Newfoundland under my Government.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable
Lord Hobart.

z(ad) J. Gambier.
London.

12th. December 1803.

My Lord,

The Chief Justice of Newfoundland having by my directions visited the principal Harbours on the Southern Coast of the Island of the administration of Justice and the regulation of Judicial affairs I have the honor to transmit a copy of his letter written to me on his return.

I cannot describe to your Lordship the evils attendant on the want of fit persons to fill the Office of Magistrates in many of the Out Harbours.

The most effectual remedy I can point out is the employing small Vessels commanded by Judiciaries Officers as I had the honor to propose to your Lordship last Year. Few were accordingly sent out this Year, but I have been deprived of the services of the only one that was there before, by her being found unfit for service and sold.

These Vessels, as I had the honor to state
state to your Lordship would be employed at the same time on many other useful services.

The observation of the Chief Justice on the disposition of a large proportion of the lower class of the Inhabitants of Newfoundland is just and the strictest police is required to preserve peace and good order among them.

With respect to the Gaels in the different places mentioned by the Chief Justice, it is certainly necessary they should be kept in good repair otherwise the Magistrates authority must prove ineffectual. I have accordingly proposed to the Inhabitants of Placentia that they should raise one half of the sum required to defray the expense of building a new Gael in that place and assured them that the other half will be furnished by Government in which I persuade myself of your Lordship's approbation and concurrence, and hope to receive your Lordship's sanction to make the same proposal to the other districts of the Island where it may be necessary.

Much inconvenience and distress being felt by the Inhabitants of St John's from the want of pasturage for their Sheep and Cattle, and as I am forbidden by His Majesty's instructions to make grants of land I have judged it expedient to let onl lease for twenty one Years about eight Acres of waste land which will raise a revenue for
for the first two years of about forty pounds and afterwards sixty pounds per annum. If His Majesty should be graciously pleased to permit an extension of this measure, it would produce a considerable revenue to the Orwen which would perhaps in process of time defray the expense of the Civil Establishment of the Island and furnish a fund for the erection and repair of Churches which are much wanted, and for the maintenance of the Minister of the Gospel with many other useful contingencies.

I am concerned to inform your Lordship that the declining state of morals in the Island and of the Public Worship of the Almighty, and the darkness and ignorance of the inferior classes of the Inhabitants is quite deplorable, and beg leave to urge in the most earnest manner on your Lordship's consideration the adoption of some measure to encourage fit persons who are Minister of the Established Church to go to that Country for the promulgation of the Gospel, who in addition to that duty might render themselves extremely useful to society by acting as Magistrates as those do who are present established there.

I am happy however to inform your Lordship that I have effected an Established of a School for the Children of the Poor in St John's, the expense of which is defrayed
defrayed by contributions from the Richer Classes. In Harbour Grace also some will disposed people have formed themselves into a society for the purpose of establishing Sunday Schools. These example will, I hope be followed in the other districts of the Island, as such establishments must tend greatly to promote religion and good order.

In contemplating the law condition of Society in a country is in itself the source of so much wealth and of present system of policy observed towards that Island as defective being insufficient for effecting the happiness and good order of the Community, which is the Chief end of all Government. This I attribute to the want of a power in the Island for framing laws for its internal regulation and for raising the sums necessary to promote any measure of Public utility to which expense must be incurred. Your Lordship is informed by the answer of His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General to my Queries of the 31st. May last that the Governor has not the smallest power of this nature.

No money can now be raised in this Island except by voluntary contribution, and that mode, is as it always must be inadequate to the many useful purposes, for which it is always confined to a few well disposed people whose residence in the Island gives them an interest in
in the good order and improvement of the Community I therefore feel it incumbent on me, to propose for your Lordship's consideration the establishment of a legislative power in Newfoundland similar to that which has been found necessary to the prosperity and good Government of other parts of His Majesty's Foreign Dominions.

The letting out the ground in the Town of St John's denominated Fishing Ships Room, as mentioned in the Chief Justice's letter, would be a very useful measure, since the Fishery carried on from Great Britain is now so blended with the resident Fishery that there are but few examples at present of Fishing Ships sailing from England whose owners are not in possession of such places in Newfoundland as are necessary for the prosecution of their Fishery, and even those that have no establishment of their own in the Island find more advantage in the convenience afforded by the Inhabitants for curing their Fish than by resorting to the privilege granted by law of possessing themselves of Fishing Rooms, which from these circumstances have for many Years been quite degenerated, and being still held sacred by Law, answer no other purpose particularly at St John's where they are strictly preserved than to prevent a part of the Harbour from being employed for the use of the Fishery, and so deeply
an I impressed with the inconvenience felt in St John's from the continuance of the Law respecting Fishing Ships Rooms beyond the necessity that first required it, that I cannot forbear to recommend to your Lordship in the strongest manner, the expediency of appropriating them to the service of the Fishery by letting them out for that purpose, and as the slight erections necessary for the Fishery would require only a short lease, a remedy might by that means be provided against any impediment that the British Fishery could possibly sustain from this measure.

In every other respect the interests of the British Fishery are perfectly compatible with the measures I have now the honor to suggest to your Lordship for the benefit of the resident Trade and Fishery and the better regulation of His Majesty's Subjects in Newfoundland.

The Privileges granted to the former might still continue as well as the laws relating to the Seamen and Fishermen unless any amendment in the latter should be found necessary for the general benefit.

Should your Lordship concur in opinion with me that in consequence of the great increase of population and the change which has taken place in the Trade and Fishery
Fishery of Newfoundland it would be expedient to make some alteration in the mode of governing that island. I beg leave to recommend that the Brigadier General commanding the Troops should be invested with the authority of Lieutenant Governor during the absence of the Chief also that the Secretary of the Island should be a permanent appointment as being acquainted with the affairs of the Country he would be a proper assistant to the Governor, who being changed every three years, cannot on his first appointment, have that knowledge of the Trade and Fishery and of the circumstances of the Inhabitants which is necessary for the just and faithful discharge of the duties of his station.

The security and defence of the Island and of the valuable Fishery and increasing Trade carried on there is an object highly worthy the attention of Government and requires a permanent Military force to be kept there.

If the Enemy had not sent even a small force there at the breaking out of the War, they would have found it an easy conquest, owing to the weakness of the Garrison and the large proportion of Irish among the lower Class of the Inhabitants, who would it is probable have gladly joined them.

The Garrison of St John's should consist of not less than six hundred men whose loyalty could be depended on, besides which it is necessary for the defence of
of the Island against an Enemy as well as to assist the
Magistrates in the execution of their Office that detachments
of Troops should be stationed in the several Districts of the
Island, consisting of a Captain's Company in some of the
principal harbours and of a Lieutenant or Serjeants party
in those of less importance, which with the assistance,
of the Kings Ships and the small Vessels before mentioned
would fully answer the end.

The Regiment now raising in Newfoundland
by Brigadier general Sherrett would be sufficient for the
above purpose if established as a permanent Garrison Battalion
to be reduced in time of peace to such a number as may be
judged expedient.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable

Lord Hobart.

(sd) J. Gambier.
London.

13th. December 1868.

My Lord,

His Majesty's Warrant authority the importation of Provisions from the United States of America into Newfoundland which is issued annually in the Winter limiting that indulgence to the ensuing Season only, the Governor is not empowered to leave behind him at the time of his departure from thence in the fall of the Year any authority to permit such importation early in the ensuing Spring before his Warrant to the Officers of the Customs issued in pursuance of His Majesty's authority can arrive there which is sometimes so late that the benefit thereby intended to Newfoundland is greatly abridged, as the Merchants residing there are prevented from taking early measures for importing the necessary supplies from the cheapest Market at a time when their Ships are unemployed

In consequence of which, the high price and sometimes scarcity of provisions is severely felt during the Spring, and such is generally the necessity of the Inhabitants at that Season that His Majesty's Subjects from
from Nova Scotia are encouraged to bring provisions thither from the United States through the medium of some port in the above Province under favor of the freedom it enjoys in its trade, with the said States.

These traders not being subject to the same regulations and restrictions as vessels sailing directly between Newfoundland and the United States in pursuance of His Majesty's warrant, much injury is done to the fair trader as well as to His Majesty's revenue by the illicit commerce which such persons are enabled to carry on in articles which are not permitted to be imported from thence into Newfoundland.

I am therefore clearly of opinion that to give to Newfoundland the full benefit of His Majesty's Most Gracious intention it is expedient that the authority granted at the commencement of every season to the Governor by His Majesty's Warrant for the importation of provisions into that Island from the United States of America should be extended to the Month of May or June in the following Year.

If this should accord with your Lordship's ideas on the subject I request to be furnished with the usual warrant as soon as convenient.

The Right Honorable I am 4c.

Lord Hobart. (sd) J. Gambier.
Fort Townshend.

15th. August 1804.

My Lord,

I beg leave to inform your Lordship that the Indian Woman who was taken on the North part of this Island last year and was intended to be returned to her Tribe, could not be sent back for want of the necessary number of men for such an undertaking.

She remained therefore during the winter in the care of the person who took her, and as the care of the person, the Indians usually resort to the sea-coast about this season, I have directed the man to get proper assistance and endeavour to fall in with some part of the Indians whom she may join.

I have this day drawn on the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury for fifteen pounds in favor of William Cull for his care of the Indian from the twentieth of September last to the present time which I hope will meet His Majesty's approbation.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable

Lord Camden

(sd) H. Gower.
Fort Townshend,
20th October 1804.

My Lord,

I beg leave to inform Your Lordship that in paying the Officers of the Supreme and Surrogate Courts of this Island their respective salaries for the year ending this day, I have drawn on the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty’s Treasury for the sums required for that purpose, as will appear by the enclosed account.

An Indian woman who was taken last year being left by Vice Admiral Gambier in the charge of William Gull a fisherman near the Bay of Exploits to be returned to her tribe, in the hope of establishing by her means a friendly intercourse with them, and the man not having been able to carry her back till August last I have given him a draft on His Majesty’s Treasury for fifteen pounds being his charge for the woman’s subsistence during the above period, which I hope will meet His Majesty’s approbation.

The funds arising from the Fines and Forfeitures levied in the several Courts of Justice not being this year sufficient to defray the necessary expenses incurred in the execution of the Laws and His Majesty’s instructions relating to this Island with various regulations of police, I have given Henry Phillips Esquire High Sheriff of Newfoundland a Draft on the Treasury for Two hundred and eighty three pounds being the
the balance due to him on the above account of which
I hope His Majesty will be pleased to approve.

I have etc.,

(Sc) E. GOWER.

The Right Hon. Lord Camden.
Fort Townshend,

25th October, 1804.

My Lord,

I beg leave to transmit to Your Lordship a Memorial I have received from His Majesty's Chief Justice, the Magistrates, officers in the service of Government, and principal merchants of St. John's, stating the important and patriotic services rendered to His Majesty's Government by the Reverend Dr. O'Donel Romish Clergyman in this town; and as I am clearly persuaded from my own observation, as well as from the unanimous opinion that prevails respecting him, that independently of the particular instance specified in his Memorial, the Government is greatly indebted to his fidelity and piety for the constant preservation of peace and good order among the lower class of society in this place, as well as throughout the Island, which in almost every district consists chiefly of Irish Catholics, who are under his episcopal superintendence, I beg to recommend him as a man whose faithful and zealous exertions entitle him to some consideration. And as I understand the contributions made for his support by his Flock, who are generally poor, are but small, I have the honour to suggest that an allowance from His Majesty of Fifty Pounds per annum, as long as he may remain in Newfoundland, would, at his advanced age, which is sixty seven years, render his situation comfortable and easy, while such an example of attention to the merits
merits of their aged and respected minister, would have a powerful tendency to conciliate the minds of the Roman Catholics in this Island to His Majesty's Government and subdue that spirit of disaffection which I understand has several times manifested itself among them for an account of which as well as of Mr. O'Donel's conduct on those occasions, I beg leave to refer Your Lordship to a letter from Brigadier General Skerrett which I have the honour to transmit herewith.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. Gower.

The Right Honourable

Earl Camden, K.C.
St. John's, Newfoundland,
25th October 1804.

My Lord,

Having received information that the American Fishermen had resorted in great numbers to the Coast of Labrador this season, and had interrupted the British fishermen, I despatched Lieutenant Morrison in His Majesty's Hired Cutter Queen Charlotte to that Coast, who, in the execution of my orders had occasion to put into Quiropon on the Coast of Newfoundland where he found many American vessels, two of which were in the act of curing their Fish on the shore contrary to the Treaty of Versailles. The Lieutenant therefore thought it his duty to seize all the American fish which he found on the shore and sent it to St. John's except a small part which could not be conveniently sent and was therefore sold on the spot. On its arrival at St. John's I ordered it to be libelled in the Vice Admiralty Court where it was condemned, and accordingly sold at Public Auction by the Officers of the Customs in whose hands the proceeds remain.

I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship herewith a copy of Lieutenant Morrison's letter giving an account of this transaction, also a copy of the information he obtained respecting the American fishery on the Coast of Labrador and in the Gulph of St. Lawrence.

The Right Honourable

Earl Camden, 1st. G.-

(Sd) E. Gower.
His Majesty's Ship Isis at Spithead,
19th November, 1804.

My Lord,

I have the honour to inform Your Lordship of my arrival at this anchorage from Newfoundland, which I left on the 26th ultimo, when tranquility and good order prevailed, and promised to be maintained during the winter by the diligence and activity of the Magistrates, and the very zealous support afforded them by Brigadier General Skerrett commanding the Garrison.

The returns of the Fishery not having reached me from all the Out Harbours before my departure, I am not able at this moment to transmit to your Lordship a complete account thereof, but I hope the next conveyance from Newfoundland will enable me to do so; in the meantime I have the satisfaction to observe, from the reports I have received that the Fishery has been very successful in proportion to the hands employed, but the number of adventurers and passengers from Great Britain and Ireland has been smaller than at any former period owing to the various causes arising from war. I have however the pleasure to remark that the seal Fishery which is carried on by the inhabitants and is calculated to form a hardy and intrepid race of seamen, has been prosecuted this year with uncommon energy and success.

With respect to the defence of the Island, I have
have the honour to state to Your Lordship that
Brigadier General Skerrett has met with great success
in his exertions to raise men for the Newfoundland
Regiment, and I was happy in affording him a conveyance
for his Recruiting parties in His Majesty's Ships to
the several Districts of the Island, towards the close
of the fishing season. Some of the Parties had before
my departure been successful, and there is reason to
hope the Regiment will be nearly completed in the
course of the ensuing winter, especially as I have
issued an order forbidding Recruiting Parties from the
Fencible Regiments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick
to raise men in Newfoundland which I found had been
done during the last winter, and many men sent off to
those Colonies: a measure which His Majesty's instruc-
tions to me do not permit, at the same time that it is
highly prejudicial to the Fishery, and retards the com-
pletion of the Newfoundland Regiment, on which the
defence of the Island at present depends.

On this subject I conceive it my duty to
observe that the Newfoundland Regiment will contain a
considerable number of men who were either born in the
Island, or have been many years employed in the
Fishery, whose experience therein, while it renders
them valuable subjects to His Majesty in their present
situation, exposes them to the temptation of emigrating
to the United States of America where an increasing
Fishery, already so extensive as to have risen in
alarming
alarming competition with that of Newfoundland, offers them great advantages; in consequence of which, the Island sustains annually the loss of a considerable number of men, who, notwithstanding the utmost exertions of the Governor to prevent it, find means of getting to America through the medium of the other Colonies. I beg leave therefore humbly to submit to His Majesty's consideration whether this circumstance does not render it extremely desirable that the service of the Newfoundland Regiment should be confined to that Island, for the defence of which, the men are, moreover, peculiarly adapted by their habits of life.

It is with deep concern that in detailing my proceedings to Your Lordship, I have to inform you that a woman named Catherine Brown having been convicted in the Supreme Court of the wilful murder of her husband, and sentenced to be hanged, I was under the necessity of ordering her execution. A man by the name of Richard Nickells also received sentence of death for forgery; but as it appeared from the circumstances of his offence which were of a peculiar nature, that he had only in view to save another person from punishment, who had forged his name to a Bill of Exchange without having been privy thereto himself, or entertained any fraudulent intention, and this consideration being strengthened by the Judge having recommended him to mercy, and the merchants of St. John's having presented a memorial in his behalf, I was happy to
to know that the occasion admitted of the exercise of that mercy with which His Majesty has been pleased to invest me, and accordingly granted the Prisoner a Free Pardon, which, notwithstanding I should have thought it my duty to submit to His Majesty, if the Prisoner's guilt had appeared to merit the long confinement he must necessarily have suffered, during the winter, before His Majesty's pleasure could have been known in the Island. I therefore hope my conduct on this occasion will meet His Majesty's approbation.

I am sorry to add on this subject that James Brown, Captain's Clerk of His Majesty's Ship Camilla, was also condemned in the Supreme Court for forgery, whose crime I fear admits of no palliation. I have however suspended the execution of his sentence from a doubt whether the fifteenth article of His Majesty's instructions to me might not be construed to extend to persons in his station, and have therefore reprieved him until His Majesty's pleasure respecting him shall be known, which I humbly request to receive. And I beg leave to suggest from the doubts which have arisen in my mind on this subject that a full definition of the Classes of Officers who are intended to be exempted, by the above instruction, from the immediate execution of the law might hereafter save a criminal who ought to suffer immediately from the additional punishment of a long confinement in Gaol during a severe winter.

The want of laws for the relief of the poor
poor and other parochial regulations in Newfoundland, and the miserable and neglected condition of many aged infirm and indigent persons, having called the attention of my predecessors, and excited their endeavours to form some establishment for the poor, and to make representations thereof to His Majesty’s Government, I trust it will not be deemed irrelevant in me to communicate to Your Lordship the measures I have taken to promote this object. I have accordingly the honor to inform Your Lordship that His Excellency the Honourable Admiral Waldegrave having, during his command in Newfoundland, succeeded in his humane exertions to form, from voluntary contributions, a charitable fund in St. John’s, which was liberally supported by his successors Sir Charles Pole and Vice Admiral Gambier, the latter of whom recommended the institution of schools for the instruction of the lower class of children who have become very numerous there and sunk in idleness and profaneness, and the contributions made by the inhabitants towards the support of these plans not being adequate to their design, I was induced to recommend the formation of a complete and efficient establishment, which should embrace both those objects, and while it furnishes relief to the indigent, might afford gratuitous instruction to the young of both sexes in morality, and teach them at the same time some resource of domestic industry, of which they are at present wholly ignorant. I had the satisfaction
satisfaction to find this measure meet with general approval. The merchants and other Inhabitants subscribed to it with uncommon liberality, and formed themselves into a Society under proper regulations for "Improving the condition of the Poor". As the children who came within the views of this institution were very numerous, it was found necessary to erect a School house for them, and provide for the support of proper teachers. A building was immediately commenced and finished with great expedition, large enough to admit four hundred children, and was opened a few days before my departure, when upwards of one hundred and fifty were already entered, a master and mistress were also engaged, who besides teaching them to read are competent to instruct the boys in spinning twine, making fishing nets &c., and the girls in carding and spinning wool and knitting stockings mitts &c.

The few schools in St. John's being inadequate to the instruction of the number of children it contains (which amounts to about 1500) and those few being chiefly of the Romish communion, such an institution as that abovementioned was much wanted, and the more so, as none of the Poor Laws of England are in force in Newfoundland. I trust therefore, that this Establishment will if properly supported supply that deficiency, and produce moreover the happiest effects on the lower ranks of society; by introducing among them habits of order and industry, and prove such an advantage to the community in general as may entitle it
it to the approbation and (if necessary hereafter) to the aid of His Majesty's Government.

Having served on the Newfoundland station eighteen years ago, I was on my arrival this year forcibly struck with the change which had taken place at St. John's, where the trade has increased to such a degree that the North side of the Harbour is now taken up with Merchants Stores, Wharfs &c. for the purposes of Trade and the Fishing stages with many of the Flakes, and other vessels for curing Fish, removed to make room for them.

Although the increasing trade of this port is the natural effect of, and highly beneficial to the general Fishery of the Island, in the form it has now assumed, it is to be regretted that along with the buildings required for this trade, the sea-side is crowded with Dwelling Houses, Retail shops, and Public Houses, with various Artificers, who, however necessary to the general convenience of the Trade and Fishery, are not engaged in carrying on either, and many of them might therefore, with equal advantage thereto, dwell at a greater distance from the water side, and by that means leave more space for the Trade and Fishery to which it is obviously the truest policy to afford every convenience and facility.

In addition to the above evil, the increased population of St. John's which has naturally accompanied the increase of trade, being scarcely able to find lodging
lodging in the houses now built, the rents are so exorbitant that a laboring Fisherman or Artificer can seldom obtain a small part of a miserable hovel for the shelter of his family for less than eight or ten pounds per annum, which must be considered as so much added to the natural price of his labour, and this at a time when the high price of labour is a general complaint among the Merchants and Boatkeepers, and operates as a great impediment to the Fishery.

From these causes the desire of building dwelling houses on the ground near the sea, to which the proprietors consider themselves as having a title by the Act of 10 and 11 of King William 3rd can scarcely be restrained without a severity which the general interest of the Fishery does not require, nor His Majesty's instructions direct. I have therefore requested the Chief Justice and the Magistrates to give me their opinion on this subject, and to suggest any expedient which might in their judgment remedy the inconvenience above described and having received from them a letter (of which I have the honor to enclose a copy) which conveys an accurate description of the state of the town, while the measure therein recommended, of permitting houses to be built in the rear of the flaxes at the distance of two hundred yards from the water (the space within which is directed by His Majesty's instructions to be reserved for the sole purpose of the Fishery and Trade) would prove an important benefit thereto. I have therefore laid the strictest prohibition
prohibition on the building or repairing houses
without express leave from the Governor, and have
published a permission (a copy of which is enclosed
herewith) allowing houses to be built at the above
mentioned distance from the sea, on a line which I
have prescribed, leaving a road of convenient breadth
before them; and in the few instances where the prop-
nitiors or lessees of the ground through which it will
pass appear to sustain any loss or detriment thereby
I have proposed, as a compensation, to give them
possession of a few spots of waste land remote from
the sea during His Majesty's Pleasure.

The Inhabitants of St. John's having been more
restricted than those of the catharbors from enclosing
and cultivating land, the quantity in cultivation
bears but a small proportion to the demands of the
Town. And as the increasing population has created a
natural necessity for some addition thereto, and the
measure adopted last year by my predecessor Vice
Admiral Gambier of leasing small portions of waste
land on the part of His Majesty, having been attended
with beneficial effects, I have been induced to follow
his example, and have accordingly leased in the same
manner, for the term of twenty one years, at an eq uit-
able rent, about three hundred acres of land, of which
there is a considerable extent in the vicinity of the
Town, which in its natural state can never produce
any timber useful for the fishery. I beg leave
therefore humbly to assure His Majesty that great
benefit
be of it would result from permitting these grounds to be cultivated to any extent that the unfavourable nature of the soil and climate will permit, and the demands of the inhabitants require; being fully persuaded that in proportion as this indulgence might have the effect of reducing the price of some of the necessaries of life, which are at present very dear, it must operate to the general advantage of the Fishery, by reducing the expense of the fishermen's subsistence, and consequently lowering the natural price of his labour. At present the price of provisions and labour (as I have before observed) is so high as to form the chief impediment to the success and extension of the fishery; and the importance of rendering these articles as cheap as possible will clearly appear, when it is considered that they constitute more than two thirds of the component parts of the price of the Fish and Oil.

I have etc.,

(Se) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable
Earl Camden, E.G.
Isis, at Spithead,
19th November, 1804.

My Lord,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Crew's letter of the 7th March last addressed to His Excellency Vice Admiral Gambier which came to my hand the 5th September, signifying that the Board of Ordnance had given directions respecting the Officers' Barracks on Signal Hill at St. John's, Newfoundland, and for carrying into execution several new buildings which had been proposed, I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that no Engineer having arrived in Newfoundland before my departure, the works above-mentioned were not going forward, but the necessity for them was considerably increased by one of the Soldiers' barracks on Signal Hill having been blown down by the force of the wind, and the Buildings in Fort Townsend and Fort William rapidly falling to decay. I beg leave therefore to recommend in the most earnest manner the expediency of taking speedy and effectual measures for putting the Barracks on Signal Hill in complete condition, as there will not otherwise be sufficient room for lodging the garrison, as soon as the Newfoundland Regiment shall be complete, which it may probably be in the course of the next spring.

I have etc.,

(Ed) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable

The Earl of Chatham.
Hermitage,

Hounslow,

28th November, 1804.

My Lord,

I have the honour since my arrival in England to receive Your Lordship's letter dated the 30th September last signifying his majesty's commands for me to give every facility in my power to the recruiting in Newfoundland for the Fencible Regiment of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and shall, in pursuance thereof, embrace the earliest conveyance to inform Your Lordship that owing to the small number of men who can be obtained during war from Great Britain and Ireland, the fishery labours under great difficulty from the scarcity of hands and high wages, which must be necessary aggravated by recruiting in the Island for the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Regiments, I am therefore clearly of opinion that to permit this measure to be carried to any extent, would prove such a discouragement to the Fishery by depriving the planters and boatkeepers of the necessary number of hands at the commencement of the season, as must be attended by a decline in the nursery it affords for seamen, more than equivalent to any benefit his majesty's service could receive from the men by this means raised by the above Regiments; the importance of which consideration will clearly appear when it is remembered that the Trade arising from this Fishery, which is now carried on almost wholly by persons residing
residing in the Island, gives employment annually to near three thousand seamen who are engaged in carrying the produce to market, and most in the course of the trade come to Great Britain and Ireland.

If it still should be His Majesty's Pleasure to permit men to be raised in Newfoundland for the Regiments beforementioned, I beg leave to suggest that the number to be raised, and the continuance of the recruiting parties in Newfoundland, should be left to the judgment of the Governor according to the circumstances of the Fishery and the number of men that may be brought from Great Britain and Ireland in the spring of the year. And as the sending off Recruits to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick would, unless conducted under proper regulations, afford a facility to emigration, it would be expedient to enjoin the officers commanding the Recruiting Parties not to send off any man until he shall be attested before a magistrate, who should be authorised by the Governor to give each recruit a pass in conformity to the Act of 15 Geo. 3rd Cap. 31, for which purpose I should conceive it necessary, if it sets His Majesty's approbation to transmit an instruction to the Magistrates in the terms which I have the honour herewith to submit.

I am &c.

(Sh) E. GOWER.

The Rt. Honourable Earl Camden.
By His Excellency

&c. &c. &c.

His Majesty having been pleased to command me to give every facility in my power to recruiting in Newfoundland for the Fancible Regiments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the Magistrates in the respective districts of the said Island are hereby authorized and required notwithstanding my order of the 4th of August last to afford every aid in their power consistently with the laws and regulations of the Fishery to the Officers Commanding the Parties who may be sent to Newfoundland to raise men for the above regiments; And the Magistrates are hereby further authorized on attesting any Recruit for any of the Corps above-mentioned to give him a pass in conformity to an Act of Parliament passed in the fifteenth year of His present majesty's reign, to allow him to proceed to the Colonies abovementioned in order to join his regiment which Pass shall specify the name of the vessel in which his officer may desire to send him, and shall be a sufficient permission for the master or commander of such vessel to convey such recruit from Newfoundland to the said Colonies.

Given under my hand etc.
Hermitage,
Hornsea,
31st November, 1804.

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's letter of yesterday, and the gratification I feel at the approbation Your Lordship is pleased to express of several measures therein contained.

I have also the honor to transmit your Lordship the Clerk of the Supreme Court's report of the proceedings in the cases of the several criminals who were condemned in that Court this year, comprehending that of James Brown, Captain's Clerk of the Camilla, agreeably to your Lordship's desire, with the calendar delivered to me by the Judge.

As my letter of the 28th has informed Your Lordship of the whole of my sentiments respecting the recruiting in Newfoundland for the Army in general, I forbear to enter again on that subject, but wait Your Lordship's further directions.

I have etc.,
(Sd) E. Gower.

The Right Honourable Earl Camden.
Hermitage Horndean.

24th. December 1804.

My Lord,

Vice Admiral Gambier my predecessor in the Government of Newfoundland, having from his observation of the Fishery of that island, conceived it essential to that important object, to afford every facility to the importation of those articles of provision from the United States of America, which are admitted during the Fishery Season, was induced to allow it to be continued through the last Winter, and to represent to the Right Honorable Lord Hobart the expediency of making some alteration in His Majesty's Warrant by which that trade is authorized. No such alteration having taken place, I have been led by the importance attached to this measure by the Vice Admiral, and the information I have received from him, to make full enquiry respecting the provision trade between Newfoundland and the United States, by the result of which I have been actuated to grant the inhabitants a similar indulgence this Winter, by permitting the Trader to the States to continue, as the Season may allow, the importation of
of the articles authorized by His Majesty's warrant
dated the 23rd. April 1804 conceiving this permission to be
consonant to the spirit of the said warrant although not
granted by the strict letter thereof.

But as the measure was dictated by my
concern for the interest of the Fishery, which must be
obviously promoted by keeping down the price of Bread,
and as this in the present state of the British Market, can
be affected by no other means, I flatter myself it will
meet His Majesty's approbation, and I beg leave humbly to su
submit to His Majesty such information as I have received
respecting the necessity of extending the importation
of Provisions, from the United States into Newfoundland,
accompanied by some observations therein which arise from
the circumstances of the Fishery.

As it has not been the policy
of Government to encourage Agriculture in Newfoundland,
and the soil and climate are both unfavorable to cultivate,
few of the inhabitants have been enabled to raise a few
Potatoes on small spots of ground which they have cleared
near their Huts.

Being destitute of every other internal
resource, they depend on Provisions imported for their
subsistence.

Their supplies have been brought chiefly
from Great Britain and Ireland, but a considerable part
of their Bread and Flour, and occasionally Salted Meat and Butter, from the United States, either by direct importation when permitted or at any other times through the medium of Nova Scotia, which enjoys greater freedoms of trade with the States than is granted to Newfoundland, Canada also, during the Summer furnished a small part of the consumption of Bread and Flour, and some Grain.

The high price of provisions which has for many years past prevailed in the United Kingdom and the insufficiency of the supply from Canada, necessarily raises the importance of the American Markets, where they can always be obtained much cheaper and be imported from thence with less expense than from any other.

Notwithstanding the advantage of this Market the inhabitants of the Island have enjoyed but little benefit from it, owing to the restrictions laid on this trade by the Act. 28. Geo. 3rd. Cap. 6. which confines it to Bread, Flour, Indian Corn, and Live Stock, to be imported only during the Fishing Season, by authority of His Majesty's Warrant issued to the communications with the Island early in the Year, this permission cannot arrive there till sometime after the Inhabitants have commenced their Fishery, and seldom till the latter end of May,
May, so that the earliest supplies the resident Traders can bring from the United States are in July on one occasion the indulgence did not reach them till the month of Sep, tember and in the Year 1801, it was omitted altogether.

In addition to this in convenience the Governor is not authorized to grant Licenses for this Trade after his departure from the island, which happens the 25th. of October from these circumstances it must be obvious to your Lordship that the short duration and uncertainty of this privilege must in a great degree defeat His Majesty's Gracious intentions towards the Inhabitants of Newfoundland, as they can neither receive it early enough to make preparation for their Fishery.

A considerable portion of which commences in March and the rest about the end of April, nor place full reliance on this source of supply.

And I am informed that for want of permission to continue this Trade during a great part of the Winter, and in the Spring when it might be carried on, while the intercourse with Europe is suspended, the inhabitants frequently suffer from the want of provision, and have sometimes threatened with famine.
In addition to the Articles usually admitted His Majesty was in the years 1801, 2 and 3 pleased to admit the importation of salted meat into Newfoundland from America; but this indulgence being also subject to the inconvenience above described, the inhabitants did not enjoy the full benefit of it, as appears from the Pork having been charged to those in the Gut harbours at L8.10 and L7 and in some places L9 per barrel, while it was purchased in the United States for L7 and L5.5. and might have been sold to the inhabitants at a fair profit for L4.10. As this privilege has been withheld this season the price of salted meat continues the same notwithstanding the moderate price of it in the United Kingdom at the beginning of this year.

As the produce of the Fishery receives more than two thirds of its value from the labour employed in obtaining it, the high price of provisions and that of labour also which naturally attends it, is as just as it is an universal complaint among the boatkeepers and Planters, by whom the principal part of the Fishery is carried on, and tends to suppress and discourage the useful exertions of these industrious and enterprising men who are thereby prevented from carrying on their Fishery to their extent and with the success which their resources would otherwise permit, and numerous instances of insolvency and distress consequently occur among them.

When the benefit arising to the Nation from the labour of these men is considered in the annual amount
amount of the remittances from the Island to Great Britain which may be computed at nearly half a million sterling, and the nursery it affords for seamen, of which it employs nearly three thousand who are not engaged in fishing; and when it is further considered that the resources of the Island render both these objects capable of being greatly extended it is obviously to the interest of the nation to encourage the exertions and promote the success of these men, which as the high price of labour and provisions is the chief difficulty under which they labour would be done in no way so effectually as by removing the present restrictions on the importation of provisions from the United States, and by adopting in regard to Newfoundland a policy in this respect similar to that observed towards our Islands in the West Indies (excepting the admission of American vessels) which for some years past have enjoyed the privilege of importing provisions of every kind from the United States including even salt fish which has been imported into the Islands in large quantities in preference to the Newfoundland fish because cheaper than the inhabitants of that Island, under their present embarrassments can afford it.

These considerations induce me to recommend as fraught with advantage to the nation, the admission of Salted Beef, Pork and Butter, with every kind of grain into Newfoundland from the United States of America in addition to Bread, Flour, Indian Corn, and Live Stock which are now admitted, and to suggest that this
this trade should be allowed to continue throughout the year, without interruption, instead of being limited to the fishing season as at present, and be subject to no other restriction than may be necessary for confining the trade to British vessels and seamen, and for preventing contraband practices, which are sufficiently guarded against by the present form of granting licenses. And it would afford further convenience to this trade, if, instead of confining it to vessels clearing out from Newfoundland, authority were given to the Governor of Nova Scotia to grant licenses for that purpose, as I have received repeated applications from merchants in Newfoundland whose vessels have in the course of their trade been at Nova Scotia in the fall of the year, to grant licenses for them to proceed from thence to the United States, and bring provisions to Newfoundland early in the spring.

Having endeavored to explain to Your Lordship the advantages which would accrue to the Nation from permitting a sufficient importation of provisions into Newfoundland from the United States, I beg leave to mention several articles of less importance, such as Pitch, Tar, and Turpentine, the admission of which would, without doubt, be attended with advantage to the Fishery, as these articles would be rendered to the Planters and Housekeepers by that means at little more than half the price charged for them from Europe.

The Island has since the early part of the late war received one half of its supplies of the above articles from the United States through the
medium of Nova Scotia, where they are admitted. But though they have by this means been loaded with the expense of a double voyage, they have still been bought much cheaper than from Great Britain. But the inhabitants are this year deprived of even this resource from some objection which has been made against clearing out those articles for Newfoundland from Nova Scotia, after they have been imported into that province from the United States. From which unexpected interruption the importation of Pitch, Tar and Turpentine is very deficient, and I understand there is reason to fear that the scarcity will be so great in the spring of the next year, before the arrivals from Great Britain, as to impede the outfit of the vessels for the Seal Fishery, an event much to be regretted, as it would tend to suppress the endeavours of the intrepid and active men by whom that branch is carried on; which though yet in its infancy employed last spring at least one hundred and fifty sail of vessels with 1200 men, whose labour is computed to have been brought into Great Britain near L50,000 and from the remarkable resources of the Island might be greatly augmented.

As Pitch, Tar, and Turpentine are admitted from the United States into the British West Indies as well as into the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and the Islands of Cape Breton and Prince Edward, and the same or greater necessity for them exists in Newfoundland, I beg leave humbly to submit for His Majesty's
A Majesty's consideration whether the benefit of the Nation arising from that Island does not require that the same indulgence should be granted to its inhabitants whose fishery is of more value and affords a nursery for seamen more than twice as large as all the British Provinces on the Continent taken together and as the articles in question may be purchased in the United States at less than half the price paid for them in Great Britain I beg leave strongly to recommend that they should be admitted into Newfoundland from the said States under the same regulations that may be adopted for the importation of Provisions from thence.

In mentioning the articles which have for some years past been imported into Newfoundland from the United States through Nova Scotia, I cannot forbear to observe that its supplies of lumber of various kinds, have been brought chiefly through this channel and the expense thereof greatly increased by this circuitous route. To admit this article into Newfoundland with the same indulgence as is allowed to our West India Islands and Colonies on the continent would be attended with benefit to the inhabitants.

It would also afford encouragement to the Newfoundland Fishermen to grant them the same privilege as the West Indies in the importation of Tobacco direct from the United States.

In suggesting the foregoing measures for removing the present restrictions on the Trade between Newfoundland and the United States, I feel the greater
greater confidence from the consideration that while they are indispensably necessary to the prosperity of that valuable fishery, they do not appear to be incompatible with the interest of any other branch of the British trade nor inconsistent with the policy observed towards our Plantations in general; but as His Majesty's instructions command me to point out every measure which may, in my judgment tend to promote this Fishery, I feel it incumbent on me to suggest one which does not at first view appear to be equally consistent with the interest of other parts of our trade. I allude to the importation of Molluscs of which there is a considerable consumption among the labouring classes as it constitutes one of the few articles of sustenance which they have the means to obtain. The chief importation of this Article is from the West Indies, brought generally by the Bermudian Traders, who carry back returns of Fish; but a considerable part of the supply has been, for some years, past, brought from Nova Scotia, where it has been sometimes admitted from the United States. The import from that province this year being very small and those from the West Indies much less than usual, the price of this Article in the Island has risen in a surprising degree, having been charged to the fishermen at seven eight and nine shillings per gallon, although the usual price for several years has been from 3 to 4 shillings and sixpence, and during the most flourishing periods of the Fishery was 166 and 2. It is observable
observable that while the poor inhabitants of Newfoundland are charged at the exorbitant rate above mentioned, and numerous families by that means in a great measure deprived of this necessary article, it is sold in the United States for 2 shillings and threepence per gallon, and might from thence be imported into Newfoundland and retailed with a fair profit at four shillings per gallon. Could such a measure have been resorted to this year it would have supplied the deficiency of the importation and brought down to its fair level the price of that from the West Indies. As there appears reason to apprehend that this evil will increase during the winter and not soon be remedied in the usual course of the Trade, I am induced humbly to recommend to His Majesty the expediency of empowering the Governor to authorize during the ensuing season the importation of molasses from the United States, provided the high price or a deficiency in the importation should indicate a necessity for this expedient, of which the Governor should judge on his arrival in the Island; which indulgence might be granted only for a short period, or limited in quantity as might appear necessary.

There is reason to hope that the above expedient while it would ensure to the Inhabitants of Newfoundland a supply of molasses adequate to their necessities, and guard them from monopoly and extortion would in no degree injure the fair interest of the Trade between the West Indies and that Island, whenever
whenever it shall again be sufficient to supply the
demands of the Inhabitants at a fair price. Neither
does this measure appear to be inequitable when it is
considered that the abundance and low price of West
India produce in the United States must be occasioned
in a great measure by the quantities carried hither
from our Islands in return for their supplies of
provisions, including salt fish, by which the produce
of Newfoundland is in a great degree excluded from our
own Islands, and the trade with them in consequence
thereof so much reduced as to occasion the evil above
mentioned.

The foregoing measures which I have the
honor to suggest for promoting the prosperity of the
Newfoundland fishery, although arising chiefly from my
observation of the state of the Fishery carried on by
the inhabitants is equally necessary to the success of
adventurers arriving from Great Britain, by affording
a cheaper supply of provisions and other necessary
articles for their voyage than could be provided for
them by any other means. And I beg leave to propose,
as an object of great importance, the affording every
encouragement to this branch of the fishery as it con-
sisted in the year 1788, when I was before employed in
the Newfoundland station, of 330 sail of fishing ships,
carrying 7,400 men and 450 boats employing 3000 men,
besides those employed on shore in curing the Fish,
the numbers of whom may be computed at several
thousand. This part of the fishery is now declined
to about 30 sail of fishing ships carrying about 300 men and a proportionate reduction of shoremen.

It is remarkable of this branch of the fishery the preservation of which appears to have been the chief object of the policy under which Newfoundland has been governed, attained its most flourishing condition before the year 1775 while it enjoyed the advantage of the trade with the American Colonies, by means of which the price of provisions was kept very low; this trade while it promoted the British Fishery could not fail to be highly beneficial to that carried on by the inhabitants and is remembered with satisfaction by the old Boatkeepers and Planters, as the happiest period of their fishery, as it obliged the merchants to deal fairly with them, and tended to suppress monopolies which are now established in every outport of the Island, and keeps the inhabitants in the power of the merchants as I shall endeavour to explain to Your Lordship.

The Fishery which was formerly carried on from Great Britain having declined as beforementioned that which remains is carried on by persons residing in the Island, who are either natives or have been many years engaged in the Fishery; many of those fish with their families or in partnership with others according to their circumstances while a considerable number who are in a situation to carry on a more extensive business hire servants to assist them, whom they find in the Island, or who are brought out in the spring of
of the year from Great Britain and Ireland. The inhabitants thus employed are supplied with provisions and every other article necessary for their families, their servants, and their fishery, by merchants settled near them in the several principal harbours, who, in return, receive the produce from them on terms more profitable than they can obtain it by servants employed on wages, the number of whom is comparatively small.

As the number of merchants who have found means to establish themselves in the Outharbours is but small, and those so placed as to form no competition with each other, which it is their mutual interest to avoid, they have become proportionately opulent, and are careful to prevent the establishment of any stranger among them, whose competition would tend to reduce their profits. By these means they monopolize the labour of the inhabitants, whom it is their interest to keep in dependence; which they are further enabled easily to do, by a practice which, till lately prevailed generally among them, and still continues in some places, of not informing the inhabitants of the price of the supplies advanced them till the end of the season when they settle the accounts, nor is the price of the fish fixed or till the season is so far advanced as to enable the merchants to judge of the probable success of the fishery and to learn the state of the markets abroad. The price of fish is fixed at St. John's, and
the Merchants at the coutharbors regulate themselves thereby giving 1/- or 2/- per quintal below the St. John's price. From this custom it will not appear surprising to Your Lordship that the inhabitants at the coutharbors who are dependant on the supplying merchants receive only a bare and often miserable subsistence; and it is to be lamented that the distress they endure tends to suppress that energy which seldom fails to manifest itself among those who are happy enough to be free from this state of dependence.

The oppressed condition of the inhabitants at the Coutharbours has been reported from time to time to the Governors by the Captains of His Majesty's Ships who are annually sent round as Surrogates to settle the differences between them and the merchants. This is the most disinterested channel through which such information can be obtained, and the specimens the Surrogates sometimes produce of wholesome provisions supplied to the inhabitants at an exorbitant price, is as shocking to humanity as it is disgraceful to civil polity.

Against this evil there is no remedy but that arises from the trade of St. John's, where the merchants and Traders of the several classes are assembled in such numbers as to raise a competition which necessarily reduces the price of provisions and other supplies nearer to its fair level, and affords a better price for the fish and Oil. Of this advantage those
those Planters and Boatkeepers at the out-Harbours who are so fortunate as to be independent of the supplying merchants near them, gladly avail themselves by bringing their produce to St. John's for sale and there purchasing their supplies, besides which many traders from that Port carry supplies to the out-harbors to exchange for produce.

In this manner the Trade of St. John's has proved so beneficial to the Inhabitants' fishery, that it is of late years greatly increased, and forms now the emporium for more than one half of the trade of the whole Island, and its exports may be computed at £500,000 sterling. It is through this medium chiefly, that the inhabitants would feel the benefit of a more extensive importation from the United States, and the nation receive the advantages arising from an augmentation of the Fishery which would be effected by this encouragement—

Among the motives which strongly influence me to recommend in this particular manner to Your Lordship's consideration, the expediency of affording some effectual relief to the inhabitants of Newfoundland in the prosecution of their fishery, I beg leave to mention one which suggests itself, from the information I have received respecting the New England Fisheries, which I understand are increased to a degree far exceeding that of Newfoundland, while its produce meets the Newfoundland fish and undersells it in every market. It is observable that while the
Exports of the American fisheries have increased, those of Newfoundland have declined, till they amount to little more than half the quantity exported in the flourishing periods of the fishery, and I am informed that the price obtained abroad for that reduced quantity, will scarcely bear the cost of exportation; and it is the general opinion that the Exporters of Fish have been losers by that trade for some years past at the same time that the catchers can scarcely obtain a wretched livelihood by their labour.

These circumstances seem to place Newfoundland in a situation very different from that in which it stood when the present policy respecting its trade with America was adopted, and indicates a necessity for affording some further assistance to those by whom the Fishery is carried on, to enable them to maintain a competition against the American fishery, which as I have had the honour to report to Your Lordship appears this year to have increased to a degree which must naturally excite alarm for the interest of that of Newfoundland.

The chief advantage which the New England fishermen enjoy over those of Newfoundland consisted in a cheaper supply of provisions and stores for their outfit; but these might by the means beforementioned be rendered at so easy a price in Newfoundland as, I am persuaded would enable the inhabitants with the local advantages they enjoy, to afford their produce cheaper than the Americans; the greater part of whom have
have to perform a long voyage to the Gulph of St. Lawrence and Coast of Labrador; to obtain what the Newfoundland fishermen find on their own shore.

There is every reason to hope that under the advantages which His Majesty's Government has the means to confer on the inhabitants of Newfoundland without injury to the fair interest of any other part of the British Trade, the laborious and enterprising disposition of these men, which manifests itself whenever their slender means admit, would soon avail itself of the vast resources of that valuable Island to undersell the Americans, and by that means extend the produce of the Island to those parts which it was formerly its privilege to supply, and vindicate its title to the exclusive supply of the British Dominions in the West Indies, which have for some years past received from the Americans as I am informed, nearly 50,000 quintals of Fish annually a quantity nearly equal to one third of the yearly produce of Newfoundland, during the same period, of which it is probable that not more than 50,000 quintals were sold in the West Indies annually, notwithstanding its capacity to supply infinitely more than the whole demand of the Islands.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER,

The Right Honourable

Earl Camden, K.C.
8th January 1805.

My Lord,

I have the honour to receive Your Lordship's letter of yesterday enclosing copy of a letter from Lord Hawkesbury signifying that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to extend his mercy to James Brown, and desiring I will give directions that the prisoner be conveyed to England, which I shall accordingly do by the first King's ship that may sail from Newfoundland to this country.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. Gower.

The Right Honourable

Earl Camden.
Hermitage, Horsham,
12th January 1805.

My Lord,

I have the honour to receive your Lordship's letter of yesterday informing me of an actual declaration of war by the Court of Spain against Great Britain, and signifying the King's commands for me to cause the same instantly to be made as public as possible, in the Island under my Government, which I shall accordingly embrace the earliest opportunity to do, and to give the assurance mentioned in Your Lordship's letter to the owners of all armed ships and vessels.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable
Earl Camden.
Hermitage,
Horndean,
30th January 1808.

My Lord,

I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that by late advices which I have received from His Majesty's Chief Justice and the magistrates of St. John's, Newfoundland, I have the satisfaction to learn that tranquility prevailed in the Island on the 17th ultimo.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. Gower.

The Right Honourable
Earl Camden.
Hermitage House. 
4th February, 1805.

My Lord,

Vice Admiral Gambier having seen the necessity for rebuilding the Gaol at Placentia in Newfoundland, proposed to the inhabitants of that district, that if they would raise among themselves one half of the expense Government would furnish the remainder. Finding on my arrival in Newfoundland last year that the Inhabitants had subscribed their proportion, I conceived it incumbent on me to complete so essential an undertaking in which I thought myself justified by that part of His Majesty's Commission which relates to this subject, and therefore instructed the Magistrates to contract with proper persons for erecting a Gaol according to a Plan which I approved, to cost two hundred and fifty pounds. A contract was accordingly made before my departure from the Island wherein it was agreed that the Building should be completed before the first of June next, when I purpose, agreeably to the proposal before mentioned, to draw on His Majesty's Treasury for one hundred and twenty-five pounds which I hope will meet Your Lordship's approbation.

The Vice Admiral having also suggested a similar proposal for building a Court House and Gaol at Bonavista, where such a Building is greatly wanted, I have taken measures for forwarding it, so that it will
will probably be completed in the course of the next summer, and as the Magistrate in that district informs me that he shall not be able to raise more than one hundred pounds from the inhabitants, the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds will be required to defray the remainder of the expense, for which, when the building is finished, I purpose, if it meets Your Lordships approbation to draw on His Majesty's Treasury.

The Magistrates of Harbour Grace having represented to me that the building which comprehends the Court House and Gaol at that place, is so much out of repair as, according to an Estimate made thereof, will require three hundred pounds to put it in proper condition, I beg to receive Your Lordship's approbation, for taking the necessary measures for that purpose, on my return to the Island; and as I learn from the Magistrates that the Cells of the Gaol are unwholesome, being under ground, which I understand is contrary to law, as well as repugnant to humanity I beg leave to propose that means be taken, in repairing the said building, to remedy this inconvenience, which I am informed may be done at a small additional expense; or, if that should not be practicable, the whole may be rebuilt for five hundred pounds. This is the most populous district in the Island and contains near seven thousand inhabitants; but I apprehend that the greater part if not the whole of the above expense must be sustained by Government, as they have
have not agreed to raise any part among themselves, although I have strongly recommended the same through the Magistrates, and Your Lordship is informed that there is no legal authority in the Island for levying a rate for that purpose.

As there is no Gaol in Fortune Bay, nor any nearer than Placentia, which is at the distance of between thirty and forty leagues, and its situation being very remote from St. John's, it would tend greatly to maintain good order in that District, to build a place there, for the temporary confinement of Offenders which might be done at a small expense; and I therefore hope to receive Your Lordship's directions for that purpose.

I am the more urgent in recommending to Your Lordship's favourable consideration the repairing and building of Gaols in Newfoundland, from the necessity which frequently occurs for affording so indispensable a support to the authority of the Magistrates, in the several Districts for preserving the peace and good government throughout the Island.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable
Earl Camden, E.G.

Ac. Ac. Ac.
Hermitage,
Horsham,
4th February, 1808.

My Lord,

As it is my duty to propose to Your Lordship's consideration every measure that may appear necessary to promote the prosperity of the Island under my Government, I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that great inconvenience is felt among the labouring class of inhabitants, from the deficiency of a circulating medium of exchange which obliges them to take up their supplies from the merchants and traders on account, the prices of which they are seldom acquainted with till the end of the season, when their produce or wages are set off against the goods received, and the balance, if any remains, paid them in bills of exchange, which are drawn even for the most trifling sums, on Great Britain and Ireland, at sixty, and by some merchants, at ninety days sight, for which cash cannot be obtained at the estuaries, nor even at St. John's, at less than ten or twelve per cent discount. From this practice there is very little specie in circulation, so that the labouring class not being accustomed to the use of money, and being, unacquainted with accounts, are strangers to that strict economy with which they ought to manage their affairs, and are generally...
in debt or on after a successful voyage they happen to have credit with the merchants, there is reason to believe that the difficulty of obtaining money for it, and applying it to some useful purpose, induces them often to waste it in extravagance and excess, which it is not the merchants interest to discourage. And I am informed that this difficulty often deters the inhabitants from using any extraordinary exertion to catch more fish than will be sufficient to discharge their account with the merchants.

As the advantages which arise to the Nation from this Fishery would be obviously promoted by inculcating frugality and encouraging industry, among those by whose labour it is produced, and this requires a certain quantity of specie to be kept in circulation among them, which cannot be done by the usual course of trade. I beg leave to recommend that Your Lordship will be pleased to use your influence with the Lords of His Majesty’s Treasury to send out next season in His Majesty’s ships for the public expenditure of the Garrison, about six thousand pounds in Spanish Dollars, with one thousand pounds in smaller silver coins, and five hundred pounds in copper twopenny and penny coins, which latter I am of opinion should be made expressly for the currency of the Island.

I feel the greater confidence in proposing this measure to Your Lordship, from its having been adopted during the Honourable Admiral Waldegrave’s government
government and being informed by the magistrates of
the beneficial effects it then produced on the labour-
ing class of inhabitants at St. John's, where it was
immediately felt, as appears from the magistrates
letter to me, of which I have the honour to transmit a
copy.

Although the necessities of the inhabitants
appear first to have suggested the importation of
specie into the Island, it is my duty to inform
Your Lordship that the measure would prove beneficial
to His Majesty's Government by putting such a
quantity of cash in circulation as would keep up the
value of Government Bills which I am informed notwith-
standing the officers in the Public Departments have
done all in their power to prevent it, have lately borne
a discount, and will fall still further unless means be
taken to prevent it. But I can give Your Lordship no
better proof of the want of specie for carrying on
His Majesty's service than is contained in the accom-
panying copy and extract of letters, which I have
received from Brigadier General Skerrett, Commanding
His Majesty's Troops, who, as there is no paymaster
in the Island, has for several years conducted the
expenditure of the Garrison.

It is with regret I have to add that the
scarcity of specie gave occasion last year for the
introduction of a quantity of light Gold and Base
Silver Coin the imposters of which have not been
discovered
discovered although I have offered a Reward for bringing them to justice.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,
(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable
Earl Camden.

Extract of a letter from Brigadier General Skerratt to Vice Admiral Sir Erasmus Gower dated at St. John's, Newfoundland the 20th December 1804.

"I rely on your Excellency's good ness to send out money for the subsistence of the Troops. I never found more difficulty in conducting the service for want of specie, being reduced to take notes which I cannot easily negotiate.

(Sd) T.W. Skerratt."
Hermitage

Hornsea,

6th February, 1805.

My Lord,

Having had occasion in my letter of the 19th of November last, accompanied by the copy of a letter which I had received from the Chief Justice and Magistrates of St. John's, Newfoundland, to describe the beneficial effects of the trade of that harbour in promoting the success of the Fishery throughout the Island, and the impediment opposed to the extension of this trade, by the want of a sufficient space for building the necessary Storehouses &c. I beg leave to call Your Lordship's attention to a measure, which has been the subject of former representations to His Majesty's Government, as a remedy for the inconvenience above mentioned.

The ancient Fishing Ships Rooms in the Harbour of St. John's being no longer required for their original purpose, owing to the change which has taken place in the Fishery, are now quite neglected, and become mere receptacles for lumber, or occupied in meadows and gardens, nor is it probable they will ever again be used by the Fishing Ships, according to the Statutes, as the Fishing Merchants who resort to that Harbour from Great Britain, having obtained permanent property in other rooms more convenient for their fishery no longer find an annual title to the Ships rooms worth their attention. These spots of ground
ground having for that reason being long discarded
are much reduced by encroachments; but my predecessor
having instituted a general survey of them, which was
last year completed and established on the oaths of two
of the oldest inhabitants, the further progress of
this evil may be prevented. It is however much to be
regretted that these grounds, as they lie very conven-
ient for the trade, should remain unappropriated while
there is an increasing demand for room for that
purpose; and as these spots would, if leased, even for
a short term, be either used for curing fish to the
advantage of the particular fishery of that harbour,
or afford room for the increase of merchants, Traders
and Artificers who are now become necessary to the
general interest of the Fishery throughout the Island,
and would moreover produce a considerable revenue. I
have the honour to recommend this measure to Your
Lordship's consideration and to send herewith for Your
Lordship's information a Plan of the Harbour of St.
John's, in which the ancient Ships Rooms so far as
they are yet reported are laid down; but I understand
it is highly probable if the above measures were
adopted, that much ground would be discovered to have
formerly belonged to the Fishing Ships which is now
held as private property.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable Earl Camden.
Hermitage,
Houndean,
9th February, 1806.

My Lord,

The support of the Established Religion and its Ministers, being an object of the highest importance for preserving the peace and order of Society, particularly in Newfoundland where nearly one half of the inhabitants are of the Roman Church, I feel it incumbent on me to inform Your Lordship that the Reverend Mr. Harris Missionary from the Society for Propagating the Gospel at St. John's is exposed to great inconvenience by the want of a house proper for the accommodation of his family.

As my predecessor, Vice Admiral Gambier, has already made a representation on this subject to the Right Honourable Lord Hobart by letter dated the 22nd of March 1805, I beg leave to refer Your Lordship thereto, and to add in proof of the Vice Admirals conviction of the necessity for the interference of His Majesty's Government, in behalf of the Established Clergyman, that he gave him fifty guineas to enable him to give his house some repair, without which, I have been assured, that his family, consisting of nine children, would have been sheltered from the winter.

As the repairs which the above sum could procure on an old wooden house could be but slight and temporary and money cannot be raised among the inhabitants to build a new one, which is absolutely required
required I earnestly hope that His Majesty will be
graciously pleased to grant the sum of seven hundred
pounds to build a House for the accommodation of the
Missionary of the Established Church at St. John's
who is the only minister there, for whom there is
not a suitable dwelling provided near his
respective place of worship.

I have etc.,

(Sea) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable

Earl Camden, K.G.
Hermitage,

Horndean,

12th February, 1805.

My Lord,

I beg leave to call Your Lordship's attention to the very inadequate salary of the Judge of the Supreme Court in Newfoundland being only three hundred pounds per annum, on which it is impossible he can maintain the respectability of his office. The situation has been held almost ever since the first establishment of that Court, by two successive Collectors of the Customs at St. John's, but Mr. Tremlett the present Judge enjoys no other place under Government except Registrar of the Vice Admiralty Court in the Island, in which he employs a Deputy, and I understand its emoluments are very trifling and precarious and as it is quite incompatible with his present duties that he should be engaged in any legal or commercial business he has by his appointment which he received in 1803, been obliged to relinquish his former pursuits.

Considering the arduous duties of the Magistracy in Newfoundland and the important rank of the Chief Judge in a society where, during the greater part of the year, he constitutes the highest branch of civil authority, I am clearly of opinion that a salary of five hundred pounds would not be more than sufficient to reward the usefulness of his services, and support
support the dignity of his station; and therefore beg leave to recommend him to Your Lordship's favourable consideration.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable

Earl Camden, K.G.a
Hermitage, Hounsdah,
12th February, 1806.

My Lord,

I beg leave to transmit to Your Lordship a letter with three enclosures which I have received from Mr. John Houston, Clerk of the Ordnance, at St. John's, Newfoundland, stating that having at the request of the other officers of the Ordnance and with the permission of the Officers of the Customs applied to a friend in Boston to ship some lead from thence to Newfoundland, to make musquet balls for the service of the garrison, his friend, in order to save freight to Government, had been induced to put on board the same vessel a quantity of lumber and shingles, which are not by law admitted from the United States into Newfoundland, and to send her through the medium of Nova Scotia, a practice which I understand had been permitted for many years before, but the vessel on her arrival at Newfoundland was seized and condemned for having such unlicensed articles on board.

Mr. Houston declares that the vessel having been taken up for the express purpose of conveying the lead to Newfoundland he became responsible for the consequences, and must pay £300 for her, and that his friend must also lose the lumber and shingles unless His Majesty's Government shall in consideration of the public motive with which the voyage was undertaken, be
be pleased to afford them relief, which I beg leave to recommend to Your Lordship's consideration.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable

Earl Camden, K.G.

&c. &c. &c.
Hermitage,
Horndean,
16th February, 1805.

My Lord,

As opportunities will shortly offer for sending such instructions to the Magistrates of Newfoundland on the subject of recruiting there for the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Regiments as Your Lordship may be pleased to direct; and I have not received the honor of Your Lordship's reply to my letter of the 28th November in which I stated to your Lordship that in case the measure should finally be determined on it would be expedient to conduct it under certain regulations which might render it the least detrimental to the Fishery, or to His Majesty's Navy: I beg to receive Your Lordship's final commands on this head, and to inform Your Lordship that as the law forbids any Fisherman from quitting the service of his employer before the expiration of his covenanted term, which is always equal to the duration of the fishing season, the Recruiting Parties of the Newfoundland Regiment have been called in after the commencement of the Fishery, and sent out again towards the close of it, the service being suspended during the season in order that the Fishermen might not be encouraged to desert their employ, which, under the peculiar circumstances of the Newfoundland Fishery, would be an irreparable injury to their masters. I therefore conceive it my duty to suggest that, provided Your Lordship should be pleased finally to
direct me to promote levies for the Army in Newfoundland, it would be highly expedient to forbid recruiting during the fishing season, and to instruct the Officers Commanding Parties to conform to the Regulation. I had the honour to submit for Your Lordship's approbation in my letter abovementioned, as absolutely necessary, in compliance with the law to prevent emigration.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable

Earl Camden, K.C.
Hermitage,

10th March 1805.

My Lord,

I have received the honour of Your Lordship's letter of the 8th instant His Majesty's Warrant authorising me to grant Licenses in case of necessity for the importation of Provisions into Newfoundland from the United States of America, and shall accordingly adhere in the most strict manner to the regulations therein contained.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. Gower.

The Right Honourable

Earl Camden.
Hermitage,

10th March, 1805.

Sir,

I have the honour to receive your letter of the 8th instant enclosing the copy of a letter from Colonel Gordon dated 28th February 1805, respecting the discontinuance of recruiting in Newfoundland during the fishing season.

I have etc.,

(signed) E. Gower.

Edward Cooke, Esq.
Hermitage,
14th March, 1805.

My Lord,

I have the honour to receive Your Lordships letter of the 7th instant respecting Spanish property seized before the 11th January last, and shall strictly obey the injunctions therein contained.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable
Earl Camden.
Hermitage,

Hornsea,

31st March, 1805.

My Lord,

I have the honour to receive Your Lordship's letter of yesterday's date conveying to me His Majesty's Pleasure on several points which I have the honour to propose to Your Lordship respecting Newfoundland, and shall in obedience thereto pay the increased salary to the Chief Justice from the date of Your Lordship's letter and appropriate the sums allowed towards building the Gaols at Placentia and Bonavista, with the best advantage to their respective objects. I shall also again repeat my urgent recommendation to the inhabitants of Conception Bay to make a contribution towards the expense of a new Court House and Gaol, in that District, and point out to them the liberality of His Majesty's Government in consenting to grant any aid towards it, it being but just that the inhabitants should sustain the whole. But in the want of not receiving any assistance from them, I hope Your Lordship will not disapprove of my taking measures for forwarding the building. I shall also make a proposal to the Inhabitants of Fortune Bay to furnish one half of the expense of a Gaol in that district.

In the hope that the measure of building a House for the Clergymen of the Established Church at St. John's, will meet the consent of Parliament of your
your Lordship's suggestion, I shall use my endeavour that Government may not incur any expense in repairing the old house, and shall have the honor to submit to Your Lordship on my return to England, in the fall of the year the plan and estimate of the expense of building a new one.

I am happy in the confidence your Lordship has done me the honor to express in my judgment of the necessity of the services abovementioned, and shall take the utmost care that the execution of them may be attended with as little expense to the public as possible; but I beg leave to assure Your Lordship that both the preservation of the Established Religion and the support of the Civil authorities in Newfoundland urgently require the assistance of His Majesty's Government which must appear when it is considered that the Inhabitants are under no legal obligation to contribute to either of these objects, and voluntary contributions must ever prove inadequate to these purposes, since it is to be regretted they bear no proportion either to the property held in the Island, or to the wealth arising to individuals, out of the Fishery, being confined to a few well disposed persons who take an interest in the peace and good order of society.

I have also to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a letter from Sir Stephen Cottrell to Mr. Cooke respecting Quarantine, and have etc.

The Rt. Honble.

Earl C__________________

( d) E. GOWER.
London,
4th April, 1805.

My Lord,

The Couthouses at the Government House at Newfoundland being old and out of repair and much too small for the convenience of the Governor, I request Your Lordship will be pleased to move His Majesty's Government to permit a small stable to be erected for two horses, with a small shed for a carriage, the whole expense of which will not exceed one hundred pounds.

I have etc.,

(signed) E. Gower.

The Right Honourable
Earl Camden.
Fort Townshend,
15th July, 1805.

My Lord,

I have the honour to avail myself of the Rattler to comply with the directions contained in Your Lordship's letter of the 7th January last, in sending James Brown, convicted of forgery, as a prisoner to England; and I have ordered Captain Mason Commander of the said Sloop to apprise Your Lordship of his arrival; and to deliver the prisoner up to any person authorised to take charge of him.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable

Earl Camden, K.G.
Fort Townshend,
18th July, 1805.

My Lord,

I have the honour to embrace the earliest opportunity of performing a very important part of my duty, by representing to Your Lordship, for His Majesty's information, the exposed state of this Island from the inadequate means provided for its defence against the enemy.

Since my arrival the Royal Newfoundland Regiment has been relieved by the Nova Scotia Fencibles, and removed to Halifax. By this exchange the Island is not only deprived of the services of a body of men who were peculiarly qualified for its defence, by a perfect knowledge of the country, and the habit of hunting and working in the woods, but the number is also greatly reduced, as appears by the accompanying returns the former having embarked give hundred and sixty four men for Halifax, and the latter having disembarked only three hundred and ninety nine. This number, added to the company of Artillery, makes the present garrison amount to no more than four hundred and fifty seven.

Had I not been persuaded that His Majesty's ministers were acquainted with the comparative strength of the two Regiments, when the above exchange was ordered, I should have conceived it my duty to have interposed my authority, on the arrival of the
Nova Scotia Regiment to prevent more than an equal number of the Newfoundland Regiment from being carried away; but having, in my letters of the 19th and 28th November last, had the honour to make a full representation to Your Lordship on the expediency of confining the services of the Newfoundland Regiment to this Island and on the consequences of raising men here for the Regiment in the neighbouring colonies, and having received His Majesty's commands to give every facility in my power to the recruiting for those Regiments, and to lose no opportunity of forwarding levies for the Army, I have thought it incumbent on me to send the Isis, my Flag Ship, to Halifax, with a part of the Newfoundland Regiment, which exceeded the number that could be carried in the Frigates which brought the Nova Scotia Regiment from thence.

As the system adopted for fortifying this Harbour is to defend the entrance, and have a strong post on Signal Hill; the Town, which is at too great a distance to receive any benefit from that post, will have no other protection than it may receive from Fort Townshend and Fort William (neither of which are tenable having nearly fallen to decay) and from the Troops that may be able to keep the field. Should the enemy either land at the Bay of Bulls or Torbay (of which there have been several examples) and bring such a force against this place as to oblige the garrison to retire to Signal Hill, the Town would be exposed to the enemy, who would find no difficulty to destroy it, if he should be so disposed. The consequences
of such an event will be better understood, by consider-
ing that this Harbour is no longer a mere fishing
station, built round with temporary Flakes, Stages,
and Huts of trifling value, but that it is a port of
extensive commerce, (as I had the honor to describe
to Your Lordship in my letter of the 19th November)
importing nearly two thirds of the supplies for the
whole Island, and furnished with extensive Store houses
and Wharfs for trade, containing a quantity of Prov-
isions Stores for the Fishery British Manufactures,
and West India Produce, as well as Fish and Oil ready
for exportation, which together with the buildings
is computed to be worth more than half a million
sterling.

The destruction of a place so essentially
connected with the existence of the fishery in almost
every harbor, cannot be contemplated without antici-
pating the most dreadful consequences, both in the
loss of the provisions on which at least twelve
thousand souls depend for subsistence, during the
ensuing winter, and in the ruin of more than one
half the Fishery carried on in the Island, from
whence it could not recover for many years.

Seeing therefore that the protection of this
important Town, must depend on the Troops being able
to keep the field, I am of opinion with Major General
Skerrett who commands them, that the Garrison should
consist of at least two thousand men, and that this
number should be kept complete, without depending on
a reinforcement from Halifax, as no aid could arrive
from
from that quarter while a superior enemy commanded the coast, and a strong garrison is rendered still more necessary by the small naval force which is usually kept here in time of war. I understand that no more ships of war will be sent out this year, than will be required to sail as convoys for Europe, soon after the respective periods of their arrival.

In regard to completing the Nova Scotia Fencibles no progress can be made till after the 25th of October when the fishing season is considered to expire. I shall then use my utmost endeavours to promote this essential object, but I beg leave to observe that during last winter Major General Skerrett notwithstanding he had recruiting parties in every district of the Island, was not able to raise more than ninety recruits for the Newfoundland Regiment; and as the number of passengers that have arrived from Great Britain and Ireland this spring, is even less than last year, no dependance can be placed in this means if supply.

I am happy to inform Your Lordship that some aid may be expected from the Inhabitants of St. John's as they had before my arrival, in consequence of some alarming reports respecting the enemy, with great spirit formed an association for the defence of the Town, which consists of five companies containing two hundred and fifty men who were furnished with arms by Major General Skerrett, and are learning the exercise. But although these men, as well as many others
others would be found serviceable in case of an attack, they cannot yet be reckoned as an effective force, I am of opinion from the disposition of a large proportion of the Inhabitants, and the services which I understand they performed when the enemy was on the coast in 1790, that, by proper encouragement a respectable body of volunteers might be trained for service in this district.

Finding by a letter from the Duke of Portland to Sir James Wallace dated the 13th May 1795, that His Majesty was pleased to order that the Volunteers of this place should receive rations during the time they were actually doing duty, which was generally at drill two days in each week, I beg leave to recommend that similar encouragement be given to the present volunteers, as I apprehend a very slow progress will otherwise be made in completing them for service; the greater part not being able to attend without losing the time which in the active part of the fishery season is of great value to them. I observe also that His Majesty was pleased in the year 1793 soon after the St. John's volunteers were embodied to order them to be paid six pounds each, towards the expense of their uniform clothing; a measure which I conceive to be equally necessary now; as Volunteer Corps in this place must be composed of men to whom the expense of clothing might be inconvenient, and induce many useful and well affected men to withhold their
their services. Trusting His Majesty will be graciously pleased to approve of these suggestions, I shall do my utmost endeavour to promote the Volunteer Companies and hope before my departure to receive His Majesty's Commands on this subject, and also whether I may give the Volunteers an assurance that, in case of being called out for actual service on the appearance of an enemy, they will receive pay on the same terms as Volunteers embodied in Great Britain.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable
Earl Camden, K.G.
Fort Townsend,
18th July, 1805.

My Lord,

I have the honour by the rattler to inform Your Lordship that peace and good order prevail in every part of the Island under my government. The fishery is going on with great activity and such is the abundance of fish on the Banks, and on the coast, as to promise a very successful voyage—

Notwithstanding this prospect, the circumstances of the fishery wear an unfavourable aspect, from the precarious state of the markets on which it depends for the sale of the chief part of its produce. Great apprehensions are entertained lest the ports of Portugal should be shut against us in the fall of the year. If that should happen the fish must be sent to Great Britain, and from thence exported to the South of Europe in neutral vessels, whereby an expense will be incurred which will probably require the same bounty from Government that was formerly given on importation into Great Britain, under similar circumstances. It appears to be clearly understood that under the present high price of wages and provisions, the fish cannot be obtained at a price which, without loss to the exporter, will bear a double freight to those markets where the Americans carry their fish without such additional charge.

The price of bread at St. John's is from forty
forty two to fifty shillings per hundred weight, and
Flour seventy shillings per barrel, of one hundred
and ninety six pounds, and both these articles are somewhat dearer in the Cut Harbours. This is owing to
the high price of grain in Great Britain, as well as in
Canada and in the United States; and unless it should
fall in the course of this summer, I fear the laborious
classes in this Island will suffer severely during the
ensuing winter. As the high price or scarcity of
Bread and Flour must be greatly aggravated by suspending
the importation from the United States after my depart-
ure, it is probable that I shall find it expedient to
repeat the permission which has been given for
two years past to continue this trade without interrup-
tion which I hope will meet His Majesty's appro-
bation.

I have the pleasure to inform Your Lordship
that the Seal Fishery has this spring still further
extended itself, and, notwithstanding the most
inclement season, that has been known for many years,
has been very successful.

When I consider the advantageous nature of
this Fishery, the extent it might reach under due
encouragement, and the extreme hardships and danger
attending it, I cannot help lamenting that permission
is not given to import Pitch and Tar from the United
States, as I had the honor to recommend in my letter to
Your Lordship dated 24th December last. For want of
this indulgence the industrious planters and boatkeepers
of
of Newfoundland, by whom it is carried on, have been obliged to pay sixty shillings per barrel for Pitch, and forty two shillings for Tar, for the outfit of their vessels this spring, while the former of these articles are sold in Boston at thirteen and sixpence, and both might be imported and sold here with great profit for less than one half of their present prices. I beg leave therefore to refer Your Lordship to that part of my letter of the 24th December last which treats on this subject, and earnestly hope your Lordship will be pleased to recommend the same to the favourable consideration of the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council for Trade, and that I shall, before my departure receive His Majesty's authority for permitting the importation of those articles from the United States.

As the embarrassed circumstances of the fishery during war, seem to require from His Majesty's Government every encouragement and relief that can consistently be afforded it, I beg leave to repeat the recommendation contained in my letter above alluded to, for the admission of salted beef and pork from the United States as a measure that would reduce the price of those articles in Newfoundland and by promoting the exportation of Fish in return relieve the Island of a quantity, which from the loss of other markets must otherwise remain on hand. I understand that Pork is now selling for L4 and L5 per barrel in St. John's, and much hi her at the Out Harbours.
of reducing the price of that article in this Island, and has removed the necessity for resorting to the expedient contained in my letter of the 24th December last relating to this subject.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable
Earl Camden, K.G.
Fort Townsend,
18th July, 1805.

My Lord,

The importance of a respectable and independent Magistracy in this Island having been the subject of several communications to His Majesty's Ministers from former Governors, and no steps having been taken to obtain this object, I find it incumbent on me to refer Your Lordship to a letter written by the Honourable Admiral Waldegrave to the Duke of Portland dated the 35th of October 1797, an extract from which I have the honour to enclose, and beg leave fully to subscribe to the representations it contains. I have however to add one consideration more respecting the Magistrates of St. John's, which must raise their importance still higher in Your Lordship's mind, by observing that during the Governor's absence they constitute the only civil branch of executive authority, have the sole charge and regulation of the police, which in this place requires uncommon vigilance and exertion, and when they are regarded (as they now appear to be) with respect and approbation by the Inhabitants in case of danger or emergency, as appears from the reference which was, before my arrival made to their authority in forming an armed association for the defence of the Town.

The Acts of Parliament passed for the regulation of this fishery having extended the jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace to the
determination of all disputes between master and servant, respecting wages, there are very few men in this Island, qualified for justices of the peace, whose connection in the trade or fishery does not render them ineligible. The only persons in St. Johns who can be selected for this purpose are Mr. Thomas Coote, the reverend Mr. Harris, and Mr. John Rennell, who are now in the commission of the peace; the first of whom only is calculated to undertake the principal part of the duty as keeper of the rolls, and I am happy to find that he is a person of such ability, integrity, and universal esteem, as qualify him in a particular manner for that office, which he has held for two years. I have, however, been concerned, since my arrival, to learn that some circumstances had occurred during my absence last winter, in the mode of conducting the business of the courts, which induced him to desire to resign the active part he had taken in the magistracy.

As it is highly expedient that this gentleman should continue in office— I have found it necessary to take this subject into immediate consideration; and have determined on adopting an alteration which the above circumstance imperiously requires.

It is necessary to inform Your Lordship that Mr. Coote has followed the business of attorney and notary publick in this place, that he was appointed by admiral Gambier, supreme surrogate; is clerk of the supreme court of judicature, and is appointed by the chief justice to grant administration of the effects
effects of Intestates and Probates of Wills. These several employments though not affording more emolument than sufficient to enable him to maintain a respectable rank in society, are frequently incompatible with each other, and some of them quite inconsistent with the duties of the principal Justice of the Peace, who should have no private occupation depending on the favor of the He Chants, and should be unconnected with the Supreme Court, to which an appeal may be made from his judgment. I have therefore proposed to him that he shall relinquish his private business; and devote himself wholly to the service of the public; which he has consented to do in consideration of receiving three hundred and thirty pounds per annum for the several services he will have to perform, one hundred pounds of which he will continue to receive as Supreme Surrogate and the other two hundred and thirty I propose to pay him by the following arrangements.

Seeing the odium to which the most upright magistrate is exposed in this Island from the active execution of his duty, I have, in imitation of the Public Offices in London, directed all the fees received by the Magistrates whether acting singly or in the Court of Sessions, as well as all the money received for licenses granted to Public Houses, (both which were before divided among the Justices) to be paid with the Fines, Penalties, Forfeitures and Writ Money into the hands of the High Sheriff; out of which Fund the Keeper of the Rolls is to receive one hundred pounds
pounds per annum, and the two junior justices fifty pounds per annum each; which I conceive to be the smallest sum for which their attendance can be fairly expected, as one of the latter is a surgeon who cannot give up his time without inconvenience to his practice and the other is the missionary from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, who has a large family which he can with difficulty maintain. By this regulation the public will have the services of able and impartial justices who will not be suspected of having any interest in litigation, as they cannot receive any emolument or advantage from the causes brought before them; and I beg leave to enclose a copy of the regulation I have published on this occasion, which I hope will meet Your Lordship's approbation.

It is to be lamented that the want of proper persons to conduct the business of the several courts in this place, is often the cause of great confusion in judicial proceedings, as Your Lordship will readily understand when I inform you that there is no person at present whose duty it is on the part of the Crown, to conduct the prosecution of criminals, and none but the Judge and the Clerk of the Supreme Court Mr. Coote, are in any degree competent to it. In order therefore that the end of justice should not be quite defeated, these gentlemen have been obliged to take an active part in bringing forward the necessary evidence, and drawing up the Indictments. As this practice is highly inconsistent with the impartial administration of justice as well as inadequate to
the effectual prosecution of offenders, it is absolutely necessary that a proper person should be appointed for that purpose, and as Mr. Coote has consented to relinquish his office as Clerk of the Supreme Court on this account, I have appointed him for this duty under the title of Clerk of the Arrears, with a Salary of one hundred pounds per annum, to be paid out of the fund arising from the fees, fines, penalties and forfeitures received in the several Courts, which I conceive myself authorised to direct by the Act 33rd Geo. 3rd Cap. 76 and by a letter from the Duke of Portland to Sir James Wallace dated 14th May 1796. By this appointment the business of the Court will be conducted with more regularity, Offenders more effectually brought to justice; and no man's guilt will be anticipated by the premature interference of his Judge; considerations which I flatter myself will entitle this measure to Your Lordship's approbation. And I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship a copy of Mr. Coote's appointment.

On investigating the business of the Courts I cannot omit to make an observation on the right exercised by the Chief Justice of appointing a person in this place for granting Probate of Wills and Administration of the Effects of Intestates, and allowing fees to be received by him which are not accounted for, nor paid, with the other fees received in the Courts, into the publick fund. This practice, although it appears to be contrary to the meaning of the Act
of Parliament, appears to have obtained from the first establishment of the Supreme Court; it was once an emolument of the Judge, and was continued in consequence of the opinion of the Crown Lawyers communicated to the Honourable Admiral Waldegrave in a letter from the Duke of Portland dated the 26th March 1699.

Having mentioned my opinion on this subject to the Chief Justice, I am happy to find that, being duly impressed with the liberality of His Majesty's Government in the late augmentation of his salary, he conceives it incumbent on him to take the business of the Probate Court under his own management in order that the Fees may be saved to Government. But Mr. Coots having for two years past held that office under a persuasion that he was not accountable for the fees, he will by this regulation lose about thirty pounds per annum, which I purpose to pay him out of the Fines, Penalties and Forfeitures. But, as I understand that Mr. Cootes, from motives of humanity, considerably reduced the customary fees of the Probate Court, and as the increase of property and population in the Island will probably increase the business of that office, it may be presumed that the sum arising therefrom will be considerably augmented now that the fees are received in the public account.

A small saving will be made in the Surrogate Court as Mr. Coots, having by this arrangement, more leisure for public business, will be able to dispense with
with a Clerk who has usually received Twenty five pounds a year.

It is with pleasure I observe that the foregoing arrangements will be attended with a very small increase of expense, as it will appear by the following estimate that the additional Fees, License Money and Savings will nearly cover the disbursements made therefrom for the services abovementioned.

Fees from the complaints and suits in the Justices Court and Court of Sessions estimated at L100
Money received for twenty four licenses for Public Houses in the Town of Saint John’s and six in other parts of the District L4 each- 120.
Fees arising from the Probate Court estimated under the new regulation at- 50.
Saving of customary payments to three Justices for "Quarterly Sittings at L4. 16 each- 14.8.
Saving of Salary to the Clerk of the Surrogate Court- 25.

Disbursements.
To the Keeper of the Rolls- L100.
To the Clerk of the Arraigns- 100.0.0.
To Two Junior Justices L50 each- 100.0.0.
Mr. Coote in compensation for the Fees of the Probate Court- 30.0.0.

L330.

In making these arrangements I have had regard to the strictest economy, and am clearly of opinion that
that the Justices will not by this regulation receive an adequate compensation for their services, which entitle Mr. Coote to four hundred pounds per annum, and the Junior Justices to one hundred pounds per annum each.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable

Earl Camden, K.C.
Fort Townsend,
20th July, 1805.

My Lord,

The short time that has elapsed since the Commanding Royal Engineer's arrival did not enable him to complete his Report of the Defences of St. John's time enough to be introduced into my letter of the 18th instant relating to this subject. I have therefore now the honour to transmit this report to Your Lordship, and to recommend the defence of this important place to full consideration; but I beg leave to call Your Lordship's particular attention to the twelfth page of the Report where the Engineer expresses a doubt whether he has authority to complete the proposed works on Signal Hill, and to suggest that full instructions be given to him for that purpose.

I have etc.,

(3d) E. Gower.

The Right Honourable
Earl Camden,
Fort Townshend,

21st July, 1805.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship a copy of a letter I have this instant received from Major General Skerrett Commanding His Majesty's Troops in Newfoundland, with a copy of its enclosures containing proposals from Captain William Haly, Fort Major to this Garrison, for raising an independent company of Riflemen to serve in this Island.

I beg leave to refer Your Lordship to my letter of the 18th instant by his Majesty's sloop Rattler which sailed yesterday; for my opinion respecting the expediency of this measure, and as I have no doubt that many men may be raised here for such a corps, who are either natives, or have resided many years in the Island; and are not willing to enlist for general service, I think it highly probable that the proposed company might be completed by next summer if His Majesty should be graciously pleased to accept these proposals, and the necessary orders should be transmitted time enough to arrive in the Island this year.

Although the high character given of Captain Haly and Lieutenant LeBreton in General Skerrett's letter is a sufficient recommendation, of those Officers, yet I cannot omit to express the favourable opinion I entertain of their active disposition, and local knowledge, which appear to me to qualify them in
in a peculiar manner for this service, and I therefore earnestly hope His Majesty will be pleased to appoint them for it.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable

Earl Camden, K.G. &c.
Fort Townshend,

22nd August 1805.

My Lord,

I beg to inform Your Lordship that a Native Indian woman who was taken in the northern part of this Island in the year 1803, not having been able to return to her tribe during the following winter, agreeably to the intention of my Predecessor Vice Admiral Gambier, for want of men to carry her up the river Explores, I conceived it incumbent on me last year to take measures for that purpose, in order if possible to promote the benevolent object of the 11th Article of His Majesty’s Instructions to me, by conveying to the Indians, through this woman, such proofs of our disposition to establish a friendly intercourse with them, as might bring them to trade with us, to which end Vice Admiral Gambier had directed her to be supplied with many useful articles to carry back with her. I therefore authorised Mr. Andrew Pearce Deputy Collector of Customs at Fogo, in the vicinity of which the woman was taken, to hire men for returning her in safety to her tribe. Mr. Pearce informs me that this has been accordingly done, and that an expense has been incurred in performing this service of £31.8.2 as stated in his account, a copy of which I have the honour to enclose; for which sum I have this day drawn a Bill on the Lords of His Majesty’s Treasury which I hope will meet His Majesty’s approbation.

I beg leave to transmit to Your Lordship
An extract of Mr. Pearce's letter to me on this subject and have the honour to be As.

(Sd) E. COWER.

Rt. Honourable
Earl Camden, K.C.
Extract of a letter from Mr. Andrew Pearce to His Excellency Sir Erasmus Gower, Knight, dated at Fogo the 25th of October 1804.

Sir,

Your letter (by William Gull) of the 11th of August came duly to hand, and I got men by the assistance of William Gull and they proceeded to the River Exploits and landed the Indian woman; they went the second trip and she was gone, with all her Trinkets, enclosed you have Gull's memorandum about the woman. I can say but very little about it, more than, they say she was very glad when she got up the bay, when they saw the footing of Indians and their children, which was supposed to be gone a day or two before they reached the place.

I dont doubt, if proper steps were taken, but they would be civilized in time; Gull wishes to be about it very much, if he had the power to go on. He would serve very well for a Pilot for any person or persons who may be appointed by Government for by civilizing them a quantity of Fur may be saved, which they now destroy to help to clothe them, and I dare say may become a very useful body of men in the Cod and Seal Fishery, if it could be brought about- its a pity they should remain wild and at a perpetual war, more than their neighbours on the continent. I think it must be the fault of the inhabitants from time to time.

I have inclosed the account of what I have advanced
advanced to William Gull, and what I paid to the Crew
that went with him, and if its not suitable for
you to remit me the money round here- you will please
to lodge it in the hands of Mr. John Street Com-
troller of the Customs and I am with all due respect
Your Excellency's humble servant,
(Sd) Andrew Pearce.
Fort Townshend,

20th October, 1805.

My Lord,

Having paid the salaries due this day to the Officers of the Supreme and Surrogate Courts of this Island and settled the Public Account for the year, I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship a copy of my Account Current with His Majesty's Treasury wherein Your Lordship will please to observe that I have paid the increased salary to the Chief Justice, and the allowance to the Roman Catholic Clergyman from the 20th of March last, the date of the Right Honourable Lord Camden's directions to me for that purpose, and that I have drawn on the Treasury for one hundred and twenty five pounds towards defraying the expense of building the Jail at Placentia and for one hundred and fifty pounds for the same service at Bonavista both which were directed in his Lordship's said letter. And there being a balance of seventy two pounds nineteen shillings and ten pence due to the High Sheriff on the Public Account, I have paid him that sum.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable
Viscount Castlereagh.
Fort Townshend,
25th October, 1805.

My Lord,

Having received directions from the Right Honourable Earl Camden to give every facility in my power to the Recruiting in Newfoundland, and to lose no opportunity for promoting levies for the Army, I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that I accordingly issued to the Magistrates the Instructions which I had the honour to submit for His Lordship's approbation in my letter of the 28th of November last, and that on the 14th instant I wrote Major General Skerrett apprising him that the recruiting might commence on the 16th instant. But from every enquiry I could make, as well as from my own observation, I found that the interests of the Trade and Fishery would not permit me to extend the recruiting to all descriptions of men generally; and in order to prevent the impediments which the Trade would suffer from enlisting the seamen out of the merchant vessels this fall, during the most active season of the exports, in a place where they could find no resource against the loss of their men, I felt it my duty to request the General to give the Officers commanding the Recruiting Parties the most positive orders not to enlist men belonging to the Trading Ships without the consent of their respective masters; and as the Merchants and Boatkeepers who carry on the Fishery find it necessary to ship a certain number of men in the fall of the year, during the winter are employed in making, preparation for the ensuing
ensuing year, and in some places in carrying on a Seal Fishery, I have judged it expedient to follow up Admiral Gambier’s regulation on this head, in not permitting men who are so engaged, to be enlisted without the consent of their employers, who would sustain great disappointment and loss if their men were suffered to enlist after being duly engaged for the next year’s Fishery, and having received advances on that account.

I am still further induced to continue this restriction on the recruiting by letters which I have received from the Principal Magistrates at Trinity and from the house of Benjamin Lester & Co. who are extensively concerned in the Fishery. Copies of which I have the honour to enclose, with a copy of my instructions to the Magistrates on this occasion.

As Major General Skerrett seems to think that the Act 46 Geo. III Cap. 10 entitles the Recruiting Parties to enlist men of the aforementioned descriptions in this Island, I beg leave to lay before Your Lordship the correspondence which took place between the general and me on that subject, and as I have received no particular instruction on this head, and have adapted my conduct as nearly as possible to the peculiar circumstances of the Fishery and Trade of the Island under my Government, to which the Act abovementioned does not apply, I hope the line I have pursued will meet His Majesty’s approbation, especially when it is considered that there will probably be
a thousand men at St. John's during the winter and
an equal number in the several Outports, who will not
be under any engagement, for the Fishery, and will be
at liberty to enlist for the Army.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable

Viscount Castlereagh.
Isism

Spithead, 28 Novr. 1806.

My Lord,

I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that I am this instant arrived at this anchorage, having left St. John's the 26th ulio- with the home-ward bound Trade under convoy consisting of thirty three sail. His Majesty's Ship Jamaica sailed the same day with thirty six sail for Portugal, and other convoys are appointed for Portugal on the 20th November and 20th December next, and for England on the same days.

As the Returns have not yet reached me from the principal Harbours, I cannot now furnish Your Lordship with a complete Report of the Fishery; but from all the information I have been able to collect, I have the satisfaction to learn that the season has been more productive in most places than has been known for many years past, and the exports of the produce will receive great encouragement and advantage from the extraordinary number of Convoys which the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have this year appointed.

The price of Provisions in Newfoundland still continues so high that I have judged it expedient to allow the importation of the Articles admitted by His Majesty's Warrant from the United States to be continued, as may be found practicable, during the winter and the ensuing Spring which I hope will meet His Majesty's
Majesty's approbation.

The importation of salted Provisions from Great Britain and Ireland this year has been deficient, and the price of Pork at St. John's is expected this winter to be from six to seven pounds per barrel. This circumstance affords additional proof to my mind, of the expediency of admitting Salted Beef and Pork from the United States, as recommended in my letter of the 24th of December last, and I regret that I had not authority to permit that trade before my departure.

I am happy to inform Your Lordship that perfect tranquility prevailed throughout the Island at the time of my departure, and, I have no doubt, will continue during the winter.

Respecting the defence of the Island, I have nothing to add to my letters of the 18th, 20th and 31st of July last, except that the Nova Scotia Regiment has been reinforced by thirty men from Prince Edward Island, and there is reason to expect it will be greatly strengthened during the winter, by recruiting, from the number of men who will remain in the Island. But though the recruiting should succeed beyond the most sanguine expectation, the force at St. John's will still be very inadequate to the defence of that important place, as Your Lordship will perceive from the enclosed Return of the Nova Scotia Regiment.

I am sorry to inform Your Lordship that a man named James Conway having been sentenced in the Supreme Court to be hanged for the wilful murder of a female child and no circumstances appearing to justify
me in suspending the execution of judgment, I was
under the painful necessity of signing a Warrant for
that purpose, and it accordingly took place on the
27th August last.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable
Viscount Castlereagh.
Isis,

Spithead,

28th November 1805.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship a letter I have received from the merchants of Newfoundland requesting that in consideration of the embarrassment under which the Fishery labours from the loss of some of its principal markets in Europe, I will represent to His Majesty's Government the necessity for prohibiting in the strictest manner the importation of salted codfish from the United States of America into the British Islands in the West Indies, which appears to be a measure of such obvious expediency that I think it incumbent on me to recommend it in the most earnest manner to Your Lordship's consideration.

As the merchants letter contains a full and clear description of the Trade between Newfoundland and the West Indies, and of the certain benefit that would result from preserving to the British Fisheries the supply of Fish to that market, I can add nothing thereto; but from every observation and enquiry I have been enabled to make, I think myself warranted to subscribe fully to the representations it contains, while I feel persuaded that His Majesty's Government will no longer suffer the Americans to continue a trade so injurious to the interests of the Newfoundland fishery.

I understand it is very desirable that this subject
subject should receive an early consideration, in order that if Government should think proper to comply with the wishes of the Newfoundland merchants they may receive such timely intimation thereof as may allow them to make the necessary arrangement of shipping for carrying an effectual supply of fish to the West Indies next year, which the Island will easily afford from the vast abundance which must remain ther this winter, the fishery during this season been uncommonly productive.

I have etc.,

(Sd) H. GOWER.

The Right Honourable
Viscount Castlereagh,
Ae. Ae. Ae.
Isis,

Spithead,

28th November, 1805.

My Lord,

Observing the expense of maintaining a garrison at Placentia in Newfoundland under my Government and the apparent inutility of such an establishment, I this season sent Captain Ross the Commanding Royal Engineer, to survey the works and make a report on the Defences of that Harbour; which, being accordingly done, I have the honour to transmit the same to Your Lordship, and to offer a few observations on the subject, in order that His Majesty's Government may be informed that the situation of this Harbour requires no such expense as is at present bestowed on it, whether considered as a fishing harbour or a Port of rendezvous for a convoy.

As a fishing harbour, Placentia, though formerly considerable, has greatly declined; there being but one mercantile house in it, and not more than six or eight vessels annually loaded there, while at Burin, Mortier, St. Lawrence, and other Harbours on the Western Shore of Placentia Bay, a considerable number of Merchants and Planters, are settled, who carry on the principal part of the Fishery of that District.

As a Port of Rendezvous, for a convoy, Placentia cannot be used, St. John's being the only port at which it is convenient or usual for the trade to
to assemble from the several parts of the Island for that purpose.

Your Lordship will observe from the Engineer's Report that if it were necessary that Placentia should be fortified for either of the above purposes, the present post is altogether inadequate thereto, the battery being without a parapet and so low as to be exposed to be cleared by one round of grape shot from the sea, and commanded by several seights on shore. I am clearly of opinion that a fortification so ineffective can be attended with no advantage whatever, while I am informed the expense incurred annually in the Ordnance Establishment of a Storekeeper, Carpenter, Mason and Smith, together with a Barrack Master, cannot be estimated at less than five hundred pounds, over and above the expenditure of Stores, the supply of which this year is computed to amount to more than one thousand pounds.

I have etc.

(Sd) M. GOWER.

The Right Honourable
VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH.
Isis,

Spithead,

28th November, 1910.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship some further observations which I have received from Captain Ross Commanding Royal Engineer, Newfoundland, under my Government, respecting the defence of the places near St. John's where an enemy might effect a landing, which may serve as a supplement to the report enclosed in my letter to the Right Honourable Lord Camden dated the 30th July last.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable

Viscount Castlereagh.
Isis,
Spithead,
28th November 1805.

My Lord,

I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that the Merchants and other principal inhabitants of Burin in Newfoundland under my Government, being desirous for promoting order and good government in that place, that a Jail should be erected there, have made liberal contributions for that purpose, and have requested I will authorise an assessment to be made in that district and apply to His Majesty's Government for the same assistance to be afforded to them as was this year granted to the people of Placentia on a similar occasion. In compliance with a proposal directed to so useful an object, I have authorised a small assessment to be made on the Boats and Servants employed in the Fishery on the Western Shore of Placentia Bay, and have directed that the Fines and Forfeitures levied in the Courts that may be held at Burin shall also be appropriated to the same purpose. But I understand these means will still be inadequate to defray the whole expense of the building, as it is intended, to construct the upper part so as to serve as a place of Worship, and occasionally for a Court House which will raise the expense to seven or eight hundred pounds.

Considering the tendency of such a building to support the Civil Magistrate, and promote religion in
a district which is become populous, I beg leave to suggest that I may be authorised as soon as the Building is completed to draw on His Majesty’s Treasury for one hundred and twenty five pounds to aid the inhabitants in defraying the expense of it.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable

Viscount Castlereagh.
Isis,

Spithead,

28th November, 1803.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a Petition which I have received from the Revd. Dr. O'Donel, Bishop of the Romish Church at St. John's in Newfoundland under my Government and beg leave to refer Your Lordship to my letter of the 26th October 1804 with its enclosures from Brigadier-General Sherrett and the Merchants of St. John's for an account of Dr. O'Donel's steady allegiance and active exertions in suppressing a dangerous conspiracy in that place, and his pious and unremitting attention to the improvement and good order of the lower class of Roman Catholics. In consequence of which representation His Majesty was graciously pleased in March last to grant him an allowance of Fifty pounds per annum; but his health having since that period greatly declined and suffered since from a stroke of apoplexy, he will not longer be able to encounter the intemperate climate of Newfoundland, but must shortly come to Ireland to pass the remainder of his days, and therefore cannot enjoy the benefit of His Majesty's bounty unless it is continued to him after his retirement, which I beg leave to recommend; and as there is reason to believe from the class of inhabitants who compose his congregation in St. John's, that he can have acquired the
means of an independent subsistence, and the above sum being inadequate thereto, I beg leave to to further propose that some addition be made to it.

I request Your Lordship to be assured that in recommending Dr. O'Donel for some support from Government during the few remaining years of his life, I am not only actuated by a sense of what conceive to be justly due to his faithful and diligent services, but also by the policy of encouraging in his successor the same spirit of allegiance to His Majesty, and assiduous attention to improve the morals of the labouring classes and render them faithful subjects and good members of the community; which in Newfoundland is a consideration of the highest importance, as the far greater proportion of that class are Roman Catholics from Ireland, and their numbers are yearly increasing. I am happy however to observe that at present they are remarkable for industry sobriety and good order, and that there is no doubt of their attachment to His Majesty's Government; which I understand may be attributed in a great measure to the beneficial influence of their Bishop's admonitions and example.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Hon. Castlereagh.
Hornbeam,
25th January 1806.

My Lord,

Having had the honour to represent to the Right Honourable Earl Camden in my letter dated the 9th February last, the decayed condition of the house at present occupied by the Missionary of the Established Church at St. John's, and recommended that seven hundred pounds should be granted by Government for building a house near the Church, His Lordship was pleased to inform me that he should reserve this subject for consideration when the estimate for the present year should be laid before Parliament, and I beg leave therefore to call your Lordship's attention thereto.

In order as much as possible to promote the object abovementioned, I made the most particular enquiry last season into the expense that would attend such a building, and used every means in my power to promote among the inhabitants a voluntary contribution to assist Government in accomplishing it. I learn that the House cannot be built for less than one thousand pounds, and am sorry to observe that the sum which is likely to be raised among the inhabitants will scarcely exceed one hundred pounds. I have therefore the honour to propose that if Your Lordship is pleased to obtain from Parliament a grant of seven hundred pounds for this purpose, the deficiency which shall not be made up by the contribution of the Inhabitants shall
shall be paid out of the fund arising from the rents of the lands which have been leased in the vicinity of St. John's as that fund will be adequate thereto before the building can be completed.

If Your Lordship is pleased to approve of this proposal so necessary to the support of the Established Religion in Newfoundland I shall on my return to that Island lose no time to enter into a contract with proper persons for completing the building as speedily as possible.

I have etc.

{(sd) E. Gower}

The Right Honourable
Viscount Castlereagh.
Hornbeck,
11st January 1806.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship an account of the lands which have been leased in the vicinity of St. John's, Newfoundland, by my predecessor Vice Admiral Gambier, and myself in behalf of the Crown, as I represented in my letter to the Right Honourable Earl Camden dated the 10th of November 1804, though many of the leases could not be completed till last season, and having appointed my Secretary Mr. Joseph Trounself to receive the rents, he has delivered me an account thereof, which I have the honour also to transmit herewith, whereby it appears that ninety one pounds twelve shillings and sixpence remain in his hand; this sum together with the growing rents, will form a fund which if it meets His Majesty's pleasure may, with the best effect, be appropriated to such local services as may appear to the Governor to require the aid of Government, and for which no money can be raised by any rate or tax in the Island. The services to which I particularly allude, are the building and repairing of Churches, the support of the Established Religion and the maintenance of the Magistracy; to the whole of which it would afford important aid, if the measure of leasing the lands in the neighbourhood of St. John's, and some other principal settlements should be extended, as the demands of the inhabitants might require; which I beg leave again strongly to recommend as perfectly consistent
consistent with the interests of the Fishery and Trade, as I endeavoured to explain in my letter above alluded to.

In the appropriation of the above fund I beg leave to recommend one object in a particular manner to Your Lordship's notice, which is the support of the Schools of Industry at St. John's. These schools are particularly described in that part of my letter above-mentioned which relates to the improving the condition of the poor; and I have the honour to assure Your Lordship that they have produced such happy effects, by inculcating religious principles and industrious habits into the children who have attended them, that they merit, in an eminent degree, the countenance and support of Government, and the more so as they are calculated to promote the Fishery by instructing the Boys to make and mend nets, which they have no other means of learning, while the Girls are taught to spin and knit, an employment but little known in the Island, although so essential in the fishermen's families. The schools have hitherto been liberally maintained by the Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor in St. John's, and have received some favor from the Societies in London for the propagation of the Gospel, and for Promoting Christian Knowledge; but owing to the great disbursements which the Society first mentioned has made for building a School House with the necessary accommodation for the Teachers, which cost upwards of eight hundred pounds, and the annual expense of the schools, which amounts to more than two hundred pounds.
pounds added to the sum expended on the relief of the Poor during the last winter, their funds are so exhausted that I am apprehensive they will this year require some assistance. Should that be the case I propose to grant sixty pounds for the salary of the Schoolmaster out of the rents before mentioned, provided the measure meets your Lordship's concurrence of which I persuade myself from the cordial approbation which the Right Honourable Earl of Camden was pleased to confer on the measures I had taken to promote the above institution.

Although my letter to His Lordship before alluded to contains a full account of the motives which induced me to recommend to the principal inhabitants the establishment of the schools above-mentioned, as intimately connected with the welfare and good government of Newfoundland in the promulgation of pure scriptural knowledge, and preventing the increase of Roman Catholic Schools, yet I beg leave to inform Your Lordship that these motives have since been strengthened by observing the indifference that prevails there in matters that respect the Established Religion, and having learnt with regard to that from the deficiency of proper Protestant schools, many persons have been induced to send their children to a Roman Teacher. At the same time I am happy to inform Your Lordship that the Schools of Industry have had the effect of reducing other Schools of the lower class which were kept by Roman Catholics and I am persuaded will diffuse their utility still wider, as soon as the benefit
benefit of them is better known, and the prejudices which many of the Roman Catholics entertain against them are removed.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable
Viscount Castlereagh.
Hornbeam,

13th February, 1806.

Sir,

I had the honour in my letter of the 20th of November to transmit to the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Castlereagh a letter which I had received from the merchants of Newfoundland representing that the Fisheries of that Island are fully adequate to supply the British Islands in the West Indies with Salted Fish, and therefore praying that His Majesty's Government would take into consideration the expediency of strictly prohibiting the admission of that article from the United States of America into the said Islands, and as it must be essential to the due consideration of this subject, that every information should be obtained respecting it, I beg leave to acquaint you that I have received a letter from the Chief Justice of Newfoundland, who is well informed on the Trade and Fishery of that Island, stating that he understands one hundred thousand quintals are now remaining at St. John's, and as the trade of the Gutheavours, taken together, is greater than that of St. John's, and both have been equally affected by the deficiency of the exports, it may be concluded that at least an equal quantity of fish remains also in the other parts of the Island, I therefore beg you will please to suggest to the Lords of the Privy Council for Trade &c. whether the knowledge of this fact is not sufficient to remove any apprehension they might entertain respecting the resources of Newfoundland for affording an effectual supply.
supply of Fish for the British West Indies as soon as
the season shall allow the communication to open
between them; and as a further encouragement to this
trade, I have the honour to recommend that a bounty
of one shilling per quintal be given on all the fish
that shall be exported to the West Indies from Newfound
land during the ensuing season.

Impressed as I am with the encouragement required
to enable the industrious Fishermen of Newfoundland
fully to employ the resources of that valuable Island
to the advantage of the nation and to the convenience
of our West India Islands, I feel it incumbent on me
to refer you to my letter to the Right Honourable Earl
Garden, dated the 24th December 1804 in which I had
the honour to recommend, as essential to the above
object, the facilitating and extending the importation
of provisions and Naval Stores from the United States
of America into Newfoundland, and I beg leave again to
suggest that this measure may be considered at the same
time with that beforementioned as they appear to me to
have a natural connection and I am of opinion that if
adopted together their joint operation would soon
produce the most beneficial effects on the Newfound-
land fishery.

In addition to the considerations contained
in my letter above alluded to respecting the admission
of Salted Meat from the United States into Newfound-
land, I beg leave to observe that the importation of
that article from Great Britain and British America
between the 11th October 1804 and 10th October 1805
did not amount to two thirds of the average consumption
of the three preceding years. Pork was sold at St.
John's during the last summer from five pounds ten
shillings
shillings to six pounds per barrel, and was expected in the fall to rise to seven pounds, and this is much the cheapest market in the Island.

I am sorry to learn from the Chief Justice's letter abovementioned that an unprecedented number of Writs for debt have been taken out in the Supreme Court since the close of the late fishing season, and I am informed that the merchants sustained a greater number of bad debts from the Planters at the conclusion of the year than had been known for many years before; and as it is obvious that both these events are occasioned by the excessive price of Provisions and other supplies for the fishery and the low Price of Fish and Oil, for want of a sufficient demand I beg leave to urge these circumstances strongly on your attention as indicating a necessity for adopting some effectual means to relieve the Newfoundland fishermen from their present difficulties and prevent the decline of the Fishery which must otherwise ensue.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable
William Windham.
London,
19th April, 1806.

Sir,

I had the honour in my letter to the Right Honourable Earl Camden, dated the 19th of November 1804 to represent to his Lordship the measures I had adopted to prevent the further increase of Dwelling Houses, Shops &c. near the sea side at S. John's, Newfoundland, lest they should prove an impediment to the extension of the Trade and Fishery, for which that part of the Town should be carefully preserved, and that for this purpose I had found it necessary to open a new Road in the rear of the Flakes, at the distance of two hundred yards from high water mark, prescribed in the fifth article of His Majesty's Instructions to me, on the upper side of which road I gave general permission by Proclamation for building Houses, but the ground through which the proposed road must pass, being in cultivation, and occupied by numerous persons in meadows and gardens; the measure was in some cases attended with inconvenience to individuals, though the general sentiment that prevailed respecting the advantage which the public would derive from it, induced almost every man readily to lay open the small space of his ground which was required for it; but in consideration of their having long remained in undisputed possession of the ground which they had thus relinquished for the convenience of the public, I judged it but equitable to allow them to take possession during His Majesty's pleasure of some small spots.
spots of waste land more remote from the sea. There are, however, several persons who have not yet opened their grounds in conformity to this plan, whereby the free passage of the said road is, in several places interrupted; but though it appears to me, from the fifth article of His Majesty's instructions which direct me "not to allow any possession as private property to be taken or any right of property whatever acknowledged in any land whatever beyond the distance of two hundred yards from high-water mark" that I have authority to remove such interruptions, yet as the parties concerned have been long in possession of the grounds in question, without having their titles disputed; I have deferred the execution of this authority until I shall be fully informed whether there is any legal objection thereto; and for this purpose I beg leave to propose the following question, on which I request you will give me such directions as you may judge fit, or refer the same to His Majesty's Attorney General and Solicitor General for their opinion: "Is the Governor of Newfoundland authorised by his Instructions to dispossess an individual of any lands lying beyond two hundred yards from high-watermark, and not employed in the Fishery, provided the same, should in his judgment be required for the general interest of the Fishery and Trade, although the said lands may be held by long possession, or by virtue of Grants from former Governor's.?

I have the honour to observe on this question that
that the ground required for the situation of Fort Townshend in the year 1775 was taken from individuals, who, by way of compensation, were allowed to take possession of small spots of land in other parts.

I beg leave also to state another case in which I find it necessary to request further information. The Grand Jury of St. John's last year presented as a nuisance a small wooden house of little value, except from the peculiarity of its situation; which, though advantageous to the proprietor is inconvenient to the public. It is placed about the middle of the lower or main street, into which it projects beyond the adjacent houses so far as to form with the opposite ones a crooked passage of only six or seven foot wide, which is only inconvenient to the necessary business of the town, in obstructing the passage of carts to and fro, but is dangerous in case of fire, by preventing the engines from passing through that street, from one part of the town to the other, although in that part a number of old wooden houses are closely crowded together and most exposed to such danger.

The house in question was formerly a Cook Room for the fishery, but being no longer required for that purpose, it has been converted into a Retail Shop, without the Governor's permission and is not in any manner employed in the Fishery.

From the above considerations I am clearly of opinion that so much of the said house should be removed as would leave a sufficient passage for the convenience of the public, and safety of the Town, and
and therefore purpose to order the same to be done, provided there should be no legal objection thereto; on which I beg you will be pleased to obtain the opinion of His Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor General or give me such directions thereon as you may think fit.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. GOWER.

The Right Honourable

William Wyndham.
London,

19th April, 1806.

Sir,

The Public Service having been greatly benefited by the Specie sent out last year to Newfoundland under my Government, for the payment of the Garrison; I beg leave for that reason as well as for those stated in my letter to the Right Honourable Earl Camden dated the 4th February 1805 to recommend that measures be taken to send out this year by the Flagship a similar sum of Seven thousand pounds in Spanish Dollars, and five hundred pounds in copper two penny and penny coins.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. Gower.

The Right Honourable
William Windham.
London,

21st April, 1806.

Sir,

The Right Honourable Viscount Castlereagh

having in his letter of the 22nd August 1805 directed
me to point my exertions to the increase of the Nova
Scotia Fencibles Regiment (serving in Newfoundland)
to its full numbers, and to manage with regard to
any other arrangements that this necessary measure
may not be interfered with, I have to request you will
please to inform me whether I am to understand from
this instruction that no recruiting is to take place
in that Island for Regiments serving in Nova Scotia
and New Brunswick until the abovementioned object shall
be accomplished in order that it may not be impeded.

I have etc.,

(Sd) E. Gower.

The Right Honourable

William Windham.
Isis,

Spithead,

17th June 1806.

Sir,

Not having yet received any reply to the letters which I had the honour to address to the Right Honourable Lord Castlereagh dated the 28th November 26th and 31st January and to you on the 19th 31st and 29th of April last, on various subjects relating to Newfoundland, I beg leave to inform you that I have this day received orders to proceed without loss of time to my Government and shall accordingly sail on Thursday next after the arrival of the post.

I have &c.,

(Sd) E. Gower.

The Right Honourable

William Windham.
Isis,

Sp thead,

18 June 1806.

Sir,

I have the honor to receive your letter of yesterday's date on the subject of the Ordnance Wharf at St. John's, respecting which I had previously received directions from the Right Honourable Lord Castlereagh in His Lordship's letter dated the 23rd August 1805, but that letter not having reached me till my return to England in December last, I have not yet been able to take any measures in consequence of it, though it is my intention to do so immediately on my arrival at St. John's. In the meantime conceiving it to be highly expedient for His Majesty's Service both in point of convenience, security, and economy, that all supplies for the service of the Garrison should be landed at the wharf in question, I beg leave to suggest as the means of removing all cause of dispute on this subject that theretofore of the said wharf be in future sustained equally by the ordnance and contingent departments. Should this proposal be approved, I hope to receive your directions in consequence thereof by the Ship of War which is intended to sail hence for Newfoundland next month; otherwise a private wharf must be hired at a considerable expense for landing the necessary provisions and other supplies for the Garrison.

Respecting the encroachments said to have been made on the Ordnance Ground by General Skerrett having
and have fenced in the Ordnance limekiln on the Barrens, and Mr. Brophy having extended his sharp over the ground adjoining the Ordnance sharp I shall not fail immediately on my arrival to remove such encroachments, as I should certainly have done while present in the Island before, if the Officers of the Ordnance had represented those points to me.

As to the Powder Shed on Signal Hill which General Skerrett is said to withhold from the Ordnance Service, I shall require him to relinquish it. At the same time, I have no doubt, from my experience of the General's correctness and warm desire to promote His Majesty's service that he has been actuated herein by this motive alone.

I shall take effectual means to prevent fires on the Barrens, that may endanger the Powder Shed, and am surprised the Ordnance Officers made no application to me for that purpose after the fact they have reported.

On that part of the respective Officers letter which alludes to the want of due regard being paid to the Property of the Ordnance Property at St. John's, I beg to remark that no instance thereof has ever been represented to me, and that in the course of my duty I have paid the most particular attention to the interest of His Majesty's service in that Department. As to the buildings which they represent as surrounding the Powder House and rendering it useless, there are but two houses within a considerable distance from it. One a double house occupied in part
by the Chief Justice, which was built by the permission of my predecessor - the other a dwelling house for the Surveyor of the Customs built by my permission on a spot of ground granted him by Lord Radstock, in consideration of the want of accommodation for his family in the town. The first of these houses is according to a plan delivered to me by the Engineer about the distance of two hundred and forty yards from the Powder House, and the latter is three hundred and sixty five yards which was measured before I permitted it to be built, and reported by the Storekeeper of the Ordnance to be a safe distance. In the course of this measurement and report I had occasion to disapprove of the incorrectness of Major Cox of the Royal Artillery and Mr. Houston, whose signatures appear at the letter in question; and taking into consideration this circumstance together with their having omitted to make application in the first instance to me on the present occasion, I cannot ascribe their representation to any proper motive, but am of opinion that several parts of it are calculated to mislead the judgment of the Board of Ordnance, and impede the cordial cooperation of the several departments for the good of His Majesty's service, which I hope will receive the marked disapprobation of that noble able Lord.

The Right Honorable Windham.\[Signature\]
Fort Townshend,

20th July, 1806.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I arrived here on the 23rd instant, and have the satisfaction to find that the Bounty, which His Majesty's Ministers have been pleased to grant on the importation of Fish into the West India Islands from the British American Fisheries has been productive of the most beneficial effects on this Fishery, by relieving the Island of a vast redundancy of the produce of last year which lay on hand for want of the usual markets in Europe, all the principal ones except Portugal being closely shut against it. The exports from hence to the West Indies have already exceeded the whole of most former years, and will probably increase, as the season advances, to such a quantity as will prove the certain and abundant resource which this Fishery affords for the supply of our Islands.

The Bank Fishery has, thus far, been very successful, and favourable accounts have been received of the Shore Fishery in most parts of the Island, although about this Harbour the Fish are less plentiful than usual.

I have etc.,

(Ed) E. Gower.

The Right Honourable

William Windham.
Fort Townshend,

18th August 1806.

Sir,

Finding in the first year of my Government that the Couthouses at the Governor's house were decayed, I did myself the honour to write to the Right Honourable Earl Camden representing this circumstance and requesting that I might be authorised to order an expense to be incurred in building them anew on a plan somewhat more convenient than before, which had been estimated at £100 and having understood that his Lordship had no objection to this measure I accordingly directed it to be executed and authorised the Commissary to draw on His Majesty's Treasury for the above amount to defray the expense. The Commissary having transmitted his Vouchers is informed that they will not be allowed to pass the auditor's office without producing the authority of the Lords of the Treasury or of the Secretary of State for this disbursement. I have therefore to request you will be pleased to take such measures as may be necessary to remove any impediment that may stand in the way of passing the Commissary's Vouchers on this account.

The new Road described in my letter to Lord Camden of the 19th November 1804 having taken away a considerable portion of the Governor's Garden, and the remainder being at an inconvenient distance from the House, I was under the necessity of procuring a piece of ground for this purpose near Fort Townshend, which
which required much labour to clear and fence it.

Considering a garden in this place to be an indispensable convenience to the Governor, I authorised the Commissary to draw on His Majesty's Treasury for the sum of Forty onepounds seventeen shillings being the amount of hire of labourer employed for the above purpose, which I request you will be pleased to approve and recommend to His Majesty's Treasury to be allowed on the Commissary's Accounts.

I have etc.,

(Sd) H. GOWER.

The Right Honourable

William Windham.
Fort Townshend.

20th. October 1806.

My Lord,

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that I have this day drawn a bill on you in favor of Joseph Troussel Esq for one thousand one hundred and thirteen pounds five shillings and nine farthings for the payment of the Salaries due this day to the Officers of the Supreme and Surrogate Courts of this Island.

I have also drawn a bill on you in favor of Henry Phillips Esq High Sheriff of Newfoundland for £347.15.2. being the balance due to him on the public account of this Island between the 31st. of October 1805 and 20th. October 1806.

I have the honor to transmit you herewith my account current for the Year ending this day accompanied by thirteen receipts for the several disbursements therein specified and the usual declaration from the Chief Justice.

To Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

I am &c.

(signed) E. Gower.
Fort Townshend.

20th October 1806.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day paid the Salaries due to the Officers of the Supreme and Surrogate Courts of this Island, and to transmit you a copy of my account with His Majesty's Treasurer for that service as well as for the Bill drawn to pay the Balance of the High Sheriff's Account.

The Chief Justice having after the decease of the late Marshall of the Supreme Court represented to me that a proper person could not be obtained to fill that Office for a smaller Salary than fifty pounds per annum, I consented to augment the Marshalls Salary to that sum and have paid him this Year accordingly which I hope will meet His Majesty's approbation.

I am &c.

(sd) E. Gower.

The Right Honorable

William Windham.
My Lord,

I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship with my arrival here this day in His Majesty's Ship Isis, with a Convoy of thirty one Sail having sailed with them from St John's Newfoundland on the 30th. Ulto. at which time I have the pleasure to remark that harmony and tranquillity prevailed among the Fishermen and Inhabitants throughout the Island.

I beg meave to transmit for your Lordship's information a return of the Fishery for this Year as far as has been collected with abstracts of the Imports of supplies, and Exports of the produce of the Island of Newfoundland which I have not been able to complete in the manner I could wish for want of the returns from the Deputy Naval Officers Burin and Fortune Bay, but in order to give your Lordship as idea of the aggregate amounts of this success of the Fishery this Year. I have availed myself of extracting from the last returns of those districts this deficiency and have denoted the same by Figures in red Ink, and from every enquiry I have made known I am of opinion
opinion it must be merely the same however as soon as
these returns come to my hands which I expect to receive
by the next Convey, I shall have the honor of presenting
to your Lordship a complete return of the Fishery for the
Year 1807.

Permit me also to lay before your Lordship my
observations on His Majesty's instructions, which I had
the honor to receive for my guidance in this Government
and having carefully perused the observations made by my
Predecessor, and the remarks thereon by the Right Honorable
the Lords of the Committee of Council for trade and
Foreign Plantations, I have made mine according to the
best of my Judgement and as I conceive most beneficial for
His Majesty's interest I therefore hope they will meet with
approbation.

I have received from the Magistrates of Harbour
Grace, an Estimate of the Expences for building a Court
House and Gaol at that Place which amount £o 700 and they
are not able to collect more than £ 400 among the
Inhabitants to defray the expences thereof and as these
Buildings are highly necessary to support the Civil authority
in so populous a District, I consider it my duty to recommend
it to your Lordships consideration, that such aid may

be
be granted as His Majesty's Government may, in its wisdom think fit to contribute. And it is absolutely necessary to erect one in the District of Fortune Bay, when the Inhabitants are in general poor, and many of them not the most orderly.

The Church and Parsonage House at Harbour Grace being repaired I have paid the fifty pounds as allowed by your Lordship letter dated 16th. May last out of the Lease Money.

The Schoole House in the Town of St John's for the education of poor Children was begun upon so large a scale as to have involved it in a debt of £300 and upwards, and I am sorry to find that the donation of this Year, will not tend to liquidate it and it has been thought necessary to employ a Female Assistant with a Salary of £20 a Year and as I find that such a person was wanted I beg leave to recommend that her Salary may be paid of the monies arising from the Lands leased by Government although they do not come up to the expectations entertained by my Predecessor several persons having relinquished their Leases.

The Protestant Inhabitants at Fogo comprising about four hundred have built a house to perform Divine Worship
Worship in, and they have requested that I would make application to His Majesty's Ministers to grant them £50 which will discharge the debt they owe upon it, and as it is so laudable an undertaking I beg leave to recommend it to your Lordship's consideration.

They have no Missionary near them, and the service is performed by an old Man whom they allow 15 pounds a Year and he lays out the whole of the money in Books for the use of the Community I beg I may be allowed to pay him that sum out of the aforesaid Lease Money.

The price of provisions in the Island of Newfoundland as so moderated as to prevent any complaints arising from His Majesty's indulgence in allowing by his Licence the importation of such articles from America.

The addition of Pitch Tar Turpentine will afford a seasonable relief to the Planters and Boat-keepers of the Island and cannot be in any way detrimental to the trade of Great Britain as they are articles not of British Production and are imported there in British Vessels navigated according to Law.

I find my Predecessor had recommended the importation of Tobacco Salted Meat, and Molasses, I see nor necessity for it, being firmly persuaded that since
nine tenths of the latter article now in the United States is imported from the French Islands, and if the importation of 10,000 Barrels of Salted Meat recommended by him to be imported yearly in the event of Provisions being at a high price were once allowed, it would open a door for smuggling which could be easily effected from the immediate intercourse between the Vessels belonging to the United States and ours trading on the Northern parts of the Island, and upon the Coasts Labrador.

My Predecessor recommends also the establishment of a permanent Secretary I cannot agree with him in this opinion as I think he would be fearful of exercising their own Judgement a resident Naval Officer is more necessary, as there is a difficulty in collecting the accounts from the persons now appointed as deputies, and it is necessary that the Governor should be accurate in his returns for the satisfaction of His Majesty's Ministers.

I have the honor to transmit to your Lordship a Calendar of the Prisoners tried in the Supreme Court this Year and I am sorry to be under the necessity of bringing home four Grenadiers of the Nova Scotia Regiment, who are sentenced to seven Years transportation to Botany Bay, their characters are too notorious for me to intercede with
with your Lordship for any mitigation of their punishment, by allowing them to enter into another Regiment.

I signified in my letter to your Lordship dated 8th. September last, that the success of the Seal Fishery would far exceed any former Year, which I have now the satisfaction to confirm, and I hope when the returns are all made, I shall be able to shew your Lordship that the Cod Fishery will be nearly the same as last Year although the Season has been unfavorable upon the North and West Coasts for curing the Fish for a first Market.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable

Viscount Castlereagh.

One of His Majesty's Principal Secretary's

of State.

K. &c. &c.
Wells.


My Lord,

I have the honor of your Lordships letter of the 1st instant stating the receipt of one from Major General Skerrett, dated St John's Newfoundland the 11th ulto. on the subject of erecting a Wharf and Fuel yard near the one now occupied by the Board of Ordnance, and which has been suspended in consequence of my being prohibited to allow such Grant of Land, by the Act of Parliament of William the Third on Lands termed Ships Rooms and acquainting me that under these circumstances I am to consider myself as authorized to grant the Land requested for the purposes mentioned, and no other.

In reply I have the honor to inform your Lordship as I feel it my duty that the Wharf now occupied by the Board of Ordnance is fully adequate to all and every purposes of His Majesty's Army on the Island that the erection of any other would be attended with a great
great expense, which in one Winter may be swept away by
the Ice I be leave further to observe to your Lordship
that as the Fortifications for the defence of the harbour
are to be placed in a different situation it will be necessary
for the ordnance to erect another Wharf more contiguous
to the Fortifications, there will be less occasion for the
one they now use, and consequently more at liberty for
other purposes.

In the public expenditure of Money upon that
Island, for the purposes above requested I feel it my
duty to make these remarks to your Lordship, and I have

I am &c.

The Right Honorable,

(signed) J. Mollaway.

Resent Castlereagh.

(1)

&c. &c. &c.
London,
16th February 1808.

Sirs,

I have the honour of your letter of yesterday's date stating an account of several sums of money remaining in the Agent's hands, which had been granted by Parliament for the services of Newfoundland and requesting to know for the information of Lord Castlereagh what has prevented the application of the different sums to the specific objects for which they were voted, and which of them, if any, after the interval that has occurred since the grants were made are likely to be demanded for the purposes originally intended.

I beg you will be pleased to inform his Lordship that I cannot until my return to St. John's give any correct account of them, but I do not conceive they will be immediately wanted for the purposes stated in your letter.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. HOLLOWAY.

R. Cooke, Esq.
Downing Street.
Wells,

4th April, 1808.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receiving yesterday a letter from the Right Honourable Viscount Castlereagh dated 4th March with a Warrant from His Majesty's authorizing me to grant Licenses for the Importation of Articles therein specified from the United States of America into the Island of Newfoundland in case of necessity during the season agreeably to the Form of a License attached to the Warrant; and to which I shall pay due attention.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. HOLLOWAY.

E. Cook, Esq.
Wells,
Somerset,
9th April 1808.

My Lord,

I feel it my duty to transmit to Your Lordship the enclosed letters which I received yesterday; one from the Chief Justice of Newfoundland and one from the Chief Magistrate of St. John's, although I have no doubt of Your Lordship's having obtained more authentic accounts direct from the United States, and of later date. In the event of hostilities with that country, Your Lordship has been apprized of the weak state of the Garrison at St. John's and of its Fortifications.

Under these circumstances it will afford Your Lordship satisfaction to know by the enclosed letters the zeal manifested by the Inhabitants to secure to His Majesty's Government, the possession of that valuable Island. It may be necessary to send out five hundred stand of Arms, and I beg leave to recommend the building a Magazine (at Government expense) for the use of the Merchants powder; to be erected under cover of the Fort at Signal Hill and placed under the direction of the Officer Commanding His Majesty's Troops.

I beg leave again to call Your Lordship's attention to the recommendation of my predecessor and myself, to abandon the fortifications at Placentia and withdraw the Stores &c.
As I shall probably depart early this year for Newfoundland, I am anxious to obtain from Your Lordship answers to my several letters.

I have etc.,

(Sgd) J. HOLLOWAY.

The Right Honourable

Viscount Castlereagh.
Warren's Hotel,
30th May 1805.

My Lord,

I have the honour to lay before Your Lordship a copy of a Proclamation issued by me last year at Newfoundland respecting the Native Indians upon that Island. His Majesty's Instructions to the Governor's have at all times directed that particular attention should be paid to those ignorant people, by endeavouring to bring them to a state of civilization and friendly intercourse, and although every attempt to obtain this desirable end has hitherto failed on account of the cruelties that have heretofore been committed upon them, I feel it imperiously my duty to persevere in this humane attempt and therefore submit the following ideas which have occurred to me, for Your Lordships' consideration, viz:

To have Paintings representing the Indians and Europeans in a Group, each in the usual dress of their country, the Indians bringing Furs &c. to traffic with the Europeans who should be offering Blankets, Muslins &c. in exchange. These pictures to be taken (by an Officer commanding one of the schooners) to the place usually resorted to by the Indians and left with a small quantity of European Goods and Trinkets, and when taken away by the Indians to be replaced by another supply.

A Guide (who is well acquainted with the country) also to be employed, the expense of whom would
would probably amount to thirty pounds, and the
Blankets, Hatchets &c. to Fifty pounds more; should
this conciliatory overture fail the first year, I
think it might be advisable to repeat it a second
because these poor creatures have been so long illtreated
that it may perhaps take some time to wean their minds
from the strong impression of mistrust which they have
imbibed from suffering repeated cruelties.

I suspect that the parties hitherto employed
on this service have purloined the articles intended
to have been given to the Indians, and have claimed
remuneration for pretended endeavours of effecting a
social intercourse and friendship, which they have
never attempted; or certainly so great an inveteracy
and warfare could not have continued for so many years,
as we have had possession of that Island, without
effecting the least step towards a good understanding
between us and them.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. HOLLOWAY-

The Right Honourable
Viscount Castlereagh,

20th May, 1808. A similar letter to the preceding
one which is written to Lord Castlereagh, was sent the
same day to Sir T. Cottrell, to be laid before the
Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of
Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations, with a
copy of the Proclamation respecting the Indians in
Newfoundland.
Warnes' Hotel,
26th May, 1806.

My Lord,

Having had a conference with my Lord Chatham, Master General of the Ordnance on the subject of abandoning the Fortifications at Placentia, in Newfoundland, which I had the honour of stating to Your Lordship in my several letters dated 8th September 25th October and 9th April last; I am informed that a representation should be made from Your Lordship before any directions can be given by the Board of Ordnance for that purpose.

I have etc.,

(signed) J. HOLLOWAY.

The Right Honourable
Viscount Castlereagh.

&c. &c. &c.
Warne's Hotel,
3rd June, 1808.

My Lord,

Mr. Thomas Coote having collected and transcribed in a book, as a record, and also made an Index to the same describing the particular possession of all the Lands in the Town and vicinity of St. John's, Newfoundland, which work has been attended with a great deal of trouble and pains.

I therefore beg leave to recommend him to your Lordship's notice for some remuneration for this useful service, and at the same time to suggest that one hundred pounds will not be too great a compensation.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. HOLLOWAY.

The Right Honourable

Viscount Castlereagh.
Warne's Hotel,
3rd June, 1808.

My Lord,

Mr. Lionel Chancey having formerly held the Office of Clerk to the Surrogate Court at St. John's Newfoundland and had a salary of Twenty five pounds per annum which has been discontinued in consequence of a Supreme Court being now established there: and Mr. Chancey being frequently called upon to attend the same.

I beg leave to suggest to Your Lordship whether this small salary might not be continued to him, during His Majesty's Pleasure, and paid out of the District Account.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. HOLLOWAY.

The Right Honourable
Viscount Castlereagh.

Ac. Ac. Ac
Warres' Hotel,

11th June 1808.

My Lord,

I had the honour to receive yesterday your Lordship's circular letter dated 21st May last with the copy of an Order issued by His Majesty in Council, bearing date the 18th of said month declaring the information of His Majesty's Order in Council of 11th November 1807 shall be taken and held to have been received in all places on the Continent of North and South America, extending from the 10th to 30th degree of North Latitude including the Island of New Orleans on the 10th February 1808— which Order I beg leave to acquaint Your Lordship shall be made known and carried into effect within the Island of Newfoundland &c. as far as it may apply thereto.

I have etc.,

(Sgd) J. HOLLOWAY.

The Right Honourable

Viscount Castlereagh—

&c. &c. &c.
Portsmouth,

14th June, 1808.

My Lord,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Your Lordship's letter dated the 10th inst. in answer to my several despatches, since my return from Newfoundland, and beg leave to testify how much I am gratified by Your Lordship's approbation on the discharge of my duty as Governor of Newfoundland.

I beg leave to advert by this opportunity to my letter of the 9th instant wherein I proposed sending out 500 stand of Arms which proposal is not noticed in Your Lordship's letter; also that no notice has been taken of Accoutrements, that were to have been sent out for the St. John's Volunteers, as requested in my letter of the 28th May 1807 with a list of the Articles.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. HOLLOWAY.

The Right Honourable
Viscount Castlereagh,

Ac. Ac. Ac.
Isis,

St. John's Harbour, Nfld.

20th July 1808.

My Lord,

I have the honour to acquaint Your Lordship of my arrival at St. John's late last evening and I avail myself of the opportunity of His Majesty's Sloop Rattler sailing with a Convoy for England to communicate to you that harmony and tranquility have prevailed in this Island during the last winter, and I hear of no complaints of any description or want of the inhabitants, which gives me a hope that the fishery will be carried on with that spirit of Industry manifested heretofore by the inhabitants and others concerned therein, but I understand that this year the number employed is far short of former seasons, owing to the ports of Portugal being shut and the uncertainty of affairs with the United States. The Seal Fishery I am informed has been productive, equal to the number of hands employed in it which are but few, compared with former years; and I apprehend that that spirit of enterprise is greatly checked from the same causes—however I hope that some channel will be found for the sale of the produce of these valuable hardy people's industry and that due encouragement will be given to excite and secure their future endeavours. The short time of my arrival has not afforded any field for further observations, or for receiving any returns from the different districts of the Island.

I have etc. J. HOLLOWAY.

The Right Honourable
Viscount Castlereagh.
Isis,
St. John's Harbour.
20th July 1806.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit for Your Lordship's information a Return of the Troops in this Island under the command of Lieut. Colonel Murray, by which Your Lordship will perceive that they have not been successful in recruiting, as the regiment is but little stronger than last year.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. HOLLOWAY.

The Right Honourable

Viscount Castlereagh.

&c. &c. &c.
Fort Townshend,
St. John's,
29th September, 1808

My Lord,

I had the honour of addressing a letter to Your Lordship dated the 20th July last by His Majesty's Sloop Rattler the day after my arrival here, at which time I could only inform you that harmony and tranquility had prevailed in the Island during my absence.

The Fishery this season both of Seal and Cod has been attended with success in proportion to the number of men employed in it; being many short of the number that were employed for the last three years owing to the uncertainty of a market to vend their Fish at. And in the present situation of the commercial interest of the country it would have been great satisfaction to me to have received some instructions for the benefit of the Trade of this Island. From Reports in the Public papers that have reached me respecting the success of the Spaniards and Portuguese against the common enemy to Europe, I have ventured to recommend some few cargoes of Fish being sent to Gibraltar and Lisbon, with letters addressed to the Commanders in Chief on those stations, in order to counteract this speculation; and I am inclined to think that such a supply will be a seasonable relief for the use of the Spanish and Portuguese Armies.

I have now the honour to lay before Your Lordship
Lordship a complete Return of the Fishery for the last year with Abstracts of the Imports and Exports to and from this Island for the said period.

I have ordered His Majesty's Ship "Medusa" to sail for England on the 30th instant with such of the Trade as can be collected to go under her protection; but I find the Merchants in the present uncertain state of affairs, prefer running single ships, so as not to overstock the markets.

The Embargo being continued in the United States will I fear cause the price of provisions here to be very high this winter, for Bread that was sold at this time last year for 34s a hundred is now as high as 5s—and the Planters have not yet laid in their winter's stock.

His Majesty's frigate the "Thalia" will sail from hence with a few vessels for the markets of Portugal and Spain on the 1st of next month, and future convoys for England, and Portugal, will sail from hence at the stated periods as heretofore.

Any further remarks necessary to be made relative to the Fishery &c. I shall have the honour of laying before Your Lordship on my return to England.

I have etc.,

The Right Honourable

Viscount Castlereagh,

One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

(Sd) J. HOLLOWAY.
Fort Townshend,
St. John's, Newfoundland.
20th October 1808.

My Lord,

I have the honour to inform Your Lordship that I have this day found the Salaries due to the Officers of the Supreme Court, and Surrogates, of this Island; also Captain Nathan Parker Commandant of the St. John's Loyal Volunteers the amount of arrears of Rations due to that Corps the 30th September 1807, in obedience to Your Lordship's letter to me dated 10th of June last, and likewise the balance of the High Sheriff's Public Account, at the same time I beg leave to lay before Your Lordship copy of my account with the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury which I hope will meet Your Lordship's approbation.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. HOLLOWAY.

The Right Honourable
Viscount Castlereagh.
Isis, at Spithead,
19th November, 1808.

My Lord,

I have the honour to acquaint Your Lordship with my return from Newfoundland in His Majesty's Ship ISIS which anchored here this day after a passage of twenty two days from St. John's Harbour. The heavy gales we have experienced since we sailed have separated the whole of the convoy, consisting of twenty five sail of vessels.

His Majesty's Ship VESTAL also sailed from St. John's on the same day (the 37th ultimo) having nine more merchant vessels under her protection bound for the coast of Portugal, Cadiz, and the Mediterranean which the merchants have ventured to send in hopes of meeting in some of those ports a favourable market for their fish; but this speculation (as I did myself the honour of writing Your Lordship by His Majesty's Ship NADIRA) continues to be greatly checked for want of official information, to ascertain what ports of Portugal and Spain are open.

I have given orders to the Commanders of the several ships of my squadron to sail with convoys to Portugal and England on the 24th and 25th of this month (November) the Jamaica to Portugal and the Avenger to England; and on the 20th December His Majesty's Sloop SPEEDY will accompany the Trade to England; and if there should be about that time any vessels
vessels bound for Portugal, the ADONIS schooner is to take them under her protection. The RATTLER Sloop with the MERRING schooner will remain at St. John's during the ensuing winter for the protection of that Harbour, and both are to sail on separate services early in the spring, as soon as the weather will admit of their getting out.

The catch of fish this season both of seal and cod, has been very great, more in proportion than the same number of hands have experienced for several years past, but the Accounts of Returns not having been all rendered in to me, prevents my having the honour of laying before Your Lordship at this time, a general Return of the fishery; and must be postponed, until the latter convoy comes home in December.

Having this year had more time to examine and reflect on the observations made by my two predecessors together with the pointed remarks made by the Lords of Privy Council on the subject of the state of Newfoundland which were communicated to me on my appointment to that Government I cannot but lament that it was ever recommended to His Majesty's Ministers by my predecessors to grant leases of land on that island, it was striking at the root of the Law which had for so many years regulated this fishery as a nursery for seamen, and meant to discontinue residency, the great and improper increase of which tends to colonisation, it likewise gives the inhabitants a kind of sanction to claim from occupancy, lands
lands that are no longer used for the fishery, for
which purpose alone they received their grants from
the different Governors, agreeably to His Majesty's
instructions; consequently can have no legal right to
sell, mortgage, lease and transfer, as is now become a
daily practice. This subject requires most serious
consideration, and I shall be happy to meet their
Lordships on it whenever it may suit their convenience.
This Island is utterly incapable of raising sufficient
food for its own consumption, and the inhabitants will
most probably look where they ought not for supplies.
I have read with great attention the remarks made on my
predecessor's observations by the Lords of Council for
Trade and Foreign Plantations, and am fully convinced
that they are perfectly correct in their opinion
whenever the ancient system is departed from, and
colonization encouraged.

The American embargo has occasioned the
present high price of provisions and the Inhabitants
in general have deferred laying in their winter's stock
in hopes of its being in a short time, taken off. This
seal to the American Ports has also obliged the West
India Islands to have recourse to British-America for
Bread, Flour etc. and has so much raised the markets in
Nova Scotia and Quebec, that Newfoundland cannot now
be supplied from thence, but at very advanced prices,
which amount almost to a prohibition, to the lower ord-
of people, on which account (as His Majesty's Order in
Council permitting the Importation of Bread, Flour,
Peace Indian Corn, Butter and Live Stock is during
the Fishing season only) I have thought it prudent for
the relief of the inhabitants to authorize the Collec-
tor at St. John's to grant licenses for the importation
of the aforesaid articles of provisions, with Pitch,
Tar, and Turpentine, from the United States of
America, until the 1st of May next; which I hope and
trust will meet Your Lordship's approbation.

The Act for establishing Courts of Judi-
cature in the Island of Newfoundland will expire on
the 25th of March 1809 I therefore feel it my duty to
apprize Your Lordship of it; and as the Chief Justice
has a doubt of the authority given therein to the
Court of Sessions by the 13th Section of the present
Act for settling disputes of Wages, as is given in the
Act of the 26th of Geo. III. Sec. 6, I would recommend
the insertion of that clause in the new Judicature
Act which may be made in addition to that of the 13th
section in the present Act. These disputes about
Wages do not often happen until the Governor leaves
the Island, and the Surrogate, Officers of the Navy
annually appointed by him. And it is difficult to
select proper persons for that office, from among the
inhabitants as they are in general some way or other
concerned in the Fishery. In the 14th section of
the present Act is recited "that it shall be lawful
for the said Chief Justice and he is hereby required
and
and directed to settle and limit what Fees and Poudrage shall be taken by the Sheriff of Newfoundland and the same shall be taken and none other.

Upon this clause I beg leave to submit to Your Lordship's consideration whether or not to insert "that it shall be lawful for the Chief Justice, with the approbation of the Governor " for as it now stands it may open a Door for collusion, between a future Chief Justice and Sheriff.

If it is their Lordship's intention (and I am every day more and more convinced of its propriety to annex the Coast of Labrador to the Government of Newfoundland, as heretofore, it will be necessary to include it in the new Judicature Act. At present the most atrocious Deeds may be committed, and the Offenders go unpunished, Irregularities being constantly practised, as also by the Americans who frequent that Coast, which I have no authority to take cognizance of although only to be detected by my cruisers: Quebec being too remote for the establishment of any civil or other authority. The number of vessels from the United States frequenting or fishing on the Coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador, have been but few in comparison with former years, the number this year not having exceeded two or three hundred.

No intercourse yet with the Native Indians.

I am concerned at being disappointed in my endeavours to open an amicable intercourse with the Native Indians of Newfoundland, and to shew Your Lordship what steps I have taken for this desirable purpose
purposam I beg leave to annex in appendix A a copy of my orders to Lieutenant Sprott, together with a list of the Articles thought necessary for this service, but the Native Indians have not been seen on the sea coast this year. The same officer is now under orders to proceed again to the Bay of Exploits as early as the ice will permit, with the Painting and Articles he carried this year, all of which were brought back, and are now deposited in the Court House at St. John's. I shall lay before Your Lordship in Appendix B an account of the money laid out for the several articles purchased amounting to £54. 3s. sterling, and the balance £56. 17s.

I reserve to defray the expense of Guides on this service or whatever else may be necessary, to facilitate the attainment of the object in view.

Micmac Indians.

The Micmac Indians who frequent the Island of Newfoundland, from Cape Breton or Nova Scotia, are at enmity with this unfortunate race of Native Indians, but I have taken some steps to forbid their coming at all, being only Phunderwys, and destroyers of the beaver, and other animals, from which Furs are obtained, to the extinction of the species by taking them at improper seasons.

Charitable Institution for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

The debt I stated to Your Lordship last year which the Charitable Institution at St. John's had contracted has since been paid off by voluntary subscriptions from the inhabitants.
I have paid out of the Lease money the several sums as directed by Your Lordships letter dated 10th June Last, and a stated account with copy of the said letter is herewith annexed in Appendix C several persons are in arrear for Lease rents alleging that they have no yet enclosed the ground, which till done is a plea for non payment, such an excuse having been accepted by my predecessor. Now far this may be allowable, and what steps should be taken I leave for Your Lordship's decision and further instructions thereon.

Rations paid to Loyal Volunteers of St. John's

In obedience also to Your Lordship's letter of the 10th June last I have settled the arrear of Rations up to the 30th September 1807, and have diminished the expense to so low as a composition of sixpence for each Ration, amounting in the whole to £491.8. which I have drawn for, and is included in my account current with the Lords of the Treasury. Captain R. Parker finding his health very much impaired from a recent illness, has requested to resign the command of this Corps, which I have thought proper to accept, and have appointed James Macbraire Esq. in his stead, an active man, and better qualified to hold the Command of the Loyal Volunteers of St. John's; as will as being much approved of by that Corps. It will be necessary for me to have further instructions as to the future payment of Rations due the said Corps, since the above date, or whether it may be proper to pay them in kind.

I have the honour herewith to present
to Your Lordship a state of the Fortifications at St. John's and those carrying on, drawn out by Captain Ross a deserving Officer, and very able Engineer, the Works have not been much forwarded this year the Regiment quartered there being too weak to assist with a sufficient number of men for labour; and the Royal Artificers sent out have been principally employed this summer in preparing huts for winter quarters.

The Fortifications at Placentia remains as last year, no instructions having been yet received for dismantling it.

In consequence of Proclamations for a Survey and Register of ancient Fishing Ships Rooms in the respective Districts I beg leave to recommend Mr. Wm. Carter for some remuneration for the active part he has taken to effect this purpose, particularly in the districts of Ferryland, which, when completed through all the Districts will be a measure of the greatest utility to discriminate the real claimants from those who by force or artful means pretend to be possessors or occupiers of the same. The sum I would wish to recommend for his trouble should be at least one hundred pounds.

The Court House at Harbour Grace is now completed, but as I have not received proper certificates from the Justices of that District, the £300 which I was authorised by Your Lordship to hold out should be paid, I have deferred paying until proper vouchers shall be produced.

The Inhabitants at the bay of Bu Is have represented that a Jail is much wanted in that Quarter.
it being a place where Deserters resort to, and a house adapted for the purpose being now to be sold may be completed for £200 which sum I beg leave to recommend may be paid, and charged to the District Account of St. John's.

I have the honour to annex in Appendix B the Calendar of the Prisoners tried in the Supreme Court this year, there being only one for an assault is a proof of the quiet, and good conduct of the inhabitants and fishermen.

Before I close this letter I have to acquaint Your Lordship that in St. George's Bay, which is situated on the western part of this Island, Coals are found about twelve miles inland from the beach, a sample of which Captain White of the Avenger Sloop brought me from thence on his last cruise, they appear to be tolerably good and I think it proper to observe that this part of the coast of Newfoundland, by the late Treaty with France, was included in their right to fishery, having been extended from Point Riche to Cape Raye, the most valuable part of the Island for Timber &c.

I beg leave to state to Your Lordship a case which appears to me to be a hardship, Mr. Charles Augustus Cramer Magistrate at Fortune Bay, took up two Deserters belonging to the Nova Scotia Regiment in 1805, maintained and lodged them several months, it being in the winter there was no opportunity of getting them conveyed to Headquarters, by which Mr. Cramer
Mr. Cramer incurred an expense of 34. 6. sterling, which sum he has never been reimbursed. As this was an occurrence before the time of my Government I did not take upon me to order it to be paid (although I think I ought) until I should receive authority from Your Lordship. Mr. Cramer did apply to Lieut. Colonel Murray Commanding the Troops last Fall, but could not obtain from him repayment. As Fortune Bay is a remote district and Mr. Cramer the only magistrate there, I think it proper to urge that this demand should be paid, otherwise no person will give himself the trouble to take up Deserters in the Outports of Newfoundland, when there are so few inhabitants, provisions always dear, and lodgings not more than are fully occupied, which will point out to Your Lordship the necessity there is for having Gaols in each district. The Army I apprehend should have paid this expense, and all of a similar nature in future, unless Your Lordship may think it proper to carry such to the District Account of St. John's.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. HOLLOWAY.

The Right Honourable

Viscount Castlereagh.

&c.  &c.  &c.
Wells, Somersetshire.

My Lord,

19th. March 1808.

I have the honor to lay before your Lordship a return of the Fishery with abstracts of the Imports of Supplies, and Exports of the produce of the Island of Newfoundland for 1st Year, for His Majesty's information and I am happy to add that the last Season for the Fishery has been equally productive with any former Years, in proportion to the number of hands employed which was considerably fewer owing to the uncertainty of a Market for their produce, and under this impression a sufficient number of Vessels were not sent out to take away less than 100,000 Quintals, added to this the Embargo in the United States has cut off essential supplies of provisions which that Island had been accustomed to draw from thence by Licence in British Bottoms and the continuance of this protection is severely felt by the Inhabitants of Newfoundland.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable

(signed) J. Holloway.

Viscount Castlereagh.

One of His Majesty's principal secretaries of State.

&c. &c. &c.
Durants Hotel.
Albemarle Street.
Piccadilly 13th. May 1839.

My Lord,

The population of Newfoundland having considerably increased of late years in the Cut Ports, I think it necessary to submit to your Lordships consideration the appointment of three or four more Surrogates, on my return to St John's which appears to me to be absolutely necessary for the preservation of good Government in these distant parts of the Island, as well as to give some of the Elder Magistrates a small remuneration for the trouble they are at in furnishing the annual accounts requisite for His Majesty's information, for which they have not at present the smallest allowance although attended with a great deal of trouble and some expense which all the Magistrates in the Four Cut Ports complain.

I am &c.

The Right Hon. erable
Viscount Castlereagh
of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State.

J. Holloway.
Town.

19th. May 1809.

My Lord,

Several of the Rooms in the Government House at Fort Townshend at John's Newfoundland being in want of papering and few necessary articles of Furniture being also wanting as per inclosed list, amounting to the value of twenty pounds, which has usually been paid by the transport Board.

I have to request your Lordship will be pleased to order the same to be purchased and paid for.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable Viscount Castlereagh.

On of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

(signed) J. Holloway.
A list of articles of furniture and paper wanting for the Government House at Fort Townshend St John's Newfoundland.

Viz.,

A Hot Dresser for Cooking.
5 Sets of five irons.
130 yards of paper.
Do. of Bedding.
2 Pillows for Beds.

(signed) J. Holloway.
Durants Hotel.
Albemarle Street.
35th. May 1809.

My Lord,

The two years which I have passed in the Government of Newfoundland, have given me the opportunity of viewing the business of the Chief Justice of that Island which since his appointment has very much increased in population, and of course the duties of his Office.

Your Lordship will naturally see the propriety of supporting a man in such a situation in a manner to create respect, which cannot be done on the present Salary.

I beg leave therefore to recommend to your Lordships consideration to increase the Salary of the Chief Justice of that Island, equal with that if the present judges of Canada viz. £ 550 per annum.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable
Viscount Castlereagh.

The Right Honorable
Viscount Castlereagh

One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries
London.

10th June 1829.

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of seven letters from your Lordship dated as per Margin with the several enclosures therein mentioned.

All which notices Instructions and directions, shall be punctually attended to.

I am Ac.

The Right Honourable.

Viscount Castlereagh.
One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Io. Io. Io.
Fort Townsend.
13th. July 1809.

My Lord,

H.M. Majesty's Sloop Rattler being on the eve of sailing with a convoy for England I embrace the opportunity to inform your Lordship of my arrival at St John's yesterday and am happy to communicate to you that I find tranquillity and harmony have prevailed during my absence.

Although I have not yet received any Official returns of the Spring Seal Fishery, I hope it will not fail short of former years.

The Cod Fish left on the Island last Fall for want of shipping is now all disposed of.

From the uncertain state of affairs with the United States of America and no supplies being received from thence this year, and Nova Scotia and Prince Edwards Island not allowing any Stock to be exported this Island is totally destitute of Beef for the supply of His Majesty's Ships, and the Inhabitants are deprived of it.
I may therefore be under the necessity of allowing the importation of Live Stock, Grain, and Fruit from the Azores or Western States, which I trust will meet your Lordships approbation.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable
Lord Viscount Castlereagh.

(sgd) J. Melloway.

Ac. &c. &c. &c.
port Townsend.

St John's Newfoundland.

20th. July 1809.

My Lord,

referred to your Lordships letter of the 14th, Ulto. which I had the honor to receive upon my leaving England for my command of this Government I was concerned to find your Lordships has omitted to notice my applications respecting the Volunteer Corps of St John's they were received by me this day, and I have great pleasure in assuring your Lordship they are deserving of attention and encouragement.

I therefore by leave to refer your Lordship to my applications of the 20th. May 1807, and 30th. January 1809, and hope the Volunteers of this Corps may not be disappointed again in their expectation of the Clothing and accoutrements necessary for their duty.

I am &c.

To the Right Honorable.

Lord Viscount Castlereagh.

J. H. Halloway.

(signed) J. Halloway.
Fort Townshend.

St John's Newfoundland.

21st. July 1805.

My Lord,

Upon my arrival here I sent Major General Moore commanding His Majesty's Troops on this Island, an extract of that part of your Lordships letter to me of the 14th. June, respecting the payment of £ 34,0, to Mr Cramer one of the Justices of the Peace of this Island for maintaining Deserters apprehended at a great distance from Head Quarters, and at a Season of the Year when no intercourse could be had with St John's I am sorry to find that the Major general does not think your Lordships letter to be sufficient authority for him to reimburse Mr Cramer his demand. I herewith inclose the Major General's answer to my letter. It is my duty to remark that this is a very great hardship upon Mr Cramer, and will prevent in future any the like zeal for apprehending Deserters. I look up to your Lordship with full confidence that you will be pleased to cause Mr Cramer just claim to be discharged and I have the honor to be.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable. (sd) J. Holloway.

Lord Viscount Castlereagh.

&c. &c. &c.
P.S. Mr Cramer account was sworn to before the Chief Justice, and I believe it to be perfectly correct. The fact is the Officers are afraid it will become a charge against the Regiment.
Fort Townshend.

St John's Newfoundland.

16th. September 1809.

My Dear,

I had the honor of addressing a letter to you on the 15th. July last, by His Majesty's Sloop Rattler being the first opportunity after my arrival conveying for your Lordships information, some account of the prospect of a favorable season this year for the Fishery which was expected at that time but I am sorry to relate that there has been a great scarcity of Salt and quantities of fish caught have been thrown away for the want of that article. The Embargo in England, on account of the late expedition may in some degree have contributed towards this scarcity of Salt but not materially so.

I understand that on the 10th of last Month, the United States of America passed another non interourse Bill, which I fear will greatly affect this Country unless Cargoes of Bread, Fleur, and Salt, Provisions arrive from England this fall even then provisions will be dear, for the Merchants
Merchants ever take advantage of all prospects of scarcity.

The late severe Winter has been felt by all descriptions of the Inhabitants and may have a happy effect of making them more careful in future. I perceive it in the quantity of Potatoes that this Year has been planted and the Crops fortunately have been very considerable although but a very late Spring and short Summer.

His Majesty's Ship Quebec sails with a few Vessels under convoy for the Markets of Portugal and Spain, but in general the merchants Vessels proceed immediately after being loaded not choosing to be delayed for convoy, the risk of being taken not being great.

I propose to appoint convoys to sail from hence for Portugal and England at the usual stated periods as heretofore.

And at my return to England I probably may have some remarks to make on the Fishery and the state of the Island, which may attract your Lordships consideration.

The American Vessels from the United States have been very few compared with former Years, on the North Shore, and Coast of Labrador this arrises I conceive from
from the complexion of the present affairs in Europe and what may probably be the result.

By the returns I have received of the Spring Seal Fishery, it has not been so productive as last Year, and I fear the heavy gales we have here last Month, will have occasioned a variety of losses on the Coasts the particulars of which have not yet reached my knowledge.

I transmit herewith the Calendar of the last Gaol Delivery which has produced one Felon, who was convicted of Murder and executed on the 5th. instant according to his sentence.

This is sent by His Majesty's Ships Tybille Captain Upton who takes under his protection a convey bound to England.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable
Viscount Castlereagh
One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

(sgd) J. Halloway.

I. &c. &c. &c.
Antelope at Spithead.
25th. November 1809.

My Lord,

I have the honor to acquaint your Lordship with my arrival at Spithead in His Majesty's Ship Antelope having had a Convey of sixteen sail of Merchant Vessels which sailed in company with me and His Majesty's Schooner Herring on the 26th. of last Month when I left the Island of Newfoundland in a state of tranquility with a good and plentiful season for Fish, the catch has been very abundant and I hope in a short time, when all the returns have been transmitted to me from Newfoundland, to have the honor of laying before your Lordship a satisfactory account.

On the same Morning His Majesty's Ship Vestal also sailed from St John's Harbour with nine sail of Merchant Vessels under her protection for the coast of Portugal. Referring to your Lordships letter of the 14th. June last I beg leave to mention in the same order the points wherein I have fulfilled your Lordships directions.
I have drawn for the £300 allowed for the Court House at Hamburg Grace, that building being quite completed.
I have also drawn for the amount of rations being £25,4,6.
the Loyal Volunteers of St John's for this last year,
there being no provision for them in kind, or orders sent
out to the Major general to direct such Issues however
Governement saves much by this mode of payment only sixpence
sterling for each ration, but a small bshaim of £ 22,10.
still remains unpaid being for music and some other
necessary which by the words of your Lordships letter of
the 16th. of May 1807, I did not altogether feel myself
authorized to discharge without further instructions although
I beg leave to recommend this or any similar claim, to be
discharged perceiving that the present commandant is using
every economy at the same time preserving the utility and
respectability of the Corps.

I have paid Mr William Carter
one hundred pounds for his trouble and in making a register
of Ancient Fishing Ships Rooms out of the Lease funds
as directed by your Lordships said letter.

I likewise ordered the High Sheriff
to pay £ 80 towards the purchase of a House adapted for
a Jail at the Bay of Bulls out of the District account of
St John's, which he did accordingly. I referred Mr Charles
Augustus Cramer to Major General Moore, respecting his
claim for the subsistence of two Deserters, which has been settled for the satisfaction. I have the pleasure to remark to your Lordship that the amount of the Treasury account this Year, which I have had occasion to draw for is £105, 15s. 1d., less than last Year's account.

I cannot refrain from observing in this place to your Lordship that notwithstanding the office of a Magistrate in England is considered to give weight and consequence in the community to the party holding such Office, yet in Newfoundland it is attended with such trouble, and but few respectable men are to be found who can spare time to attend to it, therefore I humbly recommend this point to your Lordships reconsideration that some annual allowance may be established for them.

In my letter No.2. of this date I prefer a Memorial with Sunday inclosures to your Lordship which militate against the conduct of the Chief Justice, and the High respect I entertain of your Lordships situation, urges me strongly to recommend, that some step should be taken that the public business may not be suspended indeed his removal seems to be the only remedy.

My letter No.3. furnishes your Lordship with a statement from the Merchants of the effect the late act of Parliament respecting the importation of Oils, is likely to have on the trade of Newfoundland the
modes of clearances dictated therein, not being adapted to the Fishery as now carried on.

My letter No. 4. inclosed a memorial from the merchants requesting a renewal of the Bounties on Fish exported from Newfoundland to England the natural Markets, Portugal and Spain for the consumption of that article, being greatly obstructed by the precarious and present unsettled state of the continent of Europe.

Your Lordship will also receive a statement of alterations or amendments in the new Judicature Act, proposed by the Merchants, which they have requested me to lay before your Lordship for the consideration of His Majesty’s Government.

I am sorry to inform your Lordship that I am again disappointed in my hopes of coming at the Native Indians they still keep in the interior of the Island it is reported from a dread of the Micmacs, who come ever from Cape Breton. The articles that were purchased for them, are deposed in the Naval Store House at St John’s where I have directed them to be kept for some future trial of meeting with them. My letter No. 5. gives advice of the Bills I have drawn on the Right Honourable the Lords of the Treasury with my account current.

On the 4th of October last I perambulated the Town of St John’s attended by the Chief Justice,
Justice, the High Sheriff, the magistrates and the inferior Peace officers, in order to a certain and keep in the rememberance of persons new resident at St John's, the Boundaries of the Ancient Fishing Ships Rooms, as laid down in the Plan of St John's, which had been taken from the best authority that could be collected.

I found many encroachments thereon, but did not think myself sufficiently authorized to remove buildings which seem to have been sanctioned by my predecessors; yet I humbly conceive that so long as the Policy of reserving what are denominated Ancient Fishing Ships Rooms exists, that these encroachments might be made subject to some small quit Rent as an acknowledgement of the undoubted claim of Government for the benefit of the Fishery whenever Peace or such change of circumstances may require these spots for curing and drying Fish on.

I also observe that many of the Inhabitants who possess lands are secretly enlating their enclosures in direct violation of my Proclamation, yet the last inclement Winter, together with the American Embargo, occasioned so many wants of necessary articles of food to the Inhabitants that I did not think it consistent with the dictates of Humanity to check even this unlicensed liberty, otherwise than by declaring in a Proclamation that such enclosures although not immediately laid open by me, were claimed by the King and none could hold such
enclosures as to be deemed transferable or permanent property
These persons under the present circumstances might be
compelled to pay a rent for the Lands so inclosed and as
a Surveyor will be necessary to ascertain the quantity in
Acres I beg leave to recommend that Mr Lionel Chancey may
be allowed an annual salary of £20 as the King's Surveyor.
And I beg leave to suggest to your Lordship to consider the
necessity for authorizing the Governor to put a final
step to any further enclosures by seizing in the King's
name all Lands not leased or grant from Governors or that
have not absolutely been used for the Fishery for the space
of one year agreeable to Act of Parliament.

I have the honor to present to your
Lordship herewith inclosed a state of the specifications
at St John's and these carrying on drawn out by Captain
Durnford of Engineers. The works on Signal Hill have made
but little progress this year the regiment quarters at St
John's being too weak to afford sufficient number of men
for labour to assist the artificers, and I have not heard
of any other regiment coming to relieve them.

The Fort at Placentia remains in the
same state as represented last year, no instructions
having been received for dismantling it.

On my arrival at St John's the 18th. of
July last I wrote to Sir James Craig Governor General
and commander in chief in Canada and inclosed him one
one of the New Judicature Acts and I have since received from him a letter respecting the Island of Anticosti copy of which I have the honor to inclose herewith and request your Lordships direction, how the annual allowance of money and provisions is to be defrayed, for the support of the two families residing on that Island as represented in Sir James's letter.

S am &c.

The Right Honorable

Viscount Castlereagh.

One of His Majesty's principal secretaries of State.

c. &c. &c.
Quebec.

12th. September 1808.

Sir,

I have had the honor to receive your Excellency's letter of the 18th. July inclosing an Act passed in the last session of Parliament for re annexing the Coast of Labrador to the Government of Newfoundland and I have cause those sections of the Act which particularly relate to the parts heretofore within the limits of this province to be published for the information of all concerned.

I avail myself of this opportunity to mention that the frequent Shipwrecks which have happened in the Island of Antocosti induced me to grant an allowance of fifty pounds currency each to the Heads of two Families Jacques Pucheman and Joseph Dademenn who are settled on different parts of that Island and also to send a supply of Salt provisions to be placed under their care during the Winter.
Winter Months by which means the lives of Nine people were preserved last Year. I shall provide in money till the end of the month of April next, after which time I trust it will be in your power to adopt some means for supporting this useful establishment as I understand that without an allowance from Government the small settlement on Anticosti would be abandoned.

I am &c.

His Excellency
Vice Admiral Halloway.
&c. &c. &c.

Newfoundland.

(sd) J.H. Craig.
Anrelope Spithead.

25th. November 1809.

My Lord,

I have the honor to lay before your Lordship a Memorial which I have received from the Society of Merchants at St John's stating that the trade of Newfoundland continued to labour under serious difficulties from the passing events on the Continent of Europe, which portend still great obstacles to its welfare.

And it having experienced great support from the bounties granted to the importation of Fish into the British Empire which will terminate in August next, they beg leave to solicit a renewal of the same, which I humbly recommend to be continued as a measure necessary to the support of the Fisheries in Newfoundland.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable.

Viscount Castlereagh.

One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

&c. &c. &c.
I therefore from this representation made to me, humbly suggest that some modification of the certificate suitable to the present Fishery which is principally carried on in Boats, may be adopted in order to prevent any difficulty arising in Oil exported to England from Newfoundland.

The Fishermen are chiefly residents and carry on their Fishery on the Coast and in the harbours in open Boats, in dependent of any owners of Ships or Vessels, and send their Oil round to the Merchants when opportunity offers their by Coasting Vessels which precludes the ease of making an affidavit and obtaining a certificate from the collector or other Officer.

I am &c.

(Hand) J. W.

The Right Honorable
Viscount Castlereagh
One of H.M. Principal secretaries of State.

&c. &c. &c.
Antelope at Spithead.

25th. November 1809.

Sir,

As Governor of Newfoundland I have the honor to present to you, a return of the Forces serving in that Island under the command of Major General Francis Moore.

You will perceive that the Nova Scotia regiment is one hundred and thirty seven men short of its original complement, and there is but little probability of the deficiency being raised on that Island unless the Bounty is increased which I beg leave to recommend being persuaded that it would have the desired effect.

With its present weakness very little assistance is afforded to the Engineer Department for completing the works, which I am sorry to say are still in almost a defenceless state. It has been expected for these two years past, that the Nova Scotia regiment would have been exchanged for the New Brunswick but I have heard nothing of it this year.

I am &c.

To Right Honorable Sir David Dundas (sd) J.H.

R.H. Commander in Chief &c. &c. &c.
Antelope at Spithead.

25th. November 1809.

My Lord,

In obedience to His Majesty's instructions to me as Governor of Newfoundland, I have the honor to transmit to your Lordship a return of the Brass and Iron Ordnance mounted with carriages &c. in the several Fort at St John's and Placentia the Fortification at Placentia still remains in a ruined state waiting for orders to be dismantled.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable Earl of Chatham.

Master General of His Majesty's Ordnance.

&c. &c. &c.
Antelope at Spithead.

25th. November 1809.

My Lord,

Much as I regret being under the necessity of transmitting to your Lordship the inclosed papers, I feel it my duty from the situation I held under His Majesty's Government to represent to your Lordship, that the memorial contains too many important truths to allow me to offer any thing in vindication of the Chief Justice's conduct and I am obliged to inclose for your Lordships' further information a letter I received from the Magistrates of St John's with my answer thereto, as also a letter I felt it my bounden duty to write the Chief Justice from the tenor of His Majesty's instructions to me which I believe likewise submit to your Lordships' consideration.

The Government of Newfoundland your Lordship well knows is of a peculiar nature, and requires in the office of Chief Justice a most perfect rectitude of conduct. The present Man has so acted as not only to lose that respect his high office should command, but he has also lost the confidence of the people in the mode of
his decisions, not having been educated in the Law, he has 
read sufficient only to puzzle his brain and lead him 
into errors.

The Trade of Newfoundland is now so much increased 
as to deserve in the most serious consideration of His 
Majesty's Ministers in the appointment of officers for the 
speedy administration of Justice, and the importance of 
summary decisions in that Island is too well known to require 
me to make any further comment nor can I recommend any 
more effectual remedy than a removal of Mr Tremlett from 
the office of Chief Justice.

I am &c.

(ed) J.H.

The Right Honorable 
Viscount Castletown

One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries.

of State.

&c. &c. &c.
Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade Whitehall.
13th. August 1809.

Sir,

I have received and laid before the Lords of the Committee of Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations your letter of the 19th. ultimo announcing your arrival in Newfoundland.

With respect to that part of your letter in which you state that the Island of Newfoundland is totally destitute of Beef for the supply of His Majesty's Ships and the Inhabitants of the Island, assigning at the same time the cause of such deficiency, I am directed to acquaint you that in case sufficient supplies are not likely to be received from the United States of America or from the Province of Nova Scotia or Prince Edwards Island and that the importation of salted provisions from this Country and Ireland do not arrive in time for the supply abovementioned their Lordships approve of the proposition contained in your said letter of importing into the Island of Newfoundland Live stock, and also grain and fruit from Azores or Western Islands in British Vessels.

Governor Holloway.
I am &c. (sd) Steph. Cottrell.

Ac. Ac. Ac.
Antelope.

St John's Newfoundland.

July 24th. 1810.

My Lord,

The Alert Sleep of war, will sail from hence with Convoy for England in the morning and I avail myself very gladly of so early an opportunity to acquaint your Lordship that I arrived in St John's Harbour on the 23th. Instantly after a tedious and for the last three days hazardous passage from the Ice to an extent never before recollected and that I landed formerly yesterday and caused the King's Commission appointing me Governor and commander in Chief to be read and published and took the established Oaths. The little opportunities that has yet been afforded me of observation or enquiry does not enable me to write to your Lordship a detail, but it has been sufficient to assure me, and I have real satisfaction in reporting it that the utmost and good order have prevailed universally in the Island and that the fishing Season promises to be sufficiently
sufficiently abundant. Enclosed I beg to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a Proclamation which I have issued in the King's name a communication with the native Indians of the Island.

It is true that I have not been authorized to propose a reward, but the object is of such importance and the probability so little of succeeding, except from such a stimulus, that I have no doubt of the proceeding being honored with your Lordship's approbation and sanction until I can better judge of the situation of things I should be unwilling to pledge myself to do what my Predecessors have not been able to accomplish as I understand for 30 years the visiting of the Out ports of the Island before my return that is to say a part of the station this year as circumstances may permit but I have it very much at heart.

I am &c.

To The Earl of Liverpool. (sd) J.T. Duckworth.
Antelope St John's.
Newfoundland.

August 5th. 1810.

My Lord,

I have the honor of transmitting to your Lordship a letter which I received from Doctor Carsen, a Physician of St John's, together with its inclosure, the copy of one addressed by him to Admiral Halliday in which he professes to have discovered the means of taking Whales with greater ease, economy and safety than has been hitherto done, and prays that his Majesty will be graciously pleased to grant him letters patent, entitling him to the exclusive privilege of taking Whales on the principles of his invention within the precincts of this Government for fourteen Years. Of the propriety of granting Doctor Carsen's request I can scarcely presume to judge with so much confidence as to give a decided opinion to your Lordship but the Whale fishery in these Seas has been so much neglected the advantages that would result from its establishment on a proper footing so great that I am strongly inclined to recommend his petition to your Lordship favorable attention.

Indeed
Indeed it is almost impossible that an experiment of this nature should not be productive of some degree of benefit if it were only to awaken men's minds to the subject and it is reasonable to suppose it might even do more than this, for Doctor Caruen appears thoroughly convinced that Whales do frequent these Seas in great numbers at certain Seasons and I should hope therefore that he would be able to do away the impression which seems universally to have prevailed that they had quite forsaken them.

I am &c.

To

(sgd) J.T. Duckworth.

The Earl of Liverpool.
Anaglopa.

St John's Harbour.

August 5th. 1817.

Sir,

I beg to inclose for the information of the Lords of the Committee of Council for Trade, the copy of a letter which I have this day addressed to the Earl of Liverpool together with the inclosures therein referred to.

I am &c.

(sgd) J.T. Duckworth.

To

William Fawcener Esq.

Secretary Council Office.
His Majesty's Ship Antelope.

November 28th. 1810.

My Lord,

I beg to acquaint your Lordship with my arrival this day at Spithead in His Majesty's Ship Antelope, having sailed from St. John's Newfoundland on the 28th. of last Month, with a convoy of twenty seven sail and I have the honor of submitting to your Lordship's consideration the detailed account of my proceedings which will be found in this letter, and in those by which it is accompanied.

The packet marked $A$. contains a report of the Fisheries in the best manner that I have been able to arrange it.

The returns from several of the Districts did not reach me before I quitted Newfoundland, and it has only therefore been in my power after inserting in the Schedule those that I have received to form such a calculation grounded on the relative proportions of the Districts in former Years, as well as on my own observation in some instances and the best information that I could obtain in other as well enable your Lordship's to form what I trust will
will be found a pretty accurate idea of the general success.

I have left the strictest orders for the punctually sending home the absent returns, and shall not fail to render to your Lordships a more complete account as soon as I have the means of forming it. The figures in Red Ink in the present Schedule in the column shewing the totals of the several heads, express the result of my calculation as the probable grand total of each.

In the packet marked B, I beg to transmit a series of replies to the various enquiries contained in the instructions which I had the honor to receive from His Majesty; and intermingled with them, such observations on the several subjects referred to as have been suggested by the closest attention that I have been able to give them, and by the sincerest anxiety to discharge in every particular the trust which had been reposed in me.

For the sake of perspicuity I have caused His Majesty's instructions to be transcribed on alternate pages and my own observations are inserted in those opposite. Unless it had been expressly required of me to answer to these important queries
queries on my first return from Newfoundland, your Lordship will excuse me for saying this, in deference to the more matured opinions of my predecessors, I should earnestly have wished for the indulgence of being permitted to wait at least another season.

I have every confidence however in your Lordship's candour and submit myself to it cheerfully on the present occasion.

The inclosure No.1. is the copy of a memorial presented to me by the Society of Merchants of St John's paring that the duties on rum imported into Quebec from Newfoundland may be equalized with the duties on Rum imported there direct from the West Indies; which I beg to lay before your Lordship. Inclosure No.2. contains the copies of two letters addressed to me by the High Sheriff of Newfoundland from whence it will perhaps appears to your Lordship that the emoluments of his situation fairly be considered in some degree inadequate to its responsibility.

Among other inconveniences of which he complains, is that of being under the necessity of appointing an agent in London to receive his Salary, instead of being paid as the other Officers of the Courts of Justices are by the Governor on the Spot.

On
On the subject of the Courts I have found it advisable to make one alteration of which I trust your Lordship will approve.

The person who was appointed to transact the business in the Probate Court has hitherto been allowed as a compensation one half of the Fees These in the beginning were of little consequence, and the writing was comparatively laborious, they have now been become much more valuable from the increase of property and the labour has by a better arrangement of the forms which are now printed, and have only certain blanks that require to be filled, been materially lessened.

I have therefore directed that in communication for his moiety of the fees which I have taken away, the person deputed by the Chief Justice in the manner specified in the 9th. Section of the Act 49th. of H. s Majesty's Chapter the 27th. to grant administration of the effects of intestates and the probate of Wills, shall receive a Salary of Forty Pounds per annum and as the appointment of Clerk of the Supreme Court is vested in the same person whom I have also found worthy to entrust with a Commission of the Peace, he will be enabled to maintain with sufficient respectability his station in Society. The amount of the Fees received
received last Year in the Probate Court was nearly two hundred pounds, of which half only was placed to the credit of the District, and it will be thus seen that even if these Fees should not continue to increase in value which in all probability they will I have been enabled to serve sixty pounds a Year to the Public account.

The paper No. 3. is the copy of an appointment which was given by Governor Sir Erasmus Gower to Mr Lionel Chancey requiring him to make a survey of the Lands held in the District of St John's in pursuance of which he stated that he began the work and continued it for a Year but that it occupied so great a portion of his time that without some remuneration it was not in his power to pursue it and it was accordingly dropped.

It appears to me particularly desirable that a survey of this nature should be had; and I would propose to your Lordship to authorize my holding out to Mr Chancey the promise of a reward upon the completion of the work, and in the mean while, as there is of necessity continual need of the services of a Surveyor where property is so ill ascertained and where so many disputes concerning boundaries and titles are for ever arising it would in my opinion be desirable that he
he be established in that capacity with a permanent
salary for instance of twenty five pounds a Year.

It is proper that I should now state
to your Lordship that adhering as I have done most
rigidly to that part of His Majesty's Instructions
by which I am restrained from allowing any new possession
of lands to be taken I have however in some few instances
been greatly concerned that restriction was of a nature
so peremptory as absolutely to preclude me from exercising
a discretion which might in those instances perhaps
have been considered admissible. I will mention but
one of them to your Lordship.

It was that of the Widow
of the late Reverend Mr Harries who filled for a series
of years the Mission of St John's, and dying last Winter
left nothing behind him for the support of eight Female
children and their Mother except the influence of his
good name and the benevolence of the Public.

Another Missionary having arrived
she could no longer occupy the Parsonage and finding
it her interest to remain to build an house for herself
and her family.

It has not of course been in my power
to comply with her request, but it would greatly

rejoice
rejoice me to be permitted to afford that indulgence to her on my return to Newfoundland.

I am fully aware of the impolicy of allowing in the present situation of things the promiscuous granting of Lands but your Lordship will perhaps be inclined to think that under certain circumstances which very rarely occur, an exception to the general rule might not be productive of any evil consequence.

I have indeed been so greatly desirous of adhering strictly to the spirit of my instructions on this point, that I have invariably discontenanced even the erection of buildings on ground already possessed by the parties, unless some cogent necessity was plainly made to appear.

The inclosure No. 4. is the copy of a memorial on behalf of some Roman Catholics of Conception Bay, praying for leave to erect a place of Worship. I am not sure that this is of a nature which comes immediately under the head of my instructions to which I have referred above; but I am desirous of ascertaining, and would beg of your Lordship to inform me before my return to Newfoundland whether in cases which do not belong to individuals, and when it is clearly for the advantage of Society that they should be favorably
favorably considered, I am not at liberty to permit the occupation of ground in the proportion which circumstances may require.

The case to which I am now particularly alluding is a very interesting one. A Committee of Gentlemen at St John's have agreed to advance Seven hundred pounds towards the erection of public Hospital, an institution which would assuredly be productive of extreme benefit in that Town, and among the several resolutions entered into by them one is that the Governor shall be requested to grant a spot of Ground on which to place the building.

I have performed this Year, three times the perambulation of the Fishing Ships rooms, accompanied by the Chief Justice, the Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court the Magistrates, and ancient Inhabitants, and have endeavoured to ascertain their real boundaries, but encroachments have so crept in upon them from time to time, that it must now be considered almost a work of impossibility. I am anxious to mention to your Lordship the state in which I have found the Church at St John's.

It is considered and in fact it is, private property, the Pews are possessed wholly by individuals, and the Soldiers of the Garrison occupy...
The Church Yard in which little unoccupied space remains has been heretofore divided between the established Church and the Roman Catholics; and the Burying of the Dead has been exclusively by the Protestant Missionary. The Roman Catholic Bishop has very earnestly solicited that if possible this arrangement may be altered; The He states that the case is not so in Nova Scotia and Prays therefore that the Roman Catholic Church in Newfoundland may be allowed the same privilege of burying their own Dead.

The Church at Trinity in which I had the pleasure to meet a very numerous and truly decent congregation, has fallen into so sad a state of ruin that an immediate repair is indispensable.

Its expense would be in some degree heavy, but if I could be allowed to hold out to the Inhabitants the prospect of obtaining an aid from Government of eighty pounds, it would be an inducement to them to come forward with their own contributions.

The Inhabitants of Greenspond are numerous, and have hitherto had no place of Worship of any description they are anxious to obtain an, and have come forward in the sum of two hundred pounds.
The estimate for the building which they propose is three hundred and they hope that His Majesty will be graciously pleased to recommend an advance to them of other hundred. The neglect of public Worship which has for a long time prevailed in many of the Out Harbours has been productive of so many of the evil effects, and the well being of that class of people especially by which they are inhabited is so materially dependent upon its observance, that I need not add any thing to give weight in your Lordships mind to this cause of the Inhabitants of Greenspond.

Inclosure No.5. is the copy of a letter addressed to me by the Reverend Louis Amadeus Anspach, Missionary at Harbouro Grace in recommendation of Mr William Lampen, the Schoolmaster there, and Parish Clerk.

It is pleasing to me to add that on my visiting that place I saw Mr Lampen with seventy of his Schoolars round him as well Girls as Boys of truly creditable appearance. His labours must indeed be of extreme benefit to a numerous but little wealthy Society he is now becoming old, and in every instance appears to be worthy an object of consideration that I am bold to recommend him to your Lordship to obtain for him
an allowance from Government of Twenty pounds per annum, as a reward for the great good that he has done already and an inducement to him still to persevere.

It appears that in the time of my predecessor certain sums of money had been allowed by Government towards the completion of about Court House and Gael at several of the Out Harbours, among others for that of Burin, which does not appear to have been drawn for.

The Gael will be complete next Year, and I request of your Lordship to acquaint me whether I shall be then authorized to draw for it.

At Fortune Bay, the most remote of the Settlements, and where vice has prevailed in the worst degree, there is neither a Church nor a Gael. I should be inclined particularly to recommend to the Inhabitants there, the subscribing among themselves to remedy in some sort this two-fold inconvenience; but they are poor and without assistance can do but little.

Could your Lordship obtain for me authority to hold out to them a prospect of aid from His Majesty in proportion to their own efforts, something might perhaps be accomplished.

The
The next subject to which I am to request your Lordship's attention is that of a Society established at St John's for a purpose of peculiar importance in a Town so unhappily constructed and so entirely formed and filled with combustible that the terms of Fire and utter annihilation are there conceived to be almost synonymous.

The principal inhabitants have formed themselves into a Fire Society and have entered into certain resolutions, and established rules and regulations such as have been considered most likely to answer effectually the purposes of the institution. These rules and regulations have been approved by the Grand Jury and have also received the sanction of the Magistrates, and been entered by them on their Records of the Court of Sessions. Among the various resolutions passed are several by which fines are inflicted on persons who by acts of negligence or wantonness are conceived to endanger the Town by Fire.

Another resolution passed has been, that application be made to his Excellency the Governor for all fines which may be recovered under these regulations to be applied to the purposes of the Fire establishment and paid over to the Treasurer thereof.
by the Sheriff and again that a request be made to his Excellency the Governor for the fines which have been received on account of fires the last three Years, to be paid to the Treasurer towards paying off the present debt.

I am desirous of understanding and beg of your Lordship to instruct me, whether or not I am authorize to enforce the levying of fines thus imposed, whether in this event I am permitted to apply them as the Society request, and lastly whether I may direct the amount of the last three Years fines on account of fires perhaps about twenty pounds to be paid ever to their Treasurer according to the resolutions quoted above.

I have now to mention to your Lordship the state in which I have found the Corps of Volunteers.

On my receiving them in the Field the Muster amounted to no more than sixty five of which number thirty were Officers, Sergeants and Corporals &c. It is assuredly to be wished that encouragement should be given to a well regulated Corps of Volunteers in St John's, but much indeed must be done before these can be deemed of such description.

As an encouragement in the
first instance for persons to enter the Corps, an allowance for clothing should be granted at the expiration of every three years, and then they should be so placed under the control of the General Officer commanding as to allow him to call them out for the purpose of inspecting their clothes, arms and accoutrements, not oftener than once a month and of having them properly instructed in their exercise. With an authority to hold out this inducement of an allowance for clothing, in addition to their rations on days of Drill, it might perhaps be in my power with His Majesty’s gracious permission, so to amend the regulations under which the Corps is at present governed as to render it infinitely more efficient, and more worthy of confidence in the event of an emergency.

Their present clothing has lasted indeed for five years, and is literally so worn out that they can no longer appear in it.

I have now only to mention to your Lordship that having paid out of the Rents arising from Lands leased at Newfoundland on behalf of the King the Salaries of sixty pounds allowed to the Master of the School of Industry at St John’s and twenty pounds
pounds to the assistant and fifteen to Charles Meilings for performing Divine Service at Fuöce, there still remains in my hands a balance of ninety six pounds six shillings and six pence, for the disposal of which I beg your Lordship's directions.

I am &c.

To The Earl of Liverpool. (sd) J.T. Duckworth.

&c.  &c.  &c.
His Majesty's Ship Antelope.

at Spithead November 25th, 1810.

My Lord,

I have the honor of representing to your Lordship that it has been stated to me as usual with my predecessors in the Government of Newfoundland, notwithstanding the restrictions contained in His Majesty's Warrant authorizing the importations into that Island of Bread Flour Pease Indian Corn and Live Stock Pitch Tar and Turpentine from the United States of America which expressly limit that indulgence to the then ensuing Season only, to extend it during the Winter by leaving with the Collector and Comptroller of His Majesty's Customs authority to grant licence for the importation of these articles in the period of their absence.

It did not however appear to me justifiable thus to extend the Licence, and in order to lessen the inconvenience of disappointment I caused public notice to be given that they would not be granted after my departure.

I beg to lay before your Lordship a letter which
which was in consequence addressed to me by the merchants together with a copy of my answer.

If it shall appear proper that these Licences should be granted before my return to Newfoundland I trust that I may beg your Lordship's influence to obtain authority for my sending them out and your Lordship will for give me for requesting an early answer that I may be enabled to prevent as much as possible the evil of suspense.

I am &c. 

The Earl of Liverpool. 

(sgd) J.T. Duckworth.
His Majesty's Ship Antelope.

At Spithead November 25th, 1810.

My Lord,

I am sorry to be obliged at this my first return from Newfoundland to occupy your Lordship's attention with a very unpleasant subject, it is however my duty to lay before your Lordship the inclosed copies of a correspondence which I have had with a committee of the Principal Merchants at St. John's N from whence it will be seen in how violent a degree their dissatisfaction against the Chief Justice which was strongly expressed in the time of my predecessor still continued to prevail.

Your Lordship will from hence be enabled to judge of my sentiments on this subject and in your wisdom will perhaps consider that some decisive interference has now become indispensable.

I am &c.

(sd) J.T. Duckworth.

Earl of Liverpool.
His Majesty’s Ship Antelope.

at Spithead November 25th. 1810.

My Lord,

A difference of opinion having arisen, whether according to the Act of the 49th. of His Majesty’s Chapter 27th. for establishing Courts of Judicature in Newfoundland and for reannexing part of the Coast of Labrador to that Government, it can be considered lawful for the Governor of Newfoundland to institute Surrogate Courts in such part of the Coast of Labrador so reannexed to his Government, I feel it my duty to request that your Lordship will do me the honor to request that instruct me on that subject, and to acquaint me whether I am authorized to extend the influence of a Surrogate Court to that remote part of my Government where from the difficulty of a recourse to the Supreme Court is must be most wanted, or whether in strict application of the terms of the 15th. Section I am restrained from doing it.

I beg leave also to trouble your Lordship on the subject of the present meeting Act. and to request that I may be informed in what degree its provision apply to Newfoundland, so as to admit of the Fishermen
Fishermen enlisting.

The copy of a letter which I found it necessary to write to the Magistrates on this subject is enclosed herewith, and I trust that your Lordship will approve of the line which I have drawn until I am furnished with a better authority than that of my own judgement.

I am &c.

Sir, Earl of Liverpool.

(sc) J.T. Duckworth.

&c. &c.
His Majesty's Ship Antelope.

At Spithead November 25th. 1810.

My Lord,

I have the honor of enclosing to your Lordship a copy of my account current with the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, amounting to the sum of One thousand four hundred and fifty four pounds five shillings and eight pence farthing being for Salaries paid to the Officers of the Courts of Justice, excluding the Salaries of an hundred and one pounds six shillings on the general account, paid to the High Sheriff.

In addition to which I have further drawn upon their Lordship for seven pounds thirteen shillings and six pence being the amount of composition for Rations allowed to the Volunteer Corps on days of drill.

I am &c.

the Earl of Liverpool.

&c. &c.

(sa) J.T. Buckworth.
His Majesty's Ship Antelope.

At Spithead November 25th. 1810.

My Lord,

The two Gentlemen named in the margin being foreigners who have taken the Oaths and been appointed Magistrates in the Island of Newfoundland.

I beg to transmit the necessary certificates under the hand of the Chief Justice of their residence in the Island for seven Years.

I am &c.

The Earl of Liverpool.

&c. &c.

W. Louis Amadeus Anspach.

Charles Augustus Cramer.

(sgd) J.T. Duckworth.
His Majesty's Ship Antelope.

At Spithead November 25th. 1810.

My Lord,

I am sorry to report to your Lordship that the House appropriated at St John's Newfoundland for the residence of the Governor, originally built of very slight materials, has now become so miserably out of repair as to be nearly uninhabitable.

Its care does not indeed appear to have belonged to any military department, and it was in vain that I called upon each I requested the Chief Engineer however to cause a thorough examination to be had and estimate made of the necessary repairs.

I beg to lay the same before your Lordship and also to present a plan Section and elevation of the House.

Your Lordship will forgive me for adding that unless the House be placed in charge of some one of the Military departments, especially as it is kept uninhabited in the Winter, and is therefore likely to suffer the mean time, if it should be found proper to grant the repair now proposed, it is greatly to be desired that time should not be lost, and that the order should be sent out together with such materials as
as cannot be procured in Newfoundland in time to begin in the work in the Spring, in order that the house may be rendered habitable for the Summer.

I beg leave also to enclose a report of the Furniture at present remaining in the house, and a list of what is absolutely wanting to it, and which cannot be procured in the Island.

I am &c.

the Earl of Liverpool.

(sd) J.T. Duckworth.

&c. &c.
His Majesty’s Ship Antelope.

At Spithead November 25th. 1810.

My Lord,

The letters of this date which I have already addressed to your Lordship are of so great a length that I am unwilling to trespass still further upon your time, but it is necessary for me to acquaint your Lordship that I have brought with me plans for the illustration of the subject of the Ships Rooms at St John’s which it may possibly be your Lordships wish to inspect, and I request therefore to be favored with your commands when your Lordship desires that I should wait upon you with them.

With respect indeed to every other part of the Laws under which the affairs of Newfoundland are now regulated it may be considered a matter of indifference to make any alterations in them until happily a Petition and return of Peace shall prove in what measure such alterations are required; but as far as the Ships Rooms at St John’s are to be regarded, your Lordship will forgive me for remarking that the present time appears on many accounts to be the most proper for regulating them finally.

If
If the arrangement of the Ships Rooms were to be deferred until the return of Peace it might be in the power of many interested individuals to throw obstacles in its way, which in the present state of things they could not. I shall hope for your Lordship's commands upon this subject.

I beg leave herewith to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a letter which I thought it right to address to Sir James Craig the Governor of Quebec respecting the Island of Anticosti, which was last Year annexed to the Government of Newfoundland, and at the same time to add that although in fact it may be a matter of importance that the little established alluded to should be kept up in the Island yet that it can in no degree be so considered with respect to Newfoundland.

It is essential certainly is the Trade of Quebec that something should be done to under a dangerous shore in its neighbourhood as little trouble as possible.

It is now in truth a part of the Government of Newfoundland, but naturally it does not belong to it, and as it is also as I understand the Property of three Individuals of Quebec it appears still less to assimilate with Newfoundland where there is
is in fact no private Property.

I take the liberty of requesting
to know your Lordships sentiments upon this subject, and
whether it is permitted me to make any allowance for
the maintenance of the establishment at Anticaste
which is described in my letter to Sir James Craig
or whether from its readier neighbourhood to Quebec
the facility of communication and other considerations,
it would not be more desirable that it should still
be kept up from thence.

I am &c.

His Earl of Liverpool.

(sd) J.T. Duckworth.

&c. &c. &c.
His Majesty's Ship Antelope.
At Spithead November 25th. 1810.

Sir,

I have the honor of enclosing herewith to be laid before the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Foreign Plantations copies of the whole series of my dispatches addressed and on date to the Earl of Liverpool from No.1. to No. 8. inclusive and I hope anxiously that their Lordships will approve of their contents.

I am &c.

William Fawkner Esq.

( sd) T.J. Duckworth.

Will Office.

&c. &c.
Antelope at Spithead.

November 25th. 1810.

My Lord,

As Governor of the Island of Newfoundland I have the honor of transmitting to your Lordship returns of the Ordnance and Ordnance Stores in the Island.

I am &c.

His Right Honorable

St. George Master General of Ordnance.

(signed) J.T. Duckworth.
His Majesty's Ship Antelope.

At Spithead November 25th. 1810.

Sir,

As Governor of the Island of Newfoundland
I beg to transmit to you a general return of the Forces serving there and have the honor to be &c.

I am &c.

(signed) J.T. Duckworth.

His Excellency General

The Right Honorable Sir David

His H.R. Commander in Chief.

&c. &c. &c.
His Majesty's Ship Antelope.

At Spithead November 25th. 1810.

Gentlemen,

I beg leave herewith to transmit to you my account current with the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for the Year ending the 20th. of October, supported by the Vouchers numbered from 1 to 14th. inclusive.

In addition to which I draw also their Lordship for seven pounds thirteen shillings and six pence in favour of James Macbraire Esq Captain Commandant of the St John's Loyal Volunteers being the amount of composition for Rations allowed to that Corps on days of drill, and his receipt is enclosed herewith.

The Sheriff account in support of the balance paid to him is also enclosed, and the usual declaration from the Chief Justice.

I am Sc.

the Commissioners for

(Sealed) J.T. Duckworth.

Revising the Public accounts.
Office of Committee of privy Council
for Trade Whitehall 31st. August 1810.

Sir,

I am directed by the Heads of the Committee of Council for Trade to acquaint you that in consequence of the resignation of Sir Stephen Cattrell I have been appointed to the Office of Secretary to this Board; and I am further directed to request that you will in future address all Official Papers which you may have occasion to transmit for their Lordships information to the Clerk of the Council in waiting at the Council Office Whitehall.

I am & c.

the Governor
Newfoundland.

(signed) Chtwynder.
Office of Committee of privy Council.
For Trade Whitehall 8th. June 1810.

Sir,

A memorial from the Society of Merchants of St John's Newfoundland complaining of the conduct of the Chief Justice of that Island having been presented to the Lords of the Committee of Council for Trade, and Admiral Halloway the late Governor having also made representations against the conduct of the Officer above mentioned in several instances, and particularly in his having delayed the determination of causes until opinions could be obtained from England at a great expense, in allowing the Sheriff to take exorbitant fees at the rate of 15 per cent on intestate, insolvent and Bankrupt estates, and in having issued a rule of Court contrary to the Governors instructions, and striking at his authority and it appearing to their Lordships to be highly expedient that proper enquiry, should be made with a view to ascertain whether these charges are with a well founded I am to request that you will move the Earl of Liverpool to instruct the present Governor of Newfoundland to collect and transmit for the
the information of this Committee the fullest and most accurate information he can obtain on the several points above stated, that their Lordships may be enabled to determine what further proceedings may be necessary in this business.

I am &c.

the Honorable C. Jenkinson.

&c. &c.

Wm. Fawknor.
Wear House near Exeter.

December 21st, 1810.

My Lord,

I have the honour to receive on the 17th. instant your Lordships letter number 4. of the 25th. of August, transmitting to me the copy of a communication received from the Committee of privy Council for Trade stating that a memorial had been presented to their Lordships by the Society of Merchants of St. John's in the Island of Newfoundland complaining of the conduct of the Chief Justice and directing me to take measures for inquiring into the truth of these charges, and collect and transmit for your Lordships information the fullest and most accurate report that I could obtain upon the several points therein stated.

I beg leave to refer your Lordship in the first instance to my letter of the 35th. Ulte. No. 5, from whence your Lordship will perceive that I do not consider myself as competent at the present time to give a decided opinion upon this subject.

I thought it proper when I received from the Merchants their several complaints to make them
then known immediately to the Chief Justice and have no doubt of obtaining his answers to them speedily.

Until my return next year to Newfoundland I shall not have the means of affording any more satisfactory information to your Lordship, but I shall not find the utmost report upon every part in the fullest manner.

In the mean time it is perhaps but justice to the peculiarly difficult situation in which he is placed, that I should state, that I have myself seen nothing in his conduct to give me cause of complaint but that on the contrary, I found him ready at all times to meet my wishes and you his efforts with mine whenever they were required for the general good.

I am &c.

(Handwritten)

The Earl of Liverpool.

&c. &c. &c.

J. T. Buckworth.
Wear House near Exeter.

December 24th, 1810.

My Lord,

The enclosed papers having been transmitted to me from the Supreme Court at Newfoundland, I beg to lay them before your Lordship and to request the honor of your instructions for my proceedings on the subject to which they refer.

I beg to state to your Lordship that in the 15th. article of my instructions from His Majesty are the following terms it is our express will and pleasure that you do not suffer any Commission or warrant Officer of any of our Ships of War, or the master of any Trading Ship of our subjects which shall happen to be within your Government to be deprived of life or limb by the sentence of any Court, but in such case you shall reprieve the criminal until our pleasure be known therein.

I am &c.

The Earl of Liverpool.

(signed) J.T. Duckworth.
Wear near Exeter.

January 18th. 1810.

My Lord,

Having by this Day's Post received the accompanying Documents from the Chief Justice of Newfoundland, which I conclude are intended to refund the charges presented by the late Governor Admiral Holloway and myself from the Society of Merchants at St. John's Newfoundland, I lose not a moment in transmitting them in compliance with your Lordships commands of the 25th. of August last, received in December as the fullest and most accurate answers I can possibly collect upon the several points of which the Merchants complain.

I am &c.

The Earl of Liverpool.

&c. &c.

(sd) J.T. Duckworth.
London March 13th. 1811.
Cook's Hotel Dover Street.

My Lord,

The enclosed papers having been transmitted to me by the Chief Justice of Newfoundland in justification of his conduct, I consider it my duty to lay them before your Lordship as I did those which he sent to me in January, and which I enclosed to your Lordship in my letter of the 18th. of that month No. 11.

I am &c.

To the Earl of Liverpool. (sd) J.T. Duckworth.
London.

April 19th. 1811.

My Lord,

I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your Lordships letter of the 17th. instant accompanying a Warrant issued under the sign manual of His Royal Highness the Prince regent in conformity to an order in Council dated the 23th. Ulto. authorizing me in case of necessity to grant Licences for the importation of Bread &c. from the United States of America into Newfoundland, together with a copy of the Form of Licence to be used in any such case; and I shall be careful to adhere in the strictest manner to the regulations therein stated.

I am &c.

the Earl of Liverpool.

&c. &c.

(sd) J.T. Duckworth.
By His Excellency Sir John Thomas Duckworth K.B. Admiral of the Blue Governor and commander in Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland.

&c.  &c.  &c.

By virtue of Warrant issued under the signal manual of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in conformity to an order in Council dated the twenty eighth Ulto, empowering me to authorize in case of necessity the importation into Newfoundland of Bread, Fleur, Pease, Indian Corn and Live Stock, an also Pitch, Tar Turpentine from any of the territories belonging to the United States of America for the supply of the Inhabitants and Fishermen of the said Island for the ensuing season only, provided that such Bread, Fleur, Pease, Indian Corn, Live Stock, Pitch, Tar and Turpentine so authorized to be imported into the Island of Newfoundland shall not be imported except by British Subjects and in British Built Ships owned by British Subjects and navigated according to Law, provided also that such Ships as aforesaid shall clear out from some of the Ports of the said Island for any of the Ports of the said United States, and that shall be duly licensed for that purpose by me or such other person or persons as shall by an instrument under my hand and seal be authorized to license the same, I do hereby authorize and empower you the
the Collector and Comptroller of His Majesty's Customs at the Port of St John's in the island of Newfoundland or either of you in the absence of the other, or your respective Deputies in your absence to grant such licences in case of necessity from the date hereof until the twentieth day of July next provided that they be granted always in strict conformity to the rules, regulations and restrictions specified above, and each of such Licences to continue in force not exceeding three months from the date thereof.

And I do hereby order and direct that such Licences to be granted by you or any of you shall be of the like nature as near as the circumstances will admit with those which are directed to be granted to Ships clearing out from Great Britain by an Act passed in the twenty-fifth year of His Majesty's reign, intitled An Act for confining for a limited time the Trade between the Ports of the United States of America and His Majesty's Subjects in the Island of Newfoundland, to Bread Fleur, and Live Stock to be imported in none but British Built Ships actually belonging to British Subjects and Navigated according to law clearing out from the Ports of His Majesty's European Dominions and furnished with a Licence according to
to the form hereunto annexed.

And I do hereby strictly charge and command you that in granting of such Licences as aforesaid you take especial care to prevent all fraudulent Trade between the Inhabitants and Fishermen of the said Island of Newfoundland and the People belonging to the territories of the United States of America.

And der so doing this shall be your Warrant.

Given under my hand and seal in London this twentieth day of April One thousand eight hundred and eleven.

His Collector and Comptroller (ad) J.T. Buckworth.
His Majesty's Customs at St John's Newfoundland

Under the command of His Excellency.
We whose names are hereunto subscribed
having been directed by His Majesty's and His Excellency
Sir John Thomas Duckworth K.B. &c. to inspect and report
to His Excellency whither the land bordering on the
Water Side at the Western extremity of the Harbour
of St John's bounded by certain premises now in the
occupation of Henry Radford granted to Branscomb by the
Right Honorable Viscount Muskery Governor of Newfoundland
in the Year one thousand seven hundred and thirty four
is convenient and eligible for drying curing and husbanding
of Fish.

Having carefully inspected into the situation
and extent thereof do give it as our opinion that it
is well adapted for drying and curing Fish, the situation
being more dry than any of the ancient Ships Rooms
in this Port, and that Flakes and other necessary
erections for drying, curing and husbanding of Fish
may be built thereon at a less expense than any of
the places known as Ships Rooms in this Habbour
particularly those in the centre of the Town now
rendered useful for the purpose of drying Fish.

I do hereby certify that the several persons whose names are hereunto subscribed are people who have for many years been extensively concerned in carrying on the Bank Fishery in this Town, some of whom have long been masters of Banking vessels employed in that Trade, that they are well qualified to give the best information on all matters concerning the general that employ that they are all to me personally well known, and that full faith and confidence is due and ought to be given their testimony.

Given under my hand and Seal at
at St John's Newfoundland this
19th. day of October 1710.

(sd) Thomas Coote. J.P.

(sd)
St John's Newfoundland.

October 12th, 1812.

My Lord,

I have had the honor of receiving your Lordships Dispatches numbers 3, 4, 5, and 6, and circulars of the dates and on the subjects undermentioned 25 June 1812 accompanying an order in Council dated 23rd June, 1st August Accompanying an order in Council dated 31st July.

3rd August. Acquainting me that Treaties of peace and Friendship had been signed between His Majesty's and the Emperor of all the Russias; and between His Majesty and the King of Sweden;

And your Lordship may be assured that the utmost attention shall be given to every particular contained in those Dispatches.

I am &c.

To The Earl Bathurst. (sd) J.T. Duckworth.

&c. &c. &c.
Antelope at sea.

November 1st. 1812.

My Lord,

having devoted myself during the Summer to the duties of the Station which His Majesty's has been graciously pleased, to entrust to my charge, and the period having arrived at which it was necessary that those duties should be brought to a close, and that my personal residence at Newfoundland should cease, I beg leave to have the honor of submitting to your Lordship a detailed Report of the events of the season, of the measures which they have disposed me to adopt, and of the actual situation in which I have left the settlement.

Your Lordship will I trust excuse me if I preface this report by assuring you of the increasing anxiety that I have felt to promote the happiness of the Community over which I have presided to anticipate your wishes in all things and to merit the continuance of that approbation with which His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has condescended to honor me.

It had been my attention to have visited this Year the Southern and Western
and Eastern in the first Year of my appointment but the declaration of War on the part of America forced me to abandon that design, and to remain at St John's, from whence only I could have provided effectually for the protection of the Coasts and extensive Fisheries by a due disposition of the Naval Force under my command as well as of the resources of ordnance and Military Stores, which the King's Magazines afforded.

It was evident that on my arrival the American War had excited a degree of alarm which threatened to be ruinous, even of itself to the settlement unless immediately and decisive measures were taken to check it, and to inspire the Inhabitants with something like a reliance upon their own strength, and a perfect confidence in the exertions of the Government.

For many Years Newfoundland had been exempt from the smallest pressure of the War.

No Cruiser of the Enemy had appeared upon its Coasts the Fisheries has been undisturbed and secure as in time of peace, the trade had passed and repassed
repassed without Convoy every Battery on the Eland except those at St John's had been dismantled and certainly there was not on my arrival a second Harbour into which the smallest vessel of War belonging to the Enemy might not have sailed and destroyed the shipping and provision Stores and in short reduced the Inhabitants to a state of little less than absolute Starvation.

In circumstances such as these it became my duty to consider the probability of American Privateers and attempting and beginning to multiply immediately upon the Coast, and attempting its annoyance to every direction, and it was evident to me, unless the Out Harbours were in some measure defended their Inhabitants would forsake them, and fly for security to St John's.

Each of the Principal of those Harbours I have therefore caused to be fortified in the best manner that our means would allow.

Ordnance Ammunition and small Arms were sent to them from St John's and the Inhabitants have at my Imagination laid Platform for the Guns, and raised Breast works at their own expence and
and with their own labour.

A ship of War was dispatched to the Ports Northward of St John's and another to those Southward soon after my arrival with Stores for this Service.

An officer of Engineers was sent in one, and of Artillery in the other to assist the Captains in choosing the most advantageous positions for the Guns, and in explaining to the Inhabitants the best mode of mounting them.

The result has been that respectable temporary batteries fully equal to prevent the approach at least of Privateers are constructed at many of the principal Harbours without any expence to Government.

The Ordnance Ammunition and small Arms are given in charge to the Magistrates, who are answerable for them; and the Oath of Allegiance has been taken by all persons in whose hands they are placed.

But although the defenceless state of the Out Harbours demanded immediate regard that at St John's was at the same time to be considered; and I have foreseen that if the War with
with the United States should continue its situation will become critical in the greatest degree.

The Americans are well acquainted with Newfoundland, it is a possession which they cannot fail to covet and they are aware of the unimportant force that is allotted for its defence.

With this persuasive and in concert with the opinions of Major General Moore Commanding the Troops, I trust that I have used every effort to improve the defence of St John's and to inspire every Individual with a determination to do his utmost in the day of need.

The sea defences of the Port have been repaired and strengthened.

The Corps of Volunteers which had almost ceased to exist has been reestablished in greater numbers and I hope on better principles.

Patrols and Night Watches are regulated among the Inhabitants and arrangements are made for dividing the whole Male Population into Classes for the several services that might be demanded by any emergency that should arise, more especially for assisting to War the Batteries in case of an attack and if necessary for throwing up
up Field Works in the neighbourhood of the Town.

With respect to the Fortifications at St John's I beg leave to enclose a report of the Chief Engineer for your Lordships more particular information.

Your Lordship will perceive that the Forts William and Townshend have recently undergone certain repairs, and it is necessary that the circumstance should be explained.

It has been considered I presume by competent judges that those two Forts were originally ill placed, and all ill constructed and for many years past they have therefore been neglected until now they are little better than ruins, while no other works have been completed in their stead.

Yet the sea faces of those Forts are admirably calculated to command the entrance of the Harbour; and as there were actually guns in Store which might be mounted with peculiar advantage upon them, at no other expense than that of renewing the Platforms and as the Chief Engineer accorded with Major General Moore and myself in the importance of availing ourselves of this additional defence without suffering the loss of so much
much valuable time, as must elapse before it could be possible to procure the approval of estimates from home, we did not hesitate to give that Officer a joint authority to proceed immediately with the Work, and have approved his estimate accordingly for £ 380, 9, 7.

The sum is so comparatively small and the object for which it has been expended so urgent that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury will be disposed I confidently trust to approve of the disbursement.

But on the subject of the Volunteers it is necessary that I should trouble your Lordship with a more circumstantial detail for in this instance I have acted very largely upon my responsibility, and although I am not absolutely without authority for my conduct, yet I am conscious of being dependent in a great measure for its justification upon the light in which your Lordship may be disposed to consider it.

During the first Season of my residence at Newfoundland it was a matter of concern to me to find that the Corps of Volunteers had divided into a mere skeleton, and that the principle on which it had been enrolled was so readily bad as to leave no hope of rendering its services available unless it could be completely
On my return to England I had the honor of representing those circumstances to the Earl of Liverpool, and his Lordship was pleased to express himself in his letter of the 22nd. of June 1811 as follows.

It is to be regretted that encouragement has not been given to the Corps of Volunteers which might have secured the efficient services of so useful a body of Men.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent will be disposed to sanction any amendment of the Regulations at present existing which may provide more effectually for the attendance and discipline of the men, and you are authorized to renew the Clothing of those who at present belong to the Corps or who may be disposed to enter into it, in order to complete its establishment to two hundred men, and to draw Bills upon the Treasury for the amount of the expense so incurred.

You will hold out an assurance to the men that their Clothing shall in future be regularly renewed at the expiration of three years.

On my return to Newfoundland last Year I did not fail to use every persuasion to
to induce the Inhabitants of St John's to come forward with their services but an insurmountable difficulty was occasioned by the absence of the Commanding Officer of the Corps, and the unwillingness, and indeed incapacity of any other member to assume the Direction.

The Commandant was expected daily from England and in waiting his arrival the Season was absolutely lost.

But this Year I found that a sense of the necessity of immediate exertion for the common safety prevailed so generally and that the importance of reestablishing the Volunteers was so strongly felt, that every difficulty was likely to be removed.

It was nevertheless completely evident to me that without a certain expense to Government it would be vain to expect the effectual services of the Men.

But at the same time it was equally obvious that the change in our relation with America would peremptorily require an augmentation of force in Newfoundland, and that the Volunteers properly constituted, and liberally encouraged,
encouraged, would be most essential useful, and
prove burdensome in no comparative degree to the
Country.

I beg leave to lay before your Lordship
a return of the Troops in Garrison at Newfoundland
and it will certainly render more conspicuous
the important acquisition of strength which is
derived from the Volunteers.

I have also the honor of
enclosing a copy of the Rules and Regulations which
I have established for the augmentation and
improvement of the Corps.

Your Lordship will perceive
that it is to consist of five hundred rank and file,
with the proportionate number of officers, that
the officers and Men are to have Pay and Rations
the same as the Troops in Garrison for the days
on which they are on duty; that the Adjutant
Quarter Master, and Sergeant Major are to have
constant pay and rations; that the Corps is liable
to serve in any part of the District of St John's
that it is placed under the orders of the Major General
Commanding, that Four pounds for each man
are
are are allowed for Clothing, and that an assurance is given that this allowance will be renewed at the expiration of three Years.

Four Lordship will do me the honor to peruse the regulations at length and it will be only necessary for me to add, that agreeably with the spirit of the 14th. Article Regimental rules have been formed and subscribed to for enforcing the attendance and discipline of the men, and that by one of those rules it is provided that any member retiring from the Corps in less than eighteen months shall be accountable for his Clothes in their full value of four pounds and in less than three Years in half their value.

I beg to acquaint your Lordship that I have drawn a Bill upon the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury in favour of the Captain Commandant of the Corps for £ 1772,0,0, for the Clothing of Four hundred and forty three men, whom I had the pleasure of seeing fully equipped upon the Field.

Your Lordship is now aware of the motives which have induced me to incur this expense, and will I confidentially trust, acquit me of any precipitation when they are considered fully,
fully, and when the alteration is also weighed.

If I had hesitated to accept
the services of the Volunteers upon the terms
that I have related, they could not have been
obtained at all.

If I had waited for a more
circumstantial authority from home, the Year would
unquestionably have been lost, for I could not
have received it before my departure from New-
foundland.

In the mean time that zeal which was
excited so suddenly among all classes would
infallibly have begun to subside, that consequence
in the Government which is so essential in time of
difficulty would have been diminished, and that
universal alarm which I found on my arrival,
would have continued to prevail.

The sum for clothing the Corps
I have drawn for in my own name upon the Treasury
. Your Lordship will for give my requesting a
recommendation from you that the account may be
allowed.

With respect to the subsistence of the
Corps I have prevaled upon Major General Moore

Commanding
Commanding the Forces, to order that it should be paid through the Assistant Commissary General.

The date of the enrollment is the 13th. of August the Birthday of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and the pay for two months and incidental expenses exclusive of 4511 rations has been not exceeded £ 315,0,0.

It was extremely painful to me to burden Major General Moore with a charge of this nature, but in my absence from Newfoundland I had no other resource than that of availing myself of his assistance.

I have assured the Major General however that it was far from being my intention to impose any undue responsibility upon him, and I beg your Lordship to understand that it is at my particular request that he has taken the charge of providing for the Volunteers, and in the confidence of my explaining the circumstances fully to your Lordship, and procuring whatever instructions may be considered necessary for his future conduct in the performance of this duty.

I cannot refrain from assuring your Lordship of the zealous and cordial assistance that I have found on all occasions from Major General
included in the next Brevet.

With respect to Captain Macbraire the present Commandant of the Volunteers, he has served for some years in the Army with the Rank of Captain, and is certainly better qualified for the appointment than any other person who could be found at St John's.

He commanded the Volunteers in their original state, and on their augmentation expected to be promoted to a higher rank.

I did not consider myself at liberty to acquiesce in his wishes, and he declined to serve any other terms.

He was however prevailed upon by the Officers of the Corps to alter this determination and I assured him that I should refer the matter to your Lordship, and endeavour to obtain for him the Rank of Major.

I have confined myself hitherto to a description of what has been done during the late season to strengthen the defences of Newfoundland, and your Lordship will permit me to proceed to a relation of such particulars as it is my duty to report.

The Fisheries in general have been
been moderately successful, and in some instances remarkably so.

But there has been a want of shipping to export the produce of the Season, and a great proportion of it remains of necessity in the Stores of the Merchants.

This circumstance has been the more regretted as the European Markets have been particularly advantageous and the demand for Fish unusually great.

The want of shipping at Newfoundland has been occasioned chiefly by an unwillingness in the Merchants at home to risk their vessels on the American Coast, and latterly by an expectation that the prizes carried into St John's would be immediately sold.

Some few vessels have been also captured on their passage to Newfoundland, but they have not exceeded six or seven.

I have availed myself of the permission which Lords Liverpool gave me by appointing a gentleman to collect and arrange the Returns of the Fishery and Inhabitants and of the Imports and Exports, and he will receive the remuneration
remuneration which his Lordship sanctioned of thirty pounds a year, to be paid out of the Rents arising from the Ships Rooms.

These returns will be abstracted and transmitted to me by the next Convoy, and I shall have the honor of laying them before your Lordship.

It is pleasing to me to be able to assure your Lordship that the serious apprehension of a scarcity of provisions, which prevailed in the earlier part of the summer, has been completely removed, although their price still continues extremely high.

A large supply of Bread and Flour arrived from Quebec in the beginning of September and an additional quantity came from thence a few days before I sailed.

The difficulty of providing food for the population of Newfoundland is indeed of the most serious nature and the War with the United States having cut off the resources which were derived from thence has tended to increase that difficulty in a peculiar manner.

The relief which has been obtained from Canada for the present season will not in all probability be afforded again, for it is
not to be expected that there can be any over plus for exportation in the produce of that Province, when it is pressed as it probably will be by the War.

Your Lordship will I am persuaded accord with me in the importance of this subject and will permit me to suggest that the Governor might be instructed to encourage the importation of Provisions into Newfoundland from any Ports whatever, and almost under any circumstances.

I have the honor of submitting to your Lordship a copy of my account current with the Treasury for the sums which I have drawn this Year.

The payments not included in the annual estimate provided for by Parliament are the four first in the account and the last.

Your Lordship will perceive that for all the former I have quoted the sanction of the Earl of Liverpool.

It was conveyed to me in his Lordships letters of the 23rd. of June 1811 and 6 of June 1812, but I beg leave to remark that all the payments sanctioned in those letters have
have not been made, and that some will still remain to be made by my successor.

The Churches at Fortune Bay and Nortons Harbour are not yet completed, nor the repairs of the Church at Trinity and I have not therefore advanced the sums which were allowed for them.

With respect to the last item in the account for the Clothing of the Volunteers it is unnecessary for me to add any thing upon this subject after the long detail with which I have been compelled to trouble your Lordship already.

The next account which I beg to present to your Lordship is that of the Rents arising from the Ships Rooms which were let on lease last Year, in consequence of the Act of Parliament which was passed relating to them.

The three principal payments which are specified in this account have been as it were for the purpose of carrying the Act into effect.

Two large and convenient Wharfs have been erected for the general accommodation, and the principles upon which they are given up
up to the Public are established by the Declarations of which I have the honor of enclosing Copies.

The Fourth sum for which I am debtor in the account is that of twenty pounds paid to Mr Chancey the Surveyor of Lands.

A permanent Salary has now been provided for him in the annual Estimate of twenty five pounds per annum, but as it did not commence until this Year, and he was employed by me during the whole of the last Summer in making Plans of the Ships Rooms for the purpose of letting them I trust that your Lordship will accord with me in the propriety of the remuneration that I have allowed.

The sum of Five Pounds paid for a wretched object of charity your Lordship would not desire to be accounted for very minutely but I beg leave to explain that the Old Man to whom it is granted was permitted by Governor Sir Erasmus Gower to build a Hut on a spot of Ground a short distance out of the Town, and that he has been unable to avail himself of the indulgence.

I have therefore been induced to grant him this little relief as an equivalent and I entreat of your Lordship that it may be continued
continued to him in the shape of an annuity.

He is seventy five years of age
Blind infirm and wholly dependent upon charity.

Your Lordship will perceive that the Balance remaining in my hands is £ 264,15,0,
and with your Lordships permission it shall be paid over to my successor.

Yet your Lordship will remark that no allowance whatever is made to the Secretary for his labour in collecting these Rents and for that which the disposal of the Ships Rooms has otherwise occasioned him, and I am strongly disposed to suggest the propriety of such remuneration.
The Business of the Government at Newfoundland is encreased so considerably that a permanent addition to the Secretary's Salary might be made judiciously by an allowance of five per cent upon the collection of these Rents.

I have also the honor of enclosing a third account current being for the Government Rents derived from lands leased in the vicinity of St John's by my predecessors.

The payments in this account were all sanctioned before my appointment to the Government except those of £ 15, each to Mr Stephenson and Mr Haskins which Lord Liverpool was
was pleased to allow at my recommendation last Year.

The Balance on this account of £ 90,16,10, will also unless your Lordship may direct otherwise be paid into the hands of my Successor.

With respect to the future appropriation of the Rents of the Ships Rooms your Lordship will forgive me for repeating an opinion which I had the honor to state last Year to the Earl of Liverpool, that a certain portion of them would be bestowed most wisely in bettering the situation of the Magistrates.

The appointments of the Senior Magistrate of St John's amount at present to £ 230 a Year from one hundred of which as it is derived from Great Britain the property Tax is deducted.

I should be disposed to suggest to your Lordship the propriety of increasing this Salary to the clear amount of Four Hundred Pounds per annum by an allowance of eighty from the Rents.

The two Junior Magistrates receive each fifty pounds a Year, and I am anxious that fifty should be added to each of those Salaries from the same source.
The High Sheriff received £ 225 a Year after
deducting the property Tax and it is desirable that
seventy five should be added to his Salary in the
same manner.

It is of great importance to the
preservation of good order at St John's that the
Magistrates should be perfectly independent, and
I am not aware of a possibility of bestowing
the sums that I have specified in any manner
which would be more likely to prove really useful.

Your Lordship will perceive
that two thirds only have been yet paid of the
expence of building the Public Wharfs; but the
receipts of next Year, added to the present balance
will than defray the remainder, and at the same
time admit of the proposed allowances.

I should remark however
that a small additional expence must be incurred
in the event of Fishing Shipd arising for
Sheds and some other conveniences which ought to be
provided for them, in order to fulfil in every
particular the intention of the Act.

I beg leave to recommend
to your Lordship Mr George Williams of Bay Roberts
and Mr Abraham Ackerman of Bonavista who have
for many Years been accustomed to read the

Prayers
Prayers of the Church of England very regularly to the Inhabitants of their respective Vicinities in order that an allowance of £ 15 a Year may be made to each of them as it is in the instances of the three persons named in my account current.

No. 3.

I beg to represent to your Lordship that it would be a great advantage to the Mission of St John's if a space of ground of about twenty acres were attached to it in the nature of Glebe, to go with the Church, and be enjoyed by the Missionary for the time being.

There is not at present any ground whatever in the possession of the Clergyman, and it is so necessary to his comfort that your Lordship will not perhaps see any objection to my successor being authorized to grant this indulgence.

The Chief Magistrate has an enclosure of a few acres of ground a mile or two from St John's and has requested permission to add to it about ten acres and ahalf described in a Plan which he has presented to me I could wish to recommend this request to your Lordships favorable consideration.

I had the honor of suggesting
last Year the expediency of erecting a Jail at St John's for Debtors.

This has really become an essential want, and I am disposed to renew my request that it may by allowance I have caused a Plan and estimate to be made of a Building which might serve for this purpose and for a Dwelling House for the High Sheriff for the time being.

The amount of the estimate in consequence of the present excessively high price of Lumber is fifteen hundred pounds.

I would not do more than request of your Lordship that the succeeding Governor might be directed to ascertain, before his return from Newfoundland at the expiration of the next Season, whether that sum could be defrayed conveniently from the rents, and if so to form such contract as might best accord with his means.

The High Sheriff has pointed out to me a clause in the Mutiny Act for the present Year by which it is lawful for a Court Martial to sentence Soldiers to imprisonment in any common Gaol or Prison and which directs that a proper place shall be provided for the confinement of persons so sentenced under penalty of an hundred pounds.

He
He represents to me that no such proper place could be found in the present Gaol for more than one or two at the same time and that he should be embarrassed if he were called upon to do more.

On this subject I beg leave to add that the 99th Section of the same Act provided that any person harbouring a Deserter shall be liable to a Penalty of £ 20; and that it is awarded then that the Offender shall be committed to the common Gaol and remain there without Bail or mainprize for the space of six Months.

A case in point has arisen this Year. A person had been sentenced to pay the Fine for harbouring a Deserter from the Nova Scotia Regiment.

He was unable to pay it and was therefore imprisoned and in conformity with directions which had been given by Governor Sir Erasmus Gower permitting the Magistrates to allow such option to persons imprisoned for small offences he would have been allowed to Volunteer for the King’s Service.

To this the commanding officer of the Regiment
Regiment objected, as being contrary to the Spirit of the Act; and the Magistrates then desired me to instruct them with respect to the Prisoners subsistence.

There are no Funds which can be properly applied to the purpose for those arising within the District of St John's are unequal already to its expenses, and a Bill has usually been drawn upon the Treasury to liquidate the Balance.

It is perhaps to be desired that the punishment might be commuted, and that it might be at the discretion of the Magistrates to permit offenders of this class to enter for the King's Service, either in the Army or Navy and as cases of this kind are likely to arise so frequently, it would be a considerable relief to the Magistrate so of St John's if your Lordship would be pleased to cause the point to be decided, that is to say, whether it is or is not lawful to commute the punishment, and if it is not at whose expense the prisoner is to be subsisted.

I have the honor of transmitting to your Lordship a memorial from
from the merchants and Housekeepers of St John’s praying that the duty latly imposed upon Rum imported into Newfoundland may be removed.

In forwarding this memorial it is however my duty to remark that I have not been able to discover any reason whatever for complying with its prayer.

It is proper that I should report to your Lordship that in consequence of a strong recommendation from the Magistrates which appeared to be particularly reasonable, I have been induced this Year to increase the number of Licensed Publicans in St John’s from thirty six to fifty one. It had been the regulation that Publicans paid eight Guineas each for their Licences annually and were also bound to to the duty of Constables.

Their private utmost and public duty were incompatible, and the Police was not therefore well conducted.

It was also found impossible to check the practice of selling liquor without Licence, and the Houses in which it prevailed were the
the most disorderly because the Magistrates
had no immediate cognizance of them.

By the Plan which is now
adopted the Licences are advanced to twelve
instead of eight Guineas. The Publicans are
exempt from being Constables, and twelve efficient
Constables are hired, with Salaries of £ 25 a
Year each to be paid out of the Fund which the
Licences create, and it is required that these
Constables should also perform the duty of
Night Patrols.

I beg leave to submit to your
Lordship a correspondence which took place between
the respective officers of Ordnance at Newfoundland
and my self on the subject of the lately dismantled
Post at Placentia.

The letter which I addressed to
them, and of which I transmit a copy contains
my sentiments so fully, that I need not trouble
your Lordship with additional remarks.

The next enclosure is a memorial
which I beg to forward to your Lordship in behalf
of two persons claiming compensation for Lands in
Newfoundland of which as they represent they have
been deprived by Government.

It has appeared to me
however
however to be impossible to enter into the merits of this memorial without stirring up innumerable difficulties.

I have the honor of representing to your Lordship that in proceeding to let the Ships Rooms on lease conformably with the late Act of Parliament two instances of encroachment were found so palpable as to render it impossible for me to avoid noticing them; and I cannot caused to be signified to the two Individuals concerned that they would be permitted to return the Buildings but that they would be required to pay a Rent for the ground ratable with that which had been given for the adjoining spaces.

This has however been resisted on their parts and the plan which they set up is that of the length of time in which they have been in quiet possession.

It will be for your Lordship to decide whether it is expedient to compel these people, and if so by what means.

And in order to enable your Lordship to form a clearer judgment, of the matter
matter and to obtain a legal opinion if it should seem necessary I beg to transmit the cases as they have been stated by the Clerk of Arraigns.

It is proper for me to add that any legal process at St John's in cases of this nature must inevitably be defeated by the jealousy which is excited universally and invariably by the agitation of any question that conveys a doubt as to the tenure by which property in Newfoundland is held.

This feeling alone, independent of other considerations would prevent the possibility of obtaining an impartial jury, and the Right of the Crown would in fact be placed in the hands of men who conceive it their own immediate interest to oppose them.

I am &c.

To The Earl Bathurst. (sd) J.T. Duckworth.

One of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State.

&c. &c. &c.
Antelope at Sea,

No. 1.

October 30, 1811.

My Lord,

In my report of last year I stated to Your Lordship that an enterprise had been planned in the hope of obtaining a communication with the Native Indians, and I mentioned also the selection that I had made of Lieutenant Buchan Commander of His Majesty's schooner Adonis for the management of it. His report which I beg leave to present to Your Lordship will afford very amply the means of appreciating his conduct.

I will relate briefly the circumstances that led to a result which I grieve to say has been unhappy.

Mr. Buchan went in the Autumn to the entrance of the River of Exploits, and there anchored his vessel which soon became fixed in ice. He then began his march into the interior, accompanied by twenty-four of his crew and three guides, and havingpenetrated about an hundred and thirty miles, discovered some wigwams of the Indians. He surprised them, and their inhabitants, in number about seventy five persons, became in his power. He succeeded in overcoming their extreme terror, and soon established a good understanding with them. Four of the men among whom was their Chief, accepted his invitation to accompany him back to the place, where, as he explained to them, by signs, he had left some presents which he designed for them. The confidence by this time existing was mutual, and so great that two of
Mr. Buchan's people Marines requested to remain with the Indians till his return with the presents. They were allowed to do so, and Mr. Buchan set out on his return to his depot with the remainder of his party and the four Indians.

They continued together for about six miles to the fire place of the night before, when the Chief declined going any further, and with one of his men, took leave, directing the other two to go on with Mr. Buchan.

They did so until they came near the place to which they were to be conducted, when one of them became panic-struck, and fled, beckoning to his companion to follow him. But the tempers of the two men were different, the latter remained unshaken in his determination and with a cheerful countenance, and an air of perfect confidence in the good faith of his new allies, he motioned to them with his hand to proceed, disregarding his companion, and seeming to treat with scorn Mr. Buchan's invitation to depart freely if he choose to do so. Soon after the Party reached their rendezvous, slept there one night, loaded themselves with the presents, and returned again towards the Wigwams. The behaviour of the Indian remained always the same. He continued to show a generous confidence, and the whole tenor of his conduct was such as Mr. Buchan could not witness without a feeling of esteem for him. On arriving at the wigwams they were found deserted, which threw the Indian into great alarm.

Many circumstances determined Mr. Buchan to let him be at perfect liberty and this treatment revived his
his spirits. The Party spent the night at the Wig-wams and continued their route in the morning; they had proceeded about a mile when, being a little in advance before the rest, the Indians seem to start suddenly backward; he screamed loudly and fled with a swiftness that rendered pursuit in vain. The cause of flight was understood when Mr. Buchan the next moment beheld upon the ice, headless and pierced by the arrows of the Indians the naked bodies of his two marines.

An alarm had, it is evident, been given by the savage who deserted our party at the rendezvous and it is to be supposed that to justify his conduct in so deserting he had abused his countrymen with a tale which had excited them to what, perhaps, they considered a just retaliation. Thus ended an enterprise which on a perusal of Mr. Buchan's narrative Your Lordship will I am sure pronounce to have been conducted with an ability zeal preserverence and manly endurance of extreme hardship, which merited a better success. It will not be necessary for me to enter into a discussion of the policy of all the particular measures which Mr. Buchan adopted under the many arduous circumstances that he had to contend with indispensable too, as it generally was, that he should decide instantaneously, and reasonable as it must be considered to admit that all his decisions must have been influenced in some measure, and very justly too by his observation of the feelings of those around him as well as by his own. But it is incumbent upon me to avow frankly my approbation of his conduct
in a general view. He has undergone extreme toil, he has encountered the rigours of a most severe climate, and although his constitution is naturally robust, his health has been impaired naturally. When the spring became sufficiently advanced Mr. Buchan returned with his vessel to St. John's, and I found him there on my arrival. He represented to me that in the summer there might be a means of falling in with natives, more easily for that than they came down the Rivers to fish and to hunt and he requested therefore to be allowed to go again in search of them.

I sent him immediately and he returned to me a few days later before I sailed. He saw the recent traces which the savages had left, but he had been too late to come up with them. He is persuaded that if it had been earlier in the season he should have met with the Indians and has requested my permission to remain in the country during the winter in order to be in readiness to take the earliest of the next spring to go in quest of them again.

I have acquiesced readily in his proposal, and have given him orders which are altogether discreet ordinary, except that he is strictly forbidden to risk the lives of his own people or his own. Mr. Buchan's account has greatly added to the interest which I have always had in the attainment of this object, for he has found very convincing proof that we had greatly underrated the numbers of the Indians.

They cannot amount he thinks in the whole to less than three thousand persons. As an appendix to his narrative I have enclosed also for Your Lordship's information his report of a second journey which he attempted as soon as his people had rested from
from the fatigue of the first; and also some Notes that he left with me.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

To

The Earl of Liverpool,
&c. &c. &c.
Antelope, at Sea,

No. 2.

October 28th, 1811

My Lord,

The papers which are enclosed with this letter relate to the complaints preferred by the Merchants of St. John's against the Chief Justice.

I beg leave to refer to the Minute of the Lords of the Committee of Council on this subject, which Your Lordship sent to me before I left England. As soon as I arrived at St. John's I called the Chief Justice and the complainants before me, and caused their Lordship's minute to be read to them, and delivered a copy to each party, requiring them to observe in what instances their Lordships had come to a decision upon the complaints, and to abstain from recurring to them; and directing the Merchants on the one hand and the Chief Justice on the other to prepare the fullest statements in their power in support of and in answer to the remaining heads of complaint. These were first, on the subject of Danson's Estate and of the proceedings as to the effects of the two Reardons. The matter was not last year sufficiently before their Lordships to enable them to form a correct opinion; and in pursuance of their Lordship's direction to me to make further enquiries.

I have caused the Chief Justice to give the most detailed account of the two cases, and the merchants have also given their statement. On the subject of the Sheriff's conduct, enquiry would be now in vain; for it is two years since he relinquished his
his appointment and went to reside in America. The next charge that remained undecided that which related to the Chief Justice's conduct in the matter of Thompson their Lordships were pleased to direct that I should examine and report my opinion on the subject to His Majesty's Government. Accordingly I have examined into it minutely by questioning separately all the Persons who had any share in the transaction and have no hesitation in declaring it to be my opinion that the Chief Justice acted upon the worthiest motives and that he was not influenced in any degree by any other than those that he has avowed. With respect to the Probate Court I had the honour of reporting to Your Lordship last year an alteration that I had made in its establishment and the merchants wave a discussion that would now be superfluous. It is necessary for me to add however that I did not ake that alteration from any disapprobation of the manner in which the business of the Probate Court had been conducted, but simply because I considered a fixed salary of Forty Pounds a year to be an adequate remuneration for the labour, whereas a moiety of t he Fees had been befor allowed, and that moiety amounted to an hundred.

And now Your Lordship has perhaps a right to expect from me a candid expression of my sentiments on this subject generally. The Chief Justice of Newfoundland as far as my intercourse with him has enabled me to judge is a person who will not be influenced in the discharge of his duty by the approbation or disapprobation of any mag. Of his legal
Mugal knowledge I can form no opinion, but of his abilities I am far from thinking poorly; and a salary of seven hundred pounds a year is not likely to induce a more competent person to accept the office. He is certainly a man of great diligence and application but he had by an irritability of temper and a certain rudeness of manner which are natural to him and by separating himself entirely from the Society of the People of the Town, rendered himself in the last degree unpopular; and however circumspect his future conduct may be in the discharge of his public duties, he will never be approved by them. How far, in the cases now under discussion he may have been to blame, it is extremely difficult for me to know. They occurred chiefly before I came to the Government and there is scarcely any person capable of giving information relative to them who is not influenced in some measure by a feeling of party. The complaints are urgent for a public examination of evidence upon the spot, alleging that they are not equal to a discussion with the Chief Justice on paper; that his representations are filled with falsehood, and that there is no other method of proceeding effectually than that of a public enquiry, at which they may be able to bring forward their witnesses upon Oath. Your Lordship will perceive from my correspondence with the complainants that they refer to themselves to transmit additional statements. I have shown to them the defence of the Chief Justice which is enclosed herewith, and they aver that it is filled with misrepresentation.

If Your Lordship or the Lords of the Committee
of Council should be pæased to require from me more minute information in this matter; I beg to be honoured with your commands; but it is my duty to state distinctly in this report that in whatever instances his judgment may have erred I have not found in any part of the Chief Justice's conduct the most remote appearance of corruption, nor when I have called upon the complainants, have they ventured to charge him with it in any instance. As your Lordship will perceive that the accompanying statements are not of a nature to admit of my sending duplicates to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade, I take the liberty of requesting that they may be forwarded when Your Lordship has done with them.

I have &c.,

( sd) J.T. Buckworth.

To

The Earl of Liverpool.

&c. &c. &c.
Antelope at Sea,

No. 3.

October 29, 1811.

My Lord,

An occurrence took place a few days before I left Newfoundland which it is my duty to report to Your Lordship in detail. The enclosed papers as far as they extend will shew the matter I hope distinct. It is necessary for me to preface them however by stating that on my first arrival at Newfoundland the Major General Commanding the Troops represented to me the great difficulties under which he had to contend, occasioned by a total want of specie in the Island. I deemed it proper to send a vessel of War to Halifax immediately with the Deputy Paymaster General to endeavour to procure a relief, but the Paymaster was not able to raise more than nine hundred pounds with which he returned, and soon afterwards I was induced to issue a general recommendation to the Trade, which was immediately adopted, to raise the price of the English bank token to Five shillings and sixpence, and the Spanish Dollar to five shillings. Major General Moore represented as a serious impediment to the raising of Cash that two Government Officers in different departments were authorised to propose for it independently of each other, the Assistant Commissary General, and the Storekeeper of the Ordnance. Your Lordship will now perceive by a reference to the enclosures the nature of the proceedings upon which I have to report. Mr. Stewart, the Deputy Paymaster General brought certain charges against
against the Storekeeper of the Ordnance. Mr. John Houston, and I felt it my duty to undertake the task of enquiring into them on the spot. In the course of the Examination however the Clerk of the Cheque in the Ordnance Department was called in, and shewed, confidentially, a letter which he had prepared for sending to his Board, desiring leave to go to England, to produce specific charges of peculation against the storekeeper. This letter was accompanied by an explanatory memorandum in which several instances were noted of false vouchers having been used. It was necessary for me at this point to close the examination that I had undertaken. Its object had been to ascertain whether the Deputy Paymaster General had sufficient ground for his complaints to authorise a formal reference of them to the Board of Ordnance, and if not, to afford to the Storekeeper on the other hand the means of his immediate vindication. But when the Ordnance Officer whose peculiar duty is to act as a check upon the Storekeeper comes forward as a voluntary accuser the affair is taken out of my hands and rests in those of the person who is of course the most proper to conduct it. If Mr. Houston is correct in his belief that he is at liberty to be engaged in Trade, it is a circumstance very much to be deplored, for it is certainly incompatible with the public interest, neither will I hesitate to add that on many accounts it is urgently necessary that a formal and duly authorised enquiry should be instituted into
into the proceedings of the Storekeeper with the least possible delay.

I have etc.,

(Sgd) J.T. Duckworth.

The Earl of Liverpool,
&c. &c. &c.
My Lord,

I have the honour of transmitting to Your Lordship the Report of Fortifications at St. John's Newfoundland, made to me by the Commanding Engineer.

Your Lordship will I trust forgive me for requesting earnestly your attention to this subject.

I took the liberty of hazard ing last year some observations upon it, and although my profession does not qualify me for the duties of Engineer, yet I have been so strongly impressed with the impolicy of the system of fortifications which has been pursued in my Government and the enormity of the expense that I cannot refrain from expressing my hope that it may be considered by those who are better fitted than I am for the discussion of such a subject.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. DUCKWORTH.

To

The Earl of Liverpool.
Antelope at Sea,
October 31, 1811.

No. 5.

My Lord,

I beg leave to bring before Your Lordship a subject which has occasioned considerable discussion at various periods without ever having been satisfactorily put at rest. I mean that which relates to what is called Ordnance property in Newfoundland, or in other words the space of ground that is comprised between Fort William and Fort Townshend.

In the year 1773 on the completion of the latter Fort, which was called the new Fort, it appears that the Governor at the instance of the Chief Engineer who declared it to be immediately necessary for the safety and accommodation of that Fort, directed the land in question to be cleared of all buildings and fences, and ordained that it should thenceforth be wholly reserved for the King's use.

A copy of the Document in which this Ordination was made I have the honour to enclose herewith and this Document it has been usual to term a grant to the Ordnance.

However, the circumstances now existing are these: Both the Forts referred to in that Document are untenable, and in a dismantled state; and monies are no longer granted to keep them in repair. The most considerable part of the ground about them has been let on lease by the Governors Gambier and Gower, and some of it has been cultivated at very great expense, yet not in such a manner as would interfere with the operations of the Forts, even were they in a dismantled state.

But the line of Fortification at St. John's has
has been entirely changed, and in consequence thereof the late Governor Admiral Holloway granted to the Master General of the Ordnance the ground about Signal Hill.

Under these circumstances and considering the great embarrassment that a Governor of Newfoundland must feel while this uncertainty of title remains, it is my duty to express to Your Lordship my earnest wishes that a decision may be formed by which the title to this ground may be ascertained unquestionably; that is to say, whether the Document which I have enclosed is or is not in the present state of things to be considered as giving to the Ordnance a right of claim to that part of the ground in question which yet continues vacant.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

To

The Earl of Liverpool.
Extract from the Records of Newfoundland.

Enclosed in the foregoing.

By His Excellency Robert Duff, Esquire, Governor
and Commander in Chief. &c.

Captain Pringle, Chief Engineer in this Island
having represented to me that it is immediately
necessary for the safety and accommodation of the new
Fort now completing for the defence of this Harbour
that the ground lying within the following boundaries
should be forthwith cleared and laid void, viz: From
the old Garrison along the Road leading to King's
Bridge (on the River falling into Kitty Vitty Pond)
from thence westward as far as where the Gully which
comes from Parson's Pond is crossed by the Path
called "Mary Meeting Bye path" leading to Freshwater
where a line is carried southward to Wakeham's Barn
Or Fenneywell Path, from which place a direction is
made by Posts erected to the Eastward till they join
the old Garrison at the Southern Boundary.

I hereby order and direct that all persons
having fences or any sort of buildings within the
aforementioned limits do forthwith remove in removing
the same, or in default thereof Captain Pringle is
hereby authorized to direct his people to demolish
any fences or buildings which may endanger the said
Fort situate as aforesaid. And if it shall hereafter
appear that any person or persons have erected any
buildings or made the least encroachment on the
ground aforesaid (which henceforth is to be
wholly reserved for the King's use) they shall have
such buildings or fences pulled down, and suffer a
severe
severe penalty for erecting the same.

Hereof all persons are to take notice, and govern themselves accordingly.

Given under my hand his 14th October 1775.

(Sd) ROBE T DUFF.

By His Excellency's command
(countersigned) W. Cocks.

A true Extract,

(Sd) R.C. SCONE.
Antelope at Sea,

No. 6.

November 1st, 181...

My Lord,

In pursuance of the Act passed in the last session of Parliament for enabling the Governor of Newfoundland to dispose of certain vacant spaces called Ships Rooms, situated in the centre of the town of St. John's, I beg to inform Your Lordship that I have caused those vacant spaces to be let in lots by public auction on leases of thirty years, renewable on a fine certain of the amount of three years rent at the expiration of that term, for one further term upon the same condition.

A form of the leases I have the honour of enclosing herewith.

The annual rent of the ground so disposed of will amount to about sixteen hundred pounds a year, and I trust that it is not likely to be diminished by the failure of any of the tenants.

A considerable revenue is thus formed which may be the means of providing in future for the most essential wants of Newfoundland and of lessening at the same time the expense with which Parliament has been hitherto burdened on account of its civil establishment. The two chief considerations which I would beg to mention to Your Lordship are the bettering the condition of the Magistracy and the rendering that of the Missionaries such as would induce a greater number to go out.

With respect however to the first year's rent which will become due on the 1st of September next, its appropriation will be indispensable to the properly carrying into effect the Act under which the
the Ships Rooms have been leased; as well as perhaps a part of the second year's rent. A reference is made in that Statute to a portion of land at the upper part of the harbour as being more eligible for curing fish, and I have found it necessary to render that land as commodious as it is possible by ordering a wharf to be projected from it, and a second wharf to be built also in one of the Ships Coves.

The Chief Justice, the Chief Magistrate and the Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court are accordingly charged with forming a contract for building those wharves upon the most advantageous terms that can be procured.

Your Lordship will perhaps feel a degree of surprise that so small a space of ground should have let for so considerable a sum, but it is a proof of the measure in which the wealth of St. John's has increased.

There has not been a little difficulty in ascertaining in some instances in which encroachments have been made, what are the exact boundaries of the Rooms, and these cases I have allowed to stand over until the return of the Governor to Newfoundland. The persons in occupation will then be required to exhibit proofs of their title and if they are not able to shew any other than that of the occupation itself, I trust that Your Lordship will approve of their being compelled to pay a rent for the ground that they may be suffered to retain.

It is not without some hesitation that I now proceed to mention to Your Lordship a subject which
which I should presume has not remained so long without having undergone discussion. I mean that of the policy of imposing a light duty upon Rum imported into Newfoundland from the West Indies; for instance of sixpence per gallon. I think that I have ascertained unquestionably that the importation of that spirit would not be lessened in the most trifling degree by such a measure and the produce of the Tax might be fairly calculated to average from six to nine hundred thousand pounds a year; a sum which would more than defray the whole civil expenditure of the settlement.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. DUCKWORTH.

To

The Earl of Liverpool.
Antelope, at Sea,

November 2nd, 1811.

My Lord,

In pursuance of the commands of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent communicated to me by your Lordship, I have had a lively satisfaction in granting this year to the Roman Catholic Church of Newfoundland the right of burying its own dead; and I beg to assure your Lordship that it has been received with an expression of the warmest gratitude.

I have added also to the grant a spot of ground for an exclusive Burial Ground; for the more perfect accommodation of that Church in the exercise of this its new privilege.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. DUCKWORTH.

To

The earl of Liverpool.
Antelope at Sea,

No. 2.

November 3rd, 1811.

My Lord,

Referring to Your Lordship's letter of the 8th of June I beg to acquaint Your Lordship that I did not fail to observe your recommendation; and to give directions accordingly that Matthew Reed to whom His Royal Highness the Prince Regent was graciously pleased to grant a free pardon for the capital offence might be prosecuted for the very aggravated misdemeanour of which it appeared that he had been also guilty, but the Bill was thrown out by the Grand Jury, and the prisoner was, of necessity, released. His punishment had not, however, been light, for he had been confined in gaol during the whole winter under his awful sentence; and I am happy to add that he appeared to be sincerely and deeply penetrated with the enormity of his crime. The proceedings of the Court of Assize held on the 2nd of September last are enclosed herewith.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

To

The Earl of Liverpool.

&c. &c. &c.
Antelope at Sea,

November 4th, 1811.

My Lord,

I have the honour of transmitting to Your Lordship my account current with the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for the present year for Bills drawn upon their Lordships for the payment of the Civil Salaries at Newfoundland amounting with the balance on the general account of the Island to One thousand five hundred and eleven pounds three shillings.

Your Lordship will perceive that I have not yet drawn for any of the sums for which Your Lordship gave me authority to draw in your letter of the 22nd of June for the purposes for which I had requested.

With respect to the Church at St. John's subscriptions have been raised in the Town for enlarging and improving it to the amount of three hundred pounds. The whole will be complete this year, and I have engaged to pay towards it on my return the Two hundred and fifty pounds which are allowed.

The same may be said of the Churches at Trinity and Greenspond, for which the sums allowed are eighty pounds, and an hundred pounds. The inhabitants of both places have contributed very liberally.

The Gaol at Burin is nearly complete, but it appears that the sum which Sir Erasmus Gower was authorised to engage to contribute towards it was an hundred and twenty five pounds instead of an hundred, and I beg Your Lordship's permission to pay the first mentioned sum on my return.

At
At Fortune Bay there has been a sincere dis-
position to procure the advantages of a religious
establishment and as that district is extensive and
the population much scattered, they have resolved to
erect two small places of worship in different situa-
tions and have agreed to raise among themselves for that
purpose six hundred pounds, in which case, according
to the proportion that Your Lordship directed, I
shall be authorised to add four hundred pounds to
that sum.

Your Lordship will I am sure have a satis-
faction in perceiving that a regard for religion and
good order prevails, and continues to increase in
Newfoundland.

At Brigus in Conception Bay two individuaeks
have lately completed a Church at the expense of Seven
hundred pounds; and rely for their indemnification
upon the subscriptions of the neighbourhood; an
application has been made to me to contribute towards
it, and I shall be thankful to Your Lordship for
permission to do so on my return in the sum of One
hundred pounds.

Subscriptions have been raised at Morton's
Harbour amounting to upwards of an hundred and
sixty pounds for building a Church there, and a plan
has been laid before me which I should in like manner
request of Your Lordship to be allowed to forward
by contributing an hundred pounds.

Besides the Account Current already
alluded
alluded to I beg enclose for Your Lordship's infor-
mation my account for rents received at Newfoundland
during the period of my Government; by which it will
be perceived that a Balance remains in my hands of
Seventy four pounds five shillings and ten pence.

With respect to the Balance of last year,
which Your Lordship authorised me to pay over to the
Fire Society, I have not after giving up to them the
amount of the Fines levied under their regulations,
found their wants to require so large an aid, and have
not given ire than sixt pounds, for which the Society
is very grateful and I have paid twenty pounds to Mr.
PW. Carter the Deputy Naval Officer at St. John's
as an encouragement for procuring accurate returns of
the Fishery.

A part of the balance on this account next
year, I should be greatly disposed to recommend to
Your Lordship the applying towards a very excellent
project that was set on foot immediately before my
departure last season; the building of a Public
Hospital. The Grand Jury and Principal inhabitants
of St. John's have agreed to raise a sum of money by
subscription, a small assessment is to be levied in
the District, and I have set apart a sufficient space
of ground in a proper situation for such a building.

It is to be begun immediately, and indeed
there are few places in which an establishment of such
a nature is more to be desired than in St. John's.

The Governor for the time being is to be the
President of the Hospital, and to have the right of
recommending
recommending Patients.

An annual allowance of Fifteen pounds a year from the Rents has been hitherto made to Mr. Charles Bellings for performing Divine Service at Fogo, after the form of the established Church, and two instances have been presented to me this year which I beg to recommend to Your Lordship for the same encouragement that of Mr. William Stephenson a very respectable person at Morton Harbour (to which place I have before referred in this letter) and the other that of Mr. John Haskins at Twillingate.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

To

The Earl of Liverpool,

&c. &c. &c.
Antelope, at Sea,

November 5th, 1811.

My Lord,

I have the honour of transmitting to Your Lordship a return of the Imports and Exports at Newfoundland for the present year, and a return of the Fishery and Inhabitants of the Outports.

The Deputy Naval Officer at St. John's reported to me the impracticability of making an accurate account for that District, before I sailed, as the vessels from the North Shore had not arrived, and the catch could not be ascertained. His report will be sent home by the convoy which sails this month from Newfoundland, and I shall have the honour to forwarding it to Your Lordship.

The catch of Fish has fallen somewhat shorter than usual, and it is to be accounted for in the following manner. The fish have been remarked to be more numerous in some seasons on the Shores of the Island, and in others upon the Banks; but they are seldom known to abound equally in both situations.

It has happened this year that they have been particular so on the Banks, where the Fishery is being carried on by very few; and that they have failed in proportion upon the shore, where it is generally pursued.

On this subject I am desirous of suggesting to Your Lordship that in the present mode of collecting the information relative to the Fishery there is great uncertainty, and I fear that the Reports are in general not very accurate, because those who make them are not in any manner interested to render them so. I should therefore be much inclined to request of
of Your Lordship to be permitted to invest some fit and intelligent person with a specific appointment for the purpose, and to allow him as a recompense such sum out of the rent money not exceeding thirty pounds a year (or whatever Your Lordship might deem to be more proper) as his services each year may seem to deserve.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

To

The Earl of Liverpool.

Ac. Ac. Ac.
Antelope at Sea,

No. 11.

November 6, 1811.

My Lord,

I beg leave to represent to Your Lordship that on several recent occasions a great inconvenience has been occasioned at St. John's, Newfoundland on account of there being no place of confinement which can be appropriated exclusively for Debtors. The common gaol is indeed the only place of security and it is certainly very unfit for the reception of persons who still desire consideration, while they are deprived of their liberty.

I should therefore hope that Your Lordship would allow me to suggest the expediency of erecting at a small expense, a gaol, to be used only for the confinement of persons of the abovementioned description.

The Town of St. John's has become of late so populous and its wealth is now so considerable that the want of such a place as I have described is essential.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. DUCKWORTH.

To

The Earl of Liverpool

&c. &c. &c.
Antelope in the Channel,

No. 12.

November 2, 1811.

My Lord,

I beg leave to represent to Your Lordship that very great embarrassment is felt at Newfoundland for want of an adequate supply of Cash being sent out for the expenditure of Public Departments, and I take the liberty of suggesting to Your Lordship that the difficulty of procuring any in the Island so continues to increase that it is greatly to be apprehended that Government Bills will be soon reduced to a heavy discount. Under those circumstances it is my duty to request of Your Lordship that the subject may be laid before the Treasury and that if it shall appear proper to their Lordships, a regular annual supply may be sent out to the amount of Ten thousand Pounds in one and two pound Bank Notes, with a certain proportion of Five and Sixpenny Bank tokens, Two hundred pounds worth of Penny, and two penny pieces.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

To

The Earl of Liverpool,
&c. &c. &c.
Antelope at Spithead,
November 9th, 1811.

Sir,

I beg leave to enclose an account of a few articles of additional furniture which are required for the Government House at Newfoundland by reason of the repairs and alterations which it has been undergoing this year.

Your Lordship will not, I hope, see any objection to their being ordered, and I am respectfully to request that directions may be given early so that they may be ready to go out in the Spring.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

To

The Earl of Liverpool.

&c. &c. &c.
Antelope, at Spithead.

November 9, 1811.

No. 12.

My Lord,

I have the honour of acquainting Your Lordship with my arrival this day at Spithead in His Majesty's Ship the Antelope having sailed from Newfoundland on the 26th of last month.

The letters from No. 1 to No. 12 inclusive by which there is accompanied contain a general report of the various occurrences of the season, and of the circumstances in which I have left the Government.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

To

The earl of Liverpool,

&c. &c. &c.
London,

November 12, 1811.

Sir,

I have this day had the honour of receiving your letter transmitting to me by direction of the Earl of Liverpool, copies of an Act for taking away the public use of certain Ships Rooms in the Town of St. John's, Newfoundland and for instituting Surrogate Courts on the Court of Labrador, and in certain Islands adjacent thereto.

I have etc.,

(Ed) J.T. DUCKWORTH.

To

H.E. Bunbury Esq.

Ac. Ac. Ac.
London,
November 12, 1811.

My Lord,

I have this day had the honour of receiving duplicates of Your Lordship's letter dated the 5th of September, transmitting to me the copy of one that had been addressed to Your Lordship's department by direction of the Lords of the Committee of Council for Trade, in consequence of their Lordships having had under consideration representations of the great inconvenience arising to the inhabitants and fishermen of Newfoundland from the difficulty of procuring an adequate supply of Bread and Flour and other Articles of Provision; and signifying to me the pleasure of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent that I should, in conformity with the suggestion of the Lords of the Committee facilitate and protect, as far as might be in my power the importation into the Island of Newfoundland during the present season only, of Bread, Flour, or Indian Corn, in British Ships only from any Port of Europe south of Cape Finisterre.

The original of Your Lordship's letter I have not received, for it had not reached Newfoundland when I sailed from thence, and Your Lordship will perceive that it has thus been out of my power to render any assistance to such importation during the present season.

I am happy to add however that no representation
representation was made to me of any pressing want, nor did I myself perceive any.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. DUCKWORTH.

To

The Earl of Liverpool,

&c. &c. &c.
Wear House, near Exeter,
December 28th 1811.

No. 15.

My Lord,

I have the honour of transmitting to Your Lordship the copy of a letter which I have lately received from Newfoundland, and two printed papers which were enclosed with that letter, the one containing certain Resolutions entered into at a public meeting at St. John’s, and the other being a Petition to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, (formed at that meeting) praying that the monies arising from the disposal of the Ships Rooms by lease may be applied solely to the improvement of the Town and Harbour of St. John’s.

In my letter of the 1st of November No. 6 I had the honour of representing to Your Lordship my proceedings on the subject of the Ships Rooms; and of offering a few remarks as to the disposal of the rents. It will not be required of me to comment on the enclosed Petition, for the subject is thoroughly before Your Lordship, and you will have the means of forming an accurate judgment of its merits.

But with respect to a Board of Police, constituted in such a manner and vested with such powers as the latter part of the petition describes and a Justice of the Peace so chosen by the Board of Police as it is called, it is my duty to state to Your Lordship that judging from all the circumstances which I have had occasion to observe, it will not be possible to give any countenance whatever to this particular
particularly part of the Petition, without rendering
the merchants of Newfoundland the masters of the
fishermen, and overturning at once the whole policy
which has hitherto been observed with the view to
discouraging the idea of a necessity for the
colonization of the Island.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

To

The Earl of Liverpool,

&c. &c. &c.
Wear House, near Exeter,

No. 16.

January 31, 1812.

My Lord,

Having received from the Naval Officer at St. John's his report of the Fishery and Inhabitants I now beg leave to have the honour of transmitting a statement shewing the general returns of the Outports, that of St. John's and the totals which are given by combining them together.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

To

The Earl of Liverpool,

&c. &c &c.
Wear House, near Exeter.

No. 17.

March 7, 1812.

My Lord,

I beg leave to enclose for Your Lordships information the copy of a letter which I have just received from the Chief Magistrate at Newfoundland (who has been good enough to overlook the repairs carrying on at the Government House) in which he acquaints me that the Kitchen and Offices attached to it have been burnt down.

The estimates alluded to have not been sent, for it appears that the Chief Engineer was not able to prepare them in time; but he has stated that the probable expense of replacing the buildings will be three hundred pounds.

I am therefore under the necessity of intruding upon Your Lordship with my request that Your Lordship will be pleased to move the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to give orders for the rebuilding of such offices as have been burnt down, on their original site, with two rooms over the Kitchen for servants. I trust that Your Lordship will forgive me for adding that the expediting of such orders is much to be desired on many accounts.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

To

The Earl of Liverpool,

Ac. Ac. Ac.
Wear House, near Exeter.
March 7, 1812.

No. 18.

My Lord,

The papers which I have the honour of enclosing are copies of Proceedings in the examination of witnesses before the Magistrates of St. John's, Newfoundland, respecting the case of Samuel Barnes, a private soldier belonging to His Majesty's Nova Scotia Regiment of Fencible Infantry, who was committed for trial on the verdict of a Coroner's inquest, for the murder of James Toole, another private soldier, also belonging to the same regiment.

I am sorry to give trouble to Your Lordship in this instance, but I am anxious to be prepared on my arrival at Newfoundland, to meet a situation in which without Your Lordship's assistance I should have considerable difficulty.

It is not impossible that the unhappy man may be found guilty, under such evidence as the enclosed depositions contain; and yet, considering the matter as I do, it is unjust that he should suffer death for it was his duty as a sentinel to preserve his Post in quietness, and the deceased was invading that Post.

Under such circumstances it would be in my power on my arrival at Newfoundland to grant a reprieve until His Majesty's pleasure should be known, but even then it would be likely that all the next winter would elapse before a final decision could
could reach Newfoundland, and the prisoner would linger all that winter in his miserable suspense.

I am anxious therefore to make it my earnest request that Your Lordship will be pleased to instruct me how to proceed in this difficulty; and especially whether according to the enclosed statements it does or does not appear that the man really deserves to suffer death. If he does not, and it should nevertheless be supposed possible that judgment may be passed upon him, perhaps it may be permitted me to suggest to Your Lordship that I might be vested with the power to grant a free pardon to him on my arrival.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

The Earl of Liverpool,

Ac. Ac. Ac.
London,
April 9, 1813.
No. 19.
Clarendon Hotel, Bond Street.

My Lord,

I beg leave to represent to Your Lordship that a considerable degree of embarrassment has been occasioned to me by the Agent for Newfoundland having this year for the first time refused to accept for their full amount the Bills which I draw for the payment of the salaries of the Officers of the Courts of Justice in that Island, and deducted from each the proportionate property Tax.

On the 18th of February I had the honour of addressing a letter to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury and of stating all the circumstances which induced me to hope that their Lordships would at least for the present year, be pleased to direct the payments to be made without any deduction; but as the Holders of the Bills are renewing their remonstrances to me, and their threats to protest them, and as I have not been honoured with an answer from the Treasury, I am anxious to acquaint Your Lordship that the salaries in question have never yet been taxed, that the Bills have in every instance been drawn for the whole amount agreeably to the estimate, that they were so drawn by myself in the preceding year on the authority of the estimate which I received from Your Lordship and of the uniform custom of my predecessors; that they were accepted and paid accordingly for the full amount.
I beg leave to add that if in the present instance the deduction is made the bills will be protested by their holders, and the officers will suffer not inconvenience only, but serious expense, and in some cases very great distress. Under such circumstances as these, I trust that I may be permitted to request that Your Lordship will be pleased to move the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to give directions for the full acceptance of the bills which I have drawn for the abovementioned service, and indeed I should be disposed to hope that at Your Lordship's recommendation the salaries of these officers may still be continued to them undiminished by a tax from which they have so long been considered free, and which in truth they are so far from being situate to bear that really, without deduction, they are not adequate to the services they are meant to remunerate.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Buckworth.

The Earl of Liverpool,
&c. &c. &c.
London,
April 9th, 1813.

My Lord,

I beg leave to state to Your Lordship that a commission under the Great Seal in the terms of the Statute 46 Geo. 3 Cap. 54 has been provided at Halifax "for the more speedy trial of offences committed in distant parts upon the Sea" and to submit whether a similar commission should not be given under the peculiar circumstances of the Government of Newfoundland, which render so probable that cases should arise to call for the exercise of its authority.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

The Earl of Liverpool,
Ac. Ac. Ac.
London,
No. 22.
April 14th, 1813.

My Lord,

The Chief Justice of Newfoundland having expressed considerable doubt of the Law as it relates to marriages in that Island, has proposed the following queries to which he is desirous of obtaining such answers as may serve as a fixed authority for the rule of his future conduct; and I beg to submit them to your Lordship.

"Can a Marriage be deemed legal, so as to entitle the issue thereof or their descendants, to inherit real estates in England if contracted in Newfoundland under the following circumstances.

1st. Between a Protestant and a Roman Catholic if performed by a Roman Catholic Priest at a time and in a place where there was a Clergyman of the Church of England.

2nd. Between the same parties if performed by a layman who is a magistrate, under similar circumstances.

3rd. Between two Protestants of the Church of England under similar circumstances, of the cases No. 1 and 2.

4th. Between two Protestant dissenters (not Quakers) if performed by a mere layman.

5th. Between a man and woman generally without adverting to their religious sentiments, if performed by a layman who is a magistrate n a place where
there is no Clergyman.

6th. Between the parties and under the circumstances in the last case, or any of the former cases, if performed by a mere layman. Or in other words can a marriage be valid if performed by a Justice of the Peace, and not so if by a mere layman who is not a Magistrate.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Buckworth.

To

The Earl of Liverpool.

ac. ac. ac.
London,
May 20th 1812.

My Lord,

I beg leave to acquaint Your Lordship that doubts have been entertained at Newfoundland on the construction of the Act of 37th Geo. 3. Cap. 73 respecting the liability of masters of Fishing vessels hiring seamen who have deserted from any other ship to the forfeiture of £100 by any decree from the Courts of Law - in that country; or whether the operation of that Statute is confined to the East Indies only.

The frequent desertion of seamen from His Majesty's service at Newfoundland renders every means of prevention so necessary, and the Chief Justice and the Magistrates having been undecided in their opinions on this subject, that I am greatly desirous of requesting of your Lordship to be pleased to direct that the opinion of the Crown lawyers may be had upon it; and at the same time that it may be stated what is the extent of punishment that can be imposed in such cases, provided the Statute that I have alluded to does not reach to Newfoundland.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth th.

To

The Earl of Liverpool.
St. John's, Newfoundland.
No. 1.
July 23, 1812.

My Lord,

I have the honour of acquainting Your Lordship that I arrived at St. John's, Newfoundland, in His Majesty's Ship Antelope on the 16th inst.

The intelligence of a Declaration of War against His Majesty by the United States of America has been communicated to the Senior Officer of His Majesty's Ships in this Port, by a letter from Vice Admiral Sawyer Commander in Chief at Halifax which arrived on the 6th.

I beg to assure Your Lordship that nothing on my part shall be wanting to ensure the safety of this valuable settlement. But that the utmost in my power shall be done for the protection of the Fishery by a due disposition of the Naval Force at my disposal (limited as it is) and for the defence of the different Harbours, in addition to the naval means, by giving effect to the spirited resolutions of the Inhabitants.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

To The Earl Bathurst,
Ac. Ac. Ac.
St. John's, Newfoundland.

July 23, 1812.

No. 2.

My Lord,

I beg leave to transmit to Your Lordship the copy of a letter which has been addressed to me by Mr. Coote (holding the offices of Clerk of the Arrears and of Chief Magistrate) in consequence of the circulation of a very mischievous pamphlet written by a Physician of St. John's and enclosed herewith.

In submitting this matter to Your Lordship it will only be necessary for me to request that I may if possible, be honoured with your instructions upon it before my departure from hence. It is to be presumed that they might be forwarded through the Admiralty; but if Your Lordship would be pleased to direct that they might be transmitted in duplicate under cover to the Postmaster at Liverpool, there are so frequent opportunities from that Port that there would be a great probability of my receiving them in time.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J. T. DUCKWORTH.

To

The Earl Bathurst.
St. John's,
21st July 1812.

Sir,

The accompanying pamphlet, avowedly written by Doctor Carson having been during Your Excellency's absence most industriously put into public circulation here, and as many parts of that work have a manifest tendency to degrade and weaken the Government of this country, as well as to excite a spirit of insubordination in the minds of the lower classes of society, I should consider myself extremely remiss if I did not take an early opportunity of submitting the same to Your Excellency's consideration.

Permit me to suggest to Your Excellency whether it may not be expedient to take the opinion of His Majesty's Attorney General on the propriety of adopting any, and what measures, either by action of libel, or otherwise, against the author of this most seditious publication, provided the same will bear such a legal construction, as will ultimately insure his conviction. And as actions of this kind have not, I believe, ever been sued in this country, it may perhaps be desirable to obtain the best legal advice as to the mode of proceeding in the event of such a measure being deemed expedient by His Majesty's Government.

I have etc."

( sd) Thos. Coote,
Clerk of Arraigns.

His Excellency

Sir J.T. Duckworth, K.B.
Governor &c. &c.
St. John's, Newfoundland,

July 23, 1812.

My Lord,

An idea has been suggested to me by Major General Moore Commanding the Forces in this Island which I beg leave to make known to Your Lordship.

The Major General is of opinion that a Regiment of Fencible Infantry might be raised here at this time without difficulty and tend equally to provide employment for many young men who could be otherwise without the means of subsistence, and to give additional security to the settlement.

The effect of a war with America will in my opinion be so decidedly that of narrowing, for a time at least, the limits of the Fishery, that I am disposed to concur with the General in thinking that many of the Fishermen will need a resource; and I trust therefore that I may be permitted to submit the proposal for Your Lordship's consideration.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. DUCKWORTH.

To

The Earl Bathurst.

&c. &c. &c.
St. John's, Newfoundland.

July 23, 1812.

Sir,

I have the honour of transmitting copies of my despatches to the Earl Bathurst, numbers 1 and 2 to be laid before the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee for Council and Trade and Foreign Plantations.

I have &c.

(Sd) J.T. DUCKWORTH.

To

The Clerk of the Council in waiting.

&c. &c. &c.
St. John's, Newfoundland.

July 23, 1812.

My Lord,

Mr. Cotes having requested me to forward to the Attorney General the enclosed packet relating to the subject of my letter to Your Lordship (No. 2) I take the liberty of recommending it to Your Lordship.

I have etc.,

(Sd) J.T. Duckworth.

To

The Earl Bathurst,

As. As. As.
Antelope at Sea.

November 2nd. 1812.

My Lords,

In conformity with the directions contained in your Lordships letter No.1. of the 13th. of June, I have consulted with those on whose judgement temper and information I could most rely with a view to the formation of a report upon the Laws by which Newfoundland is at present governed.

I am conscious of being little qualified for the discussion of a subject of this nature, yet it has occupied my most anxious attention, and I proceed to submit to your Lordship my sentiments upon it in the fullest confidence that they will be received with candour and indulgence.

I beg leave however to remark that the result of the labour with which I have collected the opinion of experience and sensible men upon this important subject has been to convince me that it is regarded differently by them all.

There is a general concurrence in one respect only that the Fisheries of Newfoundland are now decidedly sedentary, and that the War has been protracted
protracted so long as to make it very uncertain whether any change of system would be produced by the return of peace.

The considerations upon which this opinion is founded are these.

That the resident population of the Island has now become so extensive that every attempt to lessen it, or even to check the rapidity of its increase must be completely vain; that this population must be subsisted, and that it has no other resource than in the Fishery, and that therefore the quantity of Fish caught by the resident Inhabitants must be so great as to leave but little opening for advertising who might fit out Ships from His Majesty's Dominions in Europe if they should be disposed by the return of peace to make the Trial.

The possession object has hitherto been to afford every encouragement to the Fishery Ships so fitted out and therefore to discourage the Sedentary Fishery.

As long as there existed a competition between the two interests such was undoubtedly the wisest policy to pursue, but it is no longer a question of preference between two systems.
system. That which was justly the favourite is now no more, and it remains only to consider whether that which has survived be worth preserving and if so by what means it can be best improved.

I am anxious that my opinion should not be misunderstood, and therefore beg leave to repeat, that any efforts of His Majesty's Government, or of the Legislative to bring back the ancient system of Fishing would now be vain, and would probably fail to produce any material effect even if they were seconded by the favorable circumstances which a return of peace would naturally create.

With these sentiments I am certainly desirous that a revision of the Laws should take Place, nor am I aware that any advantage is likely to arise from its being delayed.

The wisest object of such revision would seem to be to remove from the Sedentary Fishery all unnecessary impediments, and at the same time to refrain from opposing new difficulties against the partial reestablishment of the Fishing Ships which may yet be possible.
neither will it be less important to adhere to the
principle which has been hitherto observed of
preventing His Majesty's Subjects in Newfoundland
from forming themselves into a Colony.

The Chief impediments at present
eexisting in the way of the sedentary Fishery
are the provisions in the Laws by which all
unoccupied places in Newfoundland are accounted
Fishing Ships Rooms, and the restrictions on
cultivating the Land.

And these under the present
circumstances are in my opinion unnecessary.

because very few of the un-
occupied Places are suited to the purposes of the
Fishing Ships, and the rest might therefore be
given up to the I"habitants, and because if the
prohibition against cultivating the Land be
continued the population will nevertheless continue
to increase but the difficulty of providing for
its support will be the greater.

With respect to the
vacant Shores of Newfoundlandwhether Ships Rooms
or otherwise, I am very strongly inclined to wish
that the Law should now be so framed as to
permit the Governor to grant them to Individuals
for the purposes of the Fishery to be held by such

Individuals
Individuals during His majesty's pleasure, or as long as they complied with the terms upon which the Grants should be specifically given.

Every grant should be founded on a written application, describing the means of the applicant for occupying usefully the space applied for, and engaging to keep so many Boats upon it, actually to be employed in catching Fish, and the Governor should be instructed not to give Grants of Beaches naturally suited to the purposes of Shaling Ships, but on the contrary to preserve all such Beaches vacant for the use of those Ships whenever they might arrive to claim them.

On the subject of cultivation I beg leave to submit that the resident Population having grown to its present extent and there being no prospect of its diminishing but rather a certainty of its rapid increase it becomes a question of deep anxiety by what means this population is to be subsisted and whether it would not be better to cultivate the soil in the hope of lessening the difficulty, than to abstain from doing so in the fear of adding still more rapidly to the number of Inhabitants.

The
The Soil and Climate of Newfoundland are little favorable to the business of Agriculture nor is there a probability that it would be pursued or to a very trifling extent except for the cultivation of Potatoes and some other Vegetables.

There is not in my opinion any sufficient reason for adhering to the policy of preventing the cultivation of the Land when it is found necessary to relinquish that of discouraging the Sedentary Fishery, because the principal use that would be made of the privilege of cultivation if it were now granted would be by the Fishermen, who would prepare the Ground in the Winter Months, and make it productive of food for their Families support.

The question of Colonization still remains.

Of the policy of preventing the measure there is but one opinion but with respect to the means there are many.

For my part I am not able to discover that there is at present any considerable tendency towards Colonization.

The merchants of St John's have formed themselves into a Society and are making continued
continued efforts for the acquisition of a power which ought not, in my opinion to be vested in them.

Yet the Town has become so extensive, and its Inhabitants so numerous that it does indeed appear necessary that a provision should be made for its better regulation by creating some local authority.

Such authority might perhaps be given with the greater propriety to the Grand Jury and any regulations made by that Body approved by the Courts of sessions, and finally accepted by the Governor should be binding upon the District.

An arrangement being made upon this principle and the Magistracy being placed upon that respectable establishment which should render it abuse the control of any improper influence, would remove all idea of the formation of a Colony and answer every go od purpose of a local Legislature, unaccompanied by any of its evil consequences.

I am &c.

To The Earl Bathurst.

One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

&c. &c. &c.

(sd) J.T. Duckworth.
At Sea.

November 3rd. 1812.

My Lord,

I am anxious to bring before your Lordship a subject which has excited much unpleasant alteration at Newfoundland, and which cannot fail to be an embarrassing one to the Governor until his instructions upon it are revised.

It appears that instructions have been from time to time been given to prevent the erection of any buildings, except such as shall be absolutely necessary for curing drying and husbanding of Fish within two hundred Yards distance from High Water mark, and that with respect to St John's for reasons which have been submitted those instructions have not for a considerable time been enforced.

Yet no person has until this Year openly and in defence attempted to erect a building of any description unless by the Water side
side for the purposes of the Fishery without leave from the Governor in writing previously obtained.

The High Sheriff is directed to present any building from erected except those which are authorized by Law, and the meaning attached to that expression is considered to be those which are evidently for the Fishery, or those which the Governor has sanctioned.

A Merchant has this Year thought proper to dispense with the Governors leave and violently attempted to build a House which he avowed his attention by a letter to the Sheriff of letting on lease as a Dwelling House.

The Sheriff considered this proceeding as illegal and in opposition to the Governor's proclamation - a copy of which in the Spirit of those issued by my Predecessor I have the honor of enclosing and accordingly prevented it.

This attempt was not that of an individual but was instigated and supported by the Merchants in general who have created a fund the real object of which is to oppose the measures of Government and to establish the right of Property upon a quiet possession of twenty Years.
I beg leave to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the correspondence which took place between the projector of the building whose name is Crawford and myself.

The argument urged on his side was that the ground was immediately adjoining one of the Ships Rooms which had been let in building leases in pursuance of the late act of Parliament and that being similarly circumstances his right of building was the same as that of Government.

It is necessary to acknowledge that of the act which I have alluded to, in taking away the Public use of certain Ships Rooms has declared the space comprised between the most Eastern and the most Western of those so taken away to be no longer suitable to the purposes of the Fishery because the whole of that space is occupied equally by the Town of St John's and it is in every circumstance the same.

There cannot therefore it is presumed be any sufficient cause for retaining the prohibition against building within two hundred yards of high Water mark, so far as regards the space
space which I have described; and your Lordship will not perhaps see any objection to the Governor being authorized to grant permission for the building of Houses in that situation taking care that the width of the Public Streets be preserved, and that no building be allowed which might be a nuisance to the Town.

Yet I should earnestly hope that no person whatever might be suffered to build on any other terms than those of having obtained the Governor's permission unless it were for the direct and unequivocal purposes of the Fishery for the waving of a negative in this instance on the part of Government would be an acknowledgement of property which is certainly unnecessary.

Within the limit of two hundred Yards from High Water Mark in situations adapted for the Fishery, no building should be allowed except for its immediate purposes, but beyond that distance and if the parties are in possession of the ground wither by grant or other title which Government would unwillingly question there appears to be a doubt.
doubt of the property, or of the legality of the Governor's interference which it is particularly desirable to remove.

I am &c.

To

The Earl Bathurst.

&c. &c. &c.

(sd) J.T. Duckworth.
No. 8.

Antelope.

At sea.

November 4th, 1812.

My Lord,

I am concerned to be obliged to represent to your Lordship that some additional expense is still unavoidably necessary to be incurred before the repairs of the Government House at Newfoundland can be completed.

I beg to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a letter addressed to me by the Assistant Commissary General on my arrival at St. John's expressive of his regret that the House was not in a state to receive me, and explanatory of the cause which had occasioned an excess of the estimate even in its then unfinished state.

In consequence of those circumstances and of the serious inconvenience and difficulty which I experienced in wanting a habitation, the Major General Commanding took upon himself the responsibility of authorizing the Commissary to go on with the repair so as to make the building habitable, as the Antelope was of necessity sent to Sea.
to sea, I was obliged to occupy a room at the House of the Clergyman.

Under these circumstances your Lordship will perhaps forgive my presuming to request of you a recommendation to the Treasury that the Commissary's account may be favorably considered.

And it at the same time, I take the liberty of enclosing an Estimate of the expense of such work as appears to be still necessary to the completion of the repairs.

I am &c.

To,

The Earl Bathurst.

&c. &c. &c.

(sgd) J.T. Duckworth.
Antelope.

At Sea.

November 5th, 1812.

My Lord,

I beg leave to represent to your Lordship that there are not any articles of the undermentioned description in the King's Stores at Newfoundland, and that they are required for the Volunteer Rangers in the following proportion:

22 Swords and belts for Sergeants.
22 Swords, belts and Carriages for Drummers.
500 Cross belts for Rank and File.
500 White Slings for Ditto.

I take the liberty of requesting that if it meets your Lordships approbation directions may be given for their being sent out, and I should add, that as Medicines are considered necessary to be provided for the use of the Corps and it is impossible to procure them at Newfoundland it would be particularly desirable that a small supply should be also sent.

I am Ac.

Io.

(signed) J.T. Duckworth.

To,

The Earl Bathurst.

Ac. Ac. Ac.
London.

December 2nd, 1812.

My Lord,

Having been honored by the Electors of New Romney with a nomination to serve as one of their Representations in Parliament, and the Government of Newfoundland having been decided as rendering me ineligible for a seat in the House of Commons.

I beg leave, with the submission to your Lordship, and duty to His Royal Highness the prince regent, to request that your Lordship will be pleased to lay my Commission at the feet of His Royal Highness.

I am &c.

To,

The Earl Bathurst.

&c. &c. &c.
Wear House,
Near Exeter,

January 6th. 1813.

My Lord,

I have the honour of transmitting to your Lordship the extract from a letter which I have received from Mr. Coope, Clerk of the Arraigns and senior Justice of the Peace at Newfoundland, reporting to me a very daring outrage that had been committed upon the Church of St John's and suggesting that His Majesty's most gracious pardon might be promised to any person concerned in the crime who would come forward and give evidence for the conviction of his associates. I beg leave to submit the circumstances to your Lordship consideration and have the honor to be,

I am &c.

To

Earl Bathurst.

&c. &c. &c.

(sd) J.T. Duckworth.
London.

February 2nd. 1813.

My Lord,

The Chief Justice of Newfoundland having expressed his anxiety to have a legal opinion upon the enclosed case, I take the liberty of submitting it to your Lordship, in order that such opinion may be obtained if your Lordship shall think proper.

I am &c.

To Earl Bathurst.

London.

February 8th. 1813.

My Lord,

It is my duty to represent to your Lordship that Major General Moore, commanding His Majesty's Forces in Newfoundland, has acquainted me that the scarcity of Provisions in the Island of Newfoundland for the Inhabitants is so great as to induce him to anticipate the probability of an application being made to him for relief from the Ships Stores.

I have suggested to the Victualling Board the propriety of sending out a supply to the Major General by the first Convoy, which I beg leave to acquaint your Lordship, will not sail from Spithead on the 25th. of this Month.

I am &c.

To Earl Bathurst. (sd) J.T. Duckworth.

&c. &c. &c.
London.

1st. March, 1813.

My Lord,

I have the honor of paying before your Lordship a letter addressed to me by the Brigade Major at Newfoundland, requesting to be appointed inspecting Field Officer of the Volunteers; and also a letter from Major General Moore, in support of that request.

I am &c.

Earl Bathurst.

(SED) J.T. Duckworth.

&c. &c. &c.
London.
1st. March. 1913.

My Lord,

I have the honor of transmitting to your Lordship two vouchers for various articles purchased by Lieutenant Buchan of His Majesty's Schooner Adonis amounting to £ 39,0. 3., for conducting her late Expedition in quest of the Native Indians of Newfoundland, and I beg leave to request that your Lordship will be pleased to direct that hemay be reimbursed by my Successor, out of the funds arising within the District of St John's.

I am &c.


&c. &c. &c.
London.
1st. March 1815.

My Lord,

I beg leave to state to your Lordship that when the arrangement was made for letting on lease the Ships Rooms at St John's Newfoundland, it appeared that a small part of one of them had been enclosed and added to the Garden of a very respectable Inhabitant a Mr Knight.

This Gentleman has been granted a lease of that part of the Ships Room upon the same terms as those who took leases of the adjoining and unoccupied Ships Rooms but as it is very much his wish to be allowed to purchase the spot, rather than hold it on lease, and those does not appear any objection to his being permitted to do so, I take the liberty of requesting that your Lordship would be pleased to allow my successor to grant him that indulgence.

I am &c.

Earl Bathurst.

&c. &c. &c.

(md) J.T. Duckworth.
London 23rd. March. 1813.

My Lord,

The clerk of the Arraigns and Chief Magistrate at Newfoundland having presented to me a most indecent and libellous Pamphlet, which was circulated there with the obvious intention of bringing the present system of Government into contempt, and of inflaming the minds of the people against it, I thought it my duty of to submit the subject to your Lordship.

I have now the honor to inform your Lordship that the Chief Magistrate has recently reported to me that the same spirit of violent hostility against the present establishment has prompted the author of the Pamphlet to which I have alluded to write another still more libellous, and having still a stronger tendency to create dissatisfaction and discord, which is printing in Scotland, and will be sent out to Newfoundland to be circulated there in the same manner as the first.

I am &c.

Earl Bathurst.

&c. &c. &c.

(sd) J.T. Duckworth.
London.

29th. March 1812.

My Lord,

As the period is so near at hand when it will be necessary for the Governor of Newfoundland to proceed to that Settlement, I trust that your Lordship will pardon my referring to the statement which I had the honor to make in my letter to your Lordship, No. 3. of the 4 of November 1812, on the subject of completing the repairs of the Government House.

It appears on my enquiring at the Office of the Commissary in Chief, that no authority has yet been received there for directing the continuation of the repairs, and the House will therefore remain in a state nearly uninhabitable, after all the expense that has been already bestowed upon it, unless your Lordship will permit me to request the honor of your interference.

I am &c.

The Earl Bathurst.

London.

29th. March 1815.

My Lord,

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that the officer entrusted with collecting the returns of the Fishery at Newfoundland had not yet been able when the last Vessel, sailed for England to procure them from one or two of the distant out Ports.

He will transmit to me a perfect abstracted report as soon as it shall be in his power to do so, and I shall have the honor of forwarding it to your Lordship.

In the mean time, I beg leave to enclose herewith for your Lordships information an abstract of the returns which have yet been given in.

I am &c.

Earl Bathurst.

&c. &c. &c.

(sd) J.T. Duckworth,
London.

6th. April 1813.

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter under date the 26th. March enclosing copy of an Order of the Prince Regent in Council dated 20th. February containing a Prayer for his Royal Highness and desiring me to cause the directions of the said order to be duly observed in the island under my Government which I shall be careful to comply with.

I am &c.

(sd) R. G. Keats.

To

The Earl Bathurst.

&c. &c. &c.
Copy.

My Lord,

We had the honor to receive your Lordships letter dated 9th. February 1813 stating that the Chief Justice of the Island of Newfoundland having expressed his anxiety to have our opinion upon the enclosed case, and desiring by direction of S.M.E. the Prince regent that we would report to your Lordship our opinion thereupon.

We have accordingly taken the same into our consideration, and have the honor to report to your Lordship our opinion that the Terms thirty six pounds in a contract made at Newfoundland must we think be construed to be pounds sterling British, unless the contrary be proved by usage, or specified in the Contract, whether the party with whom the contract is made be an Englishman or Irishman.

To make a Bill in Irish currency sufficient to discharge the debt incurred by such a contract, it should have been shown that the Bill on Ireland was expressly given at the request of
of the Party taking it, and on the terms of accepting 9 percent less than what he was entitled to, otherwise it can only reckon according to its real value.

I am &c.

("a) Thomas Plumer.

W. Garrow.

Lincoln Inn. 17th. February 1813.

To

The Right Honorable
Earl Cathcart.

&c. &c. &c.
London.

April 8th, 1815.

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordships letter of the dates and numbers and upon the subjects under mentioned.

No. 2. April 6th. Transmitting the copy of a case submitted by the Chief Justice of Newfoundland on the opinion of the Attorney and Solicitor general therein.

No. 3. April 6th. Enclosing an account of Lieut. Buchans expenses on his late expedition into the interior of Newfoundland and directing re embursement of the same.

No. 4. April 7th. Rejecting the application of Captain Morris to be appointed inspecting Field Officer of Volunteers.

No 5. April 7th. Transmitting copy of a dispatch from Sir J.T. Duckworth and directing me to grant the indulgence therein recommended to Mr Knight, if no objection should occur thereto.

No.
No. 6. April 7th. Additional instructions for any Government.

All which shall receive my particular attention.

I also beg to acknowledge the receipt of a Packet containing the copy of a Dispatch from Admiral Sir J.T. Duckworth dated the 1st. November 1812.

I am &c.

To

The Earl Bathurst.

&c. &c. &c.
My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordships letters of the dates and numbers and upon the subjects undermentioned.

9th. April No. 7. Enclosing Commission appointing Mr. Temlett Chief Justice of Newfoundland to be Chief Justice of Prince Edwards Island and Mr. Colelough from the latter to Newfoundland and directing me to afford every facility in my power to their entering on their respective functions.

9th. April No. 8. Transmitting the opinion of the Attorney and Solicitor General upon the question referred to them respecting the mode to be adopted in proceeding against the persons who were stated to have encroached upon the rights of the Crown and desiring me to concert with the Chief Justice as to the measures it may be necessary to take.

All which shall receive my particular attention.
attention.

I have also the honor to receive from your Lordship letters addressed to Mr. Tremlett and Mr. Chelolough and one to Doctor Carson.

I am Ac.

To The Earl Bathurst

Ac. Ac. Ac.

(sd) MR. G. Keats.
No.5.

Fort Townshend.

St John's Newfoundland.

23rd. June 1813.

My Lord,

I have the honor to inform your Lordship of my arrival at St John's on the 31st. of May and of my having landed on the 1st. of June with the usual formalities, and caused the Prince Regents Commission appointing me Governor and Commander in Chief to be informed and publically read; at which time I took the established Oaths.

It will be gratifying to your Lordship to be informed that I received from the Chief Justice, Magistrates, and General Commanding His Majesty's Troops, the most satisfactory account of the orderly conduct and behaviour of the Inhabitants of this District during a long and severe Winter under trials and privations arising from the very high price and acanty supply of provisions; from which they were in a great degree relieved rather by fortunate than expected supplied.

The
The Severity of the Winter having brought a
vast accumulation of Ice on the Shore from which
we are not yet quite relieved has been the means
of protracting the commencement of the Fishery
to an unusually late period very few having been
yet taken.

But as late Seasons have not generally
been found unproductive, there is yet no
reason to draw an unfavorable conclusion from that
circumstance.

I am &c.

To The Right Honorable. 

The Earl of Northurst.

&c.    &c.    &c. 

(sd) R. G. Keats.
No 6.

Fort Townshend.

St John's Newfoundland.

23rd. June 1913.

My Lord,

I consider it my particular duty to submit to your Lordships consideration the privations and embarrassments to which the Inhabitants of this Island especially those to the Northward were exposed, during the late Winter on account of an insufficient supply of Flour and Provisions fortunately the populous Town of St John's was relieved from the distressing consequences of absolute want rather by accidental than regular supplied.

But the Inhabitants further North were less fortunate in some places they were without Flour were reduced to feed on domestic Animals and to dig up the Seed Potatoes intended to produce the stock for the following Winter.

The Imports of Provisions from Great Britain to this day have exceeded the average for three years past but they fallen very short all other places, and the population has rather encreased. In Canada we have no resource the exports being prohibited From Nova Scotia we have hitherto received very little and al-
although I have no certain accounts from thence, the merchants the best informed are impressed with a belief that a prohibition similar to that in Canada has taken place in that province.

The scarcity of Flour in the Winter having occasioned the Seed Potatoes to be used in some places as food seems to threaten future difficulties which the present very high prices of Flour and Potatoes appear to justify, and the beneficial effects likely to be produced by the grants of Land on small portions for the purposes of cultivation cannot be felt in time to lessen the difficulties of the approaching season. Inclose herewith for your Lordships information a letter from the Chairman of the Committee of Merchants in reply to one I addressed to him desiring information on the state of the Market I incline to the opinion that interest may in some degree have influenced the statement.

Under the circumstances I have stated I feel particularly anxious to receive your Lordships instructions for which I shall wait till the latest period that may be prudent and if in that expectation I should be disappointed and the state of the Imports shall be such to threaten serious distress, it is my intention to act on the authority given to Sir John Duckworth by your Lordships letter and enclosure, bearing date
date the 23rd. September last in perfect belief that the necessity may justify the measure and that, if the necessity which was apprehended last year should be realized during the present the measure the least objectionable in your Lordships opinion and the best calculated to meet the difficulty will be the same that my predecessor was authorized to resort to in similar circumstances.

I have written to the Governor of Canada and to the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia on the subject of our wants, but I am not in any immediate expectation of answers nor am I in expectation they will be induced to depart from any system they may have adopted.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable

The Earl Bathurst.

&c.  &c.  &c.  

(sd) R. G. Keats.
Fort Townshend.

St John's Newfoundland.

23rd. June 1813.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith copies of my Dispatches No 5 and 6 addressed to the Earl Bathurst which I request you will be pleased to lay before the Right Honorable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade.

I am &c.

To The Clerk of the Council in waiting at Whitehall.

Fort Townshend.

St John's Newfoundland.

20th. July 1815.

My Lord,

The public mind has been so much alarmed here on the subject of provisions to which my dispatch No. 6. refers that I feel particularly desirous of affording your Lordship all the information in my power upon that important point by every opportunity that offers.

I have therefore the honor to transmit herewith a comparative statement No. 1. of the imports of provisions during the present and the last year, and also a letter No. 2. from the Chairman of the Merchants Society in reply to one I addressed to him desiring information on that interesting subject.

But though we have received some small supplied from Nova Scotia Bermuda, and Great Britain since from that date of my dispatch above referred to, the apprehensions entertained by the public, and by the merchants as it should seem from paper No. 2. appear quarter than the statement of the imports this year seem to justify. Nevertheless in forming an estimate from
from report No. 1, it may be right to observe that a surplus export from Great Britain to equal what the imports from British America and Canada fall short, would by no means show the quantity required because that report is confined to the imports at St. John's only, which one supposed to amount to about two thirds of the whole Island, and we have no means of obtaining any account of the Bread and Flour which the American Fishermen were in the habit of supplying our Fishermen and the Inhabitants to the Northward with which did not pass the Custom House.

It is also necessary to take into consideration, that in consequence of the Imports from the United States falling short last Year, the Stock in hand instead of lasting as was customary to the middle or latter end of July was entirely consumed in the Winter and the supply of the present Year was broke in upon the moment it was received.

It is scarcely necessary to repeat that we have no resource at present in Canada and the prospects of a circuitous supply from Nova scotia are lessened by the present high prices of Flour and Biscuit in the Ports of that Province and also by accounts which are credited here.
here that the Governor and commander of the Forces in Canada has called for a very considerable supply of Flour from Nova Scotia in which market it is presumable he will have a preference.

Though I have the most perfect confidence in the latter part of my instructions subject, I nevertheless feel desirous of avoiding a necessity of authorizing any measure not perfectly consistent with the existing Laws and Regulations.

The extraordinary high Wages £ 70. paid by the merchants this Year, for servants during the Fishing season, affords another presumptive proof of the apprehensions that are entertained of a scarcity.

I have the satisfaction to report that the God Fishery which commenced unusually late this season promises at present to be very productive.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable.

The Earl Bathurst.

&c. &c. &c.

(sd) R. G. Keats.
Fort Townshend.

St John's Newfoundland.

20th. July 1813.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of my dispatch No 6 of this date addressed to the Earl Bathurst which I request you will lay before the Right Honorable the Lords of the Committee of Council for Trade &c.

I am &c.

The Clerk of the Council
in waiting Council Office.
Whitehall.

("d) R. G. Keats.
My Lord,

I take the liberty to crave your Lordships' attention for a moment to the enclosed copy of a letter from my Predecessor relating to the repairs of Government House at St John's to which though I trace no reply, I am nevertheless disposed to conclude was complied with, by a communication from the Commissary in Chief Mr. Kenners to Sir John Duckworth of the 6 of April last stating that he had received an order for the materials required to repair Government House at Newfoundland which my predecessor I know understood to complete the House according to the estimate which accompanied his aforementioned letter.

Mr. T.F. Winter Assistant Commg.

General at St John's has received orders to complete the House but as neither the fences or out Housees are particularized in the order Mr. Winter does not consider himself authorized to proceed with them.
In my apprehension they are essential and in my opinion they are omitted in Mr Winter orders by mistake only.

If in this view I am correct I beg to request your Lordships interference to remove it in order that the Fences and Out Houses as well as the House may be completed according to the Estimate referred to.

I am &c.

The Right Honorable.

The Earl Bathurst.

&c.  &c.  &c.

(sd) R. C. Keats.
Fort Townshend.

St John's Newfoundland.

30th. July 1813.

My Lord,

I have the honor to report to your Lordship that I found upon my arrival at St John's this Year, a very considerable expense had been incurred here by the maintenance during the Winter and since their arrivals sixty two infirm men, women and children, passengers in the American ships named in the margin, detained and brought into this fort last Year during the command and Government of Sir John Duckworth in consequence of the war with America, by His Majesty's ships on this station, the circumstances of which are more particularly described in the accompanying paper ; e. No. 1.

It became my early care to arrest the growing expense by offering the passengers who were in the progress of Emigration to the United States, passages back to their native countries,
countries, or to Prince Edward Island, where settlers were wanted declined these offers the expense has been brought to a conclusion, but not until it had amounted to the large sum of £403,15,5, of which the enclosed is an amount No. 3.

Referring to the cause from which this expense arose it appeared to me proper, it should be defrayed either by the Masters or owners of such of the detained Ships as have been restored or from the proceeds of the garnees of those condemned in the Court of Vice Admiralty as Drifts to the Crown and I accordingly directed the Chief Justice to endeavour to recover the expense by legal process but it having been found that no action could be maintained so grounded in the Supreme Court to oblige either the Masters or Owners to bear the proportion of expense arising from the Passengers in the several Ships for which they were concerned and not having the means of enforcing a demand which has been made on the Court Vice of Admiralty and Comrs. for American property, all expectation of recovering any proportion of expense
expense arising from the Passengers in the several Ships for which they were concerned and not having the means of enforcing a demand which has been made on the Court of Vice Admiralty and Commrs. for American property, all expectation of recovering any proportion of the expense has disappeared and I feel myself called upon to draw upon the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury for the whole expense, which under the circumstances described I humbly presume their Lordship may approve of being made chargeable on the monies arising out of the American property condemned as drafts to the Crown by the Court Vice Admiralty at St John's and that they may please to issue their directions accordingly.

I am &c.

The Earl Bathurst.

(sd) R. G. Keats.

&c. &c. &c.
Fort Townshend,

St. John's,

25th September 1813.

No. 12.

My Lord,

I beg leave to state to Your Lordship that the Government Records and Papers which are every day becoming of more importance to the public and individuals have hitherto been kept in a very loose and insecure manner either in the Secretary's Office or the Court House according as the Governor has been resident or absent; exposed to fire (by which those anterior to 1740 were destroyed; and much too open to any attempts which the dishonest might form and from which they have not at all times been exempt. As the loss of any these papers would be attended with inconvenience and their destruction by fire would prove highly injurious and embarrassing to Government and would involve the property and affairs of numerous individuals in great difficulties, I would propose a small record office being erected in an appropriate situation in the Government House to be made secure from fire- an estimate of the expense of which I have the honour herewith to transmit for Your Lordship's consideration.

I have &c.

(Sd) R.C. Keats.

The Right Honourable

The Earl Bathurst,

&c. &c. &c.
No.10.

Fort Townshend.

St John's Newfoundland.

27th. September 1813.

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's circular of the 17th. July acquainting me that the Plague has broke out in the Island of Malta upon the 19th. May and continued to rage with unabated violence and directing me to adopt and pay the strictest and directing me to adopt to secure this Island from all chance of infection.

And I have accordingly ordered by proclamation all vessels arriving directly or circuitously from the Mediterranean before the 1st. November to be put into Quarantine, leaving the state of their health and other circumstances to determine whether it may be proper and for what time to enforce the performance of Quarantine.

I am &c.

The Earl Bathurst.

(signed) R. C. Keats.

&c. &c. &c.
No. 11.

Fort Townshend.

St John's Newfoundland.

27th. September 1813.

My Lord,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's Circular of the 18th. June acquainting me of the alterations which the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts had proposed and which had been determined on respecting the pension to retired Missionaries which I have communicated to those serving in this Government.

I am &c.

The Earl Bathurst.

&c. &c. &c.

(sd) R. G. Keats.

&c. &c. &c.
My Lord,

I have the honour of laying before Your Lordship a copy of my account current with the Treasury for the sums if have drawn this year.

The payments not included in the annual estimate provided by Parliament are the two first and the last. The first much the most considerable amounting to £400. 15. 5. has arisen from the cause more particularly described in my letter No. 9 a duplicate of which is herewith transmitted No. 3 and will I presume, as it originated in vessels detained in consequence of the American War become chargeable on those droits. The second is a payment by the authority stated in aid of the subscription raised by the Inhabitants of Morton's Harbour for building a Church is completed. The third and last comprehends a balance due to the Sheriff on the Public Account, produced by the united causes of the first years operation of the new mode of paying the Constables—by expenses incurred in a survey of Ships Rooms in the district of Trinity conformable to a proclamation of Sir Erasmus Gower when Governor and by expenses arising from some necessary repairs and for painting the Court House of Saint John's.

In submitting this account to Your Lordship I take
take occasion to observe that two payments one of
400 in aid of Fortune Bay Church and a second of
800 in aid of Trinity Church sanctioned by the Earl
of Liverpool and left by my predecessor to be made
good by me remain to be discharged whenever it
shall appear the inhabitants have performed the con-
ditions on which those patents are authorised.
Connected with this subject, I take the liberty to
state to Your Lordship that it appears on the Records
by a recommendation of Governor Sir Charles Pole
to His Grace the Duke of Portland under date the
23rd October 1800 Two hundred pounds were voted in
the Estimate of 1802 for rebuilding the jail and
Court House at Trinity, but which sum it appears
never has been applied to that purpose, nor can I
obtain further information concerning it, than is
contained in a letter addressed by Mr. R. Cook to
Governor Holloway and his reply both contained in
No. 3. But having received from the Magistrates of
Trinity an account of the Monies raised and applied to
the purpose of rebuilding the aforementioned jail
and Court House together with a statement of the
building now in much forwardness, and an application
for the aid of 1200 which they represent to have been
formerly held out to them, as an encouragement to
erect these buildings and which it is considered would
disable them to complete the work, and begin the
repairs of the Church, I have therefore the honour to
request Your Lordship to enable me to fulfil the
grant originally intended for the aforementioned
service.
The next account which I have the honour to lay before Your Lordship is that arising from the Ship Room Rents. The only payments contained in this account not absolutely directed or proceeding immediately from appropriations made by my predecessor and approved by Your Lordship are the two last one of £20 to myself for stationary which although there had been no additional expense of those articles arising from the increased business produced by the grants of land I should have considered myself justified in making on a consideration that the same sum has been paid to my predecessor from the same fund for each year of his Government. The other is a payment of £100 in aid of the subscription raised by the inhabitants for the Newfoundland Hospital which the building being covered in and nearly in a state for the reception of Patients I felt myself authorised to contribute on the part of Government by the letter from the Earl of Liverpool referred to in the account and which I have the satisfaction to assure your Lordship was received with becoming gratitude on the part of the Treasurer of the said society.

The third and last account which I have the honour to present Your Lordship is that of Government Rents derived from lands leased by my predecessor in the vicinity of St. John's. The payments in this account are all sanctioned by Your Lordship's orders or by appropriations made by my immediate predecessor and approved by Your Lordship. And as it has hitherto
hitherto been customary to pay from this fund the salaries given to persons whose recommendations for reading prayers on the Sabbath in places where no missionary resides have your Lordships approval. I have taken the liberty to notice that Mr. George Williams and Mr. Abraham Ackerman, both of whom were recommended to Your Lordship by Sir John Duckworth last year as meriting the customary allowance of £15 each the former for reading prayers in Bay Roberts and the latter at Bonavista have neither received those salaries, not having received any intimation of Your Lordships approval. And here I would beg to remark although I am clearly of opinion the disadvantages under which the Protestant Religion is suffering in Newfoundland peculiarly require support and encouragement still that the small rents (the expenditure of which at present rather exceeds the receipts) will not though there is a small balance now in hand support any further burthens on it, and therefore in the event of the recommendation of the two persons abovementioned being considered by Your Lordship deserving the small salary it will be necessary to appropriate some other fund (perhaps the ships rooms) to pay up their arrears and allowance from.

Your Lordship will perceive a credit this year on the Ship Room Rents of £54. 16. 11 and in the ensuing year I anticipate a further credit of £100 forming together the sum of upwards £1500. Oyr of this
this credit I would certainly recommend a Record Office being built which including the Iron Doors to be taken from England would I should suppose not exceed L250.

The Chief Justice is particularly desirous of recommending some alterations and additions to the Court House, calculated to keep the Juries separate from the populace and to have a separate room for the Juries to retire to. A plan and rough estimate of the expense has been made which amounts to nearly L250. There will be still a sum sufficient to proceed if approved by Your Lordship on the proposed jail and She riff’s House - they will not come under L1500 by any estimate framed on the present price of workmanship and materials at St. John’s - but by not pressing the buildings forward which there is no necessity for doing - by taking advantage of markets and sending for the Lumber required, instead of taking it out of the market at St. John’s, I am disposed to think may be kept under that sum.

I have etc.,

(Sd) R.G. Keats.

The Right Honourable

The Earl Bathurst, M.C.

Ac. Ac. Ac.
Fort Townshend,  
St. John's, Newfoundland.  

10 November 1813.  

No. 14.

My Lord,

I have the honour herewith to transmit a statement of the circumstances under which an application has been recently made to me, and refused, to set up a Second printing press and to publish a second weekly newspaper at St. John's and as I have reason to believe it was from the first determined to publish the paper in defiance of my authority, and have little doubt of the purposes to which a Press in Newfoundland unrestrained by any other than the common English law would be applied, I therefore request Your Lordship will please to allow the statement to be laid before His Majesty's Law servants for the benefit of their Opinion and Advice thereon.

I have &c.,

(Sd) R.C. Keats.

The

Right Honourable

The Earl Bathurst,

&c. &c. &c.
CASE.

During the Government of Sir Erasmus Gower (of Newfoundland) in 1806 application was made to him by Petition for liberty to set up a Printing Press and to publish a weekly newspaper for the extension of commercial information which was granted under several restrictions.

A similar application was made in the year 1809 by Governor Sir John Duckworth for liberty to set up a second press and to publish a second weekly newspaper which he declined on the principle that one Press and Paper were sufficient for all necessary mercantile purposes.

During the residence of the present Governor this season at St. John's printed handbills were put in circulation stating that certain persons (one a Trader, the other a youth of 15) under the firm of Haire and Lee had entered into co-partnership for the purpose of carrying on the printing business in all its branches, and intended early in the spring to publish a weekly journal. Some time after these Bills were put in circulation the Governor received an application by memorial from these persons soliciting his permission for that purpose. He granted them permission to exercise the business of printers for any necessary mercantile or commercial purposes, but withheld his consent to publish a weekly newspaper or Journal; previous and subsequent to the appropriation made to the Governor; he understood it was the determination of the Petitioners to set up
a Press and publish a Journal with or without his permission.

Your Opinion therefore is desired
First - Whether a man without a license or Permission of
the Governor, and in direct Opposition to his
commands, is entitled to set up a Printing Press and
publish a newspaper on Newfoundland.

Secondly - If he is not - what may be the proper mode
of proceeding by the Officers of the Crown for its
suppression.

By the Law of Newfoundland founded on
Custom and the policy of Government to confine our
establishments there to a mere fishery, and in unison
with the Governor's instructions, no person can
possess land, or build a dwelling house without his
special permission, and although in the course of
the present War St. John's by having been the general
depot of the Island, has assumed much of a commercial
character (which it may lose on a Peace) no alteration
has taken place in the Law, and by the Judicature Act
49 Geo. III - Cap. 27 it seems understood that the
English law shall determine as far as it is applicable
only in suits and complaints arising in Newfoundland.

Hitherto the Governor's consent has been con-
sidered necessary to exercise the profession or Occupa-
tion of Attorney- Printer- Notary Public- Auctioneer-
School master or Tavernkeeper &c. and it is presumed
this is the first instance of its having been called
in question.
Fort Townshend,
St. John's, Pld.
10 November 1813.

No. 15.

My Lord,

I have the honour herewith to transmit a paper denominated an humble memorial of the person whose signature it bears (a suitor of the Supreme Court at St. John's) and who himself brought and delivered it to my Secretary at Government House, St. John's, to be presented to me, after it had been read in, and pretty well circulated in the Town. This extraordinary production concludes by a request that it may be laid before His Royal Highness the Prince Regent. But so far from thinking it worthy of such distinction, I deem it my duty to request Your Lordship will please to cause it with the accompanying statement to be laid before His Majesty's Law Officers, for the benefit of their opinion, and to be directed by them what legal steps it may be proper to take against the subscriber and writer of this extraordinary paper.

Although it may not be necessary to enter into a detail of the circumstances of which it pretends to complain, nevertheless it may be proper to observe that the cause which led to the trial originated in a refusal on the part of the writer to pay the rent due to Government on pretexts, perhaps as groundless, ridiculous and perverse as were ever offered in a Court.
Court of Justice, and that the Chief Justice (Mr. Tremlett) before whom it came, considers the proceedings to have been regular and legal, and that the suitor has no grievance to complain of.

I have &c.,

(Sd) R.G. Keats.

The Right Honourable
The Earl Cathurst, K.G.

&c. &c. &c.
CASE

The Opinion and Direction of His Majesty's Law Servants are requested on a Paper sent herewith termed an Honourable Memorial.

First—Whether it is not a libel on the Administration of Justice in Newfoundland, by the Person who signed it—and by the Person also in whose handwriting it can be proved, and who was the Composer and Adviser of the subscriber.

Secondly—Whether the presenting it, is of itself a publication sufficient to institute regal proceedings or what would be a sufficient publication thereof?

Thirdly—Supposing it to be a libel, whether the mode of prosecution should be by indictment or by information, and in the latter case, as there are no professional gentlemen in Newfoundland, it would be requisite to have either perhaps both of them (lest a Grand Jury should ignore the indictment) prepared in England and sent out?

It may be necessary to remark that the subscriber at the time was a shifter in the Supreme Court at St. John's Newfoundland; the proceedings instituted against him were occasioned by his refusal to pay his rent due to Government, on as perverse groundless, and frivolous pretenses as were ever offered perhaps in a Court of Justice. The proceedings were considered by the Chief Justice, regular and legal and it is also considered the memorialist has not
not the most distant ground of complaint.

The subscriber brought the paper to Govern-
ment House and delivered it himself to the Governor's
Secretary to be presented to the Governor.

The subscriber was not the writer. The hand-
writing can be proved—Copies were put in circulation
in the town of St. John's—one of which is in the
Governor's possession and is wrote by the same
person, who wrote that presented to the Governor.
Fort Townshend,
St. John's, Newfoundland.
10 November 1817.

No. 16.

My Lord,

I beg leave to state to Your Lordship that Mr. Joseph Tucker Crawford the merchant referred to in the enclosed copy of a Despatch of Sir John Duckworth to Your Lordship has applied to me for permission to be allowed to erect dwelling houses intended for the accommodation of persons engaged in the Trade and Fisheries of St. John's on the part of his property described in Sir John Duckworth's said despatch and at the same time has submitted for my consideration a Plan on which he proposes to build the.

As this part of Mr. Crawford's property is similarly circumstanced with the ships rooms which by the Act 5 Geo. III were let on building leases by my predeces or, and is absolutely adjoining to one as the plan on which Mr. Crawford purposes to build his houses is not only unobjectionable but conformable in every way to the public security and the pretension of building in defiance of authority is no longer advanced I confess I see no reasonable objection to permit Mr. Crawford to proceed with his buildings in the manner he proposes, feeling as I do satisfied that Government in procuring the disposal of vacant ships rooms on building leases, never had it in contemplation to exercise an exclusive right to an advantage
advantage and to deny proprietors of lands similarly circumstances a participation of such privileges, where, as in the present instance, it could be exercised without prejudice or inconvenience to the Fishery. But although strongly impressed with these opinions, and that the circumstances produced by the leasing the Ships Rooms appear to justify an acquiescence with Mr. Crawford’s application, I am nevertheless restrained from giving my full consent thereto, by a consideration that it is the first application that perhaps ever came before a Governor of this Island to build dwelling Houses for the general accommodation of Persons engaged in the Trade and Fishery at St. John’s and having with some variation been brought before Your Lordship last year by my predecessor, I am desirous of receiving Your Lordships commands before I proceed finally to determine thereon.

I have &c.

( Sd) R.G. Keats.

The Right Honourable

The Earl Bathurst.
Fort Townshend,

St. John's in Newfoundland.

10th November 1813.

No. 17.

My Lord,

I beg leave to refer to Your Lordships despatch No. 8 and Mr. Secretary Goulburn's letter of the 18th April both transmitting opinions of His Majesty's Law servants for my guidance in the cases of Gill, and Stewart and Rennie, for encroachments on the rights of the Crown at the Ship's Rooms named Admiral's Beach and Darkus's room—to report to Your Lordship that Mr. Gill, abandoning altogether that language of defiance which was used in his correspondence last year, and manifesting even some concern for his inconsideration, has come fairly forward and exposed his claims to my examination and that of the Chief Justice. If Mr. Gill has not proved the original right of his family to the property in dispute he has at least shown that it has remained since the year 1754 in its interrupted possession. Few titles at St. John's where almost all originate in encroachment can be found less exceptionable certain that in the Court at St. John's a title so supported could not be set aside. That the case in a multitude of encroachments upon the rights of the Crown, is neither glaring, nor one with the evidence I possess which Your Lordship would wish me to persevere in, I therefore coincide in the opinion of the Chief Justice and recommend by his advice to Your Lordship to let it be abandoned altogether.

Mr.
Mr. Stewart has also come to me respecting the claims he supports in Darkus's room and has offered to lay them before me, supported by original writings, for which he has sent to Scotland. Darkus's room in point of rent is of less consideration than that of Admiral's Beach—the latter being £20 the former only £5 per annum. It appears unquestionable that by the disposal of the Ships Rooms in the year 1811 Mr. Stewart by being obliged to take at a high rent some grounds which before lay waste and which though unused by him, would be highly detrimental to his business if employed by another, has thereby been exposed to some considerable expense and inconvenience. That there has been some small encroachment of two or not more than three feet in the front of an inconsiderable building seems clear—though very doubtful whether from the nature of the evidence even that encroachment could be satisfactorily made out in Court. Under these circumstances while I would recommend the abandonment of the case of Admiral's Beach, rather on a principle of justice, I should feel inclined to advise this to be yielded as a matter of Grace in consideration that the claimants are orphans and that a spirit of menace and indecorum certainly ill-calculated to dispose my predecessor to concede any right however trifling, has totally disappeared.

I have &c.,

The Right Honourable

The Earl Bathurst,

&c. &c. &c.

(ad) R.G. Keats.
Bellerophon, Torbay,

18 December 1815.

My Lord,

I have the honour and satisfaction to state to Your Lordship that I left the Government of Newfoundland with which I had been honoured on the 22nd ultimo in tranquility— and after a season in which though the weather has been particularly unfavourable for curing and drying fish the catch of cod has been unusually great, and the other fisheries have proved commonly successful— the Returns of which together with those of Imports and Exports I shall have the honour of laying before Your Lordship as soon as those from some of the outports which could not be procured at the time of my departure shall arrive in England.

Your Lordship will have satisfaction in hearing that the alarm which was considerable upon my arrival in Newfoundland occasioned by a scarcity and insufficient stock of provisions in the Island, has subsided, and that the supply in store, owing to large imports principally from Great Britain a small supply only having been received from British America and none from Canada was considered at the time of my departure by a comparison with the Imports of former years as fully sufficient for the winter, and the prices particularly of Flour, had in consequence fallen considerably.

I have the honour to lay before Your Lordship a Report by the Head of the Engineer Department on the
the state of the Fortifications at St. John's by which it will be seen a small Field work has been established on the way to Petty Harbour. That the Batteries on the south side of the Entrance of the Harbour have been completed whilst the defences of Signal Hill and its dependencies remain in nearly the same ill-advanced state— an Fort Townsend with the exception of its platform in the sea face, mentioned last year, is fast crumbling into ruins. An estimate of the expense to complete a plan of defence proposed for Signal Hill has I understand been submitted to the Honourable the Board of Ordnance and it is believed has been found so considerable as to occasion some doubts of the propriety of proceeding on it.

Were it not that I feel much diffidence in speaking on a subject the study of a particular profession, I should be disposed to say St. John's is as easy to be defended from attacks by sea and as difficult by land as any place I have ever seen and inclined to recommend better and immediate care being taken of the important post of Fort Townsend and the communication from thence to Signal Hill before the great work be entered upon, which after all, even though it could be rendered impregnable, would not be found capable of protecting the Town and Fishing Establishments in the Harbour.

Following the Plan which my Predecessor had adopted for the defence of the Outharbours, I have in compliance with some applications on the part of
of the Inhabitants, and in unison with the sentiments of the Major General Commanding the Forces, sent some few pieces of Artillery with an adequate proportion of ammunition to the Bay of Bulls—fermeuse—Trepassey—and Placentia—for their more effectual defence against any predatory attacks of the enemy—and particularly for the security of the former—into which it not infrequently happens, from the state of the weather or ice on the Coast the early supplies of provisions and stores are collected and forced to wait an opportunity of getting into St. John's.

In laying before Your Lordship a Field return of the St. John's Volunteer Rangers accompanied by a letter from Major General mores, it is not without concern and considerable disappointment I feel myself called upon to state to Your Lordship that the expectations which Government had a right to entertain of a respectable addition to the established Military Force in that Corps will suffer considerable disappointment. Their musters and field returns very early fell off after the departure of Sir John Duckworth last year for England—nor have the constitutional regulations of the Corps for its Government, nor the authority of their officers supported and encouraged by me, proved sufficient in any one instance to procure the attendance in the field or on the Parade, of even one half of the Corps, and at times it has even happened that the number of officers has equalled that of the Privates, it is the more to be regretted as they are unquestionably a fine body of men, are
ably commanded, and had acquired an use of their arms, an appearance and a steadiness in the Field that had been found to me it the approbation of the Major General. Although under the circumstances I have described it would be highly improper to place full dependence on the Volunteer Rangers as a Corps, nevertheless I am not without expectation that on the appearance of an enemy the men resident at St. John's (for it cannot be denied that the Regulation which confines the Rangers to Resident Inhabitants was broken through on its formation would turn out, and be found very useful for their number. Looking to the causes which have led to the disappointment of the expectation formed of this Corps, I am disposed to consider it rather to arise from the difficulty with which People submit to any restraint in a country such as Newfoundland; where the power of making local laws or even necessary municipal regulations is not lodged in any autonomy than to any real disinclination to engage in the service of their country.

Giving to this important subject all the consideration of which I am master, I confess under the existing circumstances of Newfoundland I do not see in what manner without some Parliamentary interference, arrangements could be made either to render the present Volunteers effective or to establish any other Corps on which thorough dependence could be placed.

The measure which I was authorised to adopt of making small grants of land to industrious individuals for the purpose of cultivation, had been generally
generally received with becoming gratitude, notwithstanding pains have been taken to induce the lower classes to ascribe the Bounty of Government to a wrong motive. In proceeding to execute this part of my instructions it became necessary to make some enquiry into the lands at present enclosed or in cultivation, and into the titles by which those in occupancy in the vicinity of St. John's are held. And it is evident that the possessors of a considerable proportion of them have no other claim than that which occupancy may be permitted to establish, St. John's become the the general exporim of the Island in consequence of this extended war with a population of nearly 10,000 inhabitants seems to have grown out of its original situation and to be changing its character from a Fishery to a large commercial Town, and for a considerable time past has offered such advantages to the farmer and gardener as to surmount in a great measure all the restrains which nature or the policy of Government has laid on the cultivation of a soil certainly less sterile than it has generally been considered. But this character which it has latterly assumed it it very difficult if it will be able to support on the return of Peace. Considerably more than a thousand acres are in cultivation and as mant more perhaps enclosed the produce of which is confined to hay, Oats, Potatoes and vegetables of various kinds, Crops of which may be seen plentiful as in England, whilst the environs of the Town the natural beauties of
of which are very striking, present to the view several neat well cultivated and productive little farms. It is a circumstance particularly favourable to agriculture that husbandry does not interfere with the fisheries, and that the Fisheries supply the farmer with mackerel. The lands may be prepared and the crops put in and taken out before the commencement of, and after the fishery is over. With these advantages and that of a certain and profitable market the desire to possess land for several years has been eager and general. Proclamations repeated by my predecessors forbidding persons to take possession of lands have been disregarded. In cases where grants or leases have been obtained from Government the limits have commonly been exceeded. Pretences of every sort which ingenuity could devise have been resorted to to found titles, and by paying attention to claims or pretences of private property of which they are particularly jealous, and they have not been invaded by me, I have found but little land in the neighbourhood of St. John's to dispose of.

I have however availed myself of the authority afforded by my instructions to make 110 grants from small plots of land up to four acres which latter proportion except in the grants made by authority of Your Lordship to the Chief Magistrate and missionary I have never exceeded and the whole are subject to small annual quit rents from £ to 5 shillings per acre renewable at the expiration of thirty years in imitation
imitation of the Ship Room rents at moderate fines.

Your Lordship will not understand that I have made all the grants for which I have received application—many more remain for consideration. In the disposal of those already given I have been much governed by the recommendation of the magistrates paying attention to character and a consideration to the circumstances and family of the applicant. And this measure which appears generally to have given satisfaction cannot I think ultimately fail to prove advantageous to the community at large.

Conceiving the object of Government in allowing lands to be granted to have been rather to authorize and encourage the growth of potatoes and vegetables in order to lessen the increased difficulties arising out of the American War of subsisting so large a population than to authorize or encourage the general cultivation of the soil, I have been induced to limit the grants to four acres and finding (although many persons in the outports have possessed themselves of considerable tracts without due authority) that the industrious fisherman has never been denied the use of sufficient land to grow his vegetables and potatoes I have therefore made no grant whatever to any of the resident inhabitants of the Outports deeming satisfied that in possession of sufficient land for those necessary purposes they possess all the indulgence which it was the intention of Government to permit.

As the occupiers of lands by encroachment or without sufficient authority in the vicinity of St. John's
St. John's would be supposed to derive new claims to their usurpations by the silence of Government at present, it seems therefore to be necessary to come to some determination on that subject. Whatever it may be, I anticipate some difficulty—though it is probable the difficulty as well as the abuse will increase by delay. And I am disposed to consider the question of infinitely more importance to Government on a consideration that it may have a tendency to check in future a bold and presumptuous conduct setting as it were at defiance the authority and restraint imposed by Government, than from any addition to the revenue. And on a consideration of all circumstances I am inclined to recommend that the occupiers be left in possession of their encroachments on condition of their receiving leases and paying to Government quit rents founded on the same principles which those lands I have lately granted are subject to.

Although that part of His Majesty's Dominions over which I have the honour to preside whether with reference to the general success of the Fishery, to advantage of market, open without competition to its industry, or to the effectual protection with its trade and fisheries have received from any depredations of the enemy, may be said to enjoy a large portion of prosperity, it nevertheless is much to be lamented that the state of comparative happiness should suffer any interruption by the arts of wicked and designing men, who by an abuse of the mild laws under which we live by poisonous publications and in frivolous
and groundless pretexts are unceasing in their endeavours to fill the minds of the unwary with suspicions and to bring into disrespect and contempt the Government by which they are protected. The practice of this vicious conduct is of very recent date in Newfoundland. In taking the liberty to refer Your Lordship to Sir John Backworth's despatch of last year No. 2, I believe I go to the root and origin—but the progress has been very rapid. Emboldened perhaps by the pamphlet therein referred to passing unpunished the author immediately produced a second equally vicious though not equally liberal. A third with other inflammatory papers I understand are on their passage in his Convoy to an Edinburgh Press. As the consequence of such publications on the minds of a people perhaps too easily influenced and too open to the arts of seduction, cannot be estimated by any comparison with effects produced by similar arts in a country in which they are common, I have deemed it my duty not to suffer them to pass unnoticed to Your Lordship. The authors of these scurrilities by taking to themselves credit for having forced Government into the late measure of granting lands, and other low arts, are fast acquiring a consequence and popularity not very favourable to the quiet or subordination of the people, the effects of which begin to be visible in the conduct of some magistrates seemingly intimidated in the execution of their duties. My despatches Nos. 14 and 15 refer to subjects particularly connected with the present and I would take the liberty
liberty to suggest whether if the pamphlet wrote by
Doctor Carson referred to in Sir John Duckworth's
despatch was found libellous the prosecution of the
Edinburgh Printer as well as the Author might not have
a tendency to check the introduction of these mischiev-
ous writings into Newfoundland where their effects are
so sensibly felt. Although I acknowledge myself in-
capable of suggesting any effectual remedy to the
growing evil, I am nevertheless satisfied the time
is arrived when if the laws are capable of punishing
or checking the daring conduct of some, or the pernic-
ious writings of others, it would be unwise any longer
to delay their operation, and aware that there are still
many reasonable well-thinking inhabitants of St. John's
who deprecate such improper writings and misconduct,
I feel somewhat sanguine in my expectation that if
the Opinion of His Majesty's law servants should be
found such as to recommend prosecutions particularly in
the cases of Dr. Carson and John Ryan, the firmness
and ability of the Chief Justice will be found cap-
able of convicting them.

It is my duty to report to Your Lordship that
the Chief Magistrate Sheriff and missionary the Rev.
Mr. Rowland have each expressed themselves much
gratified. The two former by the increase of salary
and the latter by the grant of 20 acres of land which
sums I was instructed to attach to the situation as
a Glebe; as it becomes proper to notice to Your Lord-
ship a circumstance growing out of the appointment of
salaries
salaries to the magistrates at St. John's namely that the magistrates of other districts are thereby induced to look forward to salaries also. On this subject and to this effect three memorials have been presented to me but to which (though not insensible of the objections to which their present mode of remuneration by Fees is subject) I have not given the slightest encouragement seeing that it would be followed by numerous applications from other officers of government. But it is a measure in which I have some reason to believe the magistrates intend collectively to persevere.

The Chief Justice Mr. Colclough from whom I present Your Lordship with a memorial has been brought from Prince Edward Island and entered into his new office and Mr. Tremlett the late Chief Justice of St. John's has been removed in a King's ship to Prince Edwards Island. Mr. Colclough having referred Your Lordship to me for an explanation of the expenses he must necessarily be subject to at St. John's to support in the most economical manner his family, I can with great propriety assure Your Lordship that house rent, fuel, servants' wages and all articles of provisions (fish excepted) are more expensive at St. John's than any place I know. The late Chief Justice denied himself all society. The present in my opinion with the best management cannot support his situation on his present salary with becoming credit.

I have the honour at the request of the merchants
merchants and principal resident Inhabitants interested in the trade of Newfoundland to transmit Your Lordship a memorial which I have received from them calculated to call attention to the growing importance of the Fisheries of Newfoundland, to afford some useful information on that interesting subject and praying if circumstances should permit at the return of Peace that our present enemies may not be allowed to participate in that valuable fishery. The important advantages which would result to Great Britain and Newfoundland by excluding foreign powers from any participation in the valuable fisheries on that Island are too well known to Your Lordship and His Majesty's Government to make it unnecessary for me to enter at all upon. I will delay Your Lordship only to remark that the quantity of fish taken this season exceeds that of any former year—that the number of vessels sent from Nova Scotia (of which no notice is taken on my returns) to take fish in the straits of Belle Isle where Fleets were employed by the Americans have doubled that of the last year and will probably next year greatly exceed that of the present, that from the spirit and vigour with which preparations are already making to pursue the Fisheries (chiefly arising out of the American War) it is expected they will be very much increased next season. Connected with this subject Government will have the satisfaction of seeing by the Custom House returns that the Imports (provisions apart) from Great Britain have increased since the American War, seemingly in a greater proportion than can be accounted for by any increase of
of the population and that the 6d per gallon duty on
Rum has of itself this year produced upwards of
£10,000. The readmission of America to privileges
she enjoyed by former treaties in the Gulf of St.
Lawrence on the Coast of Labrador and Newfoundland
would infallibly be felt severely by the merchant the
Planter and in the avenues whilst the worst effects
would be produced by communications with a people so
invertebrately hostile and depraved, and the most
serious losses to our country would ensue, by the
valuable seamen and fishermen they would deprive us of.

I have still another petition to lay
before Your Lordship from Doctor Lambert, Titular
Bishop of Chytra, Head of the Roman Catholic mission in
Newfoundland. His predecessor Doctor O'Donel enjoyed
a small pension of £50 per annum in consideration of
some valuable services rendered by him at a critical
period. Doctor Lambert has I verily believe every
claim to Your Lordship's favourable consideration
which a faithful discharge of his duties uniting with
it the support of Government on merit. When the par-
ticular description of Catholics in Newfoundland,
and their great preponderance in numbers are consider-
ed the necessity that would be felt for their active
services in the event of an enemy's appearance I
confess I am disposed to think also pleads in support
of the merits of the petitioners and I should feel
pleasure and satisfaction in communicating to him that
he had been thought deserving by His Royal Highness
the Prince Regent of a still more considerable pension
than
than that bestowed on his predecessor, which I believe was considered small.

Before I conclude this subject I beg to notice to Your Lordship that a Catholic Priest the "Reverend John Power went some years ago to Newfoundland from Ireland without any recommendation or introduction to his Bishop. This person owing to some irregularities in his behaviour is now under the censure of the Church, and suspended by his Bishop from all ecclesiastical functions to which he submits with an ill grace. Though no circumstances appear absolutely unfavourable to his loyalty and duties as a subject: still suspicion is awake, and as he is of manners plausible and taking with the lower classes, it were desirable to get him secretly removed, if it could be affected by any arrangements through the Government of Ireland. And it would be especially desirable if measures could be taken by His Majesty’s Government to prevent any priests being suffered to go from Ireland in future to Newfoundland whose character may not be known and whose introductions to the Head of the Catholic mission are not regular.

I feel some repugnance to close my report to Your Lordship without glancing at a subject which I would fain hope will ere long be found to engage the most serious attention of Government. The subject to which I would allude is that of the present deplorable state of the Protestant Religion, which for want of encouragement to the Missionaries or Church establishments its members in some neglected districts are
are every day becoming a prey to the proselyting
seal of the Catholic Priests, or plunging into a state
of vice or irreligion approaching to Heathenish. In
a population of perhaps 60,000 inhabitants widely
dispersed there are but three Protestant Clergymen of
the Established Church, and a few dissenting ministers.
To the northward of St. John's the inhabitants are
generally protestant— to the Southward— Catholics—
whose numbers much exceed that of the Protestants.
The Catholic Bishop, a Vicar Apostolic has numerus
priests at his direction, who annually visit every
part of the Island and with a zeal and activity
sothy of imitation, are too successful in making
proselytes. The desire which the human mind not
absolutely lost to all moral and religious duties
feels to offer its devotions to the Supreme Being,
is very commonly the cause (in the absence of its own
religious institutions) of Proselytism to the Catholic
communion; and the absolute inability in which they
are placed in many districts of procuring a Protestant
clergyman to perform the ceremonies of marriage and
baptism, is another cause of the increase of that
communion and that the evil even grows with the
population.

Although I have forborne in this early part
of my Government to make a full report, on all the
interesting subjects to which my instructions refer,
on a consideration that the experience of one season
may not be sufficient to obtain that insight or infor-
mation necessary to enable me to report them with
correctness
correctness or advantage, I nevertheless have not omitted any favourable opportunity of seeking information and therefore trust I may be permitted to delay my report to a period of my Government more advanced.

I have ac.

(Sgd) R.G. Keats.

The Right Honorable

The Earl Bathurst,

Ac. Ac. Ac.