

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY SENT DOWN TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE 10th JULY, 1846.

J. HARVEY.

With reference to the Address of the General Assembly presented to the Governor yesterday, and including a vote of £500 in order to enable the House to bestow upon him some such Testimonial as may serve to recal to him the memory of his connexion with Newfoundland, the Governor desires to acquaint the House, that having given his consideration to the description of Testimonial which would be most acceptable to his own feelings—be exceedingly agreeable to those of Lady Harvey—to whom the house has so kindly referred, and at the same time, as he trusts, best carry out the objects of the House, under the actual circumstances of the Colony, and moreover be in accordance with observations contained in his Speech on the opening of the present Session, would be, that £400 of this sum should be appropriated to the formation of a fund to be loaned, under regulations to be framed by the Governor, in small sums, to Housekeepers in St. John's, of small means, who have been severe sufferers, in their comforts, from the effects of the late fire,—and that the remaining sum of £100 should be applied to the purchase of a Town Clock, to be placed in some conspicuous position in the centre of the City.

The assent of the House to this suggestion would enable the Governor to fulfil his promise of bringing the wishes of the House (as expressed in their address of yesterday) to the knowledge of our Gracious Sovereign in a manner most grateful to his own feelings, and, he ventures to believe, most gratifying to Her Majesty, as respects the conduct of the House upon this occasion.

J. H.

Government House, 10th July, 1846.

ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE IN REPLY.

To His Excellency Major General Sir JOHN HARVEY, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Island of Newfoundland and its Dependencies, &c. &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

The House of Assembly have taken into consideration Your Excellency's Message of the 10th instant, relative to the description of Testimonial that would prove most acceptable to Your Excellency, as commemorating Your Excellency's governmental connexion with this country; and they gratefully acknowledge the kind dispositions which have suggested the appropriation of the sum of four hundred pounds towards establishing a small Loan Fund to relieve Housekeepers in St. John's, of small means, who have been sufferers in their comforts by the late fire; and they beg, in reply, to say, that they shall feel happy to comply with Your Excellency's wishes in that respect, as well as in appropriating the remaining one hundred pounds of the sum mentioned in their original Address, towards erecting a Public Clock in the Town of St. John's.

JOHN KENT, *Speaker*.

House of Assembly, July 14, 1846.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

At a Public Meeting of the citizens of Saint John's, held at the Factory on the 19th instant, B. G. Garret, Esq. in the Chair, Mr. W. Ward, Secretary, the following Resolutions were passed:—

Proposed by Hon. W. Thomas, seconded by Rev. Mr. Forristal—

Resolved, That this Meeting desires to express, in the strongest terms of gratitude, its thanks to His Excellency Lord Falkland, and to the Executive Government of Nova Scotia, for the munificent grant from the funds of that Colony, in aid of the sufferers by the late fire in this town.

Proposed by Rev. Mr. Bridge, seconded by Hon. Mr. Robinson—

Resolved, That this Meeting deeply appreciates the benevolent sympathy which has been manifested by the Mayor and Citizens of the city of Halifax towards their fellow colonists in this town, by the very handsome and generous donations sent to us by the steamer *Unicorn* and schooner *Primrose*; and while we take this as an earnest that the noble example of Halifax will be followed by other cities and towns in Great Britain, and her Colonies, and in the United States of America, we most gratefully offer them our heartfelt acknowledgements for their bounty, to which we will add our hopes and our prayers that they may never be visited by a calamity so awful as that which devastated our town on the 9th June.

Proposed by N. Stabb, Esq., seconded by Hon. Mr. O'Brien—

Resolved, That the Chairman do transmit a copy of these Resolutions to Halifax, by the steamer *Unicorn*.

The Public Ledger has the following explanatory passage, with reference to the circumstances under which His Excellency Sir John Harvey may have to administer the duties of Governor General of British America:—

"In order to prevent any misconception of the terms of His Excellency's commission, we are authorized to state, that the clause in Sir JOHN HARVEY'S commission as Lieutenant Governor of

Nova Scotia, which authorizes and requires him to assume and exercise all and singular the power and functions of Captain General and Governor in Chief in case of the death or absence of that officer, extends only to Nova Scotia, and cannot be regarded in the light of a provisional appointment to the office of Governor General, which being a political one, can, we apprehend, only be supplied at the period of its occurrence by the Cabinet of the day."

The Commissioners appointed to survey and lay out the town of St. John's, preparatory to its being rebuilt, have sent in their Report. It embraces a great variety of suggestions for the more effectual prevention of fires, by enlarging and widening the streets, the erection of fire-breaks, &c. If their plan is carried out, Saint John's will be much improved, and will in future vie with any other city of British America in appearance.

A writer in the *Public Ledger* who appears to understand his subject, and to have some authority for his observations, makes the following among other commentary, upon Sir John Harvey's administration:—

"We now come to the period of Sir John Harvey's assumption of the Government. When in 1841 he received his appointment, he had interviews in London with the delegates of both the great parties that divided society. We believe he immediately succeeded in forming impressions favourable to him in the minds of all of them. When he first landed, an incident occurred, apparently trifling in its character, and which would appear of little importance to a person less skilled in the *tactique* of government than Sir John. Society was in such a state that parties would not unite on the most innocent subjects; even on those entirely unconnected with party movements. The subject was a congratulatory address to the Queen on the birth of a Prince. The requisition to the Sheriff was signed on separate slips of paper; when one party heard that it was a leader in the other that called the Meeting, they refused to have their names appended to the requisition. Sir John, hearing of this difference, sent for both parties, counselled them separately, the Meeting was held, and parties of all classes and creeds were, for the first time for several years, seen cordially mingling together, proposing and seconding Resolutions. On his assumption of the government, Sir John made no disturbance of the then existing order of things—he had two seats in the Legislative Council to dispose of; he divided them equally; he created a host of Executive Councillors, and thereby made obsequious to his will a number of influential men, whose opinions were marshalled on the side of government by means of the prefix of "honourable" to their names. He took upon himself the responsibility of remodelling the proclamation which regulated elections, and which was previously declared to be the common law of the colony, only to be altered by Legislative action; and produced a system admirably suited to the exigencies of the country. He immediately commenced a series of despatches to the parent state, of the most favourable character with regard to the capabilities of the country and the dispositions of its inhabitants. In dealing with party he shewed admirable tact,—he found the old dominant party insolent from former possession of power—he saw in the popular party men who were grateful for the slightest acknowledgment of their influence—he artfully ministered to the pride and passions of the first, and he depended on the good sense and discrimination of the others, to secure their support for his government. These arts were not the result of any dissimulation in his character; he resorted to them because, from his profound knowledge of human nature, he knew that in order to govern successfully he must minister even to its weaknesses. His exemption from party bias may be gathered by his disposition of the small amount of patronage that falls to the disposal of a Colonial Governor. He gave to the representatives of every party, and when any emolumentary office was at his disposal, his only regret was that he could not satisfy every claimant; he realised the wish of the poet, and made people exclaim—

"I am glad to see that time survive,
Where merit is not sepulchred alive."

Those most opposed to him now acknowledge that he has not a particle of vindictive feeling in his nature; he is a warm friend, and a man incapable of any continuous resentment. The action of the Legislature cannot in justice be attributed to him; his part, independent of his vetoistical prerogative, was purely advisory. He has always used his influence to promote education, to foster agriculture, and to open out the country by roads and other communications.

A Bill has passed the Legislature providing against the disqualification of persons as Members of Assembly, or from voting at elections, who were eligible before the fire—the law is to be in operation three years, and appears to have been rendered necessary by the present Act obliging all such persons to be occupiers of a dwelling house two years preceding any such election.

CORONERS' INQUEST.

On the 28th ult. an Inquest was held by Henry Jones, Esquire, Coroner, Parish of Southampton, on view of the body of Benjamin Kimble, from the Long Reach, who came by his death while bathing in the river, in company with two other individuals. Verdict—Accidental death by drowning.

All Letters must be Post-paid.

Printed and Published at the Royal Gazette Office, near the Province Buildings, by JOHN SIMPSON, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.
Wednesday, August 5, 1846.