

Criminal as in the Civil Courts ; and instead of it, to have recourse to a system which being, as your Committee believes, without precedent in the British Dominions, is in their opinion unsound in principle, and would be unsatisfactory in practice.

But as there is perhaps none of our institutions with respect to which any proposed change should be more deliberately and cautiously weighed, your Committee think it important that they should not content themselves with expressing, in general terms, their unfavourable opinion of this proposition, but that they should bring the subject under the notice of your Honorable House in such a manner as may enable you to judge of the grounds upon which this opinion is founded.

For this purpose it will be necessary first to state in what manner the Laws of this Province now provide for the return of Grand Jurors, Petit Jurors, and Special Jurors. Your Committee will then assign their reasons for the opinion that the changes proposed by this Bill, instead of being improvements, would be injurious and inconvenient ; and while this important subject is under consideration, your Committee may venture upon the ulterior enquiry, whether it would be desirable to introduce any alterations in the existing Laws.

1st—Grand Juries in this Province are returned precisely as in England ; we have no local law on the subject ; their qualifications, their powers, the mode in which they are summoned, their duties and manner of performing them, are all taken from the Law of England.