

me so constituted, as to confer the least possible Advantage of a Government. The Governor's Appointment continues for Three Years, the Term of his Station; the Captains of the Squadron, who are his Surrogates, are often changed during the Station. It happens, therefore, that the Governor has One Year to see and learn, another to execute his Authority with some Knowledge, and a Third Year with some little more.

If the Governor, who is changed every Three Years, has little Time to learn the Peculiarities of the Trade and Fishery, what is to be said of the Captains of Ships, who are often changed before the Station is out? And if you add to this that they all come to the Business of hearing Causes for the first Time in their Lives (unless by some Chance a Captain has been on the Station before) it seems altogether the most singularly contrived System, and most unsatisfactory to every Body concerned in it. It is therefore not to be wondered, that the Governors who succeeded Admiral Edwards, finding they could not determine Causes so easily as he says he did, and less liking than himself to pay a Sum of Money to compromise* any Action that might possibly be brought against them for what they did, ceased to hold Courts, and endeavoured to enforce an Observance of the Law, more by

* I understand it cost the Admiral £. 300 to compromise the Action brought against him.

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