

men, in seeking redress for their sufferings and their shame, in the Supreme Court of this Island, were told by the Chief Justice, in whose legal decisions we have the highest confidence, that the Surrogates are legally authorized to inflict corporal punishment for Contempts; and the Juries found for the Defendants. The Jury in James Landergan's case used the following emphatic language—

“The Jury, in finding a Verdict for the Defendants, cannot allow this opportunity to pass, without expressing their abhorrence of such an unmeritorious and cruel punishment for so trifling an offence as that inflicted on the unfortunate Plaintiff in this Action.

“WILLIAM HAYNES, *Foreman*.

“Jury Room, November 9th, 1820.”

The sympathies of his fellow men have enabled Landergan to appeal from this Judgment to the King in Council, in the hope that his situation will attract the attention of our Sovereign and his Ministers.

At a distance from the Supreme Court, and having no legal practitioners in our District to direct and assist us, we are exposed to the capricious exercise of an undefined, unintelligible summary justice, by which our fellow subjects, crimeless and without a legal trial, are exposed to infamous punishments;—and we have often witnessed, in one day, the industrious Planter reduced, by their decisions, from affluence and comfort to poverty and wretchedness. It must be quite unnecessary for us to point out to your Honourable House how ill qualified such men must be, from habit and education, to administer the Laws.

The laws and ordinances of Newfoundland were formed in the early period of its settlement; principally to meet the circumstances of a transient people and a moveable fishery.—These circumstances have passed away—and a resident popu-