

"manded by their Lordships to acquaint you, that, they  
"cannot give Directions for the Acceptance of the said Bills,  
"as the same should have been drawn by the Governor, who is  
"alone responsible for the proper Expenditure of the Money,  
"and best able to explain to their Lordships the Necessity  
"of the Service, &c. TWO SPEAKERS."

Mr. Venture, [who on his Return in December to the Colony, had been by a violent Snow Storm driven off the Coast of Cape Breton, and in the utmost Danger of foundering under the Pressure of the Ice] having shaped his Course for England, had arrived at Cowes in the Isle of Wight. In the Account of his Expedition, given by him into the Secretary of State's Office, he says, "the Day before our  
"Disaster we passed through the Road of Malinadieu, and  
"we were informed that Governor DesBarres and the  
"Inhabitants were in the greatest Distress for want of Pro-  
"visions, none having arrived from the Time of our De-  
"parture. Should the other Three Vessels miscarry, I  
"am afraid the Consequences will not only be distressing,  
"but fatal." And, on the Subject of the Loyalists, pro-  
"posing to resort to the Infant Colony, he stated "I estimat-  
"between Six and Seven hundred Families, the most of  
"them, very respectable in Character and of considerable  
"Property in that Country, who only wait for my Report  
"from hence to dispose of their Estates in that Country  
"and repair to Cape Breton this Spring, exclusive of  
"nearly the total of those following the Whaling Business  
"from Nantucket; nor can I entertain a doubt but that  
"those will be followed by thousands."

In this Conjunction, an Order was directed to Mr. Venture, viz. "Treasury Chambers, 24th January 1786,  
"I am commanded, by the Lords Commissioners of His  
"Majesty's Treasury, to desire you will lose no Time to bring  
"the brig St. Peter and her Cargo, now off Cowes, into the  
"River Thames, and that, on your Arrival there, you will  
"deliver the said Brig and Cargo to Messrs. Rathleigh and  
"Co. of Garlick Hill, Merchants, who have their Lordship's  
"Direction to receive the same, &c. GEORGE ROSS."

Mr. Venture obeyed the Order. At the same Time he humbly requested their Lordships would be pleased to consider that the said specific Cargo of the St. Peter had been purchased for the Relief of the distressed Colonists in Cape Breton, and was actually paid for by DesBarres, through his Agent, in Virtue of the above-mentioned Credit of £800.

Result: The Bills, which Mr. Venture had drawn in excess of the Credit of £800, returned under Protest. Upon Intelligence thereof in America, and of the Measures which had taken place, the greatest Consternation prevailed among the Loyalists—some of whom had already disposed of their landed Property and made the requisite Preparations for their Removal to the Infant Colony—Others were on the Point of embarking—Seven Vessels were actually loaded with Families waiting only for Wind to set sail. This, together with the Non-payment of the Advances incurred by DesBarres for supporting the Colony, produced to the Opponents of the Prosperity of Cape Breton an Affluency as astonishing as it was unmerited and prejudicial. DesBarres had no Resource left, either for allaying the Clamour of Creditors who had supplied the Public Service, or for procuring farther Means of Existence to the People, but by proceeding to sell away a Part, and execute Mortgages for the Residue of his Property. [P 43. N 193 to 201. P 47. N 205, 209.]

The Colonial Chief Justice and the Examiner of the Public Accounts, dispatched, with Documents of the Transactions which had taken Place, for the purpose of

minutely explaining to His Majesty's Ministers the actual State and Circumstances of the Colony and of the Expenditures, and in View of obtaining requisite Support, arrived in London in July 1786. They returned to Cape Breton in September 1787, without having effected any of the Objects.

The Chief Justice wrote that "having remonstrated on  
"DesBarres' impending Ruin by delaying the Settlement  
"of the Accounts, and on the Salvation of the Colony by  
"Provisions being sent thither in Time, as the Two most  
"pressing Objects," he was answered, by the Under  
"Secretary of State, that "the Papers were passing among  
"the Ministry for perusal and Consideration, and that he  
"would have an Hearing."

Upon further Communications he informed, that "no  
"Consideration of the Distress of the People, or to en-  
"courage their staying in, or Others to come to, the Co-  
"lony, would be sufficient to procure them Provisions from  
"the Crown—that it seemed determined to leave the  
"Island to its own natural Advantages, to become popu-  
"lous, or not, in the ordinary Course of Events."

If really it had been the Intention to have established a Colony at Cape Breton without Expence to Government, it were much to be regretted that the Proposal submitted by DesBarres to Lord North in 1783, had not been adopted—pledging himself therein to advance all the requisite Expence therefor, and requiring only the merited Protection of Government and to be allowed Repayment from the future Revenue which must have accrued. Cape Breton, by such Measure, might at this Day have been a conspicuous Object of National Utility.—But Matters had been arranged otherwise.

Ample Support was promised, and full Reliance was placed thereon, particularly in the Article of Provisions to Loyalists, &c, who might emigrate to the Infant Colony. In the neighbouring Province of Nova Scotia, Provisions were issuing to above Thirty thousand people, while not a single Ration was received from Government for a similar Supply of the like Description of Individuals in Cape Breton—a Country in a State of Nature and without Resource from previous Cultivation. [P 47. N 203, 204, 206 to 208, 212.]

The said Chief Justice, subsequently declared, that "some Time after the Arrival in London of Colonel Yorke  
"and of Mr. Hurd, being informed that Complaints against  
"Governor DesBarres were exhibited at the Secretary of  
"State's Office, he, without loss of Time, had applied to  
"know, if the Information was founded, and Mr. Nepean  
"having acknowledged that there were such Complaints  
"in the Office, he, then had requested a Communication of  
"them, as it was probable, when he should know what the  
"Complaints were, he might be able to give upon the Spot  
"satisfactory Answers thereto. Whereupon he was replied,  
"that the Complaints would not be communicated to him;  
"but they should be sent to the Governor in order for himself  
"to answer them." They were not sent.—It is however the invariable Practice of Office so to do.—Justice also required it, in the View of enabling immediate Refutation, or of collecting justificative Proofs, on the Spot, in the Event of a future Trial. [P 48. N 210, 213 to 214.]

Extract of a Letter from said Chief Justice, dated London 21 November, 1786, viz: "Repeated Reports having  
"been spread that you were, or would be, superseded, and  
"Governor Hamilton appointed in your Place, I pur-  
"posely waited on Mr. Nepean and requested to know the  
"Truth of the Reports. He told me that Governor Ha-

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