

mittee, in a Letter, dated 11th February last: And in a Letter, dated the 20th of the same Month, he justified the Proceedings of the said Court by alledging, that from the 4th September, when the Court first began to sit, to the Admiral's Departure for England on the 26th October, there were only Four Courts, neither of which lasted more than Five Hours; whereas the Court of Session, in which such Causes are said to have been formerly tried in the said Island, never sat less than Twice a Week, seldom got through more than Three Causes in a Day, and those in such a Manner as frequently to occasion their being tried Two or Three Times over. That One Judge of the new established Court sat however every Day, in order to save Trouble to the Plaintiffs, who had thus an Opportunity at all Times to present Petitions, and make the proper Affidavits for commencing Suits, after which there was no further Trouble given than such as must have attended every Suit in the most trifling Cause in a Court of Conscience. That by comparing the Court established by him with the former Court of Session, or that of Vice Admiralty, it will be found that the new Court is formed on simple Principles, and cannot fail to distribute equal and immediate Justice to all, without Respect to Persons—That the Two former Courts hereinbefore mentioned are without Form or Order, and if not glaringly partial, only harass, perplex, and waste the Time of many Individuals, instead of doing their Business for them—That the Attendance upon Juries in the new Court is not greater than heretofore; for that the Court of Session never proceeded on any Cause of Consequence without a Jury; and that even the Vice Admiralty Court, in consequence of Complaints from the Merchants, during Vice Admiral Campbell's Government had frequently summoned Juries.—That of Twenty-eight Causes completely disposed of by the new Court, the least of them was for upwards of £. 5, most of them for more than £. 10, and some for near £. 200; and out of the Whole only Two Verdicts were given against the Plaintiffs.—That, except in One Instance, no Person was sent for to attend this Court from out of the District of St. John's; and that, in that One Case the Defendant might have avoided the Inconvenience, which was wholly occasioned by his Obstinacy.—That the Fees taken in the new Court were considerably less than those taken in the Court of Session, and not a Quarter of the Sum charged by the Court of Vice Admiralty.—That the Court of Session has always conducted their Business in a very irregular and bad Manner, owing to the Justices being kept in continual Dread by the Merchants, who frequently threaten to prosecute them for their Decisions.—That the Court of Vice Admiralty had likewise been complained of by the Merchants as a great Grievance; and the same Merchants now wish to represent the new Court as likely to ruin the Fishery; so that whatever Judicature may be established in the Island, it is likely to meet with Opposition from the Memorialists, who aim at sacrificing the real Interests of the Fishery to their private Views.—For further Particulars the Committee presume to refer to the before-mentioned Letter of Admiral Milbanke, dated the 20th February last.

The Committee having maturely considered the Reasons assigned by Your Majesty's Governor for establishing the said Court of Common Pleas, and the several Facts alledged by him in Justification of the Proceedings of the said Court, thought it right to examine the said Governor, *viva voce*; in which