

Honourable Hudson's Bay Company, and under the influence of the Governor in the capacity of chief factor and member of the board of management of the aforesaid Company, and having promotion in the Company's service at his command, have, contrary to the effect of their own finding and verdict on oath, signed an address, stating that they feel, as the Governor does, that he is the fittest person for the office of those not already professionally occupied.

5th. That his Excellency the Governor was informed, both by magistrates and in an address signed by a large number of the people, all interested in the welfare of the colony, and in the purity and efficiency of the courts of justice, of the illegality of the appointment, and of Mr. Cameron's personal unfitness, as proved by his conduct, for that office, even were the appointment not illegal; that he refused to listen to their arguments or remonstrances, saying that he did not recognise as colonists any persons who were not landed proprietors, and denying the right to speak on such a subject to men of intelligence, commercial interest, and industrious pursuits, who have come among us with the desire of permanently settling if they found the prospects good, but who would not blindly invest their property in land in the colony before they saw whether the administration of the Government were able, just and impartial, and whom the present system is accordingly, as your memorialists believe for the sake of securing a monopoly it was designed to do, driving away to seek in other lands a permanent home, and carry on their operations where they can dwell in safety.

6th. That the only member of Council who is unconnected with the company, and who was appointed M. C. by the former Governor, Manshard, having unwittingly been betrayed into acquiescing in this appointment, from his being hurried through the Council, and passed all in one day, and having on reflection perceived its impropriety, had a personal interview with his Excellency the Governor on the subject, when he still persisted in maintaining the appointment, saying he would give way for nobody, and when it was mentioned to him that the people would probably address the Imperial Government, that they might do what they liked; that not satisfied with this effort, the same gentleman subsequently addressed to his Excellency a note, to which he has never received any reply.

7th. That your memorialists, not being able to give up in this way their just rights, not being ready to sacrifice their dearest interests to the overbearing and reckless assertion of a lawless and arbitrary power, wielded, as they think, not solely with a view to, and certainly not, they are assured, with an operation for the benefit and credit of the colony, and being convinced that Her Majesty's Government needed only to be informed, with accuracy, of their real grievances, in order to redress them, in public meeting determined to appoint a representative to convey to your Grace personally, on their behalf, the statement of the wrongs inflicted upon them, and of the grievances under which they are deeply suffering, that they accordingly have appointed the Rev. R. J. Staines to this office, whom they have commissioned to express to your Grace how deeply they feel that this application to your Grace's sense of justice will be of the most decisive effect for the weal or the woe of this colony, for its hopeful progress or its desperate retardation, this being, as they conceive, the critical point and period of its history; and finally,

That, relying on your Grace's readiness to do them justice as soon as you are made aware of their sufferings, they earnestly beseech your Grace, for that end, to inquire into all the facts and circumstances of the case, and subject them to the most rigid scrutiny.

And your Memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(signed) James Cooper, M.C.,
and by 69 others.

Victoria, Vancouver Island,
1 March 1854.

— No. 2. —

(No. 8.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P.,
to Governor Douglas.

Sir,

Downing-street, 26 April 1856

WITH reference to your Despatch, No. 2,* of the 7th January 1854, transmitting an Act passed by your Council to establish a Supreme Court of Civil Justice, and to the correspondence which has since passed on the subject, I now transmit to you an Order in Council for the same purpose.

2. Mr. Cameron will be appointed chief justice, and the warrant for that purpose will be transmitted to you with as little delay as possible.

507.

F 3

3. Criminal

No. 2.
Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M.P., to
Governor Douglas.
26 April 1856.
* Page 37.