

ing obliged to indorse his Bill before a Magistrate in Great Britain or Ireland. Then

Major JOHN ELFORD being examined, informed your Committee, That he is Lieutenant Governor of St. John's, and that he has resided there several Years.—And being asked, Did the Governor General of Canada send him Orders as to the other Lieutenant Governors under his Command? he said, Yes; he considered Newfoundland as under his Government; that he had some Scruples at first, supposing himself under the Admiral, who was Governor for the Time being, and upon his Representation was obliged to obey the Orders of Lord Dorchester, Governor General of Canada.—And being asked, Whether he knew if the Trade has increased or decreased? he said, It has decreased.—And being asked, Whether he knew of any Mode of removing the Residents at Newfoundland? he said, Yes; by enlisting a Number of idle Persons, who have no Employment, and are very desirous of quitting the Island if they had Opportunity; that he remembers One Winter 500 of them being starving at St. John's; that the peaceable Inhabitants were exceedingly alarmed, and the Magistrates applied to him to issue Provisions from His Majesty's Stores, which he did, and thereby prevented the bad Consequences which were apprehended; and he is sure it would be of great Service to the Fishery, if those Persons were removed from the Island; that no Woman should be suffered to be brought out, as is the Practice now, from Ireland, and Means should be taken to remove those now there.—And being asked, Whether he approves of what Mr. Ougier has recommended respecting the Regulations of making the Bills not payable to the Order of the Men, till they have been indorsed by the Man himself in England or Ireland before some Magistrate? he said, He does; and added, it is the best Thing that can be adopted.—And being asked, Whether it is common for the Hucksters and Pedlars at Newfoundland to get Possession of the Men's Bills under various Pretences, by which Means they are defrauded of their Property, and are frequently left in the Island? he said, He knows it to be a common Practice; there is not a Winter but they have been obliged to raise Subscriptions to relieve the Miseries occasioned by these Practices.—And being asked, If the Statement of Compton's Case, delivered in by Mr. Ougier, was authentic? he said, He knew it was.—And being asked, Whether there are sufficient People in the Island of Newfoundland properly qualified for Justices of the Peace, if Custom-house Officers were excluded? he said, Yes, more than sufficient at St. John's, the Part of the Island he is more particularly acquainted with.

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