

1801, to £750, and finally in 1816, to £900, besides £100 for circuit expenses. But the Trade of Canada has since the year 1760, increased twenty fold, and that above 700 vessels arrive annually from Sea at the Port of Quebec—no augmentation of Salary has been granted to the Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court, some of the Governors seem to have thought that the Fees allowed to the Judge, which have never exceeded £200 yearly, (great part of the suits in that Court being pauper cases, in which the Judge has no Fees,) were a sufficient remuneration for his responsibility, and the important and increasing duties of his office; and others, that this Tribunal being a British Maritime Court, they did not think themselves at liberty to interfere in any thing that related to it. A single Judge, deriving great part of his appointment from Fees of office, armed with the powers of attaching ships for small debts, and of inflicting penalties and forfeitures to a large amount, without the interposition of a jury, Your Excellency may well suppose could not fail to become the *object of Colonial jealousy and distrust*. Being placed, also, in respect to income and rank, greatly inferior to the common Law Colonial Judges, and in this country where every British Institution is regarded with suspicion, it cannot but be presumed that the exercise of the Judge's authority would be submitted to without much opposition and complaint. In order to mitigate this feeling towards the Court of Vice Admiralty, I submit to Your Excellency, there are two courses to be followed:—1st, That of abolishing the Court of Vice Admiralty and transporting its jurisdiction to the Court of King's Bench at Quebec; and secondly, that of placing the Judges on the same footing in respect to rank and emolument, with a Judge of the Court of King's Bench. In respect to the *first*, I should feel very great reluctance in recommending a course by which all prosecutions for penalties and forfeitures under the Trade and Navigation Laws, would be tried before a *Canadian* jury, and questions in relation to salvages, collision, &c., be brought before a Tribunal, which from its constitution and practice, is not calculated to give relief. Besides, the poor Seamen, for whose benefit the Court was instituted, could in most instances have no remedy for their wrongs, inasmuch as during the greatest part of the summer and autumn months no Court is open to give them redress but that of the Vice Admiralty. With regard to the *second*, to render the Court of Vice Admiralty commodious, and more efficient and respectable, I would humbly submit, that the Judge should be placed on the same footing in respect to rank and salary, with a Puisné Judge of the Court of King's Bench. The abolition entirely of the Judge's Fees, would thus remove all cause of complaint on that head, and the public would no longer be misled into a belief, that the Court is inferior in rank and authority, to the Common Law Courts of the Colony. I would also think it advisable, that, in lieu of Fees, in all suits, for Seamen's wages *alone*, there should be paid to the Registrar a Salary of £150 per annum.

Looking as I have done for some time past, towards a retirement from public office, after thirty two years passed in His Majesty's service, I trust I shall not be thought to have any bias towards my own interest in the opinion which I have had the honor to submit, in obedience to Your Excellency's desire; and on the subject of retirement, I pray Your Excellency to excuse my laying before you the following facts:—In the year 1797, I was appointed to the office of Judge of the Court of Vice Admiralty, by the late Lord Melville, then Mr. Dundas, for important public service, and I then relinquished my prospects at the English Bar, in the expectation that the Prize Commission attached to the office, would have been continued until the close of the late War; but it being deemed proper to establish a Court of Prize at Halifax, with more extensive powers than formerly, my Prize Commission was revoked in 1801, by which I sustained a loss of several thousand pounds. In 1807, I was appointed a Judge of the Court of King's Bench at Quebec; in 1812, I was called to the Executive