

frame the Code in question, consisting of one or more officers of the Royal Navy, who have commanded on foreign stations, two Masters of experience and good character in the Merchant Service, and the Solicitor of the Admiralty, or some other competent legal adviser; and the same persons, with the assistance of any of Her Majesty's Consuls now in England, might draw up the regulations and form of proceeding for hearing and determining all complaints, and offences committed by British merchant seamen on the High Seas or in foreign ports, which the Act of Parliament placed under their jurisdiction.

I will only add, that having served nearly five years in South America at a period when no recognized Consular authorities existed in that country, and all the duties devolved on the Naval Officer in command, I do not speak without some considerable experience on the subject I am now discussing, and I am able to corroborate by my own testimony all the more important facts contained in the various reports submitted to Parliament last year, and to which I have already referred.

It is deeply to be regretted, that the improvements now contemplated did not precede (or at least accompany) the repeal of the Navigation Laws; and that our commercial marine should not have been more carefully prepared for the great struggle for superiority in which it is now involved with rivals,