

Committee most readily concede that all the circumstances which he enumerates are serious evils, and conspire in conjunction with the practice of the Court of Vice Admiralty, to produce that state of things of which the trade has so much cause to complain. The remainder of the observation calls for no remark.

11°. On the statement of the Honorable Judge, that on the average of the last two years only £700 per annum have been taken as fees by the Judge and Officers of the Court of Vice Admiralty. The Committee request permission to remark that the Fees of the Proctors necessarily employed in the Court form no part of that sum, though these must also be paid by the Suitors; These fees may in the belief of the Committee, amount to about one thousand pounds. There are beside contingent expenses; the whole may form a sum of about Two thousand pounds per annum, which constitutes a heavy tax upon Ship-Owners, in the present depressed state of that interest. The Committee may be permitted to add, that this is not the amount of the evil, as they may state it as the general practice of the Merchants, to recommend as Ship-Masters, the settlement of all demands made upon them, by seamen through the the Proctors of the Court of Vice Admiralty in preference to allowing the course to be proceeded on; as if it goes into the Court, let it be decided as it may, the expenses of the Court must be paid, by the Ship-Owners.

12°. The Committee are well aware "that the Court of Vice Admiralty " is a British Court in which are administered the maritime and the trade " and Revenue Laws of the Empire," but they apprehend that they imperfectly understand the learned Judge in the doubt which he expresses, "how far " a Colonial Legislature is sufficiently informed or disposed to place it on a " footing, so as to carry into full effect the object of its creation." The Committee have no desire to interfere with, or in the most distant manner disturb, the object, for which the Court was established; but to interfere with that object, and to regulate by Law the fees to be taken, by the Officers of the Court, are different subjects, and it is with the most respectful deference submitted; that if the Legislative Council was competent in the 20th year of the late King's Reign, to regulate by an Ordinance, the Fees to be taken, by the Officers of the Court, the subject should not be considered at this day, as one beyond the competence of the present Legislature.

Finally. The Committee trust that they may be permitted to remark, that from the general tenor and context of the observations of the learned Judge, he appears to labor under misapprehension, as to the object of their Memorial; he seems to entertain the opinion that the Committee are unfriendly to the Court of Vice Admiralty in every respect, that is by no means the case, the object of the establishment of the Court, the Administration of Justice in the Court and the right of the Judge to establish and exact heavy Fees for himself and the Officers of the Court, are perfectly distinct and unconnected with one another, so far from quarrelling with the establishment of the Court, the Committee are happy of an opportunity of expressing their sense of its great utility and advantage, and their regret that from the present practice as to costs, these important objects should be so far lessened as to be in a manner lost to the country. As regards the Administration of Justice in the Court, so far as relates to the subject matter of the suit, unconnected with fees and costs, the Committee have expressed no opinion, if they have represented, (and they trust that they have done so with becoming respect,) that the practice of the Court in regard to the exaction of costs, bears in many cases heavily upon the trade, and constitutes in others a great hardship; it was from no feeling of personal ill-will towards the present Judge, but from a sense of duty towards the Trade, as well as towards the seamen, between which useful class of men and the Commercial body, there exists so intimate