
COPY of a REPRESENTATION of
the Lords of the Committee of Privy
Council for Trade and Foreign Planta-
tions, on the Subject of establishing a
Court of Civil Jurisdiction in the
Island of *Newfoundland*; dated 10th
May 1790.

May it please Your MAJESTY,

THE Merchants and Traders of Dartmouth, Exeter, Tophams, and Teingsmouth, carrying on the Fishery and Trade at Newfoundland, have presented to this Committee a Memorial, complaining that a Court was established last Season in the Island of Newfoundland, by Vice Admiral Milbanke, Your Majesty's Governor of the said Island, called a Court of Common Pleas, consisting of Four Commissioners; and that this Court so established was kept open Daily, to the constant Interruption of the Fishery and Trade, by continually issuing Orders; by calling away the Agents and Servants of the Memorialists and others, on every frivolous Occasion, to serve on Juries; and by listening to every trivial and vague Complaint; by sending arbitrary and immediate Orders to attend the said Court, from any distant Part of the Island, with Threats to fine those who did not attend, without Regard to the Neglect of their Business, Personal Hazard, or any other Consideration; all which Proceedings must necessarily be prejudicial to a Fishery which totally depends on Personal Attention and Industry: And the Memorialists further complain, that the said Court demanded exorbitant Fees.

The Lords of the Committee thought it their Duty, immediately, to send a Copy of the said Memorial to Vice Admiral Milbanke, calling upon him to inform the Committee how far the Facts stated in the said Memorial were well founded; and in case the said Court was a new Establishment, to assign his Reasons for having formed such Establishment; but if it was only an Alteration of a former Establishment to assign the Reasons which had induced him to make such Alterations; and further to certify to the Committee whether any, and what Fees were taken by the Judges, or other Officers of the said Court.

Admiral Milbanke's Reasons for forming the said Court will be found at Length in his Report hereunto annexed, which he transmitted to this Committee