

express our unshaken fidelity and devoted attachment to your Majesty's Royal person and family, and the constitution and laws of our beloved country, over which your Majesty so beneficently reigns.

Grieving as we do under grievances inflicted by the local government of this Colony of Vancouver Island, we gratefully revert to the consolatory reflection that it has been your Majesty's gracious and wise disposition and practice to promote the real happiness of your subjects, and redress, as soon as known, their actual causes of complaint, which are indeed the great end and chiefest pleasure of the exercise of Sovereignty.

We trust your Majesty will not deem us guilty of impertinence in respectfully but emphatically asserting that there can be no sound basis for happiness amongst a people where the courts of justice are not pure, efficient, and reliable. We regard this as a fundamental maxim of government, unshaken and eternal.

It is our most anxious wish to have the laws of our country ably and impartially administered amongst us by men of adequate integrity, ability, learning, and experience, in whom we can repose our entire confidence, and towards whom we can cordially extend our deserved respect.

We, therefore, most humbly entreat that your Majesty would graciously cause a strict inquiry to be immediately instituted into the circumstances of the recent creation of a court, entitled "The Supreme Court of Civil Justice" for Vancouver Island, by the Governor and Council thereof, and the appointment of Mr. David Cameron, the Governor's brother-in-law, as judge of the same: which we, your Majesty's loyal and devoted subjects (as we now hereby solemnly declare that, whilst it be allowed to continue, we cannot consider our safety to depend upon our innocence, or the rectitude of our cause), cannot but complain of as a most injurious and intolerable grievance, a grievance which we humbly beseech your Majesty, for the good of your loving and peaceful subjects, and the sacred cause of justice, speedily, of your Royal goodness, to remove.

And your petitioners will, as in duty bound, ever pray.

Victoria, Vancouver Island,
1 March 1854.

(signed) *James Cooper, M.C.*,
and by 69 others.

To His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The respectful Memorial of the undersigned Inhabitants of the Colony of Vancouver Island.

Humbly sheweth,

1st. That it is their anxious desire to call your Grace's serious attention to the circumstances attending the creation, by the Governor and Council of this Colony, of a court styled the "Supreme Court of Civil Justice for the trial of all causes in Law and Equity, when the amount in dispute is of the value of 50*l*. sterling, and upwards," and the appointment as judge presiding in the said court of Mr. David Cameron, brother-in-law to the Governor of the Colony: for that if this appointment be allowed to stand, your memorialists cannot feel themselves safe either in liberty, in property, or in any other respect where safety depends upon the due and impartial administration of justice.

2d. That the said Mr. David Cameron, besides the improperly close family connexion with the Governor, is not a lawyer by profession, and has exhibited notorious and gross partiality, acrimony, malice and indecorum in the capacity of justice of the peace, to such a degree as to have roused the extreme disgust and indignation of the community, and to have brought contempt upon the judicial office; that he is, with the exception of the aforesaid display of his character, an utter stranger to the Colony, having arrived only of late months since from the former slave colony of Demerara; that the community know none but to recommend him for the appointment save the family connexion before mentioned; that two of the four members of Council have acknowledged that it was solely to this circumstance that the fact of his appointment was owing.

3d. That, moreover, the said Mr. David Cameron holds a commercial situation as clerk of the Honourable Hudson's Bay Company's coal mines at Nanaimo, transacting all the business of selling the coals from the said mines, in the transaction of which business, as might be expected, there have been disputes already, so that it might not improbably fall to Mr. Cameron's lot, as judge in a court of equity, alone to adjudicate upon contested cases in which he himself was a principal party.

4th. That this appointment was made on the 2d December last, in the midst of a case which has, through Mr. Cameron's means, obtained great notoriety, not only in the Colony, but in the neighbouring countries, wherein he laboured strenuously to defeat the ends of justice, convict the innocent, and screen the guilty, contrary to all the probabilities of evidence, and as it has accordingly turned out in the issue, contrary to all truth, an issue which was brought about only by the most unflinching opposition to his most vehement exertions on the side of knavery; an issue also which was contributed to by persons in the capacity of grand and petty jurors, from the mere strength of evidence, and the absolute intrinsic merits of the case; which persons nevertheless, being in the service of the

Honourable