

purpose, was a gross misapplication thereof.

That it also appears to your Committee that the measures adopted by the Committees appointed at the County Meetings convened under the authority of the High Sheriff, in the year 1823, for laying the many grievances of the inhabitants of this Colony, at the foot of the Throne, were constitutional, and indispensibly necessary, for the safety of property, and the welfare of his Majesty's subjects in this Island; and this Committee acknowledge with gratitude, the gracious and ready attention, with which our beloved Sovereign listened to their complaints, and granted the relief prayed for.

Your Committee are also of opinion, that the thanks of the House are justly due to the then High Sheriff, and the gentlemen, who composed such Committees, and so ably conducted the business intrusted to their care, although with much risk and danger to their own persons and properties; and in a particular manner to John Stewart, Esq. who, at his own expence, and at the advanced age of sixty-five years, and under the most peculiar circumstances, repaired to London from this Island, in an inclement and dangerous season of the year, and whose unremitting attention to his mission after his arrival in England, equalled the most sanguine expectations of the friends of this Colony, and tended in the highest degree, to the present happy change in the Administration of our Colonial Government.

That it appears to your Committee, that the proceedings instituted in 1823, by John Edward Carmichael, Esq. the then Acting Receiver General of Quit Rents, for enforcing payment of the arrears of Quit Rent due to his Majesty within this Island, were in many instances conducted in an illegal, arbitrary and oppressive manner.

That it also appears to your Committee, that in the winter of the said year 1823, the said Acting Receiver General under colour of collecting the Quit Rents did cause distress to be made of the goods and chattels of many of the inhabitants of this Island, for arrears of Quit Rent, without giving any other notice, than the same were in course of payment, than posting up some advertisements, principally in Charlotte Town, stating that the Quit Rent office would be open for 14 days for the receipt of Quit Rents, which notice, not one fourth

part of the said inhabitants could possibly be informed of; that in consequence thereof, they were put to great loss and injury, being compelled to sacrifice the productions of their farms, much under their value, to satisfy the ruinous costs and charges incurred by such illegal and oppressive measures; and that these proceedings were taken after a lapse of upwards of four years, without any demand having been made for the same, and after the said Acting Receiver General had refused to take Quit Rent when tendered, whereby many persons were induced to believe, none would thereafter be exacted.

That it appears by the clearest proof to your Committee, that orders were received on the 4th July, 1823, by the said Acting Receiver General, through Lieut. Governor Smith, from the Right Honorable Earl Bathurst, desiring him the said Acting Receiver General to suspend the levying the arrears, and to limit his demand to the payment of the Quit Rents due for the current year, which he was to consider himself authorized to enforce; notwithstanding which, he the said Acting Receiver General, on the next day, went into his Majesty's Supreme Court, and in direct disobedience to these orders, filed informations and obtained judgment against various Lots and shares of Lots, for four and six years arrears of Quit Rent, and sold them by Public Auction on the 27th of August following.

That it also appears to your Committee by the records of the said Court, that the said Acting Receiver General, did on the same day, cause a motion to be made in the said Court, that the Sheriff be permitted to make proclamation against various other Lots, and parts or shares of Lots, which motion was granted, and accordingly they were proclaimed on the 7th of that month (July); and on the 31st October, the said Acting Receiver General made affidavits of there being an arrear of Quit Rent due thereon, some for four, and others for six years up to 1st January 1823, whereupon informations were filed, and judgments obtained against the said Lots, on the 3d November, and proceeded to sell by Public Auction on the 26th January following, as much thereof, as he could obtain purchasers for.

That amongst the last mentioned Lots, were 30 Pasture Lots in Prince Town Royalty, which were so proceeded against without making the entry required by Law, or distraining for the said Quit