

I would further suggest that every merchant ship before clearing out for return to England shall be again visited by some of the before named authorities, the crew mustered, the absence of every individual satisfactorily accounted for,* and all complaints up to the day of departure inquired into and decided on—recording the proceedings in the log-book as before directed.

These proceedings will have a tendency to preserve a constant check over both superiors and inferiors, to deter the Commanders from inflicting any unjust or excessive punishments, and to prove to the seamen that the superintending power of their Government was always at hand as well for their protection, when necessary, as for the preservation of order and discipline.

Perhaps the proposed tribunal (which would be a kind of Petty Sessions), might advantageously consist partly of Naval officers, and partly civilians; but as the Consuls at foreign ports are subordinate in authority to the Commanders of Her Majesty's ships, it would be necessary to define their respective powers in these cases very carefully, to prevent disputes or collisions.

If these suggestions should be thought worthy of attention, a Commission might be formed to

* This precaution is particularly necessary to prevent the too common practice of leaving men behind wilfully at foreign ports, that their wages may become forfeited as deserters.