

The Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain.

The memorial of Isaac Coffin, late Captain of his Majesty's ship *Thisbe*

Sheweth,

THAT your memorialist was, in pursuance of an order of Herbert Sawyer, Esq; rear admiral of the white, &c. &c. dated the 16th day of May, 1788, in Halifax Harbour, Nova Scotia, tried by a court martial, on a charge exhibited against him by Mr. Thomas Huchenson Wynter, master of the said ship, for several instances of false Musters in the Monthly Books for August and September 1787, signed by your memorialist.

That the court after sitting from the 21st to the 23d of the same month of May, and having heard the evidence in support of the charge, as well as on behalf of the prisoner, and what he had to say in his defence, as also his written defence delivered into court; and having very maturely and deliberately considered the same, were of opinion the *charge was proved*, but it appearing to the court that the prisoner had *no**

X * He is declared innocent as to intention; he is declared innocent as to any wrong, by which the public could suffer a loss; but he did an act. What? An act divested of all criminal imputation; an act, corrected as soon as it was questioned; an act not before the public: a mere proposition to do what he conceived he might do, and what, in fact, he did not do.—Vide evidence brought by the prosecutor, shewing the returns made to have been corrected and signed by the master himself.

intention