

be requisite to the able and impartial administration of justice, in a country so circumstanced, how absolutely indispensable must it be, in a community so peculiarly situated as this colony. For every one, how little conversant soever he may be with human nature, must see that the discharge of the judicial duty, in a society so narrow as our own, and so peculiarly constituted, must be liable to disturbances, which, in England, could be hardly appreciated. Not only the counsel and attornies, the agents by whom business is conducted in our courts, but in truth the principal inhabitants of the country, a great proportion of those whose affairs are under adjudication, are more or less, *personally* known to the judges. It is hardly possible, under such circumstances, but that numerous occasions must occur, in which a suspicion at least may arise, that political bias, or personal feelings, have intruded themselves into the judgment seat. Neither must we flatter ourselves into a belief, that such suspicions are so wholly groundless, as to entitle us to treat them with entire disregard. If an eloquent and learned lord, in speaking of that august court, which decides in the last resort, in England, could remark with truth, "That even the noble judges of that high tribunal are clothed beneath their ermine with the common infirmities of human