

(2)
M. J. Hunter.

St. John's, N. B.

Math. Bell.

Quebec. June 14 1828

DEFENCE, &c.

Gentlemen of the Jury,

IT is a mortifying circumstance for men of fair and respectable characters to be made a public spectacle of, as the defendants are this day; their situation is a painful one, and they feel it so in a very high degree. At this bar they are compelled to appear; if there be any alleviation to their pain, it is totally independent of the prosecutor; it arises from a consciousness, that they have not sought it, but are under compulsion; it arises from experience and knowledge that the worthiest and wisest men, the best of characters have in like manner been dragged forth upon very frivolous pretences by malicious and rancorous prosecutors. If their distress is in any degree diminished, it is from a knowledge that the Court, in which they appear, is not like a Militia Court, which to say the best of it, is scarcely locally constituted; the powers of which are ill defined, and not understood, and though limited, have been scanned, perverted and abused. This Court has no resemblance to a Militia Court, into which the President is so far from being a man of knowledge, or one principle of justice, that he is not capable of explaining the Laws (laid down for the guidance of himself, who is to administer it, and of the public who ought to be instructed in the principles of it: So far are the members of the Court from being qualified for judging and deciding, that they have not even the power to go to the aid of the President, when he went to preside.