

petition recently addressed to you, and praying you to annul the appointment of David Cameron, Esq., as Judge *pro tempore*, of a court of equity at Victoria.

2. We believe that but few of the subscribers to that petition have property at stake in the Island; that persons were instigated to sign it without having any real grievance to complain of, of whom not a few were absolutely unacquainted with the substance of the petition they signed.

3. We are convinced that you, with the advice of counsel, made the appointment in question, because you considered the institution of the office indispensable, and because you felt as we do, that David Cameron, Esq., a gentleman of business habits and considerable colonial experience, was the fittest man here of those not already professionally occupied to preside in such a court.

4. If that gentleman had committed any injustice, we presume, as a matter of course, an appeal to the Governor and Council would have met with proper attention, but so short was his tenure of office previous to the date of that petition, that he has had no equity cases to adjudicate upon, which circumstance alone must stamp the proceedings of the former petitioners as ill-advised and hasty in the extreme.

5. We are further of opinion, that if in this Colony, where there is perfect freedom of action, where life and property are as yet secure, where the market is so extensive and remunerative, and where the produce is so lamentably small, the labouring and industrious classes were to employ their time more in raising wheat and potatoes, constructing houses to live in, &c. &c., and suffer themselves less to be led away into discussions upon abstract political questions, all would gain by the alteration, progress become more decided, and foreigners and visitors, whose good opinion we respect, would say more for our common sense.

6. If the unreasonable clamour of a few individuals, who have little or no vested interest in the island, were found effectual to rescind important enactments framed expressly to protect property, we feel that law and order would be in jeopardy, and therefore sincerely hope that no personal feeling may induce David Cameron, Esq., to resign the duties of an office which we are satisfied he will do his best to exercise for the benefit of all.

7. Wishing your Excellency continued health and strength to govern with your usual forbearance and moderation, and with firmness and vigour when you are of opinion that the interest of the Colony require it,—

We beg to subscribe ourselves, with due respect to your person and office,

Your most obedient servants,

<i>John Tod</i> , Member of Council.	<i>E. E. Stuart</i> .
<i>John Work</i> , Member of Council.	<i>B. W. Pease</i> .
<i>Alexander Kennedy</i> .	<i>George Simpson</i> .
<i>Rudrick Finlayson</i> , Member of Council.	<i>Richard Colledge</i> .
<i>William H. McNeill</i> .	<i>J. D. Pemberton</i> .
<i>William F. T. Anne</i> .	<i>Charles Dodd</i> .
<i>William Lough</i> .	<i>Joseph Mellar</i> .

And to other Signatures, representing nearly all the landed proprietors in the Colony.

Enclosure 2, in No. 2.

WILLIAM CONOLLY deposes, that on or about the 1st day of February 1854, that the Rev. R. J. Staines told him that he had no further need of his services, and asked him how he intended to employ himself, and that he told Mr. Staines he did not know. Exh. 2, in No. 2.

He then inquired of Mr. Staines if he knew if San Juan Island was going to be given up to the United States Government. Mr. Staines replied he did not know how that would be, but that Colonel Eley, the Collector of Customs in Washington territory, would be on San Juan Island in the following week, to take possession of it in the name of the Government of the United States.

He then consulted with Mr. Staines, and asked him if it would not be well for him if he went to San Juan Island, and took possession of some land before Colonel Eley arrived, in order to secure the pre-emption right. Mr. Staines said it would be a good speculation, and seemed to wish him to go, saying that he would supply him with provisions, &c., enough for a month, to enable him to do so. Upon the 4th of February, Mr. Staines sent for him into his room, and in the presence of Mr. Swanson gave him an order upon the person in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company's provision store, for one bag flour, 2 lbs. of tea, 12 lbs. sugar, and 20 dried salmon, to proceed to San Juan Island with, and take possession of land.

(signed) *William Conolly*.

Taken before me,
(signed) *John Work*, Member of Council.

Witness, (signed) *Richard Colledge*,
Charles Dodd.

Victoria, 15th March 1854.