

It seems to have been thought (and apparently with reason,) that the Jury *to try* formed so very important a part of the system of administering justice, that it was necessary for the Legislature to apply their particular attention to the framing regulations adapted to the circumstances of the Province.

Accordingly in the year 1794, when the foundations were laid of our present system of Jurisprudence, and in the same Session of the Legislature in which the Court of King's Bench was erected, an Act was passed "*for the regulation of Juries*," 34th Geo. III. chap. 1st, which was framed by the late Mr. Osgoode, then Chief Justice of the Province, and a learned member of the English Bar. The system which was then established, has remained to this time unaltered in its principal features. It is simple, and so far as your Committee have had an opportunity of observing, has been generally regarded as satisfactory.

This is said with reference to the impressions which appear to prevail throughout the country, in respect to its practical operation, without adverting to the repeated attempts made in the Legislature to pass such an Act as that which is now referred to us.

This Statute of 1794 provides for the return of Petit Jurors in the following manner:—

By a Provincial Statute which had before been passed, certain rates or taxes were directed to be imposed upon the inhabitant householders of every Township in the Province, to defray the charge within each District of erecting and maintaining gaols, and many other public expences of a local nature. These