

patient and unremitted industry, and amid many privations, acquired the same therein with reference to the operation thereon of the Laws of England, which then prevailed in said Island, and under a persuasion that so soon as the House of Assembly could be convened, such alterations, and such only from the wholesome Laws of the Parent State, would be introduced as their local situation might call for, but that they would not, as has been the case, be subjected to the Laws of another Colony without their consent, or their even having been consulted—that the Island of Cape-Breton steadily, and latterly, rapidly advanced in prosperity, under a Governor and Council, from the year 1784 until the year 1820, and this without the aid of the stimulus of the immense sums of money expended for the support of a large Army and Navy as enjoyed by the Province of Nova-Scotia, or any other of the various advantages possessed by that Province over this Island. That its Inhabitants were, at the latter period, earnestly expecting a House of Assembly to be convened under the Constitution long before granted by His Majesty, and for the calling of which Assembly the said Inhabitants had previously applied—but they now have to inform Your Majesty that, to their utter astonishment and dismay, at a period when the population of this Island amounted to some twenty thousand souls, many of them largely engaged in Trade—when the Commerce and Agriculture of the Island were in a state of advancement, and intelligent persons in sufficient numbers were among them to constitute an Assembly—at a period also when they had the past experience of other Colonies to profit by, and thus be enabled to avoid errors into which other Colonies had fallen in legislating—in a word, just at a time when they were in a more fit state than they had ever been, and fondly hoped soon to be taken as it were from the cradle of their political infancy, under a Governor and Council, and lead on through a vigorous youth up to manhood, under the auspices of their Local Legislature, the uplifted cup of hope was suddenly and unexpectedly dashed from their lips by the astounding announcement that they had been deprived of their Local Legislature, and annexed as a County to the Province of Nova-Scotia; and this too without any pecuniary remuneration for the losses they would thereby sustain and the depreciation in the value of their property which would follow, or any immunity from liability to the Public Debt of that Province; but, on the contrary, they have with concern seen yearly drawn from them large sums by Nova-Scotia, great part of which goes towards the liquidation of the Debt due by that Province—no part of which Debt was contracted by or for the benefit of this Island, but for Nova-Scotia alone, while the sums appropriated for Roads in Cape-Breton have borne but a small proportion to the sums granted to other Counties of the Province for the like services, and is far short of the proportion which the Population, Revenue, and wants of the said Island entitle it to.

And here Your Majesty's Petitioners venture, with the most profound respect, to allude to what they consider the illegality of the annexation of this Island, in the year 1820, to the Province of Nova-Scotia. They feel a delicacy in ranking such an Act amongst those of the Advisers of the Crown, but addressing as they do a Queen who wishes to Reign in the affections of Her Subjects, they trust Your Majesty will bear with them while they humbly state what they conceive the justice and merits of their case require. Your Majesty's Petitioners would therefore beg leave to call the attention of Your Majesty to the case decided by that eminent Judge, Lord Mansfield, *Campbell vs. Hall*, as stated in Cooper's Reports 204, as bearing on their claim. In that case the question appears to have been fully argued, whether the King, having once granted a Legislature to a Colony, such Constitution could afterwards be annihilated or abrogated unless by Act of Parliament. In the discussion of the case in question the Proclamation of 7th October, 1763, was referred to. That Proclamation states, that directions were given to the Governors of the Colonies therein mentioned, that so soon as the state of the Colonies will admit, Assemblies should be called, agreeably to the mode in other American Colonies. It was also shewn that, in pursuance of that Proclamation, Letters Patent had issued appointing Governor Melville to the Government of Grenada, with power to summon an Assembly when the circumstances