

THURSDAY, Sept. 6.

Mr COOPER before the Court. After a few introductory remarks, he referred to page 77 of the Journal of the House of Assembly for 1835, and commenced reading extracts from a copy of one of the original Grants.

Commissioner GRAY.—We wish you to explain your views on this subject. Mr C.—My views can be better presented to you from what I have written, than by any verbal statement. [Reads from a Memorial to the Queen adopted at a public meeting held at St. Peter's Road in 1855, partly as follows—"But the time for settlement expired, without the introduction of foreigners, and the land remained unoccupied, a snare for British subjects, who believed that the forfeiture would be enforced, and that they would be settled without disparagement, in fee-simple."]

Com. HOWE.—Did I understand you to say that people settled upon these lands, believing they would be forfeited? Yes! [Reads again—"It appears that there were only a party here of the Grantees in the conspiracy to make tenants of British subjects, and the main objects for moving in such enactments at that time, were to induce the Grantees who were not in the conspiracy, to give up their grants to the Lieut. Governor and other speculators in the Island, (for nominal or trifling sums,) who would join in the conspiracy."]

Com GRAY.—From whom did the speculators obtain the grants? From the Grantees. You say these nominal prices rose from the fact of the Grantees believing the grants would become void? Yes. Can you state for what sum any of these were purchased? I believe one sold as low as £9. Who purchased any of them? One person, Cambridge, bought about 10 Townships, and Governor Fanning also obtained several.—Afterwards, the result of the people's petitioning for a Court of Appeal, was so much persecution from the Proprietors, that they were induced to desist; still they were kept in hopes by promises that the question would ultimately be settled.

Com. HOWE.—Suppose these promises were at an end, and the hopes lost, what then? I think there would be disturbance. Mr Cooper here read an extract from Gov. Fanning's speech on the opening of the Session of 1802-3, in reference to the legal position of the Government here should be prepared to pursue, when circumstances should render it advisable for effectually revesting the Crown such lands as may be liable to be escheated; also a minute of Council of April 2, 1803, stating that the Lieut. Governor gave his assent to a Bill for effectually revesting in His Majesty all such lands as are liable to forfeiture within this land; and also a series of resolutions passed 20th Nov., 1805, with respect to the Royal allowance to said Act not being communicated to the Colony.]

Com. HOWE.—Could the Legislature trace that Act through the archives to satisfy themselves? Not satisfactorily.

Com. RITCHIE.—Had the Island at any time an agent in England? Yes. Who? Myself. At what time were you here? In 1839. Did you take any steps when there to see what became of this Bill? I did not. Has any steps been taken by the Colony to search the records in the Colonial Office? I am not aware of any.