

reality become insignificant, from the modern practice of summoning a general pannel of jurors from the county at large. But never was there a case in which so little of form ever was sacrificed, as in the present.

Fort William, and the wild country surrounding it, have no more geographical affinity to the western district than to this, although annexed to it by an Act of our Parliament. The jurors who dispense justice in that district, are divided from Fort William, the scene of the offences charged against Mr. Allan, by as many hundred miles of savage wilderness, as are the jurors of this, and know as little of the parties and their offences, or the credibility of the witnesses, except from the pains taken by the Earl of Selkirk to instruct them on those heads, by pamphlets industriously circulated at the moment of the sitting of the court.

The petitioner speaks of illegal, oppressive and partial conduct, on the part of the servants of His Majesty. General assertions of this nature, even from persons differently situated from Mr. Allan, will, I am sure, never receive from your Excellency much attention, and I shall make no comment upon them. I observe subjoined to the affidavit some remarks applied to the Solicitor General, expressed in a language which, however it may be received by your Excellency, must prevent its obtaining any notice from him.

For defendants in criminal charges to exclaim against the justice of their prosecution, is not unusual; some may reason themselves into the persuasion that they are persecuted, others may think it serviceable to themselves to produce this impression on the public. But to express resentment against the ministers of justice in terms so indecent, is at least uncommon, and in an official representation to the head of the Government, I hope without example, as it is without excuse.

I should not have considered it necessary to remark so much at length on this petition; there is nothing in the matter it states that required it, when the facts it involves are known, and where the character and conduct of His Majesty's officers concerned in the administration of justice, are open to public observation; but it is most probable, that this statement is not merely meant for your Excellency's eye, and it is of some consequence to the public character of the country, that wherever it goes, it may be accompanied by the truth.

His Excellency Sir P. Maitland,
Lieut. Governor, &c. &c.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) *J^r B. Robinson.*
A. G.

No. 41.

Copy of a Dispatch from Major General Sir Peregrine Maitland, K. C. B. to Henry Goulbourn, Esq.; dated York, Upper Canada, 4th May 1819:—
Four Inclosures.

My dear Sir,

York, 4th May 1819.

WHETHER the Act against which Lord Selkirk objects in such unmeasured terms, be ill advised or not, is a matter of opinion; but in saying it was hastily passed, his Lordship asserts a fact which is capable of most satisfactory contradiction. The bill in question had met with the concurrence of both Houses the previous session, and but for the abrupt prorogation, would at that time have passed into an Act.

It appears to me, that the necessity for such an Act was abundantly obvious, in the lawless proceedings and sanguinary quarrels between the rival companies; and the bearing of that in question appears to me to be no less salutary than just; but I forbear from any further remarks on the subject, having forwarded for Lord Bathurst's information the observations of the Chief Justice and Attorney General on a letter of complaint from Lord Selkirk, and on a memorial of Mr. Allan.

I called for these answers, with a view of putting Lord Bathurst in possession, as early as possible, of both sides of the question; and, for the same reason, I send by the present mail certain remarks by the Chief Justice on Lord Selkirk's letter to Lord Liverpool.

Henry Goulbourn, Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

Believe me to be, my dear Sir, &c.

(Signed) *P. Maitland.*