

notice of Her Majesty's Secretary the many disadvantages under which we are labouring, among the most prominent of which is the non-existence of a Court before which we can appear for the adjudication of cases in law and equity, and the necessarily great state of insecurity to our rights arising therefrom ;

And the said petition having been delivered in Downing-street now nearly two years since, and as we still remain in the same deplorable position, and as we have been informed how much you appreciate, and how thoroughly you are aware of the important position this island holds, beg to forward you copies of the memorials and other papers connected therewith ; and we pray you, should it be in your power, to aid us in securing the object of our prayers, and thus advance the interests of this portion of the British Empire.

We take this opportunity of drawing your attention to the bloody war that has just broken out at our very doors, between the American people residing in Washington and Oregon territories and the Indian tribes of those lands, and we trust you will be enabled to induce the Home Government to adopt such measures as may in some degree place us in a state to defend and protect our homes and families in time of need, as in the present position of the Colony we are most entirely helpless, and at the mercy of any hostile visit, being without the protecting presence of even one of the many of Her Majesty's ships which are now wintering at Valparaiso, Sandwich Islands, and San Francisco.

Though strangers to you, sir, we do not hesitate to pray your services in this our need, satisfied as we are that an Englishman is ever ready to hold out a helping hand to a brother countryman, more particularly when in so doing he is aiding to advance the power of their common country.

We remain, &c.

(signed) *James Cooper, M.C.*
R. Ranfield.
James Yates.

(No. 3)

To His Excellency *James Douglas, Esq.*, Governor of Vancouver Island.

Sir,

We, the under-signed residents of Vancouver Island, having been made acquainted, through a proclamation issued by the local Government, and bearing date the 7th January last, that you have created a Court with powers exceeding those granted to the bench of magistrates who have hitherto dispensed justice, and that you have appointed Mr. David Cameron to the high position of judge of that Court, and have invested him with "jurisdiction over the whole Colony of Vancouver Island and its dependencies in all matters of law and equity where the amount in dispute is of the value of 50*l.* (Fifty pounds) and upwards," do most earnestly pray that you will well weigh and review the subject, and, taking into consideration our sentiments in the matter, will retract, before it is too late, a measure so obnoxious to the community at large.

You have appointed Mr. Cameron to a trust which, under all Governments, is reposed only in men of the highest repute for honour, honesty and impartiality—on men who, through a lifetime of unwearied and arduous application, have proved their ability in the honourable profession of the law—on men of the most acknowledged temperance and discretion, whose characters having been for years at the bar of public opinion, are adjudged worthy of the confidence of the country.

Mr. Cameron has barely resided six months amongst us, and in that brief space he has not so conducted himself as to have obtained the respect of the community ; he, during the short time he has officiated as a magistrate, has most signally failed in impressing us with a sense of his integrity and uprightness ; he has in that position proved himself most singularly rash and indecorous in his language ; he has exhibited the most profound ignorance of the duties attaching to the commission of the peace, and is totally void of the little practical knowledge necessary to conduct the business of a magisterial court, as have made him a laughing stock, and indirectly brought scorn on the proceedings of the whole bench of magistrates. And this man, with whose previous career none of us who are so deeply interested in the securing of upright magistrates, are in the slightest degree acquainted, you have invested with powers which, when even in the hands of the approved and chosen of a nation, are sometimes harmful ; we therefore most respectfully beg that you will, on reconsideration, alter your decision, and thus allay the painful excitement and alarm to which this proceeding has given rise.

We expressed our most unqualified satisfaction with the Court of Magistrates as originally constituted, and we do most unhesitatingly affirm that, in our opinion, the alteration that has been so lately effected in the hitherto existing arrangements of our courts of justice, will, in the present state of the country, but tend to serious inconvenience.

We at the same time do join most heartily in desiring that steps may be taken by the Government to obtain the assistance of a properly qualified legal adviser from England, whose duty, in addition to that of counsel to the local Government, will be to regulate and put upon a proper footing the courts of law of this island.

We have, &c.

Signed by 90 persons.