

siderable importance. and one, which, unless set at rest, will excite continual complaint; I am obliged to request that you will submit it for the decision of the proper authorities and communicate to me the result. It is scarcely necessary to remark that a Salary of £200 a year, would be very inadequate to enable a Judge to support his rank and station in the Colony unless some other office were held in conjunction with it. The present Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court, is also one of the Puisné Judges of the Court of King's Bench for the District of Quebec, and it has been suggested that the Court of Vice Admiralty might be entirely abolished, and the Causes now tried in that Court, be determined in a summary manner by any one of the Judges of the Court of King's Bench, but this is a point on which at present I do not feel competent to give an opinion.

I have the honor to be,
&c. &c. &c

(Signed, JAMES KEMPT.

The Right Honorable
George Murray, G. C. B.

[A.]

(Copy,)

To His Excellency Sir James Kempt, Knight, Grand Cross of the most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant General and Commander in Chief of all His Majesty's Forces in Lower-Canada, Upper-Canada, &c. and Administrator of the Government of Lower-Canada, &c. &c. &c.

The Memorial of the Committee of Trade of Quebec,

Humbly Sheweth—

That the owners of Ships trading to this Port, are sufferers to a very serious degree, by the present practice of the Vice Admiralty Court of Quebec, which operates to the injury of the trade of the country.

That British Ship-Owners have long complained of the enormous expenses to which they are subject at this Port, in cases of Seamen's Suits in the said Court, all which are brought "in formâ pauperis," and many on groundless or trifling pretences, and although the suit be dismissed, it is yet the practice of the Court to exact half fees from the Ship, which are of an excessive amount, vastly disproportioned to the nature or small importance to the case.

That Ship-Owners have also long complained of the desertion and refractory conduct of their seamen at this Port, and that the same is encouraged by the facilities afforded for litigation, and by the uniform practice of the Court of exacting the costs or fees from the Ship, whether decided in favor of the Master or otherwise, thus the Ship-Master is often induced to pay unjust demands,