

tinguished men as Commissioners, conferring only the power of negotiation; and maintained that the Court had ample authority to settle all questions in dispute. He was surprised upon looking over the Journals of the Legislature to see petitions to the Home Government praying for a Court of Escheat, as every British Colony with a separate government, possessed the power within itself of establishing its own courts. But if such a court never existed in this Colony before, it did now, for the Court whom he addressed were vested with powers more formidable than were ever held by any Court of Escheat. He also stated he had heard, that certain of the Proprietors who had not signed a paper agreeing to the Commission, considered they would not be bound by its decision. He told them of their error, showed by several clauses in the Act to give effect to the Report of the Commission, that they would be as much bound by it as if their names were to paper, and warned them not to neglect their interests before the court through this belief. He also adverted to the condition of the Tenantry of this Island—it was much worse than that of the people of the neighboring Colonies where the proprietary system was unknown; and therefore it was not to be wondered at if they loudly complained of injustice. He compared them to serfs, as they could not only be deprived of their lands, but be pursued and taken in any of the British Colonies, or even in the United States for arrears of rent. The Counsel on the other side might say that they themselves were to blame for their position, as a bargain was a bargain. He knew this and would not argue as he had done before a court of justice; he was not, however, addressing such a tribunal, but stood before a court of equity—a court whose province it was to view the question in all its aspects.

Mr HALIBURTON spoke briefly to the effect that he hoped the Counsel for the Tenantry would lay before the Court some written proposition, stating grievances and what remedies they would suggest, that he and his colleague might have something to take hold of, and be prepared, if necessary, with evidence to meet them. He did not consider it was necessary to reply to mere clap-trap.

Mr CHAS. PALMER made a few remarks of a similar nature, and stated that they, on behalf of their clients, were perfectly willing to meet the other party on any division or view of the subject which they might choose to bring forward.

Mr HENSLEY remarked that they had no intention of laying any document of the kind described before the court; but would, take as a guide the resolutions and the Act of the Assembly, and bring up from time to time what was laid before them.

Hons Messrs. Coles, Swabey, Whelan, as well as several other gentlemen also briefly addressed the Commissioners, chiefly on points respecting the course they intended to pursue in hearing the statements of parties. The Commissioners expressed their desire to give every case an impartial hearing, either through the counsel, or from the individuals themselves.

About half-past two, the Court adjourned till 10 o'clock tomorrow.