

V. Extract of minutes of New York Council, 14 Oct. 1761, when Colden announced that he had represented the matter to the Government in England, and the judges agreed to accept commissions pending a reply.

———. B. of T. representation, submitting (VI.) a letter 24 Nov. from Pratt, of 14 May. The salary has never exceeded 300*l.* currency; but, when that was first granted, it could better support a Chief Justice than 400*l. stg.* would now. The currency is now 85 or 90 *per cent.* worse than sterling. The quit-rents are a sufficient fund for a salary of 400*l.* or 500*l. stg.* without breaking in upon any prior appropriation. . A competent salary independent of the people would make the office of Chief Justice useful in securing the dependence of the colony on the Crown and its commerce to Great Britain.

(1) The office should be made worth a lawyer's acceptance, because the legislative power in the various colonies is gradually carrying their systems away from the Common Law, and so diminishing their connection with the Mother Country. (2) A skilful and independent judge is required to determine cases of violation of the Acts of Trade. (3) His Majesty's lands cannot be safe from the intrusions of men of influence in the colony, if the Chief Justice depends on precarious annual grants from the Assembly. (4) The Chief Justice should not have to attach himself to a popular party; if a Governor should be neglectful of his master's interests, the Crown should still have some security in the Chief Justice. (5) Where there is such an unequal distribution of property and influence as at New York, the people's rights and properties and the prosperity of the colony will be in danger unless the Judge is able to do his duty without peril of his subsistence.

[539.] JAMAICA (2), VIRGINIA AND RHODE ISLAND. *Appeals.* 15 July.
Committee reports on Perrin *v.* Malchir, Bradburn *v.* Macanuff; IV. *pp.*
Rickards *v.* Hudson; and Read *v.* Nicholls. 398,493-4,
531-2,544.