29a

R COPY

NOTES ON YOUR CORMACKS

1. Alexander.
Resident small scale merchant in 1790s a junior partner of the firm of HART EPPES and co. Trading to Quebec and the West Indies. owned two vessels the "Betsey" and the "~~annzz~~ Nancy".

2. ~~zinzizzzzz~~ A Scotsman-protestant- son W.E. was an Anglican.

3. Was one of the first more or less continuously resident merchants in St Johns - although of course would have travelled often to Scotland.

4. Retired from Newfoundland after 1805 but continued in good health-probably lived in Scotland.

5. In 1812(the last mention of him), his plantation in St Johns was leased to William Grossard(another Scotchman probably).

2. WILLIAM EPPES CORMACK

First appears on the mercantile scene in 1825 as a partnership with another Greenock merchant John Thomson.
They purchased the "seven sisters" a 59 ton coastal CANADIAN schooner.
1827 was a founder of the Beothick Institute, and on the Committee of the Liubrary Association.
by this time he was running into some financial difficulty and conveyed part of his property on mortgage to Thomas H Brooking.
Cormack and Thompson(like Cormack's father) seem to have been pretty small fry as far as merchants go. They had no "home base" in Britain, and were not as far as I can see engaged in the European fish trade, or in the supply of fishermen. They seem to have been involved in the provisions and lumber trade from Canada.
~~3x~~ January 1828 the partnership with Thomson was dissolved and Cormack left St Johns for Poole (Dorset).
He returned to Newfoundland in May.
In december he further reduced his business by leasing his wharf to James Clift(a local commission merchant and auctioneer)
He also signed a petition advocating the grant of representative government in Newfoundland.
January 1829. he again sailed from St Johns to Greenock.
in May his entire waterside property was put up for lease and on the 27th of that month he was declared INSOLVENT.
We hear nothing further of him till 1830.
in May of that year he sold off his interest in "roope's" plantation(obtained from his father).
in June he was residing at 20 Stafford Place PIMLICO and he wrote to the Colonial Office applying for a job either in or relating to, Newfoundland.
He was "still unemployed" and thought he could assist in settling emigrants.
he claimed that in 1819-20 HE ORIGINATED AND ESTABLISHED THE SETTLEMENT OF NEW GLASGOW IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND by bringing out people from Glasgow.

In 1831 He sold his last interest in St johns- a one third share of a Pew in the Anglican church.

In 1833 he was awarded a silver medal by the Montreal Literary Society for the "best essay on the Newfoundland fisheries" (I have never found a copy of this)/

FINAL COMMENT NOT MUCH GOOD AS ~~OF~~ A MERCHANT BY THE LOOK OF HIM !!?