

to assent to a request preferred by a body of Her Majesty's subjects possessing such and so many claims on the favourable regards of their Sovereign, I have been precluded from advising Her Majesty to assent to the prayer of this petition, that the measures now before the Imperial Parliament, relating to corn and timber, may not become law. To assent to it would be (as the petitioners will not fail to perceive) not merely to retract the recommendations addressed by Her Majesty to Parliament at the commencement of the present Session, but would be to contravene all the votes hitherto passed in pursuance of that recommendation by both Houses of Parliament.

I have &c.

(signed) *W. E. Gladstone.*

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