

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain, in
Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of several Merchants and Traders
engaged in the Fishery at Newfoundland, and on the
Banks thereof, on behalf of themselves and others,
concerned in the said Fishery,

Sheweth,

That an act made in the 15th year of the reign of his present
majesty, intituled, " An act for the encouragement of the
" fisheries carried on from Great Britain, Ireland, and the British
" dominions in Europe; and for securing a return of the fisher-
" men, sailors, and others, employed in the said fisheries, to
" the ports thereof, at the end of the fishing season," has been
attended with many hardships and inconveniences, which your
petitioners apprehend were not foreseen at the time of passing the
said act, some of which they beg leave to recommend to the at-
tention of this honourable house, humbly conceiving, that they
need only be pointed out, in order to their being redressed: That,
by the said act, the heirs and assigns of your petitioners are ex-
cluded from all property in their fishing-rooms or habitations
beyond the expiration of one season after the decease of the pro-
prietor, if such rooms or habitations remain unoccupied during
that period; and your petitioners beg leave to observe, that it is
sometimes absolutely impossible, and oftentimes highly incon-
venient, for such heirs or assigns either to go themselves to New-
foundland, or to send sufficient power to others to act for them
within the time prescribed; and humbly apprehend, " the said
" time should be enlarged, or abolished, in order more effectually
" to secure such property to the heirs and assigns of such pro-
" prietors:" That, by the said act, the hirer or employer of any
seaman or fisherman is prohibited from paying to such seaman or
fisherman, during the time he shall be in his service, more than
one-half of the wages that shall at any time be due to him, under
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