

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 1833.

A Petition of THOMAS DANSON and others, Inhabitants of the town of Harbour-Grace, was presented by Mr. PACK, and read, setting forth,

That deeply deploring the consequences of the dreadful fires by which they have been so awfully visited, they trust the House will interpose its authority, and enact such Laws as it may in its wisdom deem expedient to prevent the recurrence of similar calamities. They have to represent to the House that the Act of the first General Assembly, entitled, "An Act for the establishment and regulation of Fire Companies in the Town of Harbour-Grace," has been found totally nugatory, being destitute of such provisions as would enable the competent authorities to carry into effect any measure tending to better the condition of the said town. The Petitioners therefore pray that the House would pass a Law to compel all persons occupying houses with unsafe chimnies, to rebuild or repair the same, and restrain them from making fires therein—to oblige all the male inhabitants of the said town between the ages of fifteen and sixty years to serve in the said Fire Companies—to oblige every person to provide ladders and buckets, and to prevent by heavy penalties the carrying of firebrands, smoking in the streets, open places, sheds or work-shops, or on the wharves, and also the boiling of pitch or other combustible matter within sixty feet of any dwelling-house, store, or any other building of wood, wharves excepted. That it is a source of poignant regret that any cause should exist to create the marked distinctions to be found in the Acts of the House for establishing Fire Companies in the towns of St John's and Harbour-Grace—the Act for the latter being the shadow of the former, with such alterations as localities rendered necessary; and the latter part of the fourth section of the former Act, to which the Petitioners conceive they are entitled by every principle of justice and humanity, being omitted.

Ordered,—That the said Petition be referred to the Select Committee appointed to examine and report upon the Petition of George Thorne and others, of Harbour-Grace.

A Petition of TIMOTHY HOGAN and others, Inhabitants of the town of St. John's, was presented by Mr. CARTER, and read, setting forth,

That the House are about to enact a Law that all Buildings in future erected in the line of Water-street, in the said town, shall be erected of stone or brick walls, and be covered with slates or other incombustible roofs, except such buildings the uprights of which shall not exceed eight feet in height. That the Petitioners are sensible the said Act is for the purpose of prohibiting the erection of any building in the line of the said street, except the same shall be built of stone or brick. That many of the Petitioners have suffered greatly heretofore by having their property destroyed by fire, but notwithstanding this the Petitioners are convinced that a serious and manifest injury would be felt by them

if such an Act as above referred to should become a Law, inasmuch as the Petitioners all hold their premises on short building leases, and if it should be made imperative on all persons, if they build at all, to erect their houses of stone or brick, the Petitioners would be obliged by necessity, in the event of their houses being destroyed by fire or otherwise, to surrender up their leases to the proprietors of the soil. And the Petitioners beg further to state to the House, that many of them have had their houses destroyed by the late fire—that they have only a remaining interest of a few years in the premises, and, although they might be enabled again to erect wooden houses thereon for the support of their families, yet their circumstances will not permit them to build of stone or brick; the consequences therefore of such an Act becoming a Law would be utterly ruinous to the Petitioners;—under these circumstances the Petitioners trust the House will take the matter into their serious consideration.

Resolved,—That the Petition be referred to a select Committee to examine and report thereon, with power to send for persons and papers.

Ordered,—That Mr. CARTER, Mr. KENT, Mr. KOUCH, Mr. SWEETMAN, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. HOOPER, Mr. COZENS, Mr. MARTIN, Mr. PACK, Mr. POWER and Mr. BENNETT be a Committee for the above purpose.

A Petition of THOMAS D. QUINN and others, Inhabitants of the town of St. John's, was presented by Mr. KOUCH, and read, setting forth,

That the said Petitioners who had affixed their names to a Petition to the House praying that none but stone buildings might be erected on the site of that part of Water-street lately consumed by fire, beg now to state to the House, that when signing the said Petition they were under the impression, that it was to be confined solely to the south or water-side of the said street;—and as according to a Bill before the House framed on that Petition, wherein it is expressly stated that both sides of the said street are to be constructed of stone or brick walls, &c.; the Petitioners consider it a hardship on individuals connected with the north side of the said street, who holding leases are not enabled to erect such buildings. And as they consider the street is to be fifty feet wide, together with the other enactments for the safety thereof, no danger can occur by having that side of the said street constructed of wood, besides affording a facility of again building to those individuals who suffered by the late fire. The Petitioners therefore pray that an amendment may be made in the said Bill limiting the said regulations to the south side of Water-street alone.

Ordered,—That the Petition be referred to the Select Committee appointed to examine and report upon the Petition of Timothy Hogan and others.

Then the House adjourned until to-morrow, at eleven of the o'clock.