

was enacted, "That no person should, under the penalty of five pounds, "Bake and sell Bread in the said Towns and Suburbs; without having "first entered into a recognizance to continue the Trade for at least "twelve months."

That the Ordinances of 1777 may be considered as Experiments, rather as temporary than permanent Laws, as most of them have been repealed, disallowed or altered, and some others of them, being impracticable, have not been carried into execution. That they apprehend this experiment has been fairly tried and does not succeed. That they find themselves well supplied with all the articles of consumption, produced in the Province, except bread, which at times they cannot easily procure, even when Wheat is plenty: They have therefore no doubt of being plentifully supplied with Bread, at a rate proportioned to the crop, provided there were competitors enough in the Trade.

That an experience of eighteen years has convinced the petitioners, that the City of Montreal in place of being better and cheaper supplied with Bread by means of the Ordinance, has been oppressed by its operation, and obliged to pay dearer for Bread than had the Trade of Baking been left, as all others, perfectly free.

That could it be doubted that Monopolists gain more than other dealers, they could easily prove that the Bakers in Montreal have made more money than most other Tradesmen, and that this extraordinary gain is procured them by the Ordinance, which confines the Trade to fewer than would otherwise follow it.

That the petitioners are appointed and authorized by the Act to fix the price of Bread monthly, and have hitherto endeavoured so to fix it, as to supply the Town and Suburbs with good Bread at a moderate rate; but they can be supplied fully only when the price of Wheat remains during the month at the same price as on the first Monday, or when it falls; because when the price of Wheat rises the Bakers supply the Town sparingly, with the view of selling what remains of their stock at an advanced price: Also the individuals of the Town and Neighbourhood, who are in the habit of purchasing Flour and Baking for themselves, in this case, cease to do so, and encrease the demand upon the Bakers. That the Ordinance has not given to them the power of changing the price during the month, and it neither has ascertained, nor can it ascertain, the quantity of Bread to be furnished by each Baker; by fixing the price, therefore, and preventing the Baker from asking more, they necessarily, when Wheat rises during the month, hinder the Town and Suburbs from being supplied, and frustrate the end of their appointment.

That