

## 10 PAPERS RELATING TO THE LONDON, LIVERPOOL, AND

the grant of a charter of incorporation under 1 Vict. c. 73, and that the same has been referred to your Lordships by Her Majesty; and that similar applications have been made, or are about to be made, to your Lordships by other companies.

That by sect. 4 of the said statute, it is competent to your Lordships, on the granting of such a charter, to limit the liability of the members of the company thereby to be associated in such a manner as shall be declared by such charter.

That except in cases which embrace great public advantage with much private risk, such limitations of responsibility have never been granted by your Lordships; and your memorialists are unable to perceive any claim for exception on either of these grounds in the case of the company in question.

That trading as the British shipowners do, under an unlimited responsibility, your memorialists, as the governing representative body of this large and important shipping community, feel bound to express their decided opposition to any departure from that rule, considering that if the privileges sought to be obtained by the aforesaid company were granted to them, or to others under similar circumstances, private enterprise would be checked and discouraged, and an end put to free competition.

Your memorialists therefore respectfully but earnestly pray your Lordships not to accede to the application of the Screw Steam Ship Company aforesaid for a charter of incorporation, or of any other company or companies who may apply to your Lordships.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray,

Signed on behalf of the Town Council of the borough of South Shields aforesaid,  
this 8th day of November 1852.

*John Clay, Mayor.*

[A similar answer to the preceding one returned.]

## — No. 11. —

To the Right Honourable the Board of Committee of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council for Trade.

The Memorial of the Directors of the Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures, established by Royal Charter in the City of *Glasgow*,

Respectfully sheweth,

THAT certain parties trading under the style and title of the London, Liverpool, and North American Screw Steam Ship Company, and proposing to carry passengers, goods, and merchandise of every kind, between the various ports in the United Kingdom and those of British North America and the United States, have applied for a charter of incorporation under the Act 1 Vict. c. 73, which charter, among other privileges, would confer on that company a limitation of the liability of their shareholders to the amount of their subscribed stock.

That while your memorialists admit the wisdom of granting this limitation of liability to the promoters of great national undertakings, for which sufficient capital might not be obtainable on any other terms, they regard such cases as exceptions to a general rule, and no way to be approved of when interfering with individual enterprise and free competition in trade.

That the company in question is a general trading company, for the purpose of carrying on, on a very large scale, a business in which thousands of individuals and private co-partneries are now engaged, and that the charter of incorporation, if granted, will confer on them privileges from which their competitors in that business are excluded, and against which they cannot successfully contend, and have the effect of establishing a monopoly of a large portion of the carrying trade between Great Britain and America, to the manifest injury of the private trader.

May it therefore please your Honourable Board, considering these premises, not to grant to the London, Liverpool, and North American Screw Steam Ship Company, or to any similar company, the privilege of a limited liability in favour of their shareholders.

(L.S.)

(signed) *Hugh Cogan, Chairman.*  
*John G. Kinnear, Secretary.*

[A similar answer to the preceding ones returned.]