

*ireal* was presented to the House by Mr. *McGill*, and read,

SETTING FORTH:—That the Petitioners laboring under many severe and weighty grievances from the deficiency of the Laws for the Government and management of Apprentices, Journeymen or Servants under agreement in writing, engaged in their respective business or employment, humbly represent, that the Petitioners from the peculiar situation and customs of the Province, are often under the necessity of taking Apprentices without fees, at an age when they are unable to provide for themselves, their Parents in low circumstances, and the Petitioners engage to board, lodge and cloath them, and often to give them a certain portion of education, to enable them to follow the business they are intended for, with advantage to themselves, and also to learn them their Trade; that when such Apprentices arrive at an age to be of service to the Petitioners, many absent themselves from their trade, and employment, without the Petitioners being able to find any remedy in Law, to compel them to fulfil their respective Indentures or Engagements, by which means they become their own Masters at so early an age, that tends to their own disadvantage, and to the injury of Society.

And the Petitioners further humbly represent, that many of them engage out of the Province, workmen not to be had in this Country, and bring them into this Province, at great trouble and expense, and also engage others within the Province to assist in carrying on their business; that such workmen frequently before the expiration of their respective agreements quit their Masters service, to the great injury loss and disappointment of the Petitioners, in their respective Trades and undertakings, for which the Petitioners have it not in their power to obtain any adequate relief in Law.

That the Petitioners further humbly represent, that the Petitioners, on these heads and subjects immediately connected therewith suffer many other grievances and difficulties, in which they are particularly interested with the Public at large, for all which they humbly hope to find