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**TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY, IN COUNCIL.**

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**MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY—**

The undersigned, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, Inhabitants of the Island of Cape-Breton, in British North America, most humbly beg leave to approach Your Majesty, in Council, as supplicants to implore the protection of Your Majesty, and the restoration of those rights and privileges which were formerly pledged to them by His Majesty King George the Third, of rights and privileges which they had always been taught and led to believe were irrevocable unless by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, but of which, in compliance with the importunities and interested views of Nova-Scotia, they were, in an evil hour for Petitioners, deprived in the year 1820, by the advice of a former Colonial Minister, and without their previous knowledge or consent.

Your Majesty's Petitioners here beg leave, with all humility, to state that the measure of which they complain is the annexation, in the year 1820, of the Island of Cape-Breton as a County to the Province of Nova-Scotia—Petitioners being, by such annexation, deprived of the Legislature which had been solemnly pledged and granted to them by His Most Gracious Majesty King George the Third in the year 1784.

In explanation of the measure to which they allude, Your Majesty's Petitioners humbly submit that on 7th day of October, 1763, His Majesty King George the Third issued a Proclamation relative to certain Colonies which had been ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris, of the 10th of February in that year, wherein His Majesty was graciously pleased to make the following announcement in reference to Cape-Breton, namely:—"We have also, with the advice of our Privy Council, thought fit to annex the Island of St. John and Cape-Breton, or Isle Royal, with the lesser Islands adjacent thereto, to our Government of Nova-Scotia;" and immediately following is found this clause relative to the Province of Georgia:—"We have also, with the advice of our Privy Council aforesaid, annexed to our Province of Georgia all the lands lying between the Rivers of Attamaha and St. Mary's"—thus, in this Proclamation, a distinction is made at the outset—in one case the annexation being made to the Government, in the other to the Province. The same Proclamation proceeds to constitute the Government of Grenada, as "comprehending the Island of that name, together with Grenadines and the Islands of Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago"—yet it is believed that these last named Islands were never considered as being, by virtue of that Proclamation, parts of the Province of Grenada, but merely thereby comprehended under the General Government of the Governor-General of that Island—Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago, having each a separate Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, distinct from, and independent of, each other, as well as distinct from, and independent of, those of Grenada, except as under the same Governor-in-Chief. Your Majesty's Petitioners therefore here beg permission to remark, that it appears to them that Cape-Breton, as well as the Island of St. John, was evidently not intended to be annexed, by the said Proclamation, as a County to the Province of Nova-Scotia, but merely annexed to the Government of the Governor-General of that Province, in the same manner that Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago, were annexed to the Government of the Governor-General of Grenada, to each of which first named Islands Lieutenant-Governors were afterwards actually appointed in the same manner as to the latter Island, and who repaired to their respective Local Governments and immediately and respectively organized the Governments there, under a Governor and Council, as Your Majesty's Petitioners now proceed to shew, as regards Cape-Breton:

Petitioners, in proof thereof, crave leave to add, that on the 3d day of September, 1784, His Majesty granted, and a Commission issued, addressed to "Joseph Frederick Wallet DesBarres, Esquire," in which Commission he is stiled "Lieutenant-Governor of Cape-Breton, and its Dependencies," and wherein he is directed to "exercise and enjoy the said Office of Lieutenant-Governor of our said Island, and its Dependencies, with such powers and authorities, and according to such directions as are or shall be expressed in our Commission and Instructions to our Captain-General and Governor