

---

---

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

WEDNESDAY, 4th Feby. 1824.

**A** PETITION of divers Merchants of the City of Quebec, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House by Mr. BELANGER, and the same was received and read, setting forth:—

To the Honorable the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses of the Province of Lower-Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Merchants and Ship Owners of the Port of Quebec,

SHEWETH,

That in the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-nine, the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs in America, acting under the authority of the Imperial Act of Parliament, 5th Geo. III, Cap. 45, ordered the Officers of the Port of Quebec, to regulate their Fees by those received at Halifax, and transmitted a Copy of the Halifax Docket, certified by their Secretary, Mr. Reeves, of which your Petitioners annex a Copy for immediate reference. That the Fees now exacted, of which a statement is subjoined, do not correspond with that Docket; that explanations to the parties paying are refused by the Officers of the Customs, that the Fees have been increased at various times, and material augmentations made since the department became under the direction of the present Collector, without apparent necessity, and by no Law to the knowledge of your Petitioners. That the Fees, now levied, are unnecessarily and oppressively high, have long been a subject of dissatisfaction to the Trade, and a complaint from British Ship Owners; that they fall particularly heavy on small vessels employed in the Fishing and Coasting Trade between this and the Sister Provinces of New-Brunswick, Nova-Scotia, Labrador, &c. &c. which make several Voyages during the season, and are yet subjected, on each entry and clearance, to the same Fees as vessels to distant ports; such Fees, amounting, on most occasions, to a seventh of their gross freight, and with the fees paid at the lower ports to more than a fifth of the Freight on the Voyage out and home. That such disproportionate exactions on coasting and small vessels, are destruc-