

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

**The Petition of the Corporation of Quebec  
Board of Trade humbly sheweth,—**

That your Petitioners have reason to believe that during the present Session of the Legislature of the United States of America, efforts will be made to modify and extend the terms of the Treaty concluded between the government of that country and your Majesty, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and known as the "Reciprocity Treaty;" under the provisions of which, various articles, the growth and produce of the British North American Provinces, and of the United States respectively, are made interchangeable between the two countries, free of duties.

That the Reciprocity Treaty confers upon the people of the United States of America many privileges, and amongst others, that of taking and curing fish within the limits of the waters, and on the coasts of the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence; in return for which, your Majesty's British American subjects receive no adequate equivalent.

That, in addition, the navigation act passed by your Majesty's Imperial Parliament in the same year, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, grants to American shipping the right of admission to British registry, and to a free participation in the coasting trade of the Empire; whilst the people of the United States grant no such privileges to British shipping.

Your Petitioners humbly conceive that in part return for the many advantages secured to the people of the United States of America, under the provisions of the Reciprocity Treaty, and of the Navigation Act, your Majesty's British American subjects have a right to demand from the Government of the United States the admission of their shipping to American registry, and to a free participation in the coasting trade of the United States.

Wherefore, your petitioners humbly pray, that in the event of alternations being effected in the Reciprocity Treaty, your Majesty will be graciously pleased to command that provision be made accordingly.

And, as in duty bound, your Petitioners will ever pray.

(SIGNED)

**JAMES GILLESPIE, *President.*****ALEXANDER FRASER, *Secretary.***

Quebec, 14th March, 1862.