

chase slaves on the Coasts of *Africa*, and they, their children and posterity, were declared the property of the purchasers, and of those to whom they were afterwards sold. That by the statute 30. Geo. 3. c. 27. made after the close of the late unhappy war, it is enacted, " That from and after the 1st day of August, 1790, if any person or persons, being subjects of the Territories or Countries belonging to the United States of *America*, shall come from thence, together with his or their family or families, to any of the *Babarna* or *Bermuda* or *Somers Islands* or to any part of the Province of *Quebec*, or *Nova-Scotia*, or any of the Territories belonging to His Majesty in *North-America*, for the purpose of residing and settling there, it shall be lawful for any such person or persons, having first obtained a licence for that purpose from the Governor, or in his absence from the Lieutenant Governor of the said Islands, Colonies, or Plantations respectively to import into the same in British ships, owned by His Majesty's subjects, and navigated according to Law, any negroes, household furniture, utensils of husbandry, or cloathing free of duty." And it is also enacted by the said statute " that all sales or bargains for the sale of any negro, household furniture, utensils of husbandry or cloathing so imported which shall be made within twelve calendar months after the importation of the same (except in case of the Bankruptcy or death of the owner thereof) shall be null and void to all intents and purposes whatsoever."

That if any doubt remained before the passing of this Act whether slavery really, under any modification, existed in this Province, the Petitioners flatter themselves this statute expressly recognizes its existence in the same manner as it prevailed in all His Majesty's Plantations in *America* before the late war.

That the Petitioners can assure this House with confidence, that many faithful and loyal subjects of His Majesty, after exposing their lives in his service, and sacrificing almost the whole property they were possessed of in the late calamitous war, came into this Province with their slaves under the sacred promise held out to them in the last mentioned statute, and from an idea lately gone abroad, that slavery does not exist in this country, have found that their slaves on whom was all their dependence