

Masters on their second voyage this year to *Quebec*, are under the aforesaid 5th Section of the latter act, liable a second time to the said charge of 7s. 6d., as a fee to the Harbour Master of *Quebec*.

The Petitioners who are all residents in this Province, and as such presumed to be cognizant of its laws, complain of the charge alluded to, and pray to be relieved *in toto* of it.

The intrinsic value of the Pamphlet and label cannot exceed *one shilling*, Currency, and might be furnished at a profit, by any Printer or Bookseller in *Quebec*, for considerably less than that amount, were not the sale of it a monopoly by Act of Parliament in the hands of the Harbour Master of *Quebec*, who besides his salary, derives from it a very considerable revenue, levied upon shipping, arriving from Sea at the Port of *Quebec*, in number from eleven to twelve hundred sail per season.

Your Committee are of opinion that all River Craft, owned in this Province, whether navigating the River and Gulph of *St. Lawrence* only, or performing voyages hence to any other British North American Province or Colony, ought to be exempt from this charge; and that all Ships and Ship Masters returning from *Europe* to *Quebec*, on a second voyage the same season, should be provided by the Harbour Master with a copy of any new By-Laws or Regulations made during his absence.

The Provincial Statute of *Lower Canada*, 51, Geo. III. Chap. 12., which vests in the Trinity House of *Quebec* (Sec. 6.) the Harbour, known as the *Cul-de-Sac*, in the Port of *Quebec*, also enacts (Sec. 11.) that "the Wharfage and Dock dues on such Vessels, as are employed in the Fisheries in the Gulph and River *St. Lawrence*, and in the trade of the said River only, including such Rivers as run into the same, from *Cape Chat* upwards to the Harbour of *Montreal* inclusive, shall not exceed *four-pence*, current money of this Province, per ton register measurement of the Vessel *per annum*, for loading, unloading, and wintering in the said Harbour." This enactment the Petitioners represent is to their prejudice defeated: First, by a By-law or regulation of the Trinity House, passed 1st. May 1812, requiring "that all Masters of Ships and Vessels under the general name of River Craft, employed solely in the Gulph and River *St. Lawrence*, and in the Trade of the said River, who intend to benefit from the advantages given them by the said Act, shall each and every year, on or before the 1st day of June, take out a License from the Corporation of the Trinity House of *Quebec*, to make use of the said Harbour of the *Cul-de-Sac*, agreeably to Law, and on receiving the same shall pay the annual tonnage duty, thereby ordered to be levied, to such persons as shall be authorized to receive the same;" and Secondly—by another By-law of the same date, which provides, "that any Ship or Vessel, having such License as aforesaid, and going a voyage to sea, shall thereafter be subject to the like wharfage and dock dues, as Vessels from Sea," that is to say *six-pence*, currency per ton loading and unloading, and 2s. 6d. per day, from the day of their entering to the day of their departure therefrom, exclusive.

River Craft for which such Licenses have been taken and paid, consequently forfeit by performing a voyage in the course of the season to either of the Lower Provinces, the amount paid for Licenses previous to the first of June, and thereby are placed in a worse situation than Vessels not owned in the Province, being in addition to the forfeiture subjected thereafter to the same charges as those Vessels are, and this for the legitimate pursuit of their calling.

Your Committee recommend an enactment to afford relief in the foregoing respects; but with respect to the other matters represented in the Petition referred to Your Committee, they cannot advise any alteration."

*Ordered.* That the said Report be referred to a Committee of the whole House, on Wednesday next.

Sir Allan N. MacNab, from the Select Committee appointed to search the Journals of the Honourable the Legislative Council with relation to any proceedings had in the present Session on the Seat of Government, presented to the House the Report of the said Committee, which was again read at the Clerk's table, and is as followeth:—

Report of Committee on searching Journals of Legislative Council on Seat of Government.

Saturday, 30th September, 1843.

It was moved to resolve that an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor General, respectfully requesting that His Excellency will be pleased to lay before this House (if consistent with His Excellency's Instructions) copies of any despatches that may have been received from Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, relating to the place where the Legislature is in future to assemble in this Province.

The Question of concurrence being put thereon, the same was agreed to by the House; and it was ordered accordingly.

*Ordered.* That the Honourable Messieurs *Morris* and *Washburn*, do wait upon His Excellency, the Governor General, with the said Address.

Tuesday, 3rd October, 1843.

The Honourable Mr. *Morris* reported that the Honourable Mr. *Washburn* and himself had, according to order, waited on His Excellency, the Governor General, with the Address of this House of Saturday last, and that His Excellency was pleased to say that he would answer the said Address by Message.

Tuesday, 10th October, 1843.

The Honourable Mr. *Sullivan* acquainted the House that he had a Message from His Excellency, the Governor General, under his Sign Manual, which his Excellency had commanded him to deliver to this House, and the same was read as follows:—

C. T. Metcalfe.

The Governor General informs the Honourable the Legislative Council, in reply to their Address on the subject of the place where the Legislature is in future to assemble in this Province, that he does not consider himself at liberty to lay before that Honourable House, the Despatches which he received from Her Majesty's Secretary of State on that subject; but that the substance of the instructions issued to him is to the effect, that Her Majesty's Government decline coming to a determination in favor of any place as the future Seat of Government without the advice of the Provincial Legislature: and that Her Majesty's Ministers will be prepared to submit favourably to Her Majesty, such Addresses on this subject as may be presented by either, or both, of the Legislative Houses, in recommendation of either *Kingston* or *Montreal*; it being understood that the selection is now necessarily limited to one of those places; the former Capitals, *Quebec* and *Toronto*, being alike too remote from the centre of the Province, and the plan of alternate Sessions at one or the other places being deemed objectionable and impracticable, on account of its manifest and