

HALIFAX AND UNITED STATES MAIL CONTRACT.

COPY of a MEMORIAL from Merchants, &c., of *Birmingham* to the Lords of the Treasury, relative to the *Halifax* and *United States* Mail Contract.

To the Right Honourable Sir *Robert Peel*, Bart., First Lord of Her Majesty's Treasury.

The MEMORIAL of Merchants, Manufacturers and others, of Birmingham.

Showeth,

THAT your Memorialists observe that a new contract is about to be made with the Halifax and Boston Company, for carrying 20 Mails per annum between England and the United States, by the way of New York, in addition to the monopoly the same Company at present enjoys between Liverpool and Halifax and Boston.

That your Memorialists hear, and can easily believe, that the effect of this arrangement will be to drive from the line, which their zeal, enterprize and ability was the first to establish, the ships belonging to the Great Western Steam Ship Company, which Company really led the way, and by its successful example was the founder of Transatlantic steam navigation.

That a monopoly, supported by a heavy grant from Government, enables the contracting party to charge high passengers' fares. On the American lines the charges have been moderate by the Great Western Company's ships, in which 38*l.*, the charge by the Boston line, is represented by 30*l.* in the Great Western, and 25*l.* in the Great Britain, except when either of those ships sail at or about the same time as a Boston boat, when they also have been in the habit of lowering their fares, which shows the benefit of competition.

That your Memorialists trust you will be pleased to take the very great claims of this Company, and the interests of the public, into your consideration; and that you will devise some plan by which its ships may be maintained on their line. They pray you, in fact, to allow the Company to participate in the new contract, which, seeing that their charges are lower to the public, and that, without the aid of Government, they have managed to live, they would possibly have undertaken on better terms than the Government has been in the habit of paying the competing and more fortunate Company, if the contract had been, as in common justice it should have been, open to competition.

(signed) *Wm. Chance, Sons & Co.*,
 Merchants,
 and by 33 other Merchants and Manufacturers.
