

No. I.

*Letter from Lieut. Col. GLEGG, Secretary, to His Excellency LORD AYLMER, Administrator of the Government of Lower Canada, to JAMES STUART, Esq. Attorney General.*

CASTLE OF ST. LEWIS,  
Quebec, 22d November, 1830.

SIR,

I am directed by His Excellency Lord Aylmer, to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a petition from the Hudson's Bay Company, praying that a licence may be granted to them, their Agents and Servants, to distribute Spirituous Liquors to Indians within the seigniory of *Mille Vaches*, and at all other posts and places occupied by the said Company, for the purpose of trade, within this Province, and I am to request that you will be pleased to state to me, for His Excellency's information, whether he is empowered, by the laws now in force, to grant the licence prayed for, and whether it is expedient that the said prayer should be granted.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) J. B. GLEGG, Secy.

*Honble. James Stuart, Attorney General.*

True Copy, J. STUART.

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No. II.

*Petition from the Hudson's Bay Company to His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, referred to in the foregoing Letter.*

To His Excellency Lord Aylmer, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, &c. &c. &c.

The Humble Petition of the Hudson's Bay Company

*Respectfully represents,*

That your Petitioners are Lessees of the Seigniory of "*Mille Vaches*," in the District of Quebec, under a lease from the proprietors thereof, granted in the year 1822, with an exclusive right of trading with the Indians within its limits; and carry on their trade with the Indians there, at the Post of Portneuf, situated within the said seigniory.

That your Petitioners as a commercial company, more particularly engaged in the fur trade, and having establishments at Portneuf and other places within this Province, for the purpose of carrying it on, in the course of their transactions and intercourse with the Indians, have by their agents and servants necessarily been the channel by which rum and other spirituous liquors have come into their hands.

That it never entered into the contemplation of your Petitioners, that such a circumstance could be considered as illegal, nor do they conceive that they have in any manner offended the laws in this particular. But Mr. Lampson, the present lessee of the King's Posts, having lately attempted by every means in his power to drive the Hudson's Bay Company from the possession of the Post of Portneuf and the Seigniory of *Mille Vaches*, for his own private purposes, has by the means of one George Linton laid informations against Robt. Cowie, William Davis, and Elie Boucher, three of the agents and servants of your Petitioners, (founded upon the Ordinance 17, Geo. 3, c. 7, made to prevent the selling of strong liquors to the Indians without license from the Governor, &c. of the Province of Quebec,) for selling and distributing liquors to Indians at Portneuf aforesaid; and although your Petitioners are fully convinced that the said ordinance was never intended to apply to trading companies having a right to traffic with the Indians, and although it is apparent that these proceedings are vexatious, and carried on for the purpose of private gain, without any view to the interests of the public;—yet your Petitioners, for greater security in preventing the vexatious and oppressive application of the said ordinance for the past, and guarding against the same misapplication of it to their future dealings and intercourse with the Indians, are desirous of obtaining for themselves and their aforesaid agents and servants, a Pardon for any acts of this nature done in past time, and full authority to them for the future, to distribute liquors to the Indians, without which they could not carry on their lawful trade.