

Your Majesty's Petitioners therefore now humbly prostrate themselves at the Foot of the Throne, and, with uplifted hands and imploring prayers, beseech the merciful consideration of their Queen. They, as British Subjects, inheriting the feelings and common rights and privileges of Britons, which latter, according to their conception, and in accordance with the opinions of the great men of the present and former times, were expressly, immediately, and irrevocably pledged to them by His Most Gracious Majesty King George the Third, in the year 1784, unless annihilated or abrogated by an Act of the Imperial Parliament—pray Your Majesty for the restoration of the Constitution so as above granted to them, and for the convening of their Local Legislature, under a Lieutenant-Governor, Council and Assembly, conformably to the Grant of His Majesty King George the Third, and consequently that the Laws of Nova-Scotia, and the authority of its Legislature, may no longer be enforced over this Island. But should, notwithstanding the high authorities in Petitioners' favor, there possibly exist in Your Majesty's mind a doubt of Petitioners' strict, legal and constitutional right to what they seek, Your Majesty's Petitioners then further humbly beg leave to throw themselves on the goodness of their Sovereign, and hope that, as a matter of expediency, and to promote the interests of Your Majesty's loyal and dutiful Subjects in this Island, now estimated to amount to between fifty and sixty thousand souls, and in consideration of the injuries inflicted on them by the annexation, Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to exercise your high prerogatives of mercy and compassion, and grant, as an act of grace and favor, the separation of Cape-Breton from the Province of Nova-Scotia, and permit this Island to enjoy a similar Constitution to that of its Sister Island of Prince Edward, by directing the immediate convening of the Legislature prayed for—And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

In the Privy Council.

FROM THE ISLAND OF CAPE-BRETON.

IN the matter of the Petition of certain INHABITANTS of the ISLAND of CAPE BRETON, against the Annexation of that ISLAND to the PROVINCE of NOVA SCOTIA.

THE PETITIONERS' CASE.

THIS Petition was filed on the Second day of February, 1843.

It is signed by about two thousand of the Inhabitants of Cape Breton, pursuant to Resolutions adopted at a public Meeting, held in Sydney, the principal Town of the Island, on the 20th of May, 1842. By whom presented.

The Petition (among other things) represents, that the Annexation of Cape Breton to the Province of Nova Scotia as a County thereof, in 1820, was unconstitutional and illegal, and prays that the Government and Constitution established in 1784 may be restored, (claiming also the fulfilment of the promise then given of an Elective House of Assembly, and that a local Legislature be convened, "under a Lieutenant-Governor, Council, and Assembly, conformably to the Grant of King George the Third), and prays "that the Laws of Nova Scotia and the authority of its Legislature may "be no longer enforced over the Island." Prayer of the Petition.

The Island of Cape Breton is situate between the latitudes 45 degrees and 27 minutes; and 47 degrees and 5 minutes north, and the 59th degree and 38 minutes and the 61st degree and 50 minutes of longitude west. Its greatest length is about 100 miles and its greatest width about 80. It comprises an area of about two millions of acres, of which about one million two hundred thousand are fit for cultivation. Its present population is about 60,000 persons, who are principally engaged in agriculture, the fisheries, the mines, and the forests of the Island. Description of the Island.