

"has already deeply wounded the credit of the country, and confined our views in trade to very narrow limits.

"In this cruel state of apprehension and uncertainty, we humbly implore your lordships' favourable interposition, as the hereditary guardians of the rights of the people, that the said act may be repealed or amended, and that your humble petitioners may enjoy their constitutional rights, privileges and franchises heretofore granted to all his majesty's dutiful subjects.

"And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

"Quebeck, 12th Nov. 1774."

PETITION TO THE COMMONS.¹

"To the Honourable the Commons of Great-Britain in Parliament assembled.

"The humble Petition and Memorial of his Majesty's ancient Subjects the Seigneurs, Freeholders, Merchants, Traders, and others settled in his Majesty's Province of Quebeck,

"Sheweth,

"That, under the sanction of his majesty's royal proclamation, bearing date the seventh day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three, which graciously promises to all persons inhabiting in, or resorting to, this province, his royal protection for the enjoyment of the benefit of the laws of the realm of England, until assemblies should be called therein, they did come and settle themselves in this province, having entrusted their own properties, as well as very considerable sums of their friends, in goods and merchandize, from Great-Britain, and entrusted the same into the hands of the Canadians, as well for the purpose of internal trade in the province, as for outlets in carrying on the traffick of furs and peltries in the Indian countries and fisheries below Quebeck, many of them having purchased lands and houses, and been employed in agriculture, and the exportation of grain and other produce to foreign markets, to the great benefit and emolument of the said province, which has flourished chiefly by the industry and enterprising spirit of the said subjects, who, under the protection of British laws, and by the assistance of annual supplies of British manufactures, and other goods and merchandize obtained upon credit from the merchants of Great-Britain, have been enabled to carry on at least four parts in five of all the imports and exports which are principally made in British bottoms, the latter consisting of furs, peltries, wheat, fish, oil, pot-ash, lumber, and other country produce : and for the more convenient carrying on the said trade and commerce, they have built wharfs and store-houses at a very great expense, insomuch that the property, real and personal, now in British hands, or by them entrusted to Canadians at a long credit, is one half of the whole value of the province, exclusive of the wealth of the different communities ; which your petitioners have in part set forth in the humble petition to his most excellent majesty, dated at Quebeck the thirty-first day of December which was in the year of our Lord one thousand seven

¹ "An Account of the Proceedings" &c., p. 254. This also bears the same list of names as the other petitions.