

To this petition the said lieutenant-governour returned for answer, on the 11th day of the same month of December 1773, that the subject of it was a matter of too much importance for his majesty's council of the said province to advise, or for him to determine upon, at a time that, from the best information he had received, the affairs of the said province were likely to become the object of public regulation in England.

Upon the receipt of this answer from the said lieutenant-governour, (which indeed was no other than they had expected,) the petitioners determined to prepare another petition to be presented to his majesty himself for the same purpose. They accordingly did prepare such a petition, together with a memorial to the earl of Dartmouth, his majesty's secretary of state for America; which were as follows.

‘ To the king’s most excellent majesty.

‘ The most humble petition of the subscribers,
 ‘ your majesty’s antient and loyal subjects,
 ‘ freeholders, merchants, and planters, in
 ‘ the province of Quebeck, in North-
 ‘ America,

‘ Sheweth,

‘ **T**HAT whereas your majesty, by your
 ‘ royal proclamation, bearing date at
 ‘ Saint James’s the seventh day of October,
 ‘ one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three,
 ‘ was