

interruptedly enjoyed for many years past, by virtue of certain Acts of Donation, whereby the said Common is given to the said Inhabitants for the sole purpose of a Pasture for their Cows.

That the Petitioners, convinced of the great injury and general inconvenience that will arise to the Inhabitants of *Three Rivers*, and particularly to the poorer class of them, should such application be favourably received by this House, consider it their duty respectfully to represent to this House the evil consequences that will ensue, should the prayer of the before-mentioned Petition be granted, and pray leave to observe that the Land in question from its proximity to the Town of *Three Rivers*, and from the richness of the soil, is, on those accounts, a more eligible situation for a Common or Pasture, for the purpose of feeding the Cattle belonging to the Inhabitants of the Town, than any other spot or place near *Three Rivers*, and consequently great injury and inconvenience must arise to the Inhabitants should any change of situation take place, besides the injustice of depriving them of their rights in the same.

The Petitioners pray leave further to observe, that by the Plan proposed by the persons presenting the aforesaid Petition, they contemplate the extension of the Town upon the said Common, which though well calculated for Pasture Ground, yet is, from its low swampy situation very unhealthy, and on no account to be made choice of for building upon, particularly when so great a quantity of fine dry Land in elevated and healthy situations, calculated by nature for the extension of the Town, still remains unconceded. That the Common is from its exposed situation subject to inundation every Spring, from the overflowing of the River Saint *Lawrence*, the consequences of which were severely felt in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, when five feet of water and upwards entered the houses, and the immense masses of ice which floated down, threatened destruction to every building in that part of the Town adjoining the Common, some of the houses were much damaged and one entirely demolished, all which clearly proves the impropriety of encouraging persons to build thereon.

The Petitioners therefore for the above reasons humbly pray, that they