

ANTIGUA.

No. 1.
Governor
Higginson
to
Earl Grey,
26th Dec. 1847.

ANTIGUA.

(No. 85.)

EXTRACT of a DESPATCH from Governor HIGGINSON to Earl GREY, dated
Antigua, 26th December 1847.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a petition addressed by the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly of this island to the Right Honourable the Lords and the Honourable the Commons House of Parliament praying relief.

Encl. in No. 1.

Enclosure in No. 1.

EXTRACT from a PETITION to the HOUSE of COMMONS from the BOARD of COUNCIL and
HOUSE of ASSEMBLY of ANTIGUA.

Your petitioners submit that the carriage of the staples of the colony to market constitutes an important item in the cost of their production; that the carriage is restricted to British shipping by the Navigation Laws, thereby depriving the colonist of the advantage of a cheaper foreign carriage.

That your petitioners ever entertained a reverential regard for those laws, as the basis of the national glory and prosperity; but public opinion having uprooted convictions equally strong upon questions of equal gravity and importance, your petitioners are admonished of the possibility of their error in regard to the Navigation Laws, and, struggling for existence against beggary and ruin, are constrained, however reluctantly, to enter their protest against this restriction and protection in favour of British shipping, as entirely indefensible upon the all-powerful principles of free trade.
