

“ and altering the Highways and Bridges within this Province, and for other purposes,” as relate to the period fixed by the said Act to compound for statute labour.

He accordingly presented the said Bill to the House, and the same was received and read for the first time.

ORDERED, That the said Bill be read a second time on Monday next.

A Petition from sundry persons inhabitants of the city of *Montreal*, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House by Mr. *Papineau*: and the same was received and read:

SETTING FORTH—That by an Ordinance of *Jacques Raudot*, Intendant of *Canada*, bearing date the thirteenth day of April, which was in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and nine, registered and published according to law, It is Ordained, under the good pleasure of his Most Christian Majesty, that all Panis and Negroes which, before then were, and which thereafter should be purchased in *Canada*, should appertain, in full property, to the purchasers thereof, as their proper Slaves; and the said Panis and Negroes are thereby enjoined not to leave the service of their Masters, and all persons not to encourage them to desert, or harbour them, under a penalty of fifty livres.

That His Most Christian Majesty did never signify his displeasure or disapprobation of the said Ordinance, whereby the same was in force at the definitive Treaty of Peace and Cession of this Province to His Majesty, and therefore by the Statute of the 14th *George III.* Chapter 83d, commonly called the *Quebec Act*, makes now part of the Laws, Usages and Customs of *Canada*.

That the Importation of Negroes from *Africa* to the *West India* Islands and British Plantations, has, from the first establishment of an *African Company*, and since the Trade has been set free to all His Majesty's subjects, under Parliamentary Regulations, been deemed lawful, and the owners of such Negroes vested with the right and power of selling them and their children, whereby Slavery was effectually established in the said Islands and Plantations.

That by the Statute of the 5th *Geo. II.* Chap. 7. Section 4, intituled, “ An Act for the more easy recovery of debts in His Majesty's Plantations and Colonies in America;” It is enacted, “ That from and after the twenty ninth day of September, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-two, the Houses, Lands, Negroes and other hereditaments  
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