

being who can look without pity upon the demoralized and degraded position of British sailors at the port of Quebec, and who having the influence to aid in remedying the abuses by which it is promoted, not only refuses to assist in preserving the laws which have been framed for their protection, but actually aids and abets the very means to hasten their ruin, and embarrass the trade which yields them bread.

The following Petition to the Provincial Parliament *in favor* of the Act regulating the shipping of seamen at the Port of Quebec, in 1850, will shew how far it may be expedient to *repeal* it in 1852.

The Petition of the undersigned, Shipbuilders and Merchants of Quebec,

HUMBLY SHEWETH:—

That your Petitioners are engaged as Shipbuilders and Merchants in Quebec, and, as representing nearly all the large vessels trading to and from the Port, they are deeply interested in the preservation of those laws which protect the shipping interests.

That the 10th & 11th Vict. cap. 25, regulating the shipping of seamen, has been of great service to the trade, in putting down the combinations of Crimps, and of preventing, considerably, the desertion of seamen; and, although the Act met with opposition, at first, by the exercise of violent and illegal means, yet, that opposition was not caused by, or with the knowledge or consent of, your Petitioners, or from any objection, on their part, to the working of the law, but was raised solely by those persons whose nefarious practices the law was intended to put down; and in which it has been so far successful.

If any Petition has gone up to your Honourable