

P E T I T I O N .

PROVINCE OF NOVA-SCOTIA, }
COUNTY OF ANNAPOLIS. }

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

AND THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE MEMBERS OF THE MOST HONORABLE PRIVY COUNCIL.

THE Humble Petition of the undersigned, Loyal and Dutiful Subjects of His Majesty, on behalf of themselves and the rest of the Loyal and Dutiful Subjects resident in the Upper District of the County of Annapolis.

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH—

THAT, owing to the Commercial and Agricultural increase of the Province of Nova-Scotia, and the sectional and general changes which a comparatively new Colony must undergo on the progress of its settlement, the subject of a division of several of the larger Counties, and adding to the number of their Representatives in the Provincial Parliament, has, for some time, engrossed the attention of a large portion of the Inhabitants, as well as the local Government of the Country. Such being the case, several of the larger Counties, (that is to say,) Cape-Breton, Sydney, Halifax, Annapolis and Shelburne, have urged the measure above alluded to, upon the consideration of the Legislature; but your Petitioners regret to say, that they have been answered by measures the most partial and inequitable nature, they are partial and inequitable, because, while the claims of Annapolis, with other large Counties, to a participation in the measures prayed, were urged most strenuously, yet constitutionally, upon the consideration of the Legislature, those of Cape-Breton and Halifax only have been attended to.

The object of Your Humble and Loyal Petitioners being, solely to lay their case of the claims of the County of Annapolis to a division and an increase of Representation, before Your August Body, (an appeal to which, is their dernier resort, and to the decision of which Body they trust it will ever be their duty, their pleasure and their pride, to bow,) humbly beg the patience of Your Majesty, and the Individuals composing Your Right Honorable Board, while they go a little into detail of the facts upon which their case is founded.

In comparison, the geographical extent of this Colony, is the number of its local and distinct interests, confined to its several sections. That, from the County of Hants, to the Eastward, there is the most pronounced difference of interest, in many particulars, from that which prevails to the Westward, is a fact of which there can be no dispute. To the Eastward, Halifax, as the general market place, draws to her the Inhabitants of all the adjacent Counties, and it is her interest to engross as much of the Colonial Trade as possible. On the contrary, the Counties of Hants, King's Annapolis, and a greater part of Shelburne, being Agricultural Counties—the almost contiguity, by easy Water Carriage on the Bay Fundy, to St. John, in the Sister Province of New-Brunswick, affords them a most advantageous Market, of which the Inhabitants avail themselves, and carry on an extensive Trade therewith, which it is the great interest of Halifax to discourage, in order that she may monopolize by every possible means.—Your Petitioners humbly beg leave to submit, as one instance of Legislative discouragement of this Trade, that, (on the Shores of the Bay of Fundy, and the Rivers therein falling, Ship Building, for the English Market, being carried on to a large extent,) such was the enormous impost duty, during the last year, upon Cordage and other Naval Stores, imported from New-Brunswick to this Province, that the Builders were obliged to transport the Hulls of all Ships built, to be rigged in the Sister Province.

How powerful then must be the influence of the Trade of Halifax in the Legislature, (for your humble Petitioners can attribute the Impost above alluded to, among others, to no other motive than that of a wish to benefit such Trade,) when it has ever led to a tax upon Articles which otherwise must have employed a large portion of a most useful class of the Community, in fitting them for Articles of Export. Further, your Petitioners beg leave humbly to state, that before the passing of the Act, by the Legislature, giving the additional Members to Cape-Breton, the Eastern part of the Province was far better represented, taking numbers into consideration, than the Western. And there are now resident in the three Districts of the County of Halifax, seventeen of the forty-four Members of the Commons House of Assembly. From this, it must appear, that in any measure not in accordance with the views of those in the Eastern interest; the contest, by those in the Westward, must be at fearful odds, in fact a failure the result.

Your Petitioners further beg leave humbly to state that, up to the year 1832, being well assured that the difference of Representation was in favour of the Eastern Section of the Province, they were led to believe, that whenever any alteration or increase thereof should be adopted; the Western Section would be allowed to participate therein; and not until the year aforesaid were