

No. XXIII.

To the Right Honorable Earl Bathurst, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for War and Colonies.

The Memorial and Petition of M'Tavish, Fraser, and Co. and Inglis, Ellice, and Co. of London, Merchants, on their own behalf, and on behalf of other Persons interested in the North-West Company of Fur Traders of Canada ;

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT the events of the late Campaign in Upper Canada, have entirely cut off all communication between the Lower Provinces and the Establishments of the North-West Company in the Interior of the Continent; and the Americans having obtained the temporary ascendancy on Lake Erie and Lake Huron, it will be impracticable to send up supplies of goods for the Trade, or the necessary subsistence for the persons conducting it, by the usual route from Montreal to Lake Superior.

That your Memorialists have now actually employed in their Service nearly *two thousand persons*, including Partners and Clerks, who are dispersed over the immense countries between Lake Superior and the Pacific Ocean, and engaged in the Fur Trade, with the different Indian Nations who inhabit these extensive regions: that your Memorialists have hitherto respected the supposed rights of the Hudson's Bay Company, by not opening through the Territories which they claim as their property under their Charter, the more direct and expeditious communication from Lake Winipic to Hudson's Bay, but have been contented for a long series of years to conduct their Trade through the Province of Canada, to their serious inconvenience and disadvantage. The route from Lake Winipic to Montreal, exceeding in distance 2500 miles, and requiring a period of 80 days to effect it, that to Hudson's Bay being only 500 miles, and affording in every respect greater facilities.