

Your petitioners venture with great deference to suggest some of the manifold advantages which, in their opinion, would result to the Kingdom generally from the success of this undertaking, and which they trust may lead to its being deemed to merit the countenance and favour of Your Majesty's government.

1st. The facilities afforded to emigrants from Ireland and Scotland to proceed to Canada, and the convenience arising from the period of their *arrival* in the colony being previously ascertained, so as to enable the means to be arranged for immediately forwarding them to their ulterior destination.

2nd. The consequent increase of the population of that interesting and important Province, and of the produce to be derived therefrom, as well as of the means of defence, in the event of the Province being again exposed to attack or invasion.

3rd. The increased facility afforded to commercial relations and personal intercourse betwixt the United Kingdom and Your Majesty's colonies in North America, since it has invariably happened in all cases where steam navigation has been introduced, that the facility for travelling thereby afforded to the public has greatly increased the disposition to take advantage thereof.

4th. The celerity and certainty with which, in case of need, military or naval stores and detachments of Your Majesty's forces may be conveyed to any point in America; besides the facility and economy of the ordinary interchange of troops for the colonial service by previously ascertaining the time of their *arrival* as well as that of their *embarkation*, and consequently saving the time for which transports and storeships must now be hired and a great part of the provisions now necessarily shipped for a tedious and precarious voyage.

5th. The encouragement to industry and to the agricultural interest in the South Western ports of Ireland by the facility and rapidity of with which return cargoes of the produce of that district may be brought to England in the steam vessels which must be employed to carry coals to Valentia. This particularly applies to the article of *Butter* which is the staple commodity of that district, and which may thus be brought into fair competition with the same article from Holland.

6th. The beneficial effect which cannot fail to be produced in the character and disposition of the population of that district, by the diffusion amongst them of a spirit of contented industry arising from a ready market for their produce and a consequent demand for labour.

7th. To render available the harbour of Valentia which in the event of Your Majesty being involved in war with any maritime power will from its local position and natural capabilities be found to combine advantages of the highest importance both as a military and naval station commanding equally the South and West of Ireland for purposes of defence, menacing any point in the West of Europe and facilitating the most difficult and tedious part of the voyage to any part of America.

Your petitioners having thus suggested some of the public advantages which it appears to them would result from the success of their project beg permission to represent to Your Majesty that from the magnitude of the plan and the amount of capital required to carry it into effect, it is entirely beyond the reach of any private individual or even any private association of individuals and can only be attempted by a joint stock company or corporation to be constituted by your Majesty and formed by public subscription and your petitioners beg most humbly to submit the following circumstances to your Majesty's gracious consideration in support of the prayer of this their petition.

Your petitioners although they are themselves persuaded of the practicability and the safety of navigating the Atlantic Ocean in vessels propelled by steam, are yet perfectly aware that a great part of the public still entertain serious doubts upon this subject, and these doubts are to be satisfied only by a series of safe and successful voyages during which experiment all the expense of the undertaking will be incurred, while the remuneration arising from the conveyance of voluntary pas-