

with the Crimps, and beg as a particular favor to be provided with a few hands *at any price* !

Such a state of things begat a want of confidence in the Shipping Office, and many merchants and others who too readily lent an ear to the lamentations of the Crimps, and promised to support them in obtaining a repeal of the law, were more desirous of attributing blame to its inefficiency than to the illegal combinations of those who were working strenuously against it.

A petition was accordingly got up for a repeal of the Seamen's Act "*which was found after a fair trial to be totally unworkable,*" and every person who could make his mark as well as many who could not, signed this precious document, headed however by a few respectable merchants, some of whom found themselves in the unenviable position of having signed both *for* and *against* it. Some hundreds of persons, (all deeply interested in the shipping interest *of course,*) could not fail to obtain redress, but scores of those unfortunates who imagined probably that their names would be immortalized by signing an Act of independence,—were most shockingly mortified that the interest of a few shipowners and others should be all powerful to preserve the law in spite of them. Mirabile dictu ! the petition, bill, and all that thereunto pertained was consigned to oblivion, Government shewing its determination not only to support the law for the benefit of the shipping interest, but if need be to strengthen it.

As a renewed attempt is at this moment being made to restore as it were "the good old times," a petition has been presented this session of Parliament against the Act in question ; and a committee of the House is now engaged taking evidence in the matter, before which it is hoped that those who are truly engaged and deeply concerned in the shipping interest will be permitted to record their opinions as