

Tuesday, 23d February, 1802.

A PETITION of sundry Master Tradesmen and others of the City of *New-C.* whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House by Mr. Young, and the same was received and read.

SETTING FORTH — That the Petitioners labour under many severe and weighty grievances from the deficiency of Laws for the Government and regulation of Apprentices, Journeymen or Servants under written agreement, engaged in their respective employments:

That from the peculiar situation and customs of the Province, they are under the necessity of taking Apprentices without Fee, at an age when they are unable to provide for themselves, and belonging to Parents in penurious circumstances, and that the Petitioners engage to board, lodge and cloath them, and often to give them a certain portion of education necessary to enable them to follow the business for which they are intended with advantage to themselves, over and above learning them their trade.

That when such Apprentices arrive at an age, and are in a condition, to be of Service to the Petitioners, they absent themselves from their employment, without the Petitioners being able to find any efficient remedy in Law to oblige them to fulfil their respective indentures or engagements.

That many of the Petitioners engage out of the Province, Workmen not to be had in the Country, and bring them hither at great trouble and expence, and also engage others within the Province, to assist in carrying on their business; that such Workmen, after they arrive here, or before the expiration of their respective agreements, leave their masters service, to the great injury and disappointment of the Petitioners in their respective undertakings, without the Petitioners having it in their power to obtain any adequate relief in Law.

That the Petitioners on these heads, suffer other grievances and difficulties, in which they are particularly interested with the public at large