

*Ordered*, that the said Petition do lie on the table

A Petition of JAMES PRENDERGAST and JAMES BRINE of Harbour Grace was presented by Mr. KOUGH, and read, setting forth,

That, at a public meeting of the Inhabitants of Harbour Grace, held at the Court-House on the 27th day of August last, Robert Pack, Patrick Kough, George Lilly, Thomas Ridley, and Richard Anderson, Esquires, were duly appointed Commissioners for regulating the width of a main or lower street, and of marking out in that part of the said town which had been destroyed by fire, such number of cross-streets or fire-breaks, as it should appear that the future security of property did absolutely call for and require. That, agreeably to the power with which they had thereby been invested, the said Commissioners did formally lay down the lines and bounds which were to be observed in the re-construction and building of the town, and gave notice from time to time to such as manifested any inclination to disregard what had been settled upon, that in so doing they acted at their own peril. That sometime in the course of last Autumn, subsequently to the operations of the Commissioners, the Petitioners began to rebuild their dwellings, and actuated no less by a desire of co-operating with what appeared to be done for the benefit of the town and by the unanimous wish of the inhabitants, than by a reluctance of rendering themselves liable to the penal provisions of any Legislative Act which might then be in contemplation, they applied to Mr. James Sharp (a person acting under the control and by the orders of the said Commissioners) to point out the precise line the Petitioners were to observe in making their erections. That the Petitioners have since actually built their respective Houses, and have precisely and strictly observed and followed the directions and instructions of the said commissioners, and have undeviatingly conformed to the plan of the new street drawn up by them. That, by virtue of an Act of the Colonial Legislature, a portion of the inhabitants of the said town of Harbour Grace have nominated and appointed divers other commissioners for the purposes of putting in execution the various provisions of the said Act. That these commissioners so appointed, conceiving themselves authorized and justified, by the Act alluded to, disregard and reject the lines and plans and metes and bounds which had been laid down and prescribed by their predecessors. That, in conformity to such an opinion, the said commissioners have decided upon opening a new fire-break in a site whereon the petitioners have erected their dwellings, and have consequently notified the Petitioners to desist from further finishing their buildings, which are now, however, in a forward state of completion. That the Petitioners being fully persuaded that it is not the intention of the House to set aside, but to confirm, the proceedings of the former commissioners (seeing the great and peculiar hardship that would necessarily accrue to individuals in the event of any alteration being made in the plan of said town) most humbly pray that the House will take the matter into their earliest consideration.

*Ordered*,—That the said Petition be referred to the Select Committee, to whom was referred the Petition of George Thorne and others, to examine and report upon the same.

On motion of Mr. THOMAS,

The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House on the consideration of Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. HOYLES took the Chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

The Chairman reported from the Committee that they had made some progress in the business to them referred, and had come to several Resolutions thereupon, which they had directed him to report to the House; and he read the same in his place, and afterwards delivered them in at the Clerk's Table, where they were read, and are as follows:—

1st. *Resolved*,—That it is the opinion of this Committee, that it is expedient and necessary to raise an additional revenue.

2d. *Resolved*,—That it is the opinion of this Committee, that a duty of sixpence sterling, per gallon, be levied on all spirits the produce of Great Britain or her Colonies, imported into this Island.

3d. *Resolved*,—That it is the opinion of this Committee, that a duty of one shilling and sixpence sterling, per gallon, be levied on Champagne, Burgundy, Claret, Hock, and all other wines imported into this Island, whose value in this market (exclusive of this duty) shall exceed the sum of eight shillings sterling per gallon.

4th. *Resolved*,—That it is the opinion of this Committee that a duty of one shilling sterling, per gallon, be levied on Port, Madeira, Sherry, and all other wines imported into this Island, whose value, as aforesaid, shall exceed the sum of five shillings sterling per gallon.

5th. *Resolved*,—That it is the opinion of this Committee that a duty of ninepence sterling, per gallon, be levied on Fayal, Madeira, Marcella, Malaga, Sherry, Figueira Port, Teneriffe, and all other wines imported into this Island, whose value, as aforesaid, shall exceed the sum of two shillings and sixpence sterling, per gallon.

6th. *Resolved*,—That it is the opinion of this Committee that a duty of sixpence sterling, per gallon, be levied on Catalonia, Benecarlo, common Fayal, Cargo Claret, and all other wines imported into this Island, whose value, as aforesaid, shall not exceed the sum of two shillings and sixpence sterling per gallon.

7th. *Resolved*,—That with a view to present imposition in the value of Wines not named, and which pay a duty according to their value in this market, it shall and may be lawful for the Colonial Treasurer, or the proper officer to be appointed for that purpose (on a suspicion that such Wines have been undervalued for duty) to add ten per centum to the value of such Wines as stated in the bill of entry made at the Custom-House by the importer thereof, or his agent, and to take such