

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

MEMORIAL OF MERCHANTS TRADING TO QUEBEC.¹

To the Right Honorable Lord Sydney one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State &c &c.

The Memorial of the Merchants Trading to the Province of Quebec.
Humbly Sheweth

That your Memorialists had the Honor in May 1785 of presenting to your Lordship Petitions from the Inhabitants of the Province of Quebec, praying for a reform of the Civil Constitution of that Colony.²

Your Memorialists were sensible that those Petitions deserved the most serious consideration, and therefore in Compliance with the wishes of his Majesty's Ministers recommended to their Constituents, to defer bringing them forward in Parliament, untill the necessary information could be received on the Allegations contain'd therein.

That your Memorialists by Letters and other Papers received from their Constituents last Fall have been urged in the strongest Terms to bring forward their Petitions Presuming that Government is now possessed of sufficient proof, that their Complaints against the present Constitution of the Province, and the mode of administering justice in the Courts of Law are well founded.

That your Memorialists from the defects in the present System of Laws, and the great uncertainty in the decisions of the Courts, have sustained immense Losses, and If a Remedy is not speedily applied, are under the most alarming apprehensions of suffering further from the same Causes, they beg leave therefore to submit as their opinion that the only Effectual means of removing the Evils Complained of, restoring unanimity and promoting the prosperity, of that Province will be to grant them an Elective House of Assembly, the English Commercial Laws, and to reform the Courts of Justice as Prayed for in their Petitions.

Your Memorialists convinced from the Premises that a longer delay in bringing forward the Petitions committed to their Care will prove equally injurious to the Province, and the Interests of the Mother Country, pray they may be informed what Measures are intended by his Majesty's Ministers for the relief of that distressed Colony.

New York Coffee House
4th February 1788

Rob^t Hunter
Phyn, Ellice & Inglis
Murray & Sansom
Jno. Paterson
Amos Hayton
Brickwood Pattle & C^o.

¹ Canadian Archives, Q 56-3, p. 745.

² Referring to the petitions of Nov. 24th, 1784, presented in 1785. See p. 742.