

## OPERATION OF THE NAVIGATION LAWS.

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Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that Your Majesty will be pleased to take the premises into your favourable consideration, and recommend to Parliament such measures in relation thereto as in your wisdom may seem meet.

And as in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

(Signed) H. LE MESURIER, Vice-President,  
and by 52 other Members.

Quebec, January 27, 1849.

CANADA.

(No. 25.)

No. 3.

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COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor-General the Earl of ELGIN AND  
KINCARDINE to Earl GREY.

Government-House, Montreal,  
February 12, 1849.

(Received March 7, 1849.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, for the purpose of being laid at the foot of the throne, an Address to Her Majesty the Queen, and copies of resolutions adopted at a public meeting of the inhabitants of Hamilton, on the subject of Trade and Navigation of this province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ELGIN AND KINCARDINE.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,  
&c. &c.

Enclosure 1 in No. 3.

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TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

WE, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the inhabitants of the city of Hamilton, in the province of Canada, in public meeting assembled, most humbly beg leave to approach Your Majesty with renewed expressions of our devoted attachment to Your Majesty's Person and Government.

We most humbly beg leave to represent to Your Majesty, that, as it appears it is the intention of Your Majesty's Government to introduce an important alteration in the commercial policy of the empire by the abrogation of the Navigation Laws which at present exist, and also that the inhabitants of Your Majesty's province of Canada are desirous that such a change should take place, in so far as the navigation of the lakes and rivers of this province are concerned.

We most humbly beg leave to assure Your Majesty, that the inhabitants of this city do not participate in these sentiments, and that, after full and careful deliberation, they have decided on approaching Your Majesty with an expression of their confidence in the wisdom of Your Majesty's Government to deal with this important question as may be for the interests and benefit of the empire at large.

We would, however, most humbly represent to Your Majesty, that the adoption of a commercial system of free trade with foreign countries will operate onerously upon Your Majesty's loyal inhabitants of this province, by removing from them that protection for their staple products which they have heretofore enjoyed in the home markets, and cause them to contend with a foreign nation whose proximity to the ocean, and the stringent enactments of their own Government enable them to compete advantageously with Your Majesty's transatlantic subjects in the markets of the empire.

We would most humbly beg leave to inform Your Majesty, that the protest made in Your Majesty's House of Lords on the third reading of the Bill to repeal the Corn Laws, meets our full concurrence inasmuch as it sets forth the disadvantages under which Your Majesty's Canadian subjects must labour, and the difficulties they will experience in keeping faith with their creditors, for the construction of vast public works, which will be rendered partially useless by the withdrawal of that protection with which our agricultural products have heretofore been favoured in the British markets.

We beg further most humbly to assure Your Majesty of a hearty welcome to our industrious fellow subjects who may arrive in this important colony from the parent state, and that the encouragement of a healthy system of emigration, and the means of affording immediate employment to emigrants on their arrival amongst us, would prove materially beneficial to Your Majesty's loyal subjects in this colony and at home, by opening a boundless extent of fertile territory to the immigrant, and enable the colonists to construct such works as would develop the resources of the province, and ensure happy homes and contentment to thousands of Your Majesty's subjects who are at present unable to procure employment or the means of subsistence in the mother country.