

The cheapest price for which boarding can now be obtained, is three dollars per week. — That the six persons above alluded to, have no property or resources whatever, and are wholly and solely depending for their support in prison, on the five shillings per week which the law obliges the plaintiffs, by the order of the Court, to pay them, so long as they are kept in confinement at their suits. That although the sum of five shillings per week, might have been sufficient in the year 1785, twenty-five years ago, for the support of a person in confinement; yet, they beg leave most respectfully and most humbly to represent, that it is wholly and totally inadequate for the purpose at this time. That, in addition to this, they are under the necessity of employing some person to purchase, in the market, the trifling necessities which the sum of five shillings will procure, who receives a per centage on the little pittance, for his trouble. That it is true, that the sum of five shillings per week, may, for a time, barely keep soul and body together; but their healths are gradually undermining, for the want of sufficient nourishment, and their constitutions must, in the end, be broken up and destroyed. That some of them have not even a bed of straw to lie on, or a blanket to cover them. That some of them have scarcely sufficient clothing to cover them, much less to guard against the inclemency of the season. — They therefore most humbly pray, — and, when they reflect, that mankind are solemnly commanded, by the Deity, to use their utmost exertions for the preservation of the lives which he has given them, — they consider it a duty enjoined on them by their Creator, to most earnestly pray, that a creditor may not be permitted, in this way, to take the life of a debtor in prison; but that, if he will thus wantonly throw away the money out of his own pocket, to keep a poor debtor in confinement, who has no property or resources whatever, that he may be obliged, by law, to pay a sum for his support, equal at least in value, to what the sum of five shillings was, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five.

On motion of Mr. Papineau, senior, seconded by Mr. Olivier;

RESOLVED, that the said Petition be referred to a Committee of five Members, with power to send for persons and papers, and to report thereon, by Bill or otherwise, with all convenient speed.

OR—