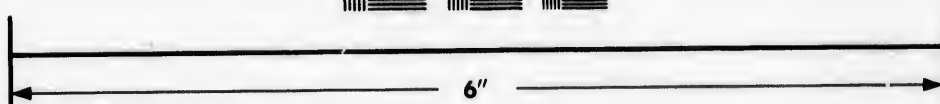
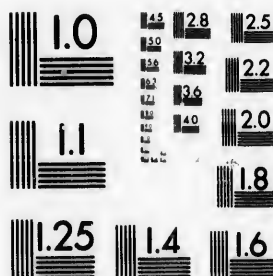
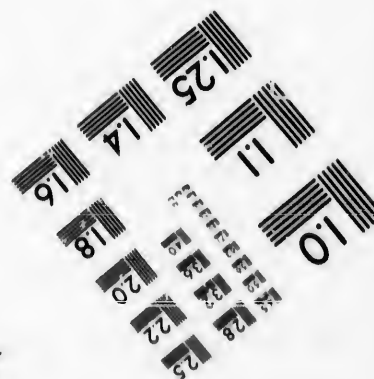


IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)



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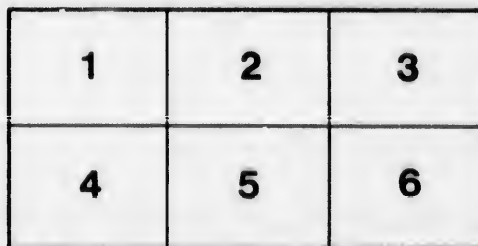
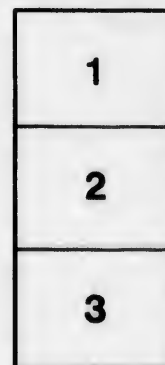
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P E T I T I O N

O F T H E

Proprietors of Lands in the Island of Saint
John, in the Gulf of the River Saint
Lawrence.

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Mr. Murray for
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As Agent for
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To the Right Honourable the Committee
of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy
Council for Plantation Affairs.

P E T I T I O N of the Proprietors of Lands in the Island of
Saint John, in the Gulf of the River *Saint Lawrence* ;

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

- T**HAT your Petitioners have been for a Number of Years
1. Proprietors of the Island of *St. John*.
2. THAT, from a Variety of Circumstances, they have not hitherto been enabled, *though in an improving State*, to render the said Island, either to themselves or the Mother Country, of *that Importance of which it is capable*.
3. THAT they have of late taken great Pains to obtain Information, and have maturely considered in what Manner they might best promote the Interest of the said Island, without effecting thereby the Interest of the parent State ; and the Result of their Inquiries is now, with becoming Deference, submitted to your Lordships' Consideration.
4. IN the first Place, your Petitioners beg Leave to represent to your Lordships that the Island of *Saint John* occupies a most important Situation at the Entrance of the Gulf of *Saint Lawrence*, and is nearly central to his Majesty's remaining Colonies.
5. THAT it has a *Store* of good and safe Harbours ; that the soil is capable of the highest Degree of Cultivation, produces vast Quantities of useful Timber, and that its Shores abound with all Kinds of Fish.
6. THAT, therefore, possessing as it does from Nature such local Advantages, it seems only to require the Aid of a sufficient Number of industrious Inhabitants to make it a flourishing Colony, *and capable in Time of contributing a large Supply of Provisions to the neighbouring Fisheries*.
7. THAT, if such Indulgences as your Petitioners mean to propose to your Lordships shall be allowed them, it will be an Inducement to Numbers of Settlers to resort to the Island of *Saint John* from the United States.
8. THAT by this Means the Lands will be cultivated, ample Supplies will be provided for the *West Indies* and other *British* Settlements that may stand in Need of them, the Fisheries on the Coast will be extended ; and, at the same Time that a Channel will be opened for a large Consumption of the manufactured Articles of this Country, their Fisheries and Commerce will be no inconsiderable Nourishes for Seamen for the *British* Navy.
9. YOUR Petitioners having thus briefly introduced these preliminary Observations, most humbly request that your Lordships' Attention will be particularly directed to the succeeding ones, which are as follows :

10. THAT

10. THAT, whilst they revere the Wisdom of Parliament in enforcing the Principles of the Act of Navigation, by which alone the just Benefits of her Colonies can be secured to the parent State, they persuade themselves they shall be pardoned when they endeavour to point out where Laws passed for that Purpose press with too much Severity upon this Colony, in its present State, and obstruct its Progress, in which not only their Interest but that of the *English* Nation is deeply concerned.
11. THAT, in the present State of this Colony, a temporary Intercourse, by Means of *British* Shipping with the *American* States is of the utmost Consequence and would produce the most essential Advantages, by increasing its Inhabitants, and by rendering useful and comfortable those already settled upon it.
12. THAT your Petitioners find themselves and this Colony precluded from the aforesaid Advantages by the late Act, regulating the Intercourse between the *British* Colonies and the *American* States, which upon no Emergency will admit of any Persons bringing with them Household Effects or other Furniture, or any Sorts of Salt Provision.
13. THAT they beg Leave further to represent that a Number of Loyal Refugees have already settled in this Colony, who still have some Property and Effects as well as Expectation of Aid and Assistance from their Friends in the States, but cannot at present receive it in any other Mode than Cash.
14. THAT these last, as well as such Emigrants as are expected, have been accustomed to several Articles which they cannot be so well supplied with from any other Country as from the States, and are from Habit real Comforts of Life to them; such as Fruit and Fruit-trees of different Kinds, Bees and Honey; the Length of the Voyage rendering it too expensive and precarious to bring them from *Europe*.
15. THAT your Petitioners are bold to assert, from Experiments already made, that no Part of the United States produces better or more ample Crops of Grain than this Island would, if properly inhabited and cultivated; and that it would exceed them in many Kinds both as to Quantity and Quality.
16. AND they appeal to your Lordships' Wisdom, if it be not more beneficial to the Mother Country that useful and loyal Subjects should be drawn here from the United States than that your Petitioners should be under the Necessity of inviting them from *Great Britain* and *Ireland*.
If any Apprehensions have ever been suggested, of too many emigrating from the States into the *British* Colonies, it cannot surely apply to this Island, which has no Mountains or Fastnesses, and is so interlocked with Water that it must always remain subject to the natural Power of *Great Britain*, as your Petitioners fervently pray it may do to its Government; and, instead of Danger, your Petitioners are convinced that such People will give Strength and Stability to these Colonies, because they will leave the States, from an Attachment to the King's Government, or with a full Conviction, from Experience, of its Excellence, and the Evils of their present, as well as the superior Advantages their Industry would derive from supplying the *British* Empire with their Produce, under the Preference of the Navigation Laws.
17. YOUR Lordships are well acquainted with the Loyalty of the Quakers of *Pennsylvania*; their Industry, Sobriety, and virtuous moral Conduct, as exceeded by no Description of People. The People on the *Hudson's* River were also remarkable for their Loyalty in the late War; and your Petitioners have been informed,

informed, and are verily persuaded, that ~~several Thousands~~ of the principal Quakers of *Pennsylvania*, as well as Numbers of the People from the *Hudson's* River, would remove to this Island if they had Opportunity and Encouragement.

18. Your Petitioners submit further to your Lordships' Consideration, that the Commerce of the said Island, and the Interchange with the neighbouring *British* Colonies, is so essential to their mutual Safety and Benefit, which are greatly obstructed by the heavy Charges exacted by the Officers of his Majesty's Customs, as well on the Island as on the adjacent Coast; and, though they are well aware of the Necessity of Custom-House Regulations, and that the Service of his Majesty's Officers should be properly rewarded, they humbly conceive that the same may be established in a Manner more advantageous to the Community at large, as well as the individual Interests of his Majesty's Officers.

THE Situation of *Saint John's*, as an Island, requires a frequent Interchange by Shipping with the neighbouring Coasts; and to and from whence an Exchange of Commodities is frequently an Object to both: it is presumed, therefore, that it would be of no small Utility to permit *British* Vessels to pass to and from the said Island, and to and from any Port or Harbour of his Majesty's *British* Colonies Coastways, North of *Cape Sable*, upon taking out an annual License, or under similar Regulations with those adopted in the coasting Trade of *Great Britain*.

19. Your Petitioners therefore pray your Lordships to take the Premises into Consideration, and to recommend to Parliament to pass a public Act, granting, for such Time as to them and their Wisdom shall seem meet, Permission for all Persons emigrating actually as Settlers to this Colony, from any of the United States of *America*, to have Liberty to carry with them, in *British* Vessels, their Wearing Apparel, Household Effects, Tools, and Farming Utensils; and the Remainder of their Property in any Kind of Grain, Flour, Bread, salted Provisions, Cattle, Poultry, Bees, Honey, Fruit, Fruit Trees, Cyder, Perry, Metheglin, Flax, Flax Seed, Hemp, Hemp Seed, and unwrought Iron.

PROVIDED that no Part of the aforementioned enumerated Articles shall be reshipped from the said Island of *Saint John* to any other Part except *Great Britain* or *Ireland*, and under such Restrictions as may be judged proper; and also giving Permission for all such Emigrants, as well as the other Inhabitants of the said Island, to import all Manner of Cattle, Fruit, and Fruit Trees, Honey and Bees, the Produce of the said United States, under such Restrictions as your Lordships shall be of Opinion are best calculated to prevent illicit Trade; and also granting to all such Emigrants, on their becoming actually Settlers, and taking the Oaths of Allegiance to his Majesty, all the Rights and Privileges of *British* Subjects, as long as they shall continue to reside on the Island.

N. B. Several of the Paragraphs have been read and considered, and the Remainder were referred for Consideration at the next Meeting.

