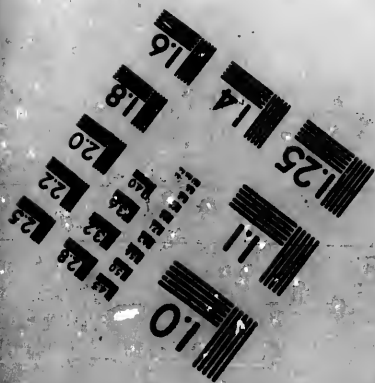
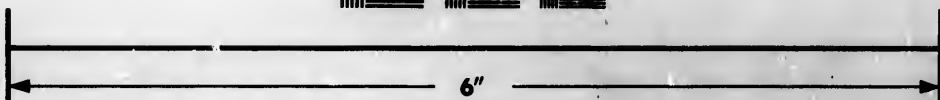
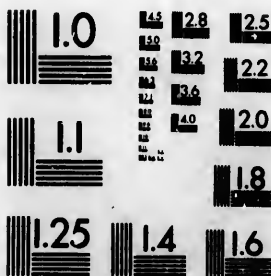


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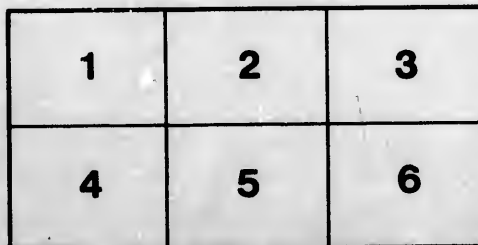
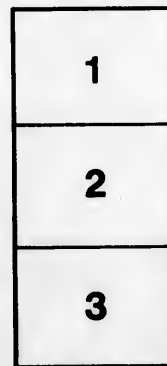
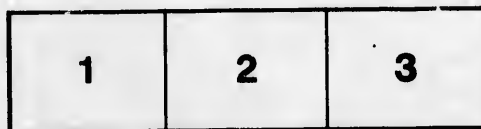
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C O P Y  
OF A  
P E T I T I O N  
FROM THE  
BRITISH INHABITANTS  
OF THE  
Province of QUEBECK,  
TO THE  
COMMONS House of Parliament  
In GREAT-BRITAIN,  
In the Year 1783.

---

L O N D O N,  
Printed in the Year M.DCC.LXXXIV.

1784

1 2 3 4

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE UNIVERSITY

OF CHICAGO

FOR THE YEAR 1890

CHICAGO: UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

1891

# C O P Y

O F A

P E T I T I O N , &c.

---

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
OF COMMONS, THE KNIGHTS,  
CITIZENS, AND BURGESSES, OF  
THE PARLIAMENT OF GREAT  
BRITAIN,

The ADDRESS and PETITION of  
the antient Subjects of the Crown  
of Great-Britain residing in the  
Province of Quebeck,

SHEWETH,

**T**HAT, after the conquest of the  
province of Canada by the arms of  
Great-Britain, your Petitioners, by  
a Proclamation from his Majesty, made on

B

the



the 7th day of October, 1763, received invitation and encouragement from the Crown to quit their native countries, and settle and become established to reside in the new-acquired province of Canada.

That the said Proclamation held forth and assured your Petitioners, that a Government and Constitution should be made and confirmed to your Petitioners, and the subjects of the Crown residing in the province of Quebec, similar to those in his Majesty's provinces in America.

Your Petitioners, relying on the Prerogative of the Crown to hold forth such encouragement, and to grant and confirm such a government in this province as the Proclamation of his Majesty promised to your Petitioners, and, confiding in the faith of the Crown pledged by the said Proclamation, did not hesitate to consider and rest satisfied that the Constitution assured to your Petitioners and the people of Canada would be established. Under those considerations they, from time to time, since issuing the said Pro-

Pro-

Proclamation, have forsaken their native countries, and transported themselves, their families, and possessions, to this province, not in the diffident, but the confident, belief of enjoying in every degree the benefit of those laws, and that freedom, security, and comfort, in the province of Quebeck, which the Principles of the English Constitution afforded in every part of the British dominions in America.

Your Petitioners, and the inhabitants of the province of Quebeck, without a murmur, cheerfully, and on every occasion, have acknowledged and obeyed the controuling power of the Parliament of Great-Britain to legislate over this its Colony. The actions and the conduct of your Petitioners, when truly represented, will best express the sincerity of their Loyalty, and attachment, to the Crown of Great-Britain.

Your Petitioners with patience have suffered, during a Period of Anarchy and War, rather than embarrass the Parliament with remonstrances and petitions at a period when the  
safety

safety of the nation, and the preservation of its dominions, made sacred every moment of publick deliberation.

Your Petitioners wish to forget — they forbear to animadvert upon — the Constitution and the Government they have lived under since the passing of the Quebeck Bill. Whatever reasons, or policy of state ; — — whatever idea of necessity at that critical period ; — might have pressed upon this people such an Act and Government, — so contrary to the growth, the welfare, and interest of a commercial state, — so adverse to the liberty and the happiness of your Petitioners and the subjects of Great-Britain in Quebeck, — so repugnant to the Royal Assurance of a limited and mixt government, similar to the other British Colonies in America, and in which the people legally qualified should participate ; — Whatever such necessity or reasons of state might then be, your Petitioners presume they can now no longer have existence to support that act, nor that any consideration adverse to the true principles of the English Constitution will

will prevail with the Parliament of Great-Britain to with-hold from your Petitioners that Government, — that Liberty, Security, and Comfort, — that infinite Source of Prosperity and Happiness, — which, under the Royal Word and Assurances of the Crown, have been the means to induce their residence in the province of Quebeck.

With the utmost loyalty and attachment to the Crown and Government of Great-Britain, your Petitioners approach this House of Commons to intreat, from the Parliament of Great-Britain, a repeal of the act passed in the fourteenth year of his Majesty, Chap. 83, making provision for the government of this province, and that an Act of Parliament may be passed for the establishment of a government in the province of Quebeck formed to move and exist upon the principles which have raised and supported the English Constitution.

It is with concern your Petitioners behold the burthen of Great-Britain; and with great pain and commiseration they witness  
the

the infinite distresses of the loyal subjects of the Crown, who, expelled from their native country, are daily taking shelter, and seeking a poor and even a painful existence, in this, a British Colony. However their distresses may as yet subdue their petitions or their claims, the Parliament of Great-Britain will readily perceive, "that a free constitution, and a government similar, or superiour, to that under which they had been born, had lived, and been happy, will be considered by those, the injured, the distressed subjects of the Crown, as the first protection and comfort which the Parliament and the Nation, in relief to their distresses, can now grant;" and the more so, as it will be a protection and a blessing not merely granted to them, but extended to their children and posterity.

Your Petitioners, persuaded that the welfare, happiness, and prosperity, of the people and province of Quebeck are objects of the serious and benign consideration of Parliament, humbly presume to suggest, and ardently pray, that some amendment may be  
made

made to the system of government which the Royal Proclamation of 1763 hath promised to the subjects of the Crown of Great-Britain, who should thenafter and thereby be induced to reside in this province. And your Petitioners intreat that such alterations may be made and established by the Act of Parliament which may confirm to the people and province of Quebeck a constitution and government different from the present.

I. That the House of Representatives, or Assembly of the People, may be chosen by the parishes, towns, and districts, of the province, eligible under qualifications similar to those established in the Royal Governments in America in 1763; and that the Assembly may be renewed and re-elected every three years.

II. That the Legislative Council may consist of a greater number of members than twelve, which at least may be the Majority requisite to carry the vote of any measure before the Council: And that the appointment of such members may be during their

B

residence

residence in the province and life; yet subject to temporary leave of Absence, as mentioned in the eleventh article.

III. That the Criminal Laws of England may be continued, as at present established by the Quebeck act.

IV. That the ancient laws and customs of the country respecting landed estates, marriage-settlements, inheritances, and dower, be continued, until changed or altered by the Legislature of Quebeck, save that owners may alienate by will, as provided by the tenth section of the Quebeck act.

V. That the Commercial Laws of England may be declared to be the laws of this province in matters of trade and commerce; and that all personal actions may be tried by the modes, and decided upon the principles, of the Common Law of England, until the same may be altered by the Legislature of Quebeck.

VI. That

VI. That the *Habeas Corpus* act, 31st of Car. 2. chap. 2, be made part of the Constitutional Law of this province; and that this may be done by a perpetual law of the British Legislature, subject, however, to suspension by the legislature of Quebeck, if need be.

VII. That Optional Juries may be granted on all trials in courts of original jurisdiction; and that nine members out of twelve may, in civil causes, return verdicts, and be regularly ballotted for, and a pannel formed, (as in England,) either in the case of an Ordinary, or a Special Jury, at the option of the party applying for the same.

VIII. That the Sheriffs be elected by the House of Assembly, and approved and commissioned by the Governour at every sitting of the Legislature; and that they hold their appointment during the period for which they are elected, and their good behaviour; and that they find reasonable security for a faithful discharge of their trust and duty.



IX. That no Officer of the Civil Government, Judge, nor Minister of Justice, be suspended by the Governour, or by the Commander in Chief for the time being, from the honours, duties, salaries, or emoluments, of his appointment, but with the advice and consent of his Majesty's Council for the affairs of the province: which suspension shall not continue after the first sitting of the Legislative Council, unless it be approved by the same. The cause of complaint, if approved, to be thenafter reported to his Majesty by the said Governour and Legislative Council, for hearing and judgement thereon.

X. That no Commission be granted by the Governour and Commander in Chief for the time being, nor any appointment made to a vacant trust, or office, of what nature soever, nor any new office created, or commission granted, by the said Governour, but with the advice and consent of his Majesty's said Council, and to be approved by the Legislative Council, as in the preceding article.

XI. That

XI. That all offices of trust be executed by the Principal in the appointment, unless from leave of absence from the Governour, with the advice and consent of the said Council; which leave of absence shall not extend to more than twelve months, nor be renewed by the Governour but with the approbation and consent of the Legislative Council.

XII. Your Petitioners sensibly feel, that, were the most wise and fit laws established among the people, yet their welfare, their security, and their comfort, must intirely depend on a just and impartial execution of such laws. Whatever constitution the subjects of the Crown in the province may obtain, the equal and true administration of justice must be the basis of their happiness; nor is it but with the utmost fervency that your Petitioners implore that the seats of justice may be filled by men of jurisprudent learning, and whose abilities, at the same time they are adequate to their employments, may be so rewarded, as to be confined to the functions of administering justice: and that their appointments may be made to them, to hold  
during

That

during their good behaviour:---That every cause of accusation in order to a removal of them, proceeding from the Governour, shall follow the rule laid down in the 9th article; and every accusation in order to a removal of them, made on the part of the publick, shall proceed from the House of Assembly, and be heard by the Legislative Council; which, if well-founded, shall operate as a suspension; and, in either case, be decided, on appeal and report to his Majesty, by the Lord Chancellor and the twelve Judges of England. The ministers of justice, so appointed and protected, must be a comfort and happiness to any country or people; and the Parliament may be assured, that the antient subjects of the Crown in the province of Quebeck will be ever ready to acknowledge with gratitude its fostering protection in granting such a fundamental security to the welfare and happiness of this people.

XIII. That Appeals from the courts of justice in this province to the Crown may be made to a Board of Council, or Court of Appeals, composed of the Right Honourable the  
 Lord-

Lord Chancellor and the Judges of the Courts  
of Westminster-Hall.

Such are the prayers and intreaties of your  
Petitioners, the loyal and affectionate subjects  
of Great-Britain, residing in the province of  
Quebeck; that, from the wisdom, the jus-  
tice, and the bounty of the Crown and Par-  
liament, they may obtain to this province a  
constitution and government, a quietude and  
prosperity, that may call from the present  
people and age their unceasing acknowledg-  
ments and gratitude, and make the future  
inhabitants of it feel, (as may the present)  
that the only means of happiness to the  
people and province of Quebeck is a union  
and submission to the Crown and the Go-  
vernment of Great-Britain.

Province of Quebeck, 30th of September,  
1783.

Signed by

William Dummer Powell,  
Isaac Todd,  
James Mac Gill,  
Charles Paterfon,

Robert

Robert Ellice,  
 Jacob Jordan,  
 William Kay,  
 Alexander Kay,  
 Joseph Frobisher,  
 Thomas Frobisher,  
 George Selby,  
 James Finlay  
 Richard Mac Neale,  
 George King,  
 William Maitland,  
 Alexander Aufdjo,  
 Benjamin Frobisher,  
 Charles Morison,  
 John Gregory,  
 Barrak Hays,  
 Andrew Hays,  
 Finlay Fisher,  
 Allan Morison,  
 William Law,  
 John Justice Diehl,  
 Daniel Cameron,  
 John Melvin,  
 Henry Dunn,  
 Robert Willcocks,  
 William Burns,  
 Thomas Powis,

Richard

Richard Dalton,

— Olry

John Barnsley,

John Rooker,

James Sinclair,

John Mac Keachie,

Samuel King,

Michael Flacarty,

Alexander Wallace,

Duncan Mac Kenzie,

Berthelot Dartigny,

John Munro,

John Ritchie, Senr.

Hugh Ritchie,

Matthew Mainider,

James Mac Kenzie,

William Edgar,

Robert Griffin,

James Symington,

Robert Aird,

Felix Graham,

Samuel Judah,

Thomas Mac Cord,

James Singer,

Edward Edwards,

Samuel Birne,

C

Thomas

Thomas Burn,  
Roffeter Hoyle,  
James Hallowell,  
Daniel Sutherland,  
Uriah Judah,  
Thomas Mac Murray,  
Josepl. Provan,  
Alexander Smith,  
George Aird,  
Alexander Mabbut,  
Joseph Howard,  
Moses David,  
Joseph Bagley,  
Francis Du Moulin,  
William Hunter,  
Andrew Bell,  
John Lyle,  
James Poupard,  
Levy Michaels,  
John Forsyth,  
Donald Morrison,  
Richard Dillon,  
James Greig,  
Hugh Mac Kay,  
Angus Grant,  
William Ritchie,

Anthony

Anthony Menul  
John Urquhart,  
John Young,  
James Mac Niven,  
John Saul,  
- George Jenkins,  
John Baptist Le Brun,  
Patrick Sulavan,  
George Sinclair,  
John Anthony Gray,  
Charles Grant,  
John Blackwood,  
David Barclay,  
John Buchanan,  
Simon Mac Tavish,  
William Aird,  
John Turner and Son,  
Matthew Cuthell,  
William Griffin,  
Isaac Judah,  
John Gruet,  
John Lockhart Wiseman,  
John Bell,  
William Allen,  
James Dyer White,  
Henry Robert Symes,  
C 2 William



William Murray,  
 Richard Pollard,  
 John Neagle,  
 John Du Moulin,  
 Thomas Sullivan,  
 William England,  
 Thomas Oaks,  
 David Davis,  
 Donald Fisher,  
 James Noel,  
 Samuel Humberstone,  
 Thomas Hacket,  
 William Roxburgh, ✓  
 James Todd,  
 John Mac Cord, ✓  
 Thomas Sketchley,  
 John Lynd,  
 George Wells,  
 Anthony Van Fetson,  
 Alexander Brotherton,  
 John Henry Fortier,  
 John Reapier,  
 Michael Cornud,  
 Hector Mac Aulay, ✓  
 Robert Mac Fie, ✓  
 James Durward,

William

William Langhorne,  
 John Hurst,  
 Archibald Ferguson,  
 Simon Fraser,  
 John Buchanan,  
 Constant Freeman,  
 John Painter,  
 — Zachary Mac Aulay,  
 Richard Dobie,  
 John Mac Gill,  
 James Laing,  
 John Lilly,  
 Peter Arnoldi,  
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 Philip Jacob,  
 — John Fraser,  
 Christy Cramer,  
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 — Alexander Hay,  
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 William Taylor,  
 Robert Mac Gregor,

William

Robert

Robert Henderfon,  
John Cochran  
James Bowman  
George Cochran,  
Meredith Willc,  
Andrew Cameron,  
John Pagan,  
Jacob Rowe,  
Murdoch Stuart,  
William Mac Nider,  
Robert Woolsey,  
Frederick Petry,  
William Webb,  
James Woods,  
Jonathan Eckart,  
Godfrey King,  
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 John Jones,  
 - Thomas Cary,  
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William

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Alexander Greig,

John Mac Cord, Junr.

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Theodorus Meyer,

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F I N I S.





