

To the Honorable the Commons
of Great Britain in Parliament
assembled.

The humble Petition of his
Majesty's Subjects heretofore
settled on the Coast of Yucatan in the
Bay of Honduras.

Most humbly sheweth.

That your Petitioners prior to the Treaty of
Paris in 1763 possessed the Eastern Coast of
Yucatan, its Shores, Rivers, Banks and Woodlands
as well as the Quays and Islands adjacent; as
the first Occupants and Settlers thereon, subject to
the Government and Control of his Majesty's
Governor of Jamaica for the time being; and for
their Security and Defence, erected Forts and
exercised themselves in Arms, and were
occasionally reinforced by Troops from Jamaica
That by virtue of that Treaty which was
concluded on the 10th of February 1763. They were
constrained to abandon their Right of Possession,
to demolish the Forts and to relinquish the use
of Arms and all Military Aid: and conform
strictly to the Conditions of the 17th Article thereof
whereby it is declared "that his Britannic Majesty

" shall cause to be demolished, all the Fortifications
" which his Subjects shall have erected in the Bay
" of Honduras and other places of the Territory
" of Spain in that part of the World four Months
" after the Ratification of the present Treaty: And
" his Catholic Majesty shall not permit his
" Britannie Majestys Subjects, or their Workmen,
" to be disturbed or molested under any pretence
" whatsoever in the said Places, in their Occupation
" of cutting, loading and carrying away Logwood;
" and for this purpose, they may build, without
" hindrance, and occupy without interruption, the
" Houses and Magazines necessary for them, for
" their families, and for their Effects: And his
" Catholic Majesty assures to them, by this Article,
" the full enjoyment of those Advantages and
" Powers on the Spanish Coast and Territories,
" as above stipulated immediately after the
" Ratification of the present Treaty."

That by the 2^d Article of the Treaty it is
declared " That the Treaties of Madrid between
" the Courts of Great Britain and Spain of 1667.
" and 1670, and those of Peace and Commerce of
" Utrecht of 1713, and the Definitive Treaty of
" Aix la Chapelle of 1748, should serve as a
" Basis to that Peace and Treaty: and for that
" purpose they were thereby all renewed and

" confirmed in the best form, as if they were
" inserted; so that they were to be exactly
" observed for the future, in their whole Tenor,
" and religiously executed on all sides, in all
" their Points."

That the 36th Article of the Treaty of
Madrid dated $\frac{12}{2}$ May 1667 declares " that if
" any difference fall out, between the King of Great
" Britain and the King of Spain, whereby the
" mutual Commerce and good Correspondence may
" be endangered the respective Subjects of each
" Party, shall have six Months notice given, to
" transport their Merchandise and Effects; —
" without giving them in that time, any
" molestation or trouble; or retaining or
" embarking their Goods or Persons". And the
18th Article of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship
concluded at Utrecht the $\frac{7}{3}$ of July 1713 Declares
" That in case of open War between their said
" Royal Majestys, the Ships Merchandises and
" Goods, both moveable and immoveable of the
" Subjects on both sides, in the Ports and
" Dominions of the adverse Party, shall not be
" confiscated, or suffer any damage; but six
" Months shall be granted to the said Subjects,
" of each of their said Royal Majestys, in order
" to their selling the aforesaid things, or any

"other their Effects, or carrying away or
"transporting the same from thence, whithersoever
"they please, without any Molestation".

That the 6th Article of the Treaty of
Navigation and Commerce concluded at
Utrecht the ²⁸/₉ of ^{November} December 1713, Declares
"That as the Subjects of their Majesties are to
"enjoy on both sides, an intirely secure and
"unmolested Use and Liberty of Navigation
"and Commerce, as long as the Peace and
"Friendship entered into by their Majesties
"and their Crowns shall continue; so likewise
"their Majesties have provided, that the said
"Subjects shall not be deprived of that Security,
"for any little difference which may possibly
"arise; but that they shall on the contrary,
"enjoy all the benefits of Peace, until War be
"declared between the two Crowns. And it is
"further agreed, that if War should arise, and
"be declared between their Majesties and their
"Kingdoms, then after the Declaration of such
"a Rupture, the space of six Months shall be
"allowed to the Subjects of each Party, residing
"in the Dominions of the other; in which they
"shall be permitted to withdraw with their
"Families, Goods, Merchandizes, Effects and
"Ships and to transport them, either by Sea or

"Land, to whatsoever place they please; as
"they shall also be suffered to sell and alienate
"their moveable and immoveable Goods; and
"freely, and without any disturbance, to carry
"away the price of them; nor shall their Goods
"Wealth, Merchandizes or Effects, much less their
"Persons, be in the meantime detained or molested,
"by any Seizure or Arrest. Moreover, the Subjects
"of each side, shall in the meantime enjoy and
"obtain quick and impartial justice, by means
"of which they may, before the expiration of
"the six Months, recover the Goods and Effects
"which they have lent, either to the Public, or to
"private Persons". And by the 7th Article of
the same Treaty, it is further agreed, that "all
"the Losses which the Subjects of either Crown
"shall duly prove, that they have sustained in
"the beginning of the late War, whether they
"consisted of moveable or immoveable Goods,
"shall be reciprocally made good, without any
"delay; and restitution shall be made of those
"Goods whether Lands Buildings or Inheritance;
"or of what sort soever they are which remain
"and were confiscated, and the just and lawful
"Price of those Goods which cannot be recovered,
"whether moveable or immoveable, shall be paid;
And their Majesties have Articled and agreed

"that the said payments, the Pretensions to—
"them being as is aforesaid fully proved shall—
"faithfully be performed and made; by their—
"Treasurers on each part.— And the third Article
"of the Definitive Treaty of Peace and Friendship
"concluded at Aix la Chapelle on the 18th of
"October 1748, Declares " That the said Treaties
"of Madrid between the Crowns of England and
"Spain of 1667 and 1670 and of Utrecht of 1713—
"serve as a basis and foundation, to that Peace
"and then present Treaty; and for this purpose
"they are renewed and confirmed in the best form;
"and as if they were therein inserted word for
"word; so that they shall be punctually observed
"for the future in all their Tenor, and—
"religiously executed on the one side and the
"other"

That in conformity with the new System,
established by the Peace of Paris in 1763 and
reposing the highest confidence in the Assurance
given by his Catholic Majesty in the foregoing
17th Article of that Treaty; your Petitioners
demolished their Fortifications, relinquished
their military Force, abandoned the use of
Arms and wholly reposed their Security on the
King of Spain's promised Protection. In this
Defenceless State, altogether unconscious of the

rupture, between the two Crowns and wholly
attentive to the Duties and Occupations of civil
Life; they were about the 13th of September 1779
hostilely surprised and attacked by his Catholic
Majesty's Officers Forces and Subjects, spoiled of
their property, insulted in their Persons; many
were dragged into captivity and marched some
hundred Miles up the Country, to the capital
Merida, and from thence to the Stewannah;
from the Fatigue of which some of them died
and the rest languished between two and
three years, deprived of liberty and the
comforts of Life; and only permitted to return
to Jamaica, in the course of the Summer 1782;
overwhelmed with Poverty and in the deepest
distress. Others of them more fortunate, had
the happiness to escape at the time of the Attack
in September 1779, with the loss of their
property only, and were saved by the—
Intrepidity of Lieutenant Frott and the Crew
of his Majesty's armed Schooner, the Race Horse

That your Petitioners, by their humble
Petition to the King in Council of the 12th of
April 1781, Stated the Injuries Oppressions
and Losses which they had sustained in
consequence of the Violation of the Treaty of
1763 and thereupon submitted the propriety

and necessity, of giving a particular attention to their Rights, at the Conference which then were or might be opened, on the continent, for bringing about an accommodation between the then Belligerent Powers: So as that they might receive from the Crown of Spain, a just and adequate Compensation for their Losses. From this time they continued their Applications to his Majesty's Ministers during all the Negotiations for Peace, until the final conclusion of the Definitive Treaty of Versailles in September 1783; illustrating their right to redress, upon the principles of public Justice and the faith of Treaties, as well as upon his Catholic Majesty's Royal Assurance, and the indispensable obligations of the British Government to vindicate the Honour of the Nation.

That In their Memorial of the 11th of December 1783, addressed respectively to Lord North and the Right Honorable Mr Fox, they state, that their long Captivity and Embarrassments had prevented them, from being sooner able to bring forward the Value of their Losses; but that they had then proved them in his Majesty's Island of Jamaica, and that they amounted to the Sum of £109,840. 4. 6

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Jamaica Currency. Whereupon they charged for the reasons therein mentioned, West India Interest at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cent, on and from the said 15th of September 1779; which on the said 11th of December 1783, was four years two Months and twenty seven days and amounted to the further Sum of £27,947. 9. 2 making together the Sum of £137,787. 13. 8 Jamaica-Currency, and equal to the Sum of £98,419. 5. 9 Sterling. — That In their Memorial of the 22^d of March 1784 addressed to the Right Honorable Lord Sydney his Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the home Department, they stated the proceedings and proofs taken at Jamaica, for establishing their Losses; as they are authenticated by the Certificate of his Excellency Captain General Governor Campbell, under the Seal of that Island, on the 7th Day of November 1783 and thereupon having stated the growing Interest on their principal Claims of £109,840. 4. 6 from the 11th of December 1783 to the said 22^d of March 1784, they ascertained their Aggregate Claim then to be £139,633. 15. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ Jamaica-Currency amounting in Sterling Money to £99,737. 17. 3. — That in the Month of May 1784 the Agent for your Petitioners being officially informed, that the proper Channel for Redress

lay with the Marquis of Carmarthen, his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the foreign Department; they duly applied by Memorial to his Lordship for that purpose, on the 18th of that Month; and continued to solicit his Lordship from time to time, without receiving the least Information of any progress being made in the business, until the 2^d of March 1785; when M^r. Secretary Fraser, by the Marquis of Carmarthen's direction, acquainted their Agent,

"That Orders had been transmitted to M^r. Sison, his Majesty's Minister at Madrid, to make the strongest Representations in your Petitioners favour, to the Spanish Ministry; and that M^r. Sison had informed his Lordship in November last, that he had received Assurances from Count Florida Blanca; that their Claims should be referred for Examination and Enquiry to the India Department; and that all the Property of Private Persons should be restored, making a distinction however between the Effects of Individuals, and those of the Sovereign, or Public."

That this Communication produced a Memorial from your Petitioners to the

Marquis of Carmarthen, the 31st of March 1785. wherein they submitted for the Reasons therein set forth, that the said Answer and Assurances of Count Florida Blanca were altogether illusory, and ultimately tended by delay to the Evasion and denial of Justice. They fully proved, that no restoration could be made of the private property lost, in any other manner than what they explained and admitted, in the most liberal form, in their said Memorial; which consisted of 1305 Tons of Wood, as being the only sound and marketable Wood they had been able to recover, out of the whole Mass of 13153 Tons of fresh and good Wood, that they were despoiled of in September 1779: and for this 1305 Tons of Wood so recovered, altho' far inferior in quality to what it was in September 1779; yet they liberally allowed for this inferior wood, the same marketable price which was paid for Wood in 1779: and which they had charged upon the Court of Spain, for the whole 13153 Tons which they had lost at that time. Viz^t £3. 2. 6 Jamaica Currency per Ton, which produced for the whole 1305 Tons, £4078. 2. 6 Jamaica Currency; Which Sum, being subtracted from the whole Amount of your

Petitioners claim due on the 28th of February preceeding, viz^t £145786. 9. 5¹/₄ there remained as the total claim then due to your Petitioners, the Sum of £141708. 6. 10¹/₄: And having likewise subtracted the said Sum of £4078. 2. 6 Jamaica Currency, from the whole original Losses sustained in September 1779, viz^t £109840. 4. 6; there remained of original Losses bearing Interest from said 28th February 1785, the Sum of £105762. 2. upon which last Sum they charged Interest from the said 28th of February to the 28th of March 1786, being £528. 16. 2¹/₄; and thereupon stated the amount of Losses due to them, on the said 28th of March 1786 to be £142237. 3. - ¹/₂ Jamaica Currency equal to £101597. 17. 1³/₄ Sterling. That your Petitioners continued from time to time to solicit by Memorials the said Marquis of Carmarthen for Redress, upon the principles of public and National Right and Justice, during all the twenty Months Negotiation of the Convention Treaty, and until the 9th of March 1787: when they addressed his Majesty in Council enumerating the whole of the Transaction, praying his Majesty to recommend their Petition and Case to this Honourable House.

That that Petition, having been remitted by the Lord president of the Council to the Right Honorable William Pitt first Lord of the Treasury and Chancellor of his Majesty's Exchequer; your Petitioners applied to his Lordship by Memorial, the 29th of April 1787; wherein after stating the preceeding Prayer of their Petition to the King in Council, and that their claims for principal and Interest amounted to the Sum of £111008. 2. 10 Sterling they humbly prayed his Lordship's protection, and requested an Answer to their said Petition of the 9th of March preceeding.

That your Petitioners now beg leave to state their Claims for Principal and Interest, as the same became due and owing, upon the 28th of February last, viz^t

Aggregate Claims of principal and Interest, due on the 28th of April 1787, in Sterling Money — } £111008. 2. 10

Interest on remaining original Losses of £105762: 2. — from 28th of said April 1787, to 28th of Feb^{ry} 1789 being one Year and ten Months — } 8309. 8. —
is Jamaica Currency £1633. 16. 4¹/₂ — which in Sterling Money is — — — }

Making together in Sterling Money } 119317. 10. 10
Errors of Calculation excepted, the total Sum of — — — — — }

That your Petitioners most humbly conceive, they have a just claim to parliamentary Assistance and Relief, in order to obtain from the public, a compensation for the Losses which they have sustained; and that for the Reasons following, vizt!

First; Because your Petitioners were in a State of Peace and Friendship, with the Subjects of his Catholic Majesty, on the said Month of September 1779; when they were deprived of their Liberty and despoiled of their property, as before stated: so that their Injuries and Losses were not the Consequences of any private feuds, subsisting between them and the Spaniards in Yucatan; but the immediate Effect of a premeditated Rupture on the part of Spain, with the Kingdom of Great Britain. All being public acts of Aggression inflicted upon your Petitioners only for being the Subjects of the King of Great Britain.

Secondly, Because your Petitioners having as herein before stated early and repeatedly made known and explained, their Injuries and claimed Compensation for the same as due in the first Instance from the Crown of Spain, they humbly submit, that it

may fairly be presumed that Government in negotiating the Treaties of Peace, either obtained to the Nation from the Crown of Spain great public Advantages as an equivalent for the said Losses; or that those Losses were extinguished, by admitting more extensive claims of the Crown of Spain upon that of Great Britain: or that the Supreme Interest of the State, rendered it expedient to adjust the Terms of Peace without bringing them to account.

Thirdly, Because your Petitioners in stating their Claims, have ever observed the most exemplary deference and moderation: as will appear first, from the proceedings and proofs of their Losses, as certified by the Governor of Jamaica under the Seal of that Island.

And Secondly, from their stating, in lieu of damages for their captivity and Imprisonment, between two and three Years, and the accumulated Distresses which they were constrained to undergo, only the legal Interest of Six per Cent on their original Losses; which is of itself infinitely below those Advantages which they would otherwise have made of their respective Funds, had they been

permitted to retain them together with that Freedom so necessary to exert them.

Fourthly. Because your Petitioners humbly conceive that upon a fair enquiry into their past Conduct, they will not be found inferior to any of his Majesty's Subjects in Loyalty and Attachment to the Crown and Kingdom of Great Britain. For such of them as were captivated in September 1779 suffered all the Injuries Distresses and Losses necessarily attending on Captivity, rather than depart from their Allegiance, and submit to a new Sovereign; although allured to disloyalty by the fairest prospects of prosperity and Success in Business and such of them as had the good fortune to escape from that Calamity, had immediately thereafter the Honour, without the profit attending it, of making an essential part of that slender force, which truly and really attacked and reduced Omoa. They afterwards distinguished themselves also in defending Rattan Island; although at last obliged to yield, to a far superior Enemy. Nor were they deficient in Spirit and Exertion, whilst affording their best Assistance from the beginning to the end of the Spanish War,

whether in Supporting his Majesty's Rights to the Mosquito Shore, or in assisting their Brethren and fellow Settlers there, in keeping that invaluable Settlement whole and inviolate in his Majesty's Allegiance, at the conclusion of the Peace in 1783. Under these Circumstances when united with the justice of their Claims it is humbly submitted, that your Petitioners will appear highly deserving of Attention and Relief from this Honourable House

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray, that this Honourable House will condescend to take their Case into its Consideration; and grant them such Relief in the Premises, as in its Wisdom and Justice shall seem meet.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray as in Duty bound &c —

HCOS9.