

1784?

To His Excellency John Campbell Esq. Governor
and Commander in Chief in and over the Island
of Newfoundland.

Sh. Sh. Sh.

The Humble Petition of the Planters and
Principal Inhabitants of Conception Bay.

SHeweth,

That for several years past it has been a
custom in this Bay for the Merchants and Planters by
their delegates to settle Price of Fish Oil &c. this
custom has been since the markets in St. John's
became so exceedingly variable that it left us in the
almost uncertainty- therefore the present mode was
adopted for settlement.

That there has been instance a few years ago
in this Bay when the Merchants and Planters had agreed
to give eleven shillings and three pence per quintal
for fish; one merchant settled the account with his

dealers at ten shillings per quintal contrary to Justice and common equity.

That last year when we were upon settling the prices as at present we offered the merchants to abide by the price broke at St. John's for fish; and to pay more for goods but then they thought proper to reject our proposal because fish was then fifteen shillings and six pence, and here they had it after some altercation from us for fourteen shillings and six pence and fifteen shillings and sixpence per quintal.

That this season the price of fish at St. John's being low, because the usual adventurers in the trade who buy fish for bills of exchange, are not yet arrived, this induced the merchants here, to offer the St. John's settlement to us, which settlement they rejected with disdain last year because fish was high in demand there.

That we proposed and offered in the presence of Your Excellency's Sarrogate to abide always or for five year's ensuing by the prices broken at St. Johns but this proposal also was rejected.

That it is no reason for us to stop

from delivering fish to the merchants, before a settlement is made, for it has been the custom for years past because we do not choose to leave ourselves and families exposed to the arbitrary charges and capricious settlements which different traders may think proper to adopt.

That therefore as our last resource and with an earnest desire to have a thing of this public nature properly settled by lawful authority and not by a confused assembly of the people, we fly to Your Excellency for protection and only desire that two or three delegates may be chosen by us and a like number of merchants chosen from their own body by them to settle the prices for the present and in future and in this case to appoint the Chief Magistrate here as a final arbitrator or umpire in case of disagreement this or any other method for the common good which

Your Excellency shall please to adopt shall be joyfully received and cease Your Excellency's petitioners ever to pray.

John Davis Garland.
Robert Haywood.
John Noel.

Clement Noel.

Geo. MOORE Sr.

Geo. MOORE Jr.

Richard Marshall.

George MOORE.

Francis Pike.

Robert Pabby.

John Parsons.

John Hudson.

John Parsons Jr.

W. Pike.

Wm. MOORE.

Richard Taylor.

Jno. Pike.

Deard Pike.

William Davis.

Chris Pabby.

Joan Snow.

Jno. Parsons.

Jno. Pabby.