

III.

FURTHER PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

WAR WITH AMERICA.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
13 February 1815.

Copies of PETITIONS to His Royal Highness The PRINCE REGENT,—
from *Liverpool, Glasgow, Port Glasgow and Newark, and Greenock.*

True Copies,

J. BECKETT.

Whitehall,
13 February 1815.

— 1. —

Copy:—PETITION of Merchants, &c. of *Liverpool*

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

The humble Address and Petition of the Merchants, Ship
Owners, Underwriters and others, interested in the
Shipping and Commerce of the Port of *Liverpool*,

Sheweth,

THAT Your Petitioners, as well as the other Merchants and Traders of this United Kingdom, have for some time experienced very great hardships and losses, from the capture and destruction, by American Privateers and Cruizers, of their Vessels, trading in St. George's Channel, and on the Western and Northern Coasts of Ireland and Scotland:

That Your Petitioners expect that such depredations may increase very materially, as the season advances, and during the winter months, which will add to the facility the Enemy have hitherto experienced in effecting their captures, and in returning unmolested to ports in their own country:

That Your Petitioners perceive that the American Vessels of War, both National and Private, have lately adopted a novel and extraordinary practice (particularly as it regards the latter) of burning and destroying such Prizes as they have no reasonable expectation of getting safely into port; a system, as we are informed, sanctioned and encouraged by the American Government, and as we believe rewarded by them; which belief is strengthened by the great anxiety always shown by the Commanders of Cruizers to get possession of and preserve the Registers and other Papers of such Vessels as they destroy:

That Your Petitioners have observed with regret, that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have not before now taken decisive measures to remedy this grievance, although applications have been made to them by other public Bodies to that effect:

Thus situated, we throw ourselves for protection upon Your Royal Highness's paternal care of the just and legitimate interests of His Majesty's subjects; and we humbly pray that Your Royal Highness will graciously condescend to take into Your Royal consideration, the great and unavoidable mischiefs and calamities that must result from the want of sufficient protection, not only to Your Petitioners, but to the general manufacturing and trading interests of this Country, and to the Maritime Power of the State.

And Your Petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

On behalf of the Meeting,

(Signed) *W^m Nicholson*, Mayor,
Chairman.

III.—FURTHER PAPERS RELATING TO

— 2. —

Copy of PETITION of the Merchants, Manufacturers, Ship Owners, and Underwriters of the City of *Glasgow*.

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT,

Acting in the Name and on the Behalf of His Majesty.

The Petition of the Merchants, Manufacturers, Ship Owners, and Underwriters of the City of *Glasgow*;

Most humbly Sheweth,

THAT the number, the audacity, and the success of the American Privateers, with which our Channels have lately been infested, have proved injurious to the Commerce, are humbling to the pride, and discreditable to those who direct the great Naval Power of this Nation :

That, at a time when we are at peace with all the rest of the World, when the whole British Navy remains at our disposal, when the maintenance of our Marine costs so large a sum to the Country, when the Mercantile and Shipping Interests pay a tax for protection under the form of Convoy Duty, and when in the plenitude of our power we have declared the whole American Coast under blockade, it is equally distressing and mortifying that our Ships cannot with safety traverse our own Channels : that Insurance cannot be effected but at an excessive premium, and that a horde of American Cruizers should be allowed unmolested to capture, burn or sink, our own Vessels, in our own Inlets, and almost in sight of our own Harbours :

That Your Petitioners in particular have sustained severe loss from the depredations already committed ; and that they have every reason to apprehend still more serious suffering, not only from the extent of their Coasting Trade and the number of vessels yet to arrive from abroad, but as the time is fast approaching when the outward bound Ships must proceed for Convoys to Cork, and when during the winter season the opportunities of the Enemy will be increased, both to capture with ease and escape with impunity :

That Your Petitioners are reluctantly compelled, by the coldness and neglect with which the temperate and respectful Representations of the Mercantile Interest of this Kingdom, transmitted to the proper departments of His Majesty's Government, have been received, at once to approach the Throne, and to lay their grievances before Your Royal Highness, to whom the just complaints of His Majesty's subjects can never be addressed in vain :

May it therefore please Your Royal Highness, acting in the Name and Behalf of His Majesty, to take the case of Your Petitioners into Your Gracious Consideration, and to direct such measures to be adopted, as shall to Your Royal Highness seem meet, promptly and adequately to protect the Trade on the Coasts and in the Channels of this Kingdom, from the numerous, insulting, and destructive depredations of the American Cruizers.

And Your Petitioners will ever pray,

[Signed by Five hundred and fifty-four persons.]

— 3. —

Copy:—PETITION Merchants, &c. &c. of Port *Glasgow* and *Newark*.

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT,

Acting in the Name and on the Behalf of His Majesty.

The humble Petition of the Merchants, Ship Owners, and
Manufacturers of Port *Glasgow* and *Newark*;

Sheweth,

THAT for some time past a most unparalleled destruction of Ships and Trade in the British Channels, particularly St. George's, has been effected by American Privateers, in which they seem to roam at pleasure, and without check, as well as without precedent; which is the more astonishing, as the most material part of the destruction of our Commerce has taken place since the general peace upon the Continent, which left a sufficient portion of the great Naval force of the Empire at liberty to protect its Trade, and particularly upon its own Coasts:

That as the insolence of that Enemy still continues, in the most daring approaches in every part of our Channels, without effectual measures being taken to prevent the ruinous consequences of such destruction, at least as far as appears to the Petitioners, they are under the necessity, though with extreme regret, in this manner most humbly to approach Your Royal Highness with their complaint:

May it therefore please Your Royal Highness, as acting in the Name and on the Behalf of His Majesty, to take this matter into Your Gracious Consideration, and as to Your Royal Highness shall seem meet, to direct such measures to be taken as may effectually check the Enemy's audacity, and protect the Commerce of His Majesty's subjects, especially upon the Coasts, and in the Channels of the Kingdom.

[Signed by eighty-three Persons.]

Town Hall, Port Glasgow,
10th September 1814.

— 4. —

Copy:—PETITION of the Merchants, &c. of the Town of *Greenock*.

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT,

Acting in the Name and on the Behalf of His Majesty.

The Petition of the Merchants, Ship Owners and Underwriters,
of the Town of *Greenock*;

Most humbly Sheweth,

THAT the losses recently sustained by the Trade of this Port, from Captures made by American Cruizers on the Coasts of the United Kingdom, have been great beyond all former experience, and have taken place under circumstances which call for the most serious inquiry, both into the causes by which they have been produced, and the means of preventing the recurrence of similar evils in future:

That the impunity with which these depredations have been carried on (often within sight of our own shores, and almost in our friths and harbours) the length

of time during which they have been continued, and the leisurely and confident manner in which the Enemy have conducted their operations, afford undeniable proof (if any indeed were wanting) of the inadequacy of the Force employed to guard those important but vulnerable points, the complete protection of which was always, till now, esteemed an object of the first necessity :

That as a want of the means of defence cannot, in the present situation of the Country, be alleged in extenuation of these facts, there seems (in the judgment of Your Petitioners) to remain no other ground of explanation, than a neglect not easily reconcileable, either with a competent knowledge of maritime affairs, or a due regard to the important commercial interests thus exposed to hazard :

That, under these circumstances, Your Petitioners feel themselves compelled to submit their grievances to the consideration of Your Royal Highness, the more especially as the answers received to various representations on this subject, addressed to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty by some of the most respectable Mercantile Bodies in the Kingdom, so far from having proved satisfactory to Your Petitioners, have only tended further to lessen their confidence in the wisdom of those councils by which the Naval Affairs of the Country are at present administered :

May it therefore please Your Royal Highness, to take the case of Your Petitioners into Your Gracious Consideration, and to direct such measures to be adopted, as shall to Your Royal Highness seem meet, for the more effectual protection of the Trade on the Coasts and in the Channels of the United Kingdom, from the depredations of the Enemy's Privateers and Ships of War :

And Your Petitioners will ever pray.

(Signed) Arch Baine, John M^cCunn, Hugh Robb, Geo. Blair, W^m Fullarton, Thomas Boag, Rob^t M^cGoun, John Miller, Neil M^cArthur, John Rankin, Arch^d Weir, Rob^t Jamieson, Jn^o M^c Goun, Dun. Ferguson, Peter Buchanan, James Duncan, John Marquis, Geo. Robertson, Jn^o Fairrie, Duncan Campbell, James Ewing, And^r Anderson, Dun. Mainaught, John Thomson, W^m Lindsay, Thomas Ramsay, Rob^t Bannatyn, Thomas Forsyth, Ja^r Tasker, Pat. Hunter, Dan^t M^cDougal, Arther Oughterson, W^m Robertson, J. Leitch, Quintin Leitch, John Macnaught, Tho^s M^cCunn, Arch^d Wilson, Ja^r Hyde, James Steele, James Ritchie, James Scott, James Park, H. D. Bentson, John Stewart, W^m Suresby, John Robertson, James Gaironee, Rob^t Leitch, G. J. Weir, Rob. Lusk, James Hunter, John Denniston, junior, John Scott, George Kerr, Duncan Service, James Stuart, Walter Baine, junier, T. Lang, W^m Park, Alex^r Miller, H. Hamilton, Geo. Dempster, Dugald M^cGregor, James Lyon, Jn^o Buchanan, junior, James Munn, Alex. Laird :==68.

True Copies.

J. BECKETT.

Whitehall,
13 February 1815.
