

India produce, and received in Return Flour, Bread, Rares,  
Stoves and Specie. That in the full expectation of such trade being  
open, they were very much surprised, and were  
by a total blockade of the Coast of America, they moved very large  
quantities of British Merchandise (entirely calculated for the  
American Market) to be shipped from England, the arrival of  
which they expect daily. Your Petitioners further has leave to  
state, that His Royal Highness the Prince Regent to facilitate  
the sale and disposal of Provisions brought into the Port by  
His Majesty's Cruisers, was pleased by His Order in Council of the  
22<sup>d</sup> day of November last to authorize and empower the Lieutenant  
Governor of this Province, to grant Licences to export Provisions  
to the Ports of the United States, without any exception of  
Blockaded Ports, altho at the time of putting such order a  
great part of the American Coast was known to be in a state  
of strict and rigorous blockade. That from all these  
circumstances your Petitioners being induced to believe that  
the trade would be continued under Licences during the war  
have made their commercial arrangements accordingly.

That they have lately seen the Proclamation issued  
by Sir Alexander Cochrane Commander in Chief on the North  
American Station establishing a strict & rigorous blockade  
of the whole coast of the United States of America, and they have  
to state, that if such blockade shall operate to exclude British  
Goods under Licences from being imported into the United States,  
the most ruinous consequences will result to counteract their  
commercial designs formed on the firm belief that those Licences  
would still be respected, and that it was the policy and  
intention of His Majesty's Government to encourage such  
trade, will be entirely defeated.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray  
that your Excellency and Honors will take this  
Subject, of so much importance to their private  
interests, as well as to the trade of Great Britain  
into your most serious consideration, and that  
you will endeavor to devise some method of  
preventing the very serious evil which will  
undoubtedly arise, if your Excellency's Licences  
shall not have any effect in protecting the