

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

**A. D. 1838.**

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# EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

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**No. 31.**

**HOUSE.**

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## STATE OF MAINE.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
March 15, 1838. }

The Joint Select Committee, to whom was referred an Order “to inquire into the expediency of requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to use their exertions, that further negotiations be made with her Britannic Majesty, that all the Ports in the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, be made ports of entry and discharge for all vessels belonging within the jurisdiction of the U. States, and report by Bill or otherwise,” have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to

### R E P O R T :

That by an Act of Congress, passed May 29, 1830, “regulating the commercial intercourse between the United States and certain Colonies of Great Britain,” and by the Proclamation of the President, dated the 5th of October, 1830, made in pursuance of the considerations named in said Act, *all* the ports of the United States were opened to the admission of British vessels and their cargoes coming from the British Colonial possessions in the West Indies, on the Continent of S. America, the Bahama Islands, the Caicos, the Bermuda Islands, and also to British vessels and their cargoes coming from the British Colonies north and east of the United States: That

the principal articles of export from said Colonies north and east of the U. States, more particularly from the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, are free-stone for building, or manufactured into grindstones, and gypsum, or plaster of Paris: That the Atlantic States receive their whole supply of these articles from said Provinces last named, and that the amount thus consumed by them, your Committee believe to be nearly two hundred thousand tons of gypsum, and eighty thousand grindstones, annually, besides large quantities of free-stone for building.

Your Committee would further state, that British vessels now take cargoes directly at the quarries and landings where gypsum and free-stone are quarried, in said Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and are allowed by the law of the United States, before referred to, to enter and discharge their cargoes, so taken, at any and every port in the United States, where our vessels are allowed to enter and discharge; but that there is NO PORT in either of the Provinces of Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, at which an American vessel can obtain a cargo of gypsum or grindstones, unless it has been first transposed in an English vessel, a distance of nearly two hundred miles, to some one of the ports in said Provinces now open. These ports,—namely, Halifax, Yarmouth and Pictou, in Nova Scotia, and St. John and St. Andrews in New Brunswick, may, at any moment, however, be closed against all American vessels, without conflicting, in the remotest degree, with any existing treaty, or stipulation, between our government and Great Britain.

Your Committee add, that the necessary consequence of the present arrangement is such, that the freighting of the articles they have enumerated—plaster and grindstones—which, under a former arrangement, was more equally divided between American and English vessels, is now almost exclusively confined to those of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and, in a year or two, must become entirely so, under the powerful im-

pulse which has been given to the ship building interest in those Provinces, by the present monopolizing and anti-reciprocal regulation of the commercial intercourse between the United States and the Colonial possessions of Great Britain.

With these facts before them, and with the additional considerations, that the greatest portion of the productions of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, most valuable for exportation, are plaster and grindstones ; that the ports at which these articles can be obtained are closed to American vessels; that the State of Maine, depending largely on navigation for the employment of its citizens, and capital, is, by the present arrangement, in common with other States, cut off from all participation in this trade, your Committee feel themselves justified in expressing a hope, that the Government of the United States will readily perceive the unequal and unjust operation of existing regulations, and take prompt measures to obtain the opening of all the ports in the British North American Colonies, or, if this result cannot be obtained, to cause our ports to be closed against British vessels coming from said Colonies.

Your Committtee, therefore, ask leave to submit the following Preamble and Resolutions.

EBENEZER OTIS, per order.



## STATE OF MAINE.

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*Resolves in relation to the Commercial Intercourse between the United States and the British Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.*

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WHEREAS, by the Proclamation of the President of the U. States, being thereto authorised by law, the Ports of the United States were opened to vessels of Great Britain and their cargoes, from the British Colonial Ports of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, without the requirement on the part of the British Government to open the Ports of said Colonies to vessels of the United States; and whereas the Ports now open in said Provinces can at any moment be closed against the admission of all American vessels, without conflicting with any commercial arrangement, or treaty stipulation, between the U. States, and the British Government; and whereas American vessels are entirely excluded from all the Ports at which the principal exports of said Provinces can be directly obtained—therefore

*Resolved*, That the interests of the State of Maine require, that all the Ports in the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, which are now, or may hereafter be, Ports for the delivery and reception of cargoes for British vessels, be made Ports of Entry for the delivery and reception of cargoes for American vessels, or that the Ports of the United States should be closed against British vessels coming from said Provinces.

*Resolved*, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to exert their influence in obtaining the object contemplated by the foregoing Resolve.

*Resolved*, That the Governor be requested to transmit copies of the above Resolutions to the President, and to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.







# STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
March 16, 1833. }

Laid on the Table and five hundred Copies Ordered to be  
Printed.

(Extract from the Journal.)

GEO. C. GETCHELL, Clerk.