

Paisley,
May 1820

Unto The Right Honourable Earl Bathurst,

principal secretary of state for the British Colonies,
The petition of
The Undersigned Operative Manufacturers and others
Heads of families in the Town and Vicinity of Paisley.

Humbly Sheweth,

That since the Government of the Trade in this part of the Country which has now
been discontinued for long years past, and without intermission, the petitioners are reduced to the utmost
penury and distress. The trade which they formerly earned their Subsistence, and maintained
their families in comfort and decency, having declined, with a rapidity unexampled in the
Commercial History of this Kingdom, and left no hope of any amelioration in their Condition,
Nor even the smallest prospect that they shall ever again behold the Days of Comfort and
Competence, which formerly fell to their lot. — To such extremity are the petitioners reduced
that many of them are unable to procure the means of subsistence, and are obliged to beg
for their support, and although many have been assisted, by the more affluent part of the Community, during
the present winter, yet that assistance being now discontinued, they find it impossible any
longer to support, with any degree of regularity, their families, and are obliged to apply
for relief, which falls on the 27th and 28th of the present month. Consequently their families,
and dependants, will inevitably be seized by their landlords, and the petitioners with their
families, unless relieved. This statement, they beg leave to assure Your Lordship is no
exaggeration, the facts are well known to be true, by every person acquainted with the present
state of this town, and neighbourhood, and the pressing Necessity of the petitioners Case,
if indeed such renovation be possible.

In these deplorable and distressing circumstances, the Government that presents itself to
the petitioners, is the Government of the Cape of Good Hope, and the petitioners
beg leave to shew, that the advantages of Operative trade is not so great as in Britain, and where
they can more readily earn subsistence for themselves, and their families, and that the
to this expedient are totally beyond their reach, unless assistance can be procured from those who
have the direction of National Finance, and to procure that assistance is the object of the present
application.

The petitioners understand that it is in the Contemplation of His Majesty's Government
to settle the unsettled Trade in Operative Trade, and that the petitioners, the names of the
petitioners are particularly directed, in preference to the Cape of Good Hope, as the Climate of
the former is nearly similar to that of those Northern parts of Britain, and where (in the event of
this application being deemed worthy of favorable Notice) they would have the advantage of
being associated with the same General Habits, and speaking the same language with
themselves. —

The petitioners therefor most humbly beg leave to request, that lands be Granted to them in Upper Canada, at the rate of One hundred acres per family, or to whatever extent shall be deemed expedient, and adequate to the purpose, by His Majesty's Government. At the same time they entertain no doubt that the Goodness of Government would allow them lands sufficient for their use, in the means of instructing themselves, and sustaining their families until their first Crop could be got off the ground, and implements to work with, are also wanting.

The petitioners cannot pretend to Calculate, with any degree of precision, what Specific sum should be necessary for this purpose. But whatever this may amount to (provided the request shall have the good fortune to Meet Your Lordship's favorable consideration) The petitioners for repayment thereof, most humbly propose to Enter into a Bond, Conjunctly and Severally, that they shall be liable for each individual or family, that they shall remain in the Country where they shall be placed by the goodness of Government, and that they shall refund the sum so laid out Payable in such proportions, and at such terms, as from their Circumstances, Your Lordship shall deem reasonable, and so in case it shall so happen, that any family or individual shall fail to pay

Defaulters, so far as to reimburse them. What they shall pay for the Interest, in case the Defaulter shall have the good fortune to be repaid, shall also have credit to account each Defaulter according to the law of the Country, for the penalty specified in the Bond; and if the Defaulter shall have a greater Debt, than his Description, then the parties concerned shall have right to Redress in any of His Majesty's Courts, or any Colonial Court in Upper Canada, that may be competent to

Character, they can mutually depend. They now humbly Beg leave to submit their Case to Your Lordship's most gracious consideration, Trusting that you will have the goodness to intercede in their behalf, and rescue them from a state of Wretchedness & Want, either by granting their request, or in such other manner as Your wisdom may suggest