

Unto his Grace His Majesties High Commissioner
and the right Honourable Estates of Parliament,

THE PETITION of

Captain John Slezer

Humbly sheweth,

THat there is a Petition to be presented to your Grace and the right Honourable the Estates of Parliament, craving that the Tunnage-money imposed Anno 1695, towards defraying the Charges of the respective Works undertaken by Mr. Adair and your Petitioner may be taken off, in respect they pretend there is sufficiently collected to do the Business.

As to which Captain Slezer humbly represents in the behalf of himself, that all the Draughts relating to his Work are drawn, and most of them also engraven, and the Description part wants only to be revised by a Committee of the Privy Council, which their Lordships did lately judge proper to be done before the Work should go to the Press: And both Volumes (now lying upon the Clerks Table) will testify the forwardness of the work; By which also it doeth clearly appear how faithfully, yea and far beyond what could be expected, your Petitioner hath followed out the Design of the Act of Parliament.

Notwithstanding of this forwardness, and that their Lordships of the privy Council have by their Act 28. June last, found that your Petitioners Debursements upon this Work do amount to 1590 *lib. ster.* yet all he hath received is but 350 *lib. ster.* in Money, and 150 *lib. ster.* by precepts still unanswered, whereby it is evident that there is not sufficiently collected. And till the contrair be made appear, it is hoped that either this Fund will be continued, or some other granted in favours of your Petitioner, who hath paunded even all his Credit, and hath hazarded the Ruine of himself and his numerous Family, having nothing now left him to bestow upon the breeding of his many Children, who are of Age to be put to Employments. And all this he hath done upon the publick Faith of this Act of Tunnage, which expressly declares his work to be very much to the Honour, Advantage and Reputation of the Kingdom; Yea, the Encouragement he had for prosecuting of the Work was such, that the Committee of Trade anno 1695, (to whom the matter of your Petitioners Work was remitted) were so sensible that the Design ought to be encouraged, that by their Report to the Parliament, upon which the Tunnage Act was past: They did declare, that rather than a Fund should be wanting towards reimbursing your Petitioner, and finishing this Work, that a Weeks Cess should have been laid on for effectuating this so Noble and Honourable Design, as the Report doth express it: Upon the faith of which, your petitioner hath so cheerfully, and with all the Fidelity and pains imaginable, gone on in the Work and brought it to its present Condition.

You petitioner begs leave further to represent, that albeit the Cash-keeper and Hugh Brown have been most exact and diligent in their endeavours to bring the severall Collectors to give a faithful accompt of their Intromissions with this Fund, yet there are considerable Concealments and Malversations amongst some of them, and others as they go off, detains exorbitant Sums, upon pretence of their pains, without any Warrant, and contrair to the Design of the Act of Parliament. It is therefore humbly proposed, that the bygone Rests detained and concealed of this Fund not payed in to the Cash-keepers, may be put to a publick Roup, at the sight of the Lords of his Majesties privy Council, and that for the encouragement of those who intend to bid, it be furthwith ordered that all Collectors be obliged to expose their Books, whereby no doubt these Rests will turn to a very good account, and the like Abuses discouraged in time coming.

And since Mr. Adair your petitioners Partner in the Tunnage Act, is cleared of his whole bygone pretensions of pains as well as Debursements, amounting to 22127 *lib. scots*, including what he chargeth that it will cost him for navigating the West Coasts of Scotland, and the Islands adjacent thereunto; That therefore the product arising from the Farm of ot these Rests be applyed at the sight of the Lords of the privy Council, towards payment *protanto* of your petitioners Ballance of Debursement, whereby he may get Credit, and be

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put in a Capacity to finish what is begun; which Ballance being payed in to him, your petitioner obligeth himself to finish and print both the Volumes, which otherways would be impossible for him to do. But when done, he shall demand no farther Encouragement but what any insuing Session of Parliament, or his Majesties privy Council shall think the Work deserves.

These two Volumes when finished (could not be sold by any private undertaker, under seven or eight pound *Ster.* Yet if his Ballance of 1240. *lib. Ster.* be payed to him, it will enable him to go to *London* and *Holland* as is necessar, that he may (towards the dispatch of the work) distribute amongst the Ingravers, these Draughts which remain uncut, and likewise order the printing of both Volumes, and provide what paper is most proper for the use ; Which when done, your petitioner ingadges himself for the benefit of the publick, to put at least two hundred Coppies of both Volumes, in the hands of such persons as shall sell them, at no more than 20 *sh. Ster.* for each Volume, to such of the Nobility, Gentry and Burrows as shall be desirous of them, and subscribe their Names within six weeks after the passing this Act now desired in your petitioners Favours. And no person subscribing shall pay in any Money, till the Volumes be delivered to him ; The Captain demanding Subscriptions only, that he may the better know what number of Coppies to provide.

*May it therefore please your Grace, and the Right Honourable the Estates of parliament, either to continue the Tunnage till your petitioner be Re-imbursed, or otherwise to grant him some other Fond for the same ; And towards making effectual what is collected, that your Grace and the Right Honourable the Estates of parliament, would be pleased to cause the bygone Rests and Concealments, and the Detentions of this Tunnage Money not payed into the Cash keeper, to be roused at the sight of their Lordships of the privy Council, and in the mean time, that all Collectors expose their Books, whereby such as are desirous may be put in a condition to bid. And since Mr Adair is already payed of his whole Accompts and Claims, extending to 22127 *lib. Scots* partly in money, and partly by precepts, to be payed out of the first and readiest which is als good as money ; That therefore the product of this Roup may be applyed only towards the clearing of your petitioners Ballance of by-gones amounting to 1240 *lib. Ster.* and if this Fond fall short of what is due to your petitioner, your Grace, and the Right honourable the Estates of parliament would be pleased to lay down some other Fond for making up the remainder, Whereby your petitioner may be enabled to finish his work, and he and his Family may not be exposed to ruine by having thus far advanced this work, upon the faith of so clear an Act of parliament, and so lately past in his favours, And your petitioner shall ever pray.*