

Letter Bk. I. Indulgence for their Negligence in not being well assured of their Stock of Ore before they built, & if they went on the Latter they deserve as little for their Presumption in imagining that this or any other Province would willingly or could be compelled to forego its just Advantages to prevent Losses to Persons acting upon such Principles. The Petitioners then go on & say that for every Ton of Ore they pay twenty pence Stg. at the Bank & intimate that as this is so much clear Gain to the province it is our Interest to encourage the Trade by forbearing to levy the Tonnage Duty on the Vessels that

p. 276 They shall employ to fetch the Ore to their Furnaces. The Tonnage they say is very near as much as the Ore is worth, they should have said that what they pay at the Bank added to the Tonnage on their Vessels (which together is to be considered as the price that they pay for their Ore) is more than they can afford, but whether both these Sums together amount to more than the Ore is worth or not is nothing to the purpose, they alone can tell whether it be so but if it is why should they desire or expect to be freed from the Tonnage more than from the Demand of the Owners of the Ore Bank? they may as well term the latter a Burthen on them as the other & with as much reason may they desire to be discharged from both as from either. They will say perhaps that the price of the Ore at the Bank is a private Contract & of their own Making, but this can make no difference in their favour, for the Tonnage is settled by Acts of our Legislature which are as obligatory upon any Man who has business to transact with us as any private Contract whatever of Mens own making can or ought to be & the Property in the Tonnage is as firmly fixed by those as any property whatsoever can be by any private Contract. This is a Truth that the Petitioners cannot deny & since the Owner of the Bank will not suffer them to export his Ore without paying the Price that he has fixed thereon, how can they expect that His Ldp & his Lieut' Governor will be more condescending especially when the Tonnage Duty is a considerable Branch of their Revenue arising from small Sums collected from Numbers of Vessels trading to this Province; will not the Owners of all such Vessels if the

p. 277 Petition under Consideration be granted especially the British Merch^{ts} (who may with some Colour of Truth say they have a better Right to Indulgence since they furnish Us with all the Necessaries of Life & since Lightening the Trade to them is in proportion benefitting ourselves) demand the same favour & thus would vanish these considerable Revenues to His Ldp & his Governor, not to mention the Loss of Fees to the Naval Officers. But after all if this Tonnage is too grievous a Burthen to be borne it is in the power of the Petition-