

Official Kittery Town Remonstrance 1810

To the honorable senate and House of Representatives in general court assembled—

Alexander Rice, Samuel Leighton, and William T. Gerrish, Esq's, inhabitants & Committee of the town of Kittery, legally chosen to oppose the separation of said town, agreeably to the petition of Andrew P. Fernald, Esqre. Respectfully represent: that Kittery for more than One hundred & fifty years, has been a town within its present limits,—vested with all the powers inseparable from corporate societies, and have in all instances, harmoniously united in town and other meetings for the best advantage of the Inhabitants.

They would further state, that so large a proportion of the Inhabitants are employed at Sea, that the increase of population for the last fifty Years has not been essentially altered ; should a division of the town take place, there would not be any public building, centrally, or advantageously situated, for the meeting of the inhabitants in either of the towns, on any public occasion.

They would further respectfully state, that by reason of the barrenness of the soil, the employments and

habits of the Inhabitants, in the first and third Parishes, more frequent and numerous applications, will ever be made, for support, than from the second parish these burdens have ever been patiently and jointly borne, without complaint:

A separation, would involve the first and third parishes, with accumulated expence :

That the uneasiness which at present exists in the second Parish, cannot be traced to a more remote period, or a more powerful cause, than the last spring election of town officers.

They would further state, that should a division take place, they would be deprived of the right of sending three representatives to this honorable House, and that the sending of one, would now excuse them, from a fine, on the event of a division, two must be chosen, or they will be liable to be an:erced for their neglect ;

That at this time, one grammar school, is all the law requires in the town of Kittery—a separation, would compel the inhabitants to keep two, the encreased expence would fall heavily on a great proportion of the inhabitants.

They would further represent, that many, at the first idea of a separation, were zealous supporters of the measure, on cool reflection, are averse & deprecate the idea, of the second parish being incorporated into a town. & Your memorialists have a full conviction, that if the petition should not be granted, the town of Kittery would be soon again united, & that a spirit of harmony, & social intercourse exist, for which the town of Kittery, has ever been distinguished. They would therefore humbly solicit this honorable Legislature, that Kittery, may remain as in former

times,—firm and united,—and that the petition of Andrew P. Fernald, may not be granted, and that the Inhabitants of Kittery, may be saved from so destructive a measure : & as in duty bound will ever pray

Alex'r Rice, Samuel Leighton, W. T. Gerrish

Committee tor Sd Town.

Kittery, 28th: Jan'y, 1810.