

## PETITION.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Delegates  
of the State of Maryland:*

The undersigned, engaged as receivers, dealers and shippers of tobacco, beg leave to represent to your honorable bodies that they have read with surprise the resolution passed in the House of Delegates for the sale of the present State tobacco warehouses and the building of new houses at some convenient point on tide water. Your memorialists believe that the measure has been prompted by a desire to reduce expenses, but they fear that it will be attended with disadvantages far outweighing any possible benefits.

They apprehend that the erection of new inspection houses will require a much larger outlay than can be realised from a sale of the old buildings, and that the tobacco fund will be saddled with a permanent heavy debt, the interest of which may render it necessary to enhance the present rate of outage, if not to reinstate the former charge of inspection payable by the planter. They would respectfully caution your honorable bodies against hasty legislation, and ask you to institute further investigations before passing a law which has not been asked for by the parties directly interested, and who consider themselves best able to judge of its expediency. They believe it to emanate from speculators who, in their private interest and not in that of the trade at large, would wish to induce the State to buy their property at Canton and divert an important business from a part of the city where it has been located for nearly half a century, and where it is surrounded by every facility for its most convenient and economical pursuit.

Your memorialists trust that their remonstrances will be taken into consideration, and they will ever pray, &c.

NEALE HARRIS & CO.,  
and 54 others, citizens of Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, *March 3, 1860.*