

Lib. J. R. their Consideration the Memorial of William Walton Esq^r
& U. S. representing that he is engaged by the Contract with the Governor, and Royal Officers of the spanish Garrison at S^t Augustine on the Coast of Florida to furnish that Garrison with Provisions but being now prohibited by the Embargo laid by your Excellency's Order in Council of the 29th of December last he hopes such order will be made therein as the Case may require:

The Committee upon duly weighing the Proofs exhibited with the Memorial, and other since taken find that this Garrison hath been furnished with Supplies from hence formerly by Contract from William Walton the Memorialists Father, and since with the Memorialist from the year 1726: to the present time except during the late War with Spain, that S^t Augustine is a Place of very little, if any Trade, consisting only of a Garrison. That the Inhabitants cultivate no more Land than is necessary for Kitchen Gardens, and that all Provisions imported by any other person than the Contractor or by him over and above the Quantities demanded for the Use of the Garrison, are liable to Confiscation, whence it is apparent they almost wholly rely for Subsistence, on the Supplies the Memorialist is obliged to furnish in Virtue of his Contract, the Breach whereof will subject him to the Forfeiture of the Arrears due to him amounting to sixty thousand spanish milled Pieces of Eight. The Committee also find that the provisions furnished by the Memorialist for the Garrison in the Year 1756: and what is demanded for the year 1757 are the Quantities specified in the Schedule N^o 2: annexed to the Memorial, and that the Number of Inhabitants at S^t Augustine may be computed to exceed two thousand.

These Facts appearing sufficiently attested to the Committee they humbly conceive it is his Majesty's Directions, for the laying the present Embargo cannot be construed to extend to a neutral Port, under these Circumstances, it being manifest from their Lordship's Letter signifying his Majesty's Commands that the Trade intended to be restrained is the Trade carried on from his Majesty's Colonies to such neutral Ports or Settlements from whence the Enemy have actually drawn Supplies or from whence they might be obtained, and that the preventing this Mischief is the sole Object of the Embargo, and as on the one Hand the Advantages arising to the Public by this Consumption of its Staple, so necessary at this Time are very considerable, without any Evil to be apprehended from it; and on the other the putting a Stop to the Supplies will not only expose the Me-