

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 form 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 Contracte of their own Making, but this
can make no difference in their favour, for the Tonnage is set
by Acts of our Legislature, which are as obligatory upon any Man
who has business to transact with us as any private Contract what-
ever 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