

HOUSE....No. 108.

PETITION.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in
General Court assembled.*

GENTLEMEN :—We, the undersigned, citizens of Provincetown, chosen by the authority of said town in their annual town meeting assembled, to remonstrate against the prayer of the town of Truro (signed by James Small) now before the legislature, that a portion of said town of Truro might be annexed to the town of Provincetown, humbly petition your honorable bodies that the whole matter relating to said petition be again referred to the same committee, for the following reasons, viz. :

Your petitioners, chosen as above stated, having never been heard, they left Provincetown, in a packet, for Boston, and being detained, did not arrive until the evening after the hearing was had before your Committee on Towns.

That in the legislative reports of March 31, said member from Truro is reported to have said, on the report of leave to withdraw on the petition of the town of Truro, that "Truro is being obliged to support a road twelve miles, principally used for a daily mail to Provincetown, and by the citizens of that place."

When the truth is, that said member from Truro has carried more produce and merchandise over that road during the last

twenty years, than all the inhabitants of the town of Provincetown during the same time. He further says, "on seven lots annexed to Provincetown, a settlement of considerable value has grown up," when he knows that more than a mile of the territory annexed to Provincetown, and now next to Truro, is worthless, never having been assessed since annexed to Provincetown in 1836. The member from Truro knows this, as he owns lands in two of the seven lots annexed, all of them by the prayer of the citizens of Truro, over which the town of Truro never had any road or ever spent the first dollar for a road in any way, but when annexed to Provincetown a complaint was made against Provincetown, and the town of Provincetown has already spent about \$2,000 for a road upon that worthless part of Provincetown annexed from Truro. He further says, "and since the appropriations by Congress had been for the benefit of the people of Provincetown alone."

The fact is that the member from Truro himself received of those appropriations \$162 $\frac{25}{100}$, his brother, Joshua Small, \$136 $\frac{25}{100}$, his neighbors, Ebenezer Atkins, \$197, Elisha Paine, \$155, and others to the amount of \$809 $\frac{75}{100}$, for carting grass; also \$508 $\frac{25}{100}$ for beach-grass. A number of the citizens of Truro were employed in pulling and setting grass, to whom were paid more than \$1,371 $\frac{19}{100}$, in addition to the former sums, being a total of \$2,689 $\frac{19}{100}$.

There was a strip of grass planted five and one-half miles long on the Province Lands and the eight of Truro adjoining said Province Lands, (including the piece which the member from Truro prays to have annexed to Provincetown,) three miles of which were planted upon the lotted lands of Truro, including the whole length of the piece which is prayed to be annexed, notwithstanding the assertion made by the member that the appropriations by Congress had been for the benefit of the people of Provincetown alone. The land which the petition of the town of Truro, signed by James Small, prays to have annexed to Provincetown, is a part of the original township of Truro. It never in any way belonged to the town of Provincetown, or the citizens of Provincetown ever have any jurisdiction over it whatever.

The petitioners doubt the petition being the petition of the

town of Truro, no person having signed it but said member from Truro, the owners of the land in the eight lots which he prays to be annexed, having remonstrated against his said prayer.

GODFREY RIDER, } *Committee*
NATHAN FREEMAN, 2D, } *from Provincetown.*

Boston, April 5, 1853.

