



MALTESE CLAIMS.

THE following is a translation from the Italian, of a Summary of the principal Grievances of the Maltese, and of their Remedies, presented to His Late Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry, John Austin and George Cornewall Lewis, Esqrs., sitting at Malta, on the 15th November 1836, by some Members of the Maltese General Committee on behalf of that body, in consequence of a memorandum given by the Commissioners to Mr. G. Mitrovich on the 3rd of the said month, as per document marked (A) here-to annexed; which Committee, on the occasion of the arrival in that island of the said Commission (19th October 1836), was freely elected by the people of the two islands, Malta and Gozo, as per document marked (B) also annexed, for the purpose of explaining and supporting the claims and the interests of the Maltese nation on that important occasion, agreeably to the Maltese Petition laid on the table of the House of Commons on the 7th of June last year, viz. :—

Grievances complained of by the
Maltese.

Remedies proposed by the
Maltese.

1. The Suspension of the
National Council.

Its re-establishment, or its
formation according to ac-
tual circumstances.

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| 2. The Suppression of the Representative Magistracies. | The formation of Municipal Bodies (Corpi Comunali). |
| 3. The union of three powers in the same person, viz., Legislative, Judicial and Executive. | The separation of these powers, and the assimilation as much as possible to the form of Government of Great Britain. |
| 4. Confusion in the Laws.
5. Defects in the Judicial System. | The necessity of new Codes has been acknowledged, and the compilation of some has already been ordered, as well as the publication of others; but there are reasons to believe that on account of various defects, they will be found inadequate to the present wants, and with regard to those already published may be named principally the want of the extension of the Jury—modelled on that of England. |
| 6. The want of a Free Press.* | (Now under discussion !) |
| 7. The mal-administration and abuse of power in the various departments. | A better organization, adapted to actual circumstances. |
| 8. The extravagance of salaries in some offices. | Reduction, and a more just partition. |
| 9. The exclusion of the natives from the principal offices. | Admission of the natives to the same. |



* The subject of the Press was investigated by the Commissioners of Inquiry in the month of November last; but, notwithstanding His Late Majesty's gracious Concession, which should have been put into execution forthwith, it has not yet been established in the Island !

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| 10. Pensions incompatible with the resources of the Island. | A Reduction in the heavy pensions and a more equitable distribution. |
| 11. Pious Institutions and Foundations. | That the will of the founders be accomplished. |
| 12. Public Instruction. | The diffusion of elementary Instruction and a liberal system in the scientific branches. |
| 13. Restrictions on Trade. | A free Port and facilities to all the Mercantile branches. |
| 14. The Monopoly of Grain.* | A free Trade in Grain, and a Duty on the same, <i>fixed</i> . |
| 15. The dependence of the Sanità. | An independent Board of Health. |
| 16. A burthensome and mis-proportioned system of Duties. | The diminution and a more equitable distribution of duties—and their independence of the executive Branch. |
| 17. Damages sustained by the Maltese through the Capitulation of 1800. | Their indemnification. |

* The Monopoly of Grain has been abolished: the Government Minute dated Malta, April 7th, 1837, states thus:—

“His Excellency The Governor was pleased to notify, on the 10th of January last, that no further purchases of wheat would be made, on Government account, for the purpose of maintaining a reserved stock of grain.

“In thus departing from the system which had been pursued from the opening of the Corn Trade in 1822, and in leaving the entire supply of grain to the private trader, His Excellency has deemed it expedient to remove all obstacles to the importation of grain, which are not indispensable for securing the interests of the Public Revenue.

“That no additional duties will be collected on grain imported in foreign vessels; and that the duties now payable on grain imported under the British flag, will be payable on all grain imported into the Island, and released for consumption.”

18. Misery !

Encouragement to commerce, to agriculture and to industry in general, and the promotion of all possible means of affording subsistence to the poor.

N.B. The Maltese, however, consider the principal and the most lamentable grievance of all to be, the want of their Popular Council; and they are waiting with anxiety the fulfilment of the promises heretofore made to them by His Majesty's Representatives; therefore, they look forward, as the first and the most efficacious remedies, to the re-establishment of the said Council (or Legislative Assembly),—to putting the Concession of a Free Press into execution,—and to the extension of Trial by Jury,—modelled on that of Great Britain.

Other grievances will, as opportunity offers, be stated and detailed.

DOCUMENT (A).

Memorandum for Mr. Mitrovich (delivered to him by His Late Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry).

1. The time at which the Committee is prepared to bring forward the subject of the liberty of the Press.
2. A list of the grievances complained of by the Committee, and of the remedies which they propose.
3. His Majesty's Commissioners are willing that any reasonable number of persons, to be appointed by the Committee, shall be present during the proceedings of the Commissioners.
4. A list of the persons, by whom the Committee has been appointed, giving their names, professions or callings so far as the same can be ascertained.

DOCUMENT (B).

The Members composing the Maltese General Committee, according to specific lists delivered to His Late Majesty's Commissioners of Inquiry on the 29th of November, 1836, were 97; the number of whom was afterwards augmented to 100, by the annexation of other Corporations—elected by the free suffrages of the people to the number of 11,712, out of a population of about 120,000 souls, viz:

	Electors.		Electors.
Nobles - - - - -	53	Notabile, (city) and its suburb	
Lawyers - - - - -	68	Rabato - - - - -	773
Notaries - - - - -	57	Zebbug—(Casal) - - - - -	766
Solicitors, &c. - - - - -	35	Zeitun „ - - - - -	424
Clergy - - - - -	327	Gargur „ - - - - -	109
Merchants, &c. - - - - -	112	Asciack „ - - - - -	97
Physicians, Surgeons, and		Nasciaro „ - - - - -	317
Apothecaries - - - - -	68	Musta „ - - - - -	499
Traders in Manufactures		Zabbar „ - - - - -	153
(Drappieri) - - - - -	72	Curmi „ - - - - -	710
Masters of Vessels - - - - -	84	Siggieui „ - - - - -	614
Brokers - - - - -	24	Birchircara „ - - - - -	745
Carpenters - - - - -	233	Crendi „ - - - - -	152
Tailors - - - - -	267	Tarxien „ - - - - -	119
Gold and Silversmiths, and		Gudia „ - - - - -	86
Jewellers - - - - -	70	Dingli „ - - - - -	113
Smiths, &c. - - - - -	71	Micabiba „ - - - - -	183
Shopkeepers - - - - -	275	Zurricco „ - - - - -	506
Bakers and dealers in Bread	68	Luca „ - - - - -	129
Professors of the Fine Arts -	31	Attard	
Booksellers, Printers, &c.	19	Lia } (Casals) - - - - -	211
Shoemakers - - - - -	81	Balzan } „ - - - - -	
Valletta, independently of the		Safi } „ - - - - -	146
Corporations and Illiterate		Chircop } „ - - - - -	
men - - - - -	191	Misida, Pietà, &c. (Country	
Floriana, (suburb) - - - - -	346	places) - - - - -	48
Cospicua, (city) - - - - -	900	Island of Gozo - - - - -	678
Senglea „ - - - - -	172		
Vittoriosa „ - - - - -	410		
			11,712

List of the before-mentioned 100 Members.

Dr. Arcangelo Pullicino	}	Members who promoted the Petition to the House of Commons in 1836, &c. &c.		
Camillo de' Baroni Sceberras				
Giorgio Mitrovich				
G. B. Vella				
Marchese L. A. Testaferrata				
Francesco Mattei				
Luigi Lebrun				
Dr. Giuseppe Sammut				
Pasquale Nuzzi				
Notaro Gius. Ant. Parodi				
Filippo Busuttil				
Salvadore Giammalva				
Antonio Darmanino				
Antonio Ellul				
† Antonio Amabile Duranti	}	Members on behalf of the Clergy.		
Ant. Gravagna				
Dr. Ferdinando Caruana Dingli				
Antonio Giglio				
Dr. Dn. Ludovico Mifsud Tommasi				
Dn. Francesco Caruana Dingli				
Dr. Dn. Celestino Camilleri				
† Preposto Lorenzo Lanzon				
Marchese Francesco Barbaro di Sn.			}	,, Nobles.
Giorgio				
Marchese Niccolò Testaferrata			}	,, Merchants.
Emmanuele Zammit				
Paolo Eynand				
Raimondo Rocco			}	,, Lawyers.
Dr. Gio. Battista Mifsud				
Dr. Francesco Naudi				
Dr. Paolo Sciortino	}	,, Notaries.		
Notaro Dr. Francesco Chetcuti				
Notaro Giuseppe Raffaele Portelli	}	,, Solicitors, &c.		
Emmanuele Vella				
P. L. Ignazio Andrè Vidal	}	,, Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries.		
Dr. Saverio Galea				
Dr. Vincenzo Duclos				
Dr. Antonio Muscat	}	,, Brokers.		
Gio. Battista Mirabelli				
Giuseppe Balbi	}	,, Masters of Vessels.		
Lorenzo Barbara				
Giuseppe Vella	}	,, Dealers in Manufactures.		
Giuseppe Demech				
Antonio Borg				

Francesco Nicola Calleja	}	Member on behalf of the Printers, Booksellers, &c.
Gio. Francesco Muscat	}	,, Gold and Silversmiths, and Jewellers.
Michele Metropoli		
Francesco Galea	}	,, Tailors.
Antonio Garroni <i>in vice. G. B. Testa</i>		
Rosario Caruana	}	,, Carpenters.
Carmelo Imbroll		
Orazio Said	}	,, Manufacturers.
Gregorio Magri		
Casimiro Zahra	}	,, Smiths, &c.
Pietro Paolo Caruana	}	,, Professors of the Fine Arts.
Giorgio Pullicino		
Carlo Portanier	}	,, Bakers and Dealers in Bread.
Pietro Paolo Camilleri		
P. L. Ludovico Gugl. Lanzon	}	,, Shopkeepers.
Melchiorre Savarese		
Agostino Scolaro	}	,, Caulkers, &c.
Giov. Bezzina	}	,, Shoemakers.
Paolo Pollacco	}	,, for the Suburb Floriana
Dr. Giorgio Mirabelli		
Dr. Giuseppe Azzopardi	}	,, City Senglea.
Dr. Francesco Fiteni		
Francesco Mattei		
Dr. Salvatore Borg	}	,, Cospicua.
Dr. Not. Gio. Sav. Randon		
Dr. Gius. Imbroll		
Girolamo Portelli	}	,, Vittoriosa.
Gius. di Michele Camilleri		
Ant. de' Baroni Bonnici		
Arcip. Dr. Gius. Galea	}	,, Notabile, and its Suburb Rabato.
Paolo de' Conti Manduca		
Gius. Pulis Montibello	}	,, Casal Zeitun.
Dr. Gio. Francesco Magri		
Gius. Caruana		
Dr. Gaetano Laferla	}	,, Gudia.
Fra Gius. Ellul Preziosi	}	,, Crendi.
Vice Curato Don Gio. Maria Aquilina	}	,, Gargur.
Gaetano Giappone		
Gius. Xuereb Montebello	}	,, Zabbar.

Dr. Dn. G. Zammit Camilleri	}	Members for the	
Dr. Gaetano Laferla			Casal Siggieui.
Dr. G. Cachia Castagna	}	,, ,,	
Tommaso Mallia			Asciack.
Dr. G. B. Mifsud	}	,, ,,	
Not. Dr. G. F. Chetcuti			Musta.
Parroco Dr. Salv. Zammit	}	,, ,,	
Dr. G. B. Mifsud			Nasciaro.
Arrom. Niccolò Galdies	}	,, ,,	
Sac. Dn. Daniele Ceci			Curmi.
Prep. Curato Dn. G. Debono	}	,, ,,	
Franzesco Griss			Birchircara.
G. Agius	}	,, ,,	
Dr. Arcangelo Pullicino			Micabiba.
Gregorio Magri	}	,, ,,	
Parroco Don Niccolò Camilleri			Zebbug.
Dn. Gio. Battista Borg	}	,, ,,	
Dn. Andrea Schembri			Dingli.
Conte Dr. Niccolò Gatto	}	,, ,,	
Don Gio. F. Pace			Tarxien.
Dr. G. Laferla	}	,, ,,	
Dr. G. Sammut			Luca.
Dr. Em. Debono	}	,, ,,	
P. L. Ignazio A. Vidal			Zurricco.
Can. Dn. G. Caruana	}	,,	
Parroco Dn. Nic. Spiteri			Casals, Chircop, and
Not. Niccolò Tabone			Safi.
	}	,,	
			Lia, Balzan, and Attard.
	}	,,	
			Country places, Misi- da, Pietà, and San Giuseppe.
	}	,,	
			Island of Gozo.

N. B. The foregoing list, dated the 28th January, 1837, contains the names of 100 Members, and not of 109, as would appear on the first view; since the repetition of the name of the same person elected by more than one district, must be allowed for. This repetition became necessary, in the enumeration of the various places by which the Members were elected.

London, 22nd July, 1837.