

That the country which they inhabit, is situated north of the State of Illinois and west of Lake Michigan; and that they have been alternately subject to the Territorial Governments of Indiana, Illinois and Michigan, without, in fact, participating, in any considerable degree, in the benefits of either.

Your petitioners respectfully solicit the attention of Congress to their remote situation. They believe nature has erected barriers which effectually preclude the possibility of uniting them with the people of Michigan by any legislative act; and that for all the purposes of Government or justice, they might as well be annexed to the States of Ohio, Pennsylvania or New York, as the Michigan Territory.

The distance from Prairie du Chien on the Mississippi to Green Bay is usually estimated to be 300 miles; from the Bay to Macinaw Two hundred miles; and it is suggested, whether this does not embrace a sufficient extent of country for any system of Territorial government, which can be adopted for the convenience or advantage of its citizens.

The seat of government of Michigan is fixed at Detroit, about six hundred miles from the county in which your petitioners reside, a place which is totally inaccessible to them during the winter season; and nearly so by land at all periods of the year. From the uncertainty of the present mode of communicating by the vessels of the Lakes, Detroit is to your pets. little more than the capital of a foreign govt.

By the act of Congress of the third of March 1823, allowing to this Territory¹ a Legislature, your pets. supposed they were greatly relieved, by their just right to a proportionate share of the representatives in that body, but in this they find themselves unhapily disappointed, the Legislature having determined to hold its sessions during the winter.

The members of the Legislature are elected by a *general ticket*, and although your pets. may, by the *courtesy* of the people residing on the Peninsula, be allowed a representa-

¹ Meaning the Territory of Michigan.—Ed.