

1856.

## House of Representatives.

### PETITION OF LAZARUS BERLOWITZ.

*Presented to the House of Representatives April 25, and ordered to be printed April 28, 1856.*

TO THE HONORABLE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COLONY OF NEW ZEALAND.

The humble Petition of LAZARUS BERLOWITZ, late of Melbourne, at present sojourning at Wellington, and for some time past having at intervals resided at Nelson, New Zealand, Watchmaker and Jeweller, a native of Poland, but naturalized in the Colony of Victoria, respectfully sheweth—

Your Petitioner can refer to highly respectable individuals as to your Petitioner's being a man of good character.

That he set sail from England in the month of October, 1851, and in February following arrived at Melbourne, where he had a shop, and carried on business till October, 1854.

That until lately he had considerable difficulty, as well to understand the English language, as also to make himself understood by persons speaking only that language.

That on the 18th of December, 1854, he took his passage from Melbourne to Wellington, for which he paid £14, per the brig "Onkaparinga," Captain Mackenzie, and afterwards Captain Bertheau, a native of Denmark, being the master.

That he then was quite ignorant of the necessity for a passenger on shipboard being required to do anything further than pay for the transit of himself and his property: that it was altogether unknown to him that it was necessary to get the captain of the vessel to enter his property on board in the ship's papers; nor did he ever before hear of a manifest, or the captain's report. He was then perfectly ignorant that any duties were payable on importing and landing goods in New Zealand; and never before heard that goods not reported, or not entered by the captain in his manifest or report, were liable to be forfeited. Of all these things he was ignorant.

That, excepting his being desirous to make an inexpensive passage, and not to pay both for the transit of his goods as a passenger, as well as at the same time pay for his passage by the same ship, his goods were not by any means shipped with any regard to secrecy. There was not any attempt to conceal. He meditated no fraud of any kind, and knew no cause for concealment.

That, on or about the 30th of December, he took his boxes on board the ship, being one 4 feet by 3 feet broad, the other being small, and on both of which were his name and address at "Wellington," legibly written. The passengers were many of them present, and saw; both captains were also present, and desired to put them in the hold, which was promised and done.

That Captain Bertheau having previously been to New Zealand, and being, as afterwards appeared, aware that masters of vessels are (as your Petitioner is now informed) required, under pain of forfeiture of goods, to make report to the Customs, "so far as any such particulars can be known to him," (and your Petitioner here refers to the Customs Ordinance,) it was his duty to have explained these things to a foreigner, and more especially to have done his duty by reporting them, "so far as was known to him," ere his arrival at his destined port: that this was not your Petitioner's duty: