

Midland District, Jany. 6th, 1812.

(Signed) Jacob Hess, Daniel Wright, Stephen Hess, John Trumpour, and sixty others.

Read, the School Bill, for the second time. Mr. Willcocks, seconded by Mr. Rogers, moved that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the whole on Friday next, to take the same into consideration, which was ordered accordingly.

Read for the second time, the Bill for encouraging the apprehension of Deserters. Mr. Gough, seconded by Mr. Mallory, moved that the House do now resolve itself into a Committee to take into consideration the said Bill. The House accordingly resolved itself into a Committee. Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Howard was called to the chair of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Mr. Howard reported that the Committee had made a progress, and had directed him to ask for leave to sit again on to-morrow. Leave was accordingly granted.

Read, a letter from Alexander McDonell, Esq., a Member representing the County of Glengarry, to His Honor the Speaker, and is in the following words:

York, 8th Sepr., 1811.

Sir,—I feel it is a duty incumbent upon me to state to you, for the information of the Commons House of Assembly, that William Warren Baldwin, Esq., has grossly and flagrantly violated the privileges of that Honorable Body, by issuing, as Deputy Clerk of the Crown, indorsing, and putting into the hands of the Sheriff of the Home District, as Attorney at Law, a Writ, for the purpose of arresting my person, about the fifteenth day of July now past. The Deputy Sheriff (Mr. Hamilton) told Mr. Baldwin, when the latter put the Writ in his hands, that as a Member of the House of Assembly I was privileged from arrest. This Mr. Baldwin denied, and insisted on his complying implicitly with the tenor of the Writ. Mr. Hamilton declined, and referred the circumstance to the decision of the Sheriff, who, being more versant in the duties of his Office than Mr. Baldwin appears to have been in his, declined executing the writ.

This violation of privilege is more unpardonable in Mr. Baldwin than it could possibly be in any other Attorney; for, as Master in Chancery, he is the organ of communication from the Legislative Council to the House of Assembly, and at this late period he has the assurance to deny to the latter branch of the Legislature a privilege which they have already contended for, and which has invariably been admitted. Immaterial to the House that the Writ has not been executed by the Sheriff, Mr. Baldwin put the finishing hand to that part of the transaction which has a reference to his Office as Attorney, and the infraction of privilege is as deeply wounded by his endorsing the Writ as if my person had been taken into custody. To the decision of the House I submit the case, not doubting but that every individual Member will coincide with me in opinion that Mr. Baldwin in his threefold capacity of Deputy Clerk of the Crown, Attorney, and Master in Chancery has violated the privileges of the House of Assembly.

It is painful to me to have again to solicit the indulgence of the House from attendance during the ensuing session, but business of some consequence to me requires my presence in England.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with great respect, Your Most Humble Servant,

The Honorable the Speaker.

ALEXR. McDONELL.