

# EVIDENCE.

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

COMMITTEE ROOM,

*Friday, 9th December, 1831.*

In Committee on the Petition of L. H. Lafontaine, Esquire, one of the Members of this House.

PRESENT :—Messrs. Louis Bourdages, Dumoulin, Duval, Dorion, Lafontaine, Morin, Neilson and Stuart.

Mr. LOUIS BOURDAGES, In the Chair.

Read the order of reference—Read the Petition.

*William Green*, Esquire, Law Clerk of the House, called in, and examined :

Are you the Law Clerk of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada, and for what length of time have you been such, and under what Commission?—I have been Law Clerk of the House since the Session after Mr. Christie ceased to be so, by virtue of Letters Patent under the Great Seal.

Were you examined during the last Session of the Provincial Parliament, as witness before the Standing Committee of Grievances?—Yes; I was.

At what time were you examined before the Committee?—Frequently during the Session, I was examined before the Committee, and chiefly towards the close of the Session. Many questions were sometimes put to me, as I happened to pass through the room on my official business with the Translator's Office.

At what time was your Evidence reduced to writing?—I think there were two occasions on which the pen was taken to reduce to writing what I said.

Who was the person that examined you the time, and who took down your Evidence in writing, and who were the persons present at your examination before the Committee?—I am not certain whether on the first occasion, it was the Clerk of the Committee or one of the Members who reduced to writing what I said; I think there were several Members present, on the second occasion; the persons present, as well as I recollect, upon my coming into the room to be examined, were the late Doctor Labrie and Mr. Lafontaine. I do not recollect there were any other; I think there were not. Mr. Labrie rose to leave the room and asked Mr. Lafontaine to take notes. Some questions were put by Mr. Lafontaine, and I do not recollect whether he minuted the answers or not; perhaps they were not material. Mr. Lafontaine asked me in substance, for I cannot recollect the terms, whether any cases were brought before the King's Bench by the Attorney General, which might be tried before the Quarter Sessions, and the substance of my answers was that the rule followed by the Attorney General was to try before the Court of King's Bench, misdemeanours of the most serious character, and all such misdemeanours generally as were charged to have been committed by persons in custody upon such charges of misdemeanours,