

the course of this investigation, which has now been continued through four Sessions, and during two separate Parliaments, two material witnesses, namely, Dr. Blanchet and a Mr. Pageau, (who were the principle actors in the matters which gave rise to one of the accusations, and could have thrown much light on the motives and conduct of the accuser therein,) have unfortunately been removed by death.—Thus, whilst the Petitioner's means of defence have been weakened, the means of offence of the accuser have been strengthened, by his becoming lately elected a Member of Your Honorable House; so that he is thereby enabled to mingle in all its proceedings, debates and deliberations, and has virtually assumed the character of Informer and Accuser, Conductor and Manager, Witness, Judge and Juror in these accusations. But the Petitioner, relying on his own integrity, and on the wisdom and justice of Your Honorable House, feels no trepidation of mind as to the result of this enquiry, being assured that Your Honorable House will not permit the vindictive passions of any man, especially of a Practitioner of a Court, who complains of the hard conduct of a Judge to him, to establish within its walls, a permanent Court of Inquisition, through which the domestic peace and happiness of an individual may be disturbed, and what is of still more deep and general concern, whereby those entrusted with the administration of justice may be intimidated, and thus prevented from acting conscientiously and fearlessly in the discharge of their public duties.

The Petitioner has only to add, that he has felt himself imperiously called upon to make this application to Your Honorable House, from observing in the public prints, that he has been most unjustly slandered from day to day.

In the Administration of Justice it is a sacred duty to guard the public mind against all endeavours to influence opinion before trial and judgment, and such endeavours are always repressed and punished. Lord Hardwicke, one of the greatest Judges observes, "There may be likewise contempts of the Court in prejudicing mankind against persons before the cause is heard: There cannot be any thing of greater consequence than to keep the streams of justice clear and pure, that parties may proceed with safety both to themselves and their characters."

In this long enquiry into the Petitioner's life and conversation, the public mind has been prejudiced and *empoisoned*, and by such means men must have necessarily been led to condemn him, before Your Honorable House has had it in its power to say whether there is even a reasonable cause to put the Petitioner on his defence. Nor ought he, in these times, to forbear remarking, that should Your Honorable House lend a ready ear to complaints preferred by disappointed Practitioners, (ever disposed to quarrel with Judgments and those who rendered them, when not favorable to their clients,) against persons placed in authority above them, the public justice could not be carried on,—the practising Attornies would virtually become the Judges, without any of the responsibility which belong to them; the administration of justice would be sapped to its foundation, and neither the Petitioner, nor his associate Judges, would be enabled to extend the protection of the Law over the lives, the liberty and the property of His Majesty's Canadian subjects.

May it therefore please Your Honorable House to bring this unparalleled enquiry so begun and persevered in to a speedy termination.

Quebec, January 3d, 1832.