

manner which Jeffrey Lynch, one of her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, insulted and extracted money from the pockets of the People of 60 or 70 of their Neighbours in the Township aforesaid (the exact amount which Jeffrey Lynched at that time I am not able to state being Boarding and Lodging at Her Majesty's expense in those days).

On the Night of the 13th. or the Morning of the 14th. of December, 1837, John Inglis, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, with a body of Armed Men amounting 30 or more, entered our dwelling Houses with fixed Bayonets and Arrested James Benham, Hiram Dowlan, Calvin Lymans, John Butchart, James Peters, William Armstrong and James Parkinson, and took them prisoners to Guelph where the said John Inglis, Esq., promised the Prisoners should have an examination. And he kept his promise with respect to William Armstrong, James Parkinson, Hiram Dowlan and Calvin Lyman, this formal examination took place before His Worship, in presence of Major Young, a leader of an Orange Lodge at Guelph, James Hodgert acting as Clerk on that occasion, said Hodgert also a leading Member of the same lodge, after some delay William Armstrong, Hiram Dowlan, James Parkinson and Calvin Lymans were admitted to Bail and James Benham, John Butchart and James Peters were committed to Gaol without any examination at all. And in my Humble opinion the said John Inglis and Co. Virtually suspended the Habeous Corpus Act in these Arbitrary proceedings 12 days before the House of Assembly met. Benham, Butchart and Peters were taken to Hamilton Gaol, and thrust into the Cells at midnight without either Bed or Blanket, one of the coldest nights ever experienced at that season of the year. They was kept in the Cells until 4 o'clock next day and then removed to the Debtors' Rooms, 3 weeks after James Peters was admitted to Bail in the sum of £250 and two sureties in one hundred pounds each and James Benham and John Butchart were kept 4 Weeks longer although great exertions were made to get them out on Bail, thus it will be seen that James Benham and John Butchart were kept 7 weeks in prison & James Peters 3 also besides 2 weeks each after the Grand Jury found true Bills against them, these three men each was torn from his distracted Wife two of which were left with 9 children each and the other with 5 for an alledged crime of which an Intelligent Jury after eight minutes consultation a part of which time must have been taken up in choosing their Foreman, pronounced them not Guilty.

I shall now proceed to mention one or two of the Causes that in my opinion has had a tendency to involve this Province in this deplorable situation, for if Lord Durham could get at the root of the evil, or find out the cause he would be better able to apply the remedy. It is well known though it was not susceptible of proof at the time, that undue influence was used by the Government to defeat the Reformers when Governor Head dissolved the late House of Assembly because they refused to grant supplies. Sir Francis succeed in his scheme and got such a house as he wanted but in an evil hour this most Intelligent (he said) nay this almost Immaculate House passed a law to violate the British Constitution by holding their seats in case of the demise of the King and for anything we know these same Members may at the coming Session pass another Law for them to keep their seats during their invaluable lives for they had as much right