

Petitions read. Assurance Company; praying for an Act of Incorporation.

Of *Jeffery Hale*, Esquire, and others, Members of the *Quebec British and Canadian School Society*; praying the usual grants in support of the Male and Female departments of the said Institution.

Mr. *Notman* moved, seconded by Mr. *Wetenhall*, and the Question being put, That the Petition of *John Wellington Gwynne*, of the City of *Toronto*, Esquire, complaining of the undue Election and Return of the Honorable *William Cayley* to represent the County of *Huron* in Parliament, be now received.

The House divided; and it was resolved in the Affirmative.

The said Petition was accordingly received and read; setting forth:—That at the last General Election of Members to serve in the House, the Petitioner was a candidate for the representation of the County of *Huron*, qualified to serve as Member thereof during the present Parliament: That *John Macdonald*, Esquire, Sheriff of the *Huron* District, was the Returning Officer at the said Election, and was a supporter of the Honorable *William Cayley*, who was the only other candidate for the representation of the said County, and is now the sitting Member therefor, and the said *John Macdonald*, at the said Election, voted for the said Honorable *William Cayley*: That the said *John Macdonald*, disregarding his duty as such Returning Officer, and the statute in that behalf enacted, did not by warrant under his hand and seal appoint a Deputy, and also a Poll Clerk, for each and every of the Townships within such County, but on the contrary thereof, he the said *John Macdonald*, although being such Returning Officer, did nevertheless issue in blank, signed with his name and sealed with his seal, several of the warrants and precepts required by law to be signed, sealed and executed by him; and he delivered such warrants and precepts respectively, signed with his name, and sealed with his seal of office, as such Returning Officer, without the name of any person therein appointed or named as such Deputy Returning Officer or Poll Clerk, to persons by him the said *John Macdonald* employed to convey such warrants and precepts to several of the Townships in the said County; and each and every such persons so employed were supporters of the said Honorable *William Cayley*, and they were instructed by the said *John Macdonald* to consult with, and they did accordingly consult with divers persons such as they should and did conceive to be favorable to the return of the said Honorable *William Cayley*, and some of such persons with whom they so consulted, and who were supporters of and did subsequently vote for the said Honorable *William Cayley*, did, with the view of promoting and advancing the said Honorable *William Cayley*'s chance of success at such Election, nominate, and with their own hands insert in such warrants and precepts so respectively as aforesaid signed and sealed in blank by the said Returning Officer, the names of several of the Deputy Returning Officers and Poll Clerks who took the Poll at several of the Townships in the said County, and who were known to be agents of the said Honorable *William Cayley*, and to have taken part in endeavouring to secure his return; and several of the persons so employed by the said Returning Officer to convey such warrants and precepts as aforesaid, did fill up such warrants and precepts respectively in their own hands and at their own suggestion, and at the suggestion of others whom they respectively knew to be favorable to the return of the said Honorable *William Cayley*, with the names of persons who were known to be partisans of or favorable to the return of the said Honorable *William Cayley*: That *David Clarke*, Esquire, a Justice of the Peace and Deputy Re-

turning Officer of the Township of *Colborne*, in the said County, at the said Election, was a member of the said Honorable *William Cayley*'s Committee formed to secure his return, and the said *David Clarke* acted as the agent of the said Honorable *William Cayley*, and as a member of such his Committee, both before and during the said Election; and after having, as Deputy Returning Officer at the said Election, sworn in two special Constables to keep the peace at the taking of the Poll in the said Township, he the said Deputy Returning Officer acting for and on behalf of and as the agent of and as a member of the Committee of the said Honorable *William Cayley*, sent one of the said special Constables, so sworn in as aforesaid, with the sleigh of him the said *David Clarke* which said sleigh was engaged by the said Honorable *William Cayley*'s said Committee, at his expense, to bring up voters to the Poll in the said Township, who should agree to vote for the said Honorable *William Cayley*, and the said *David Clarke* so being such Deputy Returning Officer, gave special instructions to the said Constable, so sworn in as aforesaid, to bring up none but persons who should agree to vote for the said Honorable *William Cayley*, and the said Constable did accordingly, in pursuance of such instructions, go out for, collect, and bring in, a large number of voters, who polled their votes for the said Honorable *William Cayley* in the said Township, although they otherwise would not have done so: That *John Hawkins*, the Deputy Returning Officer of the Township of *Ashfield*, was a partisan and agent of the said Honorable *William Cayley*, and, as the Petitioner believes, a member of the Committee appointed to secure his return; that as such Deputy Returning Officer, he refused, although requested by the agent of the Petitioner, to administer the oaths required by law to be taken by voters at the election of Members to serve in the House; and his object in so doing was to suffer, as he in fact did thereby suffer, to be polled many illegal votes for the said Honorable *William Cayley*; that the said *John Hawkins*, during the taking of the Poll in the said Township, acted as the agent of the said Honorable *William Cayley*; and the said *John Hawkins*, although such Deputy Returning Officer, when a vote was given in favor of the said Honorable *William Cayley*, cheered and applauded the party so voting in an audible manner, and so as to influence other parties present at the place of taking such Poll for the purpose of registering their votes; and to such an extent did the said Deputy Returning Officer exhibit his partiality at the said Election, and use his influence in favor of the said Honorable *William Cayley*, that he ordered and compelled the Poll Clerk at the Election in the said Township, to record the vote of one *Aaron Wright* in favor of the said Honorable *William Cayley*, although the said *Aaron Wright* gave his vote for, and clearly expressed his intention to the said Deputy Returning Officer, of giving his vote for the Petitioner; that such the conduct of the said *John Hawkins* at the said Election, had the effect of inducing, and did induce many persons to vote for the said Honorable *William Cayley* who previously had expressed their intention to vote, and otherwise would have voted for the Petitioner: That the Deputy Returning Officer of the Township of *Logan* was a partisan and agent of the said Honorable *William Cayley*; that he did not keep his Poll open according to law, but illegally closed and abandoned the same, for the purpose of enabling him to, as he in fact did, go out and canvass for, and act as the agent of and scrutineer for the said Honorable *William Cayley* in the adjoining Townships, in bringing up voters for the said Honorable *William Cayley*, to the Poll in such Townships, and in investigating the right to vote of per-

Petitions read.