

No. 48.
Petition of
Electors of
Borough of
William
Henry, 4th
December,
1828.

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House of Assembly, Lower Canada.

December 4th, 1828.

William Henry Election; Petition of Electors.

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A Petition of divers Electors of the Borough of William Henry, whose names are thereunto subscribed, was presented to the House by Mr. Stuart, and the same was received and read; setting forth: That on the twenty-fifth day of July in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, a 10 Poll was legally opened by Henry Crehassa, Esquire, Returning Officer, for the Election of a Burgess to serve as the Representative of the said Borough of William Henry, in the Provincial Assembly; James Stuart and Wolfred Nelson, Esquires, having offered themselves as Candidates: That although the said James Stuart was afterwards elected by a majority of legal votes, yet an apparent and colourable majority in favour of the said Wolfred Nelson, to the exclusion of the said James Stuart, was obtained by the admission of unqualified persons to vote, by various corrupt, illegal, criminal and un- 20 warrantable means and practices destructive of the right of Election in the persons legally qualified to be Electors, and subversive of the constitutional franchise, rights and privileges of the Petitioners and of the whole body of Electors: That the Petitioners, as well in consideration of the justice due to the person who has been the object of their choice, as from regard to their own rights which have been grossly violated, deem it to be their duty to resist and oppose the illegal Return of the said Wolfred Nelson, and having recourse to the House for their interference, pray leave succinctly to represent the principal 30 facts and grounds on which the said Return is to be considered an undue Return, and as being null and void in law: That many votes were given in favour of the said Wolfred Nelson, by persons without any qualification whatever, and whose want of qualification was even apparent on their own statements; such persons having been induced to vote and even to take the oaths to entitle them to do so, by criminal solicitations, and by assurances pressed upon them, before the Returning Officer himself, that they would incur no harm from such conduct, and that they would be guaranteed and indemnified by the said Wolfred 40 Nelson and his partisans against all consequences: That the votes of women, married, unmarried, and in a state of widowhood, were illegally received for the said Wolfred Nelson, although the illegality of such votes was strenuously urged by the said James Stuart, and notwithstanding the opposition made