

To the Honorable Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the Province of Upper Canada in their Legislative Capacity assembled.

The Petition of the Undersigned, Inhabitants of the District of Newcastle, respectfully Sheweth:

That by an Act, passed in the forty-seventh year of His Majesty's reign, the sum of One Hundred Pounds was granted to establish a Public School, to be opened in the Township of Hamilton:

That Your Petitioners find the said appropriation to be entirely useless to the inhabitants of this District in general.

Wherefore Your Petitioners pray that the said Acts of the forty-seventh and forty-eighth years of His Majesty's reign may be repealed, and that such other provision may be made to encourage Common Schools throughout this District as to you in your wisdom may seem meet.

And, as in duty bound, they will ever pray.

(Signed) Richard Lovekin, Asa Burnham, Leonard Soper, Alexr. Fletcher, and forty-eight others.

Hamilton, 12th August, 1811.

The Petition of the Inhabitants of the Midland District was then read as follows:

To the Honorable Legislative Council and House of Assembly of the Province of Upper Canada in Provincial Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the Subscribers, Inhabitants of the Midland District, humbly Sheweth:

That Your Petitioners, without presuming to dictate to Your Honorable Body, feel themselves bound in duty to state that the Act passed in the forty-seventh year of His Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act to establish Public Schools in each and every District of this Province," which, by the repeal of its limitation, was rendered perpetual by the Act passed in the forty-eighth year of His Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act to amend an Act, passed in the forty-seventh year of His Majesty's reign, intituled 'An Act to establish Public Schools in each and every District of this Province,'" is found by experience not to answer the end for which it was designed.

Its object, it is presumed, was to promote the education of our youth in general, but a little acquaintance with the facts must convince every unbiassed mind that it has contributed little or nothing to the promotion of so laudable a design. By reason of the place of instruction being established at one end of the District, and the sum demanded for tuition in addition to the annual compensation received from the public, most of the people are unable to avail themselves of the advantages contemplated by the Institution. A few wealthy inhabitants, and those of the Town of Kingston reap exclusively the benefit of it in this District. The institution, instead of aiding the middling and poorer class of His Majesty's subjects, casts money into the lap of the rich, who are sufficiently able, without public assistance, to support a school in every respect equal to the one established by law. Your Petitioners forbear adducing any more facts to verify their representations. They cannot be persuaded that you will continue in force an Act proved by a fair experiment to be so partial in its operation, and so little calculated to effect the contemplated objects. Wherefore they pray that so much of the last mentioned Act as repealed the limitation of the Act first above mentioned may be repealed, and such provisions made in the premises as may be conducive to public utility.

Your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.