

Petition from Shoolbred on election.

That Petitioners have by the holding of the last election only at *New Carlisle* been prevented from fully expressing their sense in the choice of a representative of this county, and been thereby virtually disfranchised; the distance between the place of their residence and *New Carlisle* being upwards of sixty miles.

That by law the places of holding the elections for the county of *Bonaventure* invariably were *New Carlisle* and *Carleton*, (the latter place being but eight to twelve miles distant from *Shoolbred*) and believing that the same reasons, viz. the facility of the inhabitants, which induced the Legislature of *Lower Canada* to fix these polls at the settlements, would also incline the Executive to cause the same to be holden thereat, relied thereupon, and were taken by surprise on learning that the election was to be held at *New Carlisle* only, and thereby defeated of their rights.

Petitioners believe the abuse to have been with the intention to defeat the majority of the county in expressing their sense at the late election, as in fact it has, and that the same is an electoral fraud of the most palpable and daring character.

Petitioners therefore pray that effectual measures be adopted to prevent a recurrence of the abuse and fraud whereof they complain, and also beg respectfully to suggest that it would materially contribute to the public good, if the polls at all public elections for the county were held at the different chief settlements thereof, beginning at the mission on the *Ristigouche* and ending at *Port Daniel*.

*Ordered*—That the said petition do lie upon the table.

Petition from Bonaventure complaining of the election of John Robinson Hamilton.

A Petition of divers Freeholders and Inhabitants of the county of *Bonaventure*, was presented to the House by Mr. Christie and the same was received and read, setting forth—

That the late election of a representative for this county, to serve in this House, has been characterised by unprecedented violence and corruption, and the return of *John Robinson Hamilton*, to a seat in the same, carried by illegal and undue means, by bribery in several instances, by threats in others, and by opening houses of public entertainment in the neighbourhood of the hustings, and in several other places, in which ardent and intoxicating liquors were gratuitously given by the said *John Robinson Hamilton*, or others for him, and in his interests, for voting, and for procuring votes towards securing his election.

That independent of the above the by far greater mass of the electors of the county have been deprived of the opportunity of voting, at the said election and virtually disfranchised; the place (*New Carlisle*) appointed for holding the said election being at one extremity and in the less populous part of the county, distant ten to thirty leagues from the denser and upper settlement of it.

That by law, the places of election heretofore for the said county were established at *New Carlisle* and at *Carleton*, settlements, forty-five miles a part; but that on the late occasion the law was dispensed with and the election appointed to be at *New Carlisle* only, by which means the majority of the county have not been consulted in the choice of a representative but precluded from voting at the said election as if they had no concern or interest in it.

That although it is notorious to the public that the most flagrant and open corruption had been employed to procure the return of the said *John Robinson Hamilton*, the distance of the county from the seat of the Legislature will render it difficult to prove such bribery, corruption and undue influence on the part of the said *John Robinson Hamilton*, or of his friends, unless this Honorable Body can afford them an opportunity of examining, within the county, those residing therein, cognizant of the facts.