

so recorded in favor of the said *Robert Baldwin* were thrown away and lost, and could not legally and rightfully be taken notice of by the Returning Officer—and that the said *Robert Baldwin* could not be thereupon legally returned, or elected; for all which reasons the Petitioners pray that the Return in favor of the said *Robert Baldwin* as the Member for the said County of *Hastings* may not be received, but that this Honorable House will be pleased, so to amend the return, or cause it to be amended, as to declare the said *Edmund Murney* the Member for the said County of *Hastings*; or otherwise that this Honorable House will, for the reasons aforesaid, and in consequence of the disqualification of the said *Robert Baldwin*, by reason of the premises, hold, declare, and determine the said Election so had for the said County of *Hastings* on the said 22d day of March, and the days then next ensuing as herein before mentioned, and all proceedings thereupon had, to have been and to be utterly null and void, and of none effect, and that the seat for the said County of *Hastings* in this House, by reason of the return of a disqualified person, is vacant and unfilled.

Hastings Election
Petition.

Petitioners beg leave further to represent that the said *Robert Baldwin* should not be the Member for the said County of *Hastings*, because, contrary to Law, and contrary to the Constitution, intimidation, to an alarming extent, was practised against the freeholders who supported the said *Edmund Murney*, Esq. in manner following, that is to say: that he the aforesaid *Robert Baldwin*, and the Committee, who maintained his canvas, and who supported him during the said Election for the said County of *Hastings*, in violation of the Constitution, in breach of the Peace, and with a view to the suppression of the voices or votes of a large body of the Electors of the said County of *Hastings*, and for the purpose of intimidating and keeping back from the Poll the said last mentioned Electors, and contrary to Law, did make use of, and for certain reward, hire, and did maintain and keep, during the said Election, for the said County of *Hastings*, at or near the Hustings, or polling place, where the votes were recorded by the Returning Officer, a large body of armed shanty-men, bullies, and ruffians, armed with bludgeons, clubs, and sticks, and other offensive weapons, not being freeholders of the said County of *Hastings*; and the Petitioners do further respectfully represent that the said body of men so there maintained and kept as aforesaid, were secretly encouraged by the said *Robert Baldwin* and by his Committee, with his advice, to behave and conduct themselves, and that they did behave and conduct themselves, in a noisy, riotous, and brutal manner, using threatening language and gestures towards the freeholders who came to record their votes in favor of the said *Edmund Murney*, and that they did push back, lay violent hands on, and abuse the said last mentioned freeholders, and that many of the said last mentioned freeholders were forced and obliged to, and did, for the maintenance of the peace, and for the preservation of their lives and limbs, and as the only method by which they could record their votes, feign and assume to be voters for the said *Robert Baldwin*, and that then, and not till then, they were permitted by the said shanty-men, bullies, and ruffians to approach the said Hustings, and having so feigned themselves to be voters for the said *Robert Baldwin*, were violently pushed and passed from hand to hand by the said shanty-men, bullies, and ruffians, in and towards the said Hustings or polling place; and the Petitioners further respectfully represent that thereby many of the said last mentioned freeholders, who were personally known to the said shanty-men, bullies, and ruffians, or to some of them, as supporters of the said *Edmund Murney*, were forced back and deterred from voting, and that thereby the said *Edmund Murney*, Esquire, lost the support of a large number of the said last mentioned freeholders, for which last mentioned reasons, petitioners pray that the return in favor of the said *Robert*