

house, that if a dispute had arisen respecting the true boundary of the property of a British subject, the substitution of a military force to decide the question of right, and remove by force of arms the peaceable possessor, in defiance of, and unknown to the civil authority, would have been a high breach of the rights of the freeholders of the Province, whose privileges, your honorable house is always watching over with the utmost vigilance: that throwing down, by means of British soldiers, and destroying the offices and fences of your petitioner's estate, wantonly exposing the fruits of the earth and growing crops to waste, and attempting to eject him from off his property, without any process of the civil law, and for the ostensible purpose of getting possession of a reserve not wanted, and about the location of which, from his several measurements, the officer of Engineers, evidently was at a loss, and which was then leased to and consequently under the control of Mr. Swayze; committing those acts by the means of a band of hired soldiers, in a country not under martial law, by command of (as your petitioner expects to prove) a military officer, who was himself under the orders of a British Major General, is a daring and unprovoked encroachment upon the privileges of a people unfitted for enduring slavery, and forasmuch as the orderly book and other evidence will go far to prove, that the said acts of lawless military violence were done and committed by the express command, and at the direct instigation of Major General Sir Peregrine Maitland, commanding His Majesty's forces, sent here to guard us against all oppression and tyranny:

Your petitioner humbly prays your honorable house to watch over and protect the rights of the people from the encroachment of military power, and that you enquire as speedily as may conveniently be, into the circumstances attending his case, and if it shall appear that the allegations contained in this petition are true, that such representations may be made to His Majesty's Government in England by a safe channel, concerning the said transactions, as will ensure to your petitioner that redress to which he as a British subject is entitled, and which, as has already been shewn, he cannot obtain in the courts of this province; but which your honorable house is at all times very anxious to obtain for petitioners, who repose confidence in your wisdom, honor, and integrity.—And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray:

WILLIAM FORSYTH.

*Niagara Falls. Pavilion, 21st January, 1828.*