

Petition of inhabitants
of Rouville—(Rouville
election)

mothé Franchère, Esq., who at the adjournment of the Poll on *Wednesday* evening, was in the majority, should have been returned, or cause the election to be annulled and afford an opportunity to the county freely to elect the person of its choice.

In the latter case Petitioners pray that the House would adopt such measures as in its wisdom may seem fit, to prevent the occurrence of similar scenes; otherwise they must cease to exercise their Elective Franchise or go armed to resist, with effect, any attempt that may be made to interfere with them in the exercise of their constitutional rights.

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

Petition of T. Franchère
against return of
M. A. De Salaberry

A petition of *Timothé Franchère* of the parish of *St. Mathias* in the district of *Montreal*, Merchant, was presented to the House by Mr. *Quesnel*, and the same was received and read setting forth.—

That an election was held on *Monday*, the eighth day of *March* last, at the village of *Henryville*, in the county of *Rouville*, by *Hiram Hitchcock*, Returning Officer, duly appointed by Her Majesty's writ, for the purpose of choosing a member to represent the said county of *Rouville*, in the Assembly of the Province. That the candidates at the said election were *M. A. De Salaberry*, Esquire, of the parish of *Chambly*, in the said district, and the Petitioner. That after the preliminary forms being gone through, the Petitioner having in his favor a show of hands, a poll was demanded by the supporters of the said *M. A. De Salaberry*, which demand being then granted, the said Returning Officer began to take the votes of the electors, and continued so to do on that day without interruption.— That on *Tuesday*, the second day of the poll, the majority in favor of petitioner was rapidly increasing; but that against the peace, and contrary to the writ of Her Majesty, a number of persons, supporters of the said *M. A. De Salaberry*, were seen in the poll-house, armed with clubs, staves, and other offensive weapons, preventing, by violent threats and menaces, the supporters of petitioner from giving their votes in his favour. That at the close of the poll the second day, petitioner's majority being then about one hundred and fifty votes, the supporters of his opponent, armed with clubs, staves, and other offensive weapons, made a violent and brutal attack upon petitioner's supporters, and compelled them to leave the place. That on *Wednesday*, the third day of the said poll, the supporters of the said *M. A. De Salaberry* were seen coming to the poll in double sleighs, eight or ten persons in each, bearing flags, and armed with clubs, staves, and other offensive weapons, and that at the adjournment of the poll at one o'clock in the afternoon, petitioner had yet a majority of one hundred and twenty-one votes. That on returning to the poll at two o'clock P.M. on *Wednesday* aforesaid, petitioner and the great number of electors accompanying him, unarmed and inoffensive, were violently attacked by a number of riotous individuals, armed with clubs, staves, and other offensive weapons, supporting the said *M. A. De Salaberry*, and that several of petitioner's supporters were grievously wounded, one of whom, an individual of the name of *Julien Choquet*, afterwards died of the wounds so received at the said election, and that these violators of the law, unsatisfied with this perpetration, pursued the electors supporting petitioner, and prevented them from coming near the poll and giving their votes in favor of petitioner. That several of these men, so armed with clubs, staves, and other offensive weapons, came into the poll-house, in the presence of the Returning Officer, and during the polling hours, threatening the lives of the electors supporting petitioner, and were neither arrested nor reproved in any way, but on the contrary, were allowed to remain undisturbed, and by those means tacitly protected, although pointed out by the said electors, claiming from the Returning Officer, his official