

Hastings Election  
petition

five subsequent days, for the purpose of choosing one discreet and proper person to represent the said County of *Hastings* in Parliament.

That the Candidates were, The Honorable *Robert Baldwin*, of the City of *Toronto*, and *Edmund Murney*, Esquire, of the aforesaid Town of *Belleville*.

That on *Saturday*, the 27th day of *March*, 1841, the Returning officer declared the said Honorable *Robert Baldwin* duly elected, because it appeared from the names taken on Record that the said *Robert Baldwin* had a majority of Thirty-six Votes, he, the Returning Officer, having refused a scrutiny demanded by the said *Edmund Murney*, Esquire, who declared that he had a majority of the legal votes polled.

That a protest was duly entered against the return made in favor of the said *Robert Baldwin*, upon various grounds, and the Petitioners now beg that their humble petition, together with the said protest may be taken into consideration by this Honorable House, and dealt with accordingly.

Petitioners beg leave to represent, that the said Honorable *Robert Baldwin* should not be the Member for the said County of *Hastings*, because it is contrary to all precedent, contrary to law and contrary to the constitution, that any person should be a Candidate for the Representation of a Town, County or Riding, who has previously been elected for any Town, County or Riding, and the said *Robert Baldwin* having, on the Eighth day of *March* last, attended as a Candidate at the Hustings, at the place appointed in the fourth Riding of the County of *York*, in the Province of *Canada*, by the Returning officer for the said fourth Riding of the County of *York*, for the purpose of choosing one discreet and proper person to represent the said fourth Riding of *York* in Parliament, and there he the said *Robert Baldwin* addressed the Electors of the said fourth Riding of *York* and solicited their suffrages, and was in consequence, by them elected to Represent the said fourth Riding of *York*, and was therefore returned duly elected by the Returning Officer of the said fourth Riding of *York*; from all of which facts, which they are ready and willing to establish before this Honorable House, it is clear, and evident, that the said *Robert Baldwin* was elected Member of the said fourth Riding, and could not therefore either according to precedent, or according to law, or according to the constitution, become a Candidate for any other Town, County or Riding, he not having previously resigned his seat, for which he was elected, and yet the Petitioners most respectfully represent that notwithstanding all these facts the said *Robert Baldwin* did, contrary to precedent, contrary to law and contrary to the constitution, on the 22d day of *March* in the year of our Lord, 1841, present himself at the Hustings in the County of *Hastings* aforesaid, being the day appointed as aforesaid to hold the Elections, for the purpose of choosing, one discreet and proper person, to represent the said County of *Hastings* in Parliament, and there he the said *Robert Baldwin* addressed the Electors, and solicited their votes, whereas from the fact of his having been before elected and returned, and being then at the time, that is to say on the said 22d day of *March*, actually the Representative of the said fourth Riding of the County of *York*, he the said *Robert Baldwin* was ineligible to become a Candidate, because thereby the due and proper number of the Representatives of this Province was lessened and diminished, and one voice taken therefrom, and that the votes recorded in favor of the said *Robert Baldwin*, were recorded in favor of a person, who, being already returned as a Member of this Honorable House, by another and different constituency, was disqualified from receiving them; and whose previous return for the said fourth Riding of the County of *York*, was a valid and sufficient, and legal notice to the Electors of the said County of *Hastings*, that the votes