

TOWN OF *THREE RIVERS*.*James Dickson*, Returning Officer.

"I, the undersigned *James Dickson*, Esquire, of the Town of *Three Rivers*, Returning Officer duly appointed by Commission under the hand and seal at arms of His Excellency the Right Honorable *James*, Earl of *Elgin* and *Kincardine*, Governor General of British *North America*, and Governor in Chief of the Provinces of *Canada*, *Nova Scotia*, &c., bearing date at the Government House, in the City of *Montreal*, in the said Province of *Canada*, the sixth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, do hereby certify and return as follows: that on the thirteenth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and forty-seven, I received a writ of summons for the election of one Member or Representative to serve the said Town of *Three Rivers*, in the Legislative Assembly of the said Province of *Canada*; that on the said thirteenth day of December, I took and subscribed before a Magistrate, according to law, the oath, number one, in the Schedule annexed to the Act 5th *George* 4th, cap. 33; that after having given public notice, agreeably to the said Act, that on the twenty-ninth day of December last, I would proceed to the said election, I attended the same day at the place fixed for that purpose, and that *Antoine Polette* and *Pierre Benjamin Dumoulin*, Esquires, were named candidates; and that a Poll being demanded according to law, I did grant the same, make proclamation, and give notice, that on Monday and Tuesday the third and fourth of January instant, the Poll for the said Election would be taken in the said Town of *Three Rivers*, at the place by me fixed for that purpose, according to law; that on Monday the third day of January instant, according to my said proclamation and notice, the Poll for the said Election was opened and taken, at which the said *Antoine Polette* and *Pierre Benjamin Dumoulin*, Esquires, were present with their supporters; that about ten of the clock in the forenoon of the same day, one *François Pichette*, belonging to Mr. *Dumoulin's* party, having, under my own view, committed a breach of the peace, and endeavoured to prevent an Elector from giving his vote in favor of Mr. *Polette*, I immediately issued a warrant of commitment to commit him to prison until the final close of the said Election; which warrant I

"put into the hands of the High Constable of the District of *Three Rivers*, (whose assistance I had commanded with that of all the Constables of the Town, as I was credibly informed before the said day, that the supporters of Mr. *Dumoulin* intended to take forcible possession of the Poll,) with order to execute it instantly; that, in obedience to the said warrant, the High Constable apprehended the said *François Pichette*, who was rescued by Mr. *Dumoulin's* party, and that the said warrant could not be executed, my authority being put at defiance by Mr. *Dumoulin's* party; that notwithstanding I continued to poll the votes until half-past four of the clock in the afternoon, when I adjourned the Poll until nine of the clock of the following morning by consent of the parties; that on the fourth instant, at nine of the clock in the forenoon, according to my adjournment of the day previous, the Poll was opened and taken, and I continued to take the votes, notwithstanding the disturbances caused, and the polling repeatedly interrupted by Mr. *Dumoulin's* party, until about three of the clock in the afternoon, when a voter was violently dragged by Mr. *Dumoulin's* party from the Poll Booth while in the act of voting for Mr. *Polette*, and knocked down at a short distance from the Poll, by one of Mr. *Dumoulin's* party; that about half an hour after, they, the supporters of Mr. *Dumoulin*, hearing that a voter was coming to vote for Mr. *Polette*, took forcible possession of the Poll Booth, and that it appeared to me that it was impossible for any of Mr. *Polette's* voters to come near the Poll Booth to tender their votes; that Mr. *Polette* then withdrew under protest entered in the Poll Book, and that perceiving that it was impossible to continue the Election according to law, I discontinued polling the votes, closed the Poll, and withdrew; being also in bodily fear from the violence manifested by Mr. *Dumoulin's* supporters. And for the above recited reasons I did not proclaim either party elected. I also return the Protest hereunto annexed, served upon me by Mr. *Polette*, and three freeholders of the Town.

(Signed,) "JAMES DICKSON,
"Returning Officer."

To *Wm. B. Lindsay*, Esquire,
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

FELIX FORTIER,
C. C. C.