

SECOND REPORT

OF THE

Committee of Grievances.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

COMMITTEE ROOM,

Wednesday, 16th March, 1831.

PRESENT—Messrs. *Bedard, Neilson, Louis Bourdages, Duval, Labrie and Heney.*

Mr. BEDARD in the Chair:

YOUR COMMITTEE appointed to take into consideration and Report their opinions and observations on all questions which might arise in the House and be referred to them, relating to Grievances and Petitions of Grievances, and to whom were referred the Petitions of divers Inhabitants of the City of Montreal, complaining of the conduct of James Stuart Esquire, Attorney General of this Province, presented to the House on the eighteenth March one thousand eight hundred and thirty, and the Report of the Special Committee thereon, of the twentieth day of the said month of March; and other references: have agreed to the following Report which they have the honor of submitting to your Honourable House.

REPORT of Your Committee upon the Petition of divers Inhabitants of the City of Montreal, complaining of the conduct of James Stuart, Esquire, Attorney General for this Province:

Your Committee, sensible of the importance attached to the complaints preferred by that Petition, against a high Public Functionary, have given them most mature consideration; and it now becomes the duty of Your Committee state to your Honourable House, that the facts that have given rise to those complaints, and of which the greater part being facts of public notoriety, formed a portion of the investigation made by a Committee of this House in 1829, have been anew verified before your Committee.

It has been proved that, without having any regard to the injustice of subjecting individuals, before their trial to a longer detention than that to which they would have been sentenced upon being convicted of the crimes of which they were accused; without fearing to degrade the office he filled in the eyes of the public, by the suspicion which must fall upon him, of having been instigated in the performance of his duty by motives of self-interest of a pecuniary nature, instead of motives of justice; the Attorney General has, for several years, persisted in prosecuting before the Superior Criminal Courts of the District of Montreal, persons accused of minor offences, for which, in conformity with the practice followed at Queb