

attacks on Boulton and the Government as they were in obtaining relief for Randall.

In the session of 1828, on the eve of a General Election for the Assembly, Randall introduced his first petition for relief. A special committee to enquire into the complaints set forth in his petition was appointed, composed of B. C. Beardsley, the senior member of the Law Society, Hon. John B. Robinson, the Attorney General, Mr. M. S. Bidwell, Dr. John Rolph, who had defended Randall when he had been tried for perjury in 1825, and Capt. John Matthews.

John Beverley Robinson was the leader of the Tory Party and a warm and intimate friend of the Solicitor General, Henry John Boulton. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Beardsley, was of moderate views and not prominent in any of the controversies which agitated the public mind at this period. The other three members were strong active and vigorous Reformers. Rolph and Bidwell were leaders of the Party. Capt. John Matthews made up in bitterness what he lacked in ability. He was a retired army officer and had been in receipt of a pension. In 1825 he shed his Tory clothing and espoused the Reform cause. On the New Years Eve of 1826, at a convivial gathering, he had loudly called on the orchestra to play "Yankee Doodle" and "Hail Columbia" to the great scandal of the ultra loyal Tories then present. For this he was ordered to leave the Province, and on his refusal his pension was stopped.

The Committee sat for several days examining witnesses. Evidence was given in regard to the circumstances attending the giving of the promissory note for £25, to Boulton immediately before Randall's case had been called at Niagara. An effort was made to show that Boulton had obtained it fraudulently and that the sale of the lot was not properly advertised and was sold at much below its value. Much evidence was also given dealing with the method by which Boulton obtained the judgment against Randall. The Committee in due course made its report to the Assembly reviewing the facts in connection with the giving of the promissory note, and the mortgage, the obtaining of the judgment, the sale and the subsequent efforts of Randall in the Courts. The closing paragraphs of their report were as follows:—