

ting forth ; That the Petitioner together with *Lawrence Hartshorne, James Stewart, Charles Morris, James Fulton, Edward Mortimer, and William Cotnam Tonge, Esquires*, were Candidates at the last Election for four Members to serve in *General Assembly* for the County of *Halifax*. The Poll for which Election, was opened on Monday the 18th Day of *November*, in the Town of *Halifax*, and having been removed to *Onslow and Piñou*, was closed at the last mentioned Place on the 13th *December 1799*. That at the Close of the said Poll the Numbers of the Votes as they stood on the Sheriffs Books, were as follows, *Edward Mortimer 1077 ; James Fulton 1001 ; Charles Morris 1000 ; Michael Wallace 888 ; James Stewart 627 ; Lawrence Hartshorne 605 ; William Cotnam Tonge, 1257*. The Petitioner having the fifth greatest Number of Votes. That at the opening of the Poll at *Halifax* an objection was publickly made by one of the Candidates to the eligibility of the said *William Cotnam Tonge*, by reason of his not having the Qualification in point of Property required by the Laws of the Province ; and at the Close of the Poll at *Piñou*, the Petitioner protested against the Sheriff returning the said *William Cotnam Tonge*, duly elected ; it being notorious that the said *William Cotnam Tonge*, had not any Freehold Estate in said County ; That notwithstanding these Proceedings, the said *William Cotnam Tonge*, has been returned as one of the Representatives for the County of *Halifax*, although, as the Petitioner now begs leave to set forth to this Honorable House, the said *William Cotnam Tonge*, hath not within the said County an Income of Forty Shillings per Annum in Freehold Estate ; or a Dwelling House, whereon the same stands ; or 100 Acres of Land whereof five Acres are cultivated ; or any other Freehold Estate to qualify him to be elected for said County ; which fact was well known to the Freeholders of said County, so that the Votes given for the said *William Cotnam Tonge*, under the Circumstances herein stated, were of no force or effect, and the Petitioner having the next greatest Number of Votes was duly elected, and ought to have been returned ; and praying the House would take the Premises into Consideration, and grant him such Relief as shall appear to be just.

A Petition of *Andrew Belcher, of Halifax Merchant*, was presented by Mr. *Moody*, and read, setting forth, That *William Cochran, Esquire ; John George Pyke, Esquire*, and the Petitioner, were Candidates at the last Election of Representatives to serve in *General Assembly*, for the Township of *Halifax*, which election took place on Monday the 18th Day of *November* last. That the Poll was kept open for the Space of six Days, and notwithstanding the Petitioner had a Majority of legal Votes at the Close thereof, the Sheriff of the County of *Halifax* did return Mr. *Cochran*, and Mr. *Pyke*, duly elected. That the said Sheriff received and entered upon the Poll Book for the other two Candidates a Number of Votes which he should have rejected, in consequence of which, the Votes so received, were in Number as follows for Mr. *Cochran 404*, for Mr. *Pyke 346*, and for the Petitioner *343*. That each and every day during the Continuance of the said Poll, the said Petitioner did at the time of holding the Poll, except to divers Persons as not being duly qualified to Vote, and his Exceptions were marked by the Sheriff on the Poll Book, at the respective times they were made, and entered in the Cheque Book of the Petitioner. That the Petitioner on Saturday at the Close of the Poll, demanded a Scrutiny upon the Votes he had excepted to, and a similar demand was made by Mr. *Pyke*, upon Votes to which he also had made Exceptions. That on the Monday following Mr. *Pyke*, and the Petitioner persisting in their Demand, a Scrutiny did accordingly take place, and the Sheriff by his Deputy did proceed therein, that the said Scrutiny lasted four Days, and the Sheriff as the Petitioner has been informed, has returned his Proceedings upon the said Scrutiny to this House, to be by them adjudged and determined on. That the Petitioner humbly conceives that it will appear to the House upon an Examination of the said Proceedings, to which he begs leave to refer them, that he has a great Majority of legal Votes upon the scrutinized or revised Poll ; and praying that the Name of Mr. *Pyke* may be erased from the said Return, and the Petitioners inserted, or that he may have such other Relief as to the House may seem meet.

A Petition of *Robert Fitz Randolph of Annapolis Esquire*, was presented by Mr. *Millidge*.