

Friday, 16th May, 1856.

Committee met,—

MEMBERS PRESENT :

JAMES MOIR FERRES, Esquire,
(*Chairman.*)

Mr. Stevenson,
Mr. Masson,

Mr. Sanborn,—4.

The Hon. Mr. Macdonald and Mr. Brown were present.

Robert Bell, Esquire, a Member of the House, examined by Mr. Brown :

Ques. 800. Were you a Member of Parliament, and in attendance at the sittings of the House of Assembly, during the sessions of 1849, 1850, and 1851 ?—Ans. I was.

Ques. 801. Do you recollect of the Hon. J. A. Macdonald moving, in the House of Assembly, in the sessions of 1850 and 1851, to refer to a Select Committee, the petition of Mr. Henry Smith, Senior, complaining of the mode of proceeding adopted towards him by the Penitentiary Commissioners, and the debates that ensued thereon ?—Ans. I do.

Ques. 802. Did you, on both of these occasions, vote against the motion of Mr. Macdonald ?—Ans. Yes, I think I did.

Ques. 803. Were you on terms of personal friendship with Mr. Brown ? Was your vote in any manner influenced by him ? Did he apply to you to vote against the appointment of a Committee ?—Ans. I was on friendly terms with Mr. Brown, but my vote was not in the slightest degree influenced by that friendship. Mr. Brown did not ask me to vote against the appointment of the Committee.

Ques. 804. Were the charges preferred in Mr. Smith's petition, and urged by Mr. Macdonald in his speeches, on moving for its reference, aimed at the Commissioners generally, or at Mr. Brown alone ?—Ans. I think Mr. Macdonald's charges were against the Commissioners generally ; from the great length of time, I can only state what my impressions are.

Ques. 805. Did Mr. Macdonald then profess to make any statement on his own personal knowledge, or did he avowedly rest his whole case on the authority of Mr. Smith ?—Ans. So far as I can recollect, the whole case was based on Mr. Smith's petition.

Ques. 806. A copy of Mr. Smith's petition being put into the hands of witness, he is asked if there is one charge in it against Mr. Brown individually, if he is even once named in it ?—Ans. I do not see his name mentioned.

Ques. 807. Were the charges preferred against the Commissioners in 1850 and 1851, at all of the same character as those launched at Mr. Brown by the Attorney General West, in the House of Assembly, in the debates of February last, and referred to this Committee ?—Ans. The charges now made are against Mr. Brown personally ; In 1850 and 1851 they were, I think, against the Commissioners generally. The charges now made seem to be of a different character.

(*Witness withdrew.*)

Mr. Brown closed his examination of Mr. Bell.

The Committee adjourned until ten o'clock, A. M., to-morrow.