

James Graham
J. P. and
others.

Mr. W. Wilson brought up the petition of James Graham, J. P. and four hundred and thirty-nine others, inhabitants of the County of Norfolk, in the London District; which was laid on the table.

Robert Stanton,
Esq.

Mr. Jarvis brought up the petition of Robert Stanton, Esq.; which was laid on the table.

Resolution
relative to
privileges of
Parliament.

Mr. John Willson, seconded by Mr. Burwell, moves that it be resolved, that the privileges of Parliament were established for the support and maintenance of the independent and fearless discharge of its high functions, and that it is to the uncompromising assertion and maintenance of these privileges in the earlier periods of English History, that we are chiefly indebted for the free institutions which have been transmitted to us by our ancestors.

Amendment
proposed.

In amendment, Mr. Bidwell, seconded by Mr. Perry, moves that all be expunged after the word "resolved," and the following inserted: "That so much of the Journals of this House as relates to the report of a Select Committee during the last Session, on the printing of the Journals be read."

House divides
on amend-
ment.

On which the House divided, and the yeas and nays were taken as follows:

YEAS.—Messieurs,

Yeas 15.	Beardsley, Bidwell, Campbell, Clark,	Cook, Howard, Ketchum, Lyons,	McCall, A. McDonald, MacKenzie, Perry,	Roblin, Shaver, White—15.
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NAYS.—Messieurs,

Nays 25.	Atty. General, Berzcy, Boulton, Burwell, Chisholm, Crooks, Duncombe,	Elliott, A. Fraser, R. Fraser, Jarvis, Jones, Lewis, McMartin,	Macnab, Maçon, Mount, Samson, Shade, Sol. General,	Thomson, Warren, Werden, J. Willson, W. Wilson, 25
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The question of amendment was decided in the negative by a majority of ten.

Second
amendment
proposed.

In amendment to the original question, Mr. Bidwell, seconded by Mr. Perry, moves that after the words, "English History," in the original resolution, the following words be inserted: "and a Free Press in more modern and enlightened times, notwithstanding many different attempts to destroy its liberty."

House divides
on second
amendment.

On which the House divided, and the yeas and nays were taken as follows:

YEAS.—Messieurs.

Yeas 16.	Beardsley, Bidwell, Buell, Campbell,	Cook, Howard, Ketchum, Lyons,	McCall, MacKenzie, Perry, Randal,	Roblin, Shaver, Werden, White—16.
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NAYS.—Messieurs,

Nays 24.	Atty. General, Berzcy, Boulton, Burwell, Chisholm, Clark,	Crooks, Elliott, A. Fraser, R. Fraser, Jarvis, Jones,	Lewis, A. McDonald, McMartin, Maçon, Mount, Samson,	Shade, Sol. General, Thomson, Warren, J. Willson, W. Wilson—24
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The question of amendment was decided in the negative by a majority of eight.

Third amend-
ment proposed

In amendment Mr. Samson, seconded by Mr. Thomson, moves that after the word "Resolved," the whole of the original resolution be expunged, and the following inserted:—"That an article published in the newspaper called the Colonial Advocate, of the date, 24th November, 1831, in the following words:"

"STATE OF THE COLONY."

Publication in
the Colonial
Advocate
complained of.

"The people of this Province will probably be able to form a tolerably fair estimate of the manner in which their petitions on public affairs are likely to be treated in the representative branch of the Legislature, when they learn the manner in which the first of the series has been disposed of."

"The petition of the people of Vaughan unanimously agreed upon at the Town Meeting, and signed by the Chairman, Secretary, and from two to three hundred freeholders and other inhabitants, was the first presented to the House, and after it had been read, and had lain two days on the table, Mr. MacKenzie, a representative of the people, from whom

"it came, moved that it should be referred to a Committee of five Members, viz. Mr. Ketchum, the other Member for the County in which the petition was voted, and Messieurs Buell, Perry, and Shaver, with the mover, as a matter of course. Mr. Thomson, of Frontenac, the Editor of the Kingston Herald, who had previously expressed great bitterness against the Petitioners and their petition in the public Journals, immediately rose and objected to referring the petition to its friends, and allowing them to consider of and introduce any measures desired by the Petitioners, and which they might consider expedient to the notice of the Legislature.—We told the people of York, last July, that this would be the result of any application to the Assembly, and therefore the more earnestly requested them to unite in addressing the King's Government, as by this means distinct propositions could be submitted to a new Assembly called as in England on the Reform Bill. We now urge all those entrusted with the general petitions to the King and House of Assembly, to send them to York, by mail, on the earliest possible day, in order that the former be forwarded to London, and the latter submitted to the Assembly, now in Session. We learn that Chief Justice Robinson's successor in the law business, Mr. Draper, either has gone off this week to London, or is now about to set off, to oppose the general petitions and advocate the interests of the Executive faction here, with His Majesty's Government. They take the utmost pains to conceal their weakness, in the estimation of the Country, and one of their ablest assistants leaves his own private business and prospects to watch the signs of the times at home. Mr. Thomson's amendment already spoken of, was a resolution "that the petition of the people of Vaughan, with all other petitions relating to the same subject be referred to a Select Committee of seven Members to be chosen at twelve o'clock to-morrow."

"The Attorney General characterized the Petitions as the expression of a few people," "a few individuals," "mere casual meetings," "he happened to have seen some of these meetings, but a few respectable Farmers met together, did not at all understand the subject," and termed the Committee, "a one sided Committee," the Petitions he had never seen till that day—they had been got up by some body or other."

"The Solicitor General wished the Petitions to be referred to a Committee of the whole House, and thus be got rid of at once, and not referred to the Committee named by Mr. Mackenzie, who would call witnesses where none were wanted, and thus increase the expenses of the Session.—He asserted this, although there was nothing in the motion that gave the Committee any power to call a single witness—Messieurs Burwell, Jarvis and others, opposed to the rights of the people, were of course in favor of Mr. Thomson's amendment, the votes in favor of which were as follows:—Messieurs Shade, Henry, J. and George Boulton, Burwell, Elliott, A. Fraser, R. D. Fraser, Sheriff Jarvis, Lewis, Macnab, McMartin, Solicitor General, Maçon, Mount, Samson, Thomson, Warren and W. Wilson."

"The Members opposed to Mr. Thomson's amendment, (introducing a species of vote in which the constituents of Members could not learn how they had acted,) and who would have entrusted the petitions to a committee of persons favorable to the prayer of the Petitioners, were Messieurs Buell, Campbell, Cook, Duncombe, Howard, Ketchum, McCall, MacKenzie, Perry, Roblin, Shaver and White.—The Executive faction carried their measure by a majority of six."

And also a certain other article in the said paper, called the Colonial Advocate, of the date 1st December 1831, in the following words:—

"EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF LOWER CANADA."

"The harmony which exists between the Governor in Chief, the H. of A. (meaning the House of Assembly) and the Colonial Secretary, Lord Viscount Goderich, must be pleasing and gratifying to every true friend of representative Government; for it is evidently the consequence of a just and honorable course of procedure in these high parties towards the people of Lower Canada. We are glad to perceive by Lord Goderich's Despatch in answer to the Assembly's petition sent home last spring by Mr. Viger, that all the Judges are to be dismissed from the Executive and Legislative Council—that the Revenues of the Jesuits Estates are to be applied by the Province to educate the Canadians; that the power of regulating trade is to be exercised in future with great attention to the interests of the Colony; that Provincial bills for giving Corporate powers and making local regulations will be sanctioned; that the right of the Colonists to regulate their internal affairs is fully admitted; that Offices of trust and profit are to be more equally distributed in future; that Officers who have