

No. 29.

To His Excellency FRANCIS GORE, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, &c., &c., &c.

THE PETITION OF ROBERT RANDALL,

*Humbly Sheweth :*

That in the month of February, eighteen hundred and nine, Your Excellency in Council issued your warrant for one thousand acres of land in favor of your Petitioner, the patent and survey fees being duly paid to the acting Receiver General, on the 23rd day of February, 1809. That your Petitioner only received a patent for 950 acres, reserving 50 acres of the warrant for a future location, which your Petitioner intended might cover some rocky chasms, which properly belong to the broken front of Lot No. 40, in the first Concession, on the Grand River, in the Township of Nepean, District of Johnstown, which said Lot bears a portion of your Petitioner's location, out of the nine hundred and fifty acres. That your Petitioner was directed to obtain a certificate from some sworn Surveyor, or neighbours near the Chaudière Falls, that he and they could walk, in the dry season, from Lot No. 40 to the rocky chasms and not wet their feet; in which case the said rocky chasms would be considered part of the broken front of said Lot, and the fifty acres unlocated were to cover the rocky chasms and the intermediate space therein contained. But at the return of your Petitioner from this place in March, 1809, to Montreal, he fell a victim to the sharpest persecution, and was unrighteously imprisoned for debt, and in close confinement to the 13th of last month, which not only prevented your Petitioner from obtaining a certificate relative to the rocky chasms, which he could have done with much ease, but also from prosecuting his establishment at the Chaudière Falls, in the Grand River, which as well as the property which your Petitioner had sent on, to the amount of five hundred pounds, as a commencement in his business, entirely perished as soon as the late War was declared by the American Government against Great Britain.

Your Petitioner would have proceeded to his place at the Chaudière Falls for the purpose to obtain the relative certificate after obtaining his enlargement, but his debilitated state, and the fast approach of winter, made it requisite for your Petitioner to proceed to this place, from thence to Niagara, in order to look after his property in that part of the Province; and your Petitioner now conceives that he has the tacit approbation of those who were his adversaries, to proceed in making his establishment at the Chaudière Falls, on the Grand River, by their granting him his enlargement, and offering him their friendly assistance. He also flatters himself that his long and sharp sufferings are considered by those whom he viewed as enemies, to be an ample atonement for their unenvied and friendly return of feelings. And as Your Excellency may be well informed of the great utility your Petitioner's establishment of the Bridge Water Works, near the Falls of Niagara, were to the prosperity and growth of that part of the Province, he hesitates not, to say his establishment at the Chaudière Falls, on the Grand River, will be of equal, if not of superior importance to that section of the Province. Your Petitioner can with truth say, that his Bridge Water establishment at Niagara, gave a spring to the agricultural and mercantile interest, not only throughout the District of Niagara, but the Province at large; for your Petitioner was the first person who manufactured Flour for exportation in the Province of Upper Canada. Previous to your Petitioner's establishment at Niagara, both farmers and merchants were so circumscribed, as to be of little service to each other. His mercantile establishment at Cornwall, in the Eastern District of this Province, is also known to have been a growing benefit to that place; and had envy not overtaken your Petitioner, he would have turned the trade and produce of the whole Eastern District to Cornwall, whereas it formerly entirely went to Montreal. The chasms which your Petitioner considers to be part of the broken front of Lot number forty, are not or cannot be of the least importance either to Government or individuals, except to accommodate your Petitioner in establishing himself in business at the Chaudière Falls. A young gentleman who is at this place unexpectedly, at this moment, says, he has himself stepped from Lot number forty to the chasms, in the dry season of the year, and did not wet his feet, that he thinks the chasms should be considered as part of the broken front of Lot number forty, and is willing to declare the same before Your Excellency; he is a young man of veracity, and his declaration is to be relied on, which your Petitioner trusts will be proof sufficient to satisfy Your Excellency of the