

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

TUESDAY, 6th DECEMBER, 1831.

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.

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 last Session, on the Printing of the Journals, be read."

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

Yeas, Messrs. Beardsley, Bidwell, Campbell, Clark, Cook, Howard, Ketchum, Lyons, M'Call, M'Donald, A. Mackenzie, Perry, Roblin, Shaver, White,—15.

Nays, Messrs. Attorney General, Berezy, Boulton, Burwell, Chisholm, Crooks, Duncombe, Elliott, Fraser, A. Fraser, R. Jarvis, Jones, Lewis, M'Martin, MacNab, Magon, Mount, Samson, Shade, Solicitor General, Thomson, Warren, Werden, Willson J. and Wilson, W.—25.

The question of amendment was decided in the negative, by a majority of ten.

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."

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

Yeas, Messrs. Beardsley, Bidwell, Buell, Campbell, Cook, Howard, Ketchum, Lyons, M'Call, Mackenzie, Perry, Randal, Roblin, Shaver, Werden, White,—16.

Nays, Messrs. Attorney General, Berezy, Boulton, Burwell, Chisholm, Clark, Crooks, Elliott, Fraser, A. Fraser, R. Jarvis, Jones, Lewis, McDonald A. M'Martin, Magon, Mount, Samson, Shade, Solicitor General, Thomson, Warren, Willson, J. and Wilson, W.—24.

The question of Amendment was decided in the negative, by a majority of eight.

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,"

"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 their 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 Messrs. 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 intrusted 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 able 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 characterised 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." Messrs. 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:—Messrs. Shade, Henry J. and George Boulton, Burwell, Elliott, A. Fraser, R. D. Fraser, Sheriff Jarvis, Lewis, McNab, McMartin, Sol. General, Magon, 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 intrusted the petitions to a committee of persons favourable to the prayer of the petitioners, were Messrs. Buell, Campbell, Cook, Duncombe, Howard, Ketchum, McCall, Mackenzie, Perry, Roblin, Shaver and White.—The Executive faction carried their measure by a majority of 6."

"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."