
Monday, 31st January, 1848.

PRAYERS.

A Petition of John McDougall and others Freeholders and Electors of the County of Halifax, was presented by Mr. Dickey, and read, setting forth that at the Sheriff's Court, held for the nomination of Candidates, at the late Election of Representatives for the County of Halifax, James F. Gray, William Lawson, Joseph Howe and Henry Y. Mott, Esquires, were nominated as Candidates to represent the said County; that after such nomination the eligibility of all the said Members to be elected was openly questioned by a Freeholder, one of the Electors for the said County, and he objected thereto in the hearing of the Electors present, to the said Sheriff who heard and took notice of such objection; that thereupon the said Sheriff with the said Candidates so objected to, retired from the Hustings, and after some absence returned thereto; but the said Sheriff did not administer any oaths in the presence of the Electors at such Hustings; nor did he read to or inform the said Electors of the description of the qualifications sworn to as by Law required, but proceeded with the said Election without giving the Freeholders such information; and a Poll being demanded, the said Sheriff granted the same, and adjourned the said Court; that Petitioners are advised that the qualifications ought to be read, and the oath required thereto administered by the said Sheriff, at the said Court, in the presence and hearing of the Electors present at such Court, that they might judge of the sufficiency of the qualification of the parties objected to; but, on the contrary, the Electors were not informed thereof, and at present they know nothing about the same except from vague report. Petitioners further stating that Polls having been taken afterwards at the Sheriff's adjourned Court, Joseph Howe and Henry Y. Mott, Esquires, were declared by the said Sheriff duly elected to represent the said County. And as Petitioners are informed have been returned as such; and, Petitioners apprehending that, in consequence of such illegal proceedings, the said Election is invalid, inasmuch as the Electors ought to have heard the qualification of the parties objected to, and the oaths required by Law administered to them, pray that the premises may be taken into consideration, and that the said Election may be declared null and void, on account of the irregularity and illegality of the same.

Petition agt. return of sitting Members for County of Halifax.

Ordered, That the Petition do lie on the Table.

On motion, *resolved*, That this House will on Tuesday, the 8th day of February next, at one of the clock, take into consideration the said Petition complaining of an undue Election for the County of Halifax.

Time for Consideration of Petition.

MEMORANDUM.—In pursuance of the Act for regulating the Trials of Controverted Elections or Returns of Members to serve in General Assembly, the like notices, as in former cases, were sent to the several parties, with orders for their attendance by themselves, their Counsel or Agents, at the time on which the said Petition was ordered to be taken into consideration.

Notices sent.

A Petition of Joshua W. Borden, a Freeholder of the Township of Cornwallis and County of Kings, was presented by Mr. Howe and read, setting forth that at the late Election of a Member to represent the Township of Cornwallis, in the General Assembly of this Province, Andrew Starritt and Mayhew Beckwith, Esquires, were duly nominated as Candidates; that, during the said Election, at one of the polling places in the said Township being in Electoral District, Number Three, the Presiding Officer appointed by the Sheriff of the County of Kings, did act in a partial, illegal and improper manner—whereby Electors favourable to the return of the said Andrew Starritt, were intimidated and prevented giving their votes; that in consequence, also, of the said partial, illegal and improper conduct of the said presiding officer, Petitioner has reason to believe that the return of the said Mayhew Beckwith was secured as a Representative of the said Township.

Petition agt. return of sitting Member for Cornwallis.