

An Act to provide for the separation of the County of Durham from the County of Northumberland.

WHEREAS a great number of the inhabitants of the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham have by their petitions represented, that from the increasing wealth and population of the said county of Durham, and in order to accommodate the inhabitants thereof, it is desirable that the same should be detached and set apart from the county of Northumberland for judicial and other purposes, and that the county town for the said county should be established by the Legislature, and have prayed that an Act may be passed for the above purpose ; And whereas it is expedient to grant the prayer of the said petition and accordingly to provide for the separation of the said county of Durham from the said county of Northumberland as soon as the necessary provisions for that purpose shall have been made ; Therefore Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows :

I. It shall be lawful for the county council of the united counties of Northumberland and Durham, whenever they shall receive petitions from any municipality in the said county of Durham in favour of a dissolution of the said union, to appoint some convenient day in the month of January of any succeeding year for the purpose of taking a vote of the rate-payers of the several municipalities composing the said county of Durham upon the question of such dissolution, which said vote shall be taken at the same places, in the same manner, and by the same officers, as votes are taken for the election of councillors, and shall be recorded in books prepared for that purpose, each voter in favour of such dissolution voting "yea," and each voter against such dissolution voting "nay ;" at least ten days' notice of the time appointed for taking the said vote being previously given in at least ten public places in each municipality.

II. The returning officers to take such votes for the respective municipalities shall, within ten days thereafter, return their poll books, verified under oath, to the clerk of the county council, who shall publish and declare the result of the same for the information of all concerned ; and if it shall appear that a majority of all the rate-payers voting at the said polling have recorded their votes in favour of the said dissolution, then the Town Reeves and Deputy Town Reeves of the several municipalities in the said county of Durham, as the same is described and limited in and by the Act passed in the session held in the fourteenth and fifteenth years of Her Majesty's reign, intituled, "*An Act to make certain alterations in the Territorial Divisions of Upper Canada,*" shall form a provisional municipal council for the said county, and shall with respect to the said county, have, possess and exercise all and singular the rights, powers, privileges, and duties conferred, granted or imposed by the Act

Preamble.

County Council of Northumberland and Durham may on petition to that effect take a vote of the rate-payers of Durham for or against a dissolution.

Poll books to be returned to Clerk of County Council, who shall declare the result. 14 and 15 Vic. c. 5. 12 Vic. c. 78.