

Mr. Samson—that no such application, either direct or indirect, had ever been made. While a member of that House, Mr. Mackenzie was treated by the members of the official majority with great personal disrespect, and often alluded to as “that man,” “that fellow.” This abuse was sanctioned and practised by high legal gentlemen. Mr. Mackenzie printed at his own expense 200 copies of the folio journals of the House, and distributed them at his own expense all over the province. One copy he sent to Mr. Morris, who acknowledged its receipt, and has this day and on other occasions shewn much feeling against him. A motion was brought on in the House, and Mr. Morris voted him guilty of a breach of privilege for doing this. For this act Mr. Mackenzie had deserved the esteem, commendation, and respect of the country. By seeing in what way their representatives acted, the freeholders would be better able to judge of their fitness to represent them. Mr. Mackenzie has never been expelled for anything he has done or said on the floor of this House. No one act of his as a member, no one speech, sentence, or expression has been condemned or found worthy of expulsion. I do think it the most cruel proceeding ever witnessed that we expel a member, and harass and vex a great county, and yet, bring no charge against him. Mr. Mackenzie was not punished here as a member of this House, but as the editor of a newspaper; and in that capacity shall it be said that we will attempt to dictate to him what he should do and what he should not? You all know that Mr. Mackenzie was distinguished more than many other members of this House for the great quantity of political information he brought into it, for his diligence in searching out abuses, and for his strict attendance to the important duties he had undertaken to perform for his constituents. He was expelled on the bank question. On the evening of the 6th no vote could be got on it; next day the member for Wentworth (Mr. John Willson) stopt his inquiry by a motion for expulsion. The moment he (Mackenzie) brought forward the same motion after his reflection it was the signal of new persecutions, and he was again expelled. His unwearied zeal for the good of the country has been acknowledged even by his opponents. Does over-zeal in the people’s service cause disqualification? He was here early and late; our journals bear ample proof of his usefulness and fitness for the place he held. I have known Mr. Mackenzie, when I held the office you now fill, Mr. Speaker, sit night after night till twelve o’clock, examining the petitions of the people and other public documents of this House, in order that he might the better qualify himself for a faithful performance of his duty to the people. To such an extent did he carry this practice, that at length the messenger of the House made a formal complaint to me that he was worn out sitting up waiting on Mr. Mackenzie while poring over and examining the business of the legislature. Seldom has such a complaint been made. The people of York were here on the spot; they saw his untiring zeal—they beheld him always at his post, up early and late—his only recompense, his sole reward, their esteem and regard. And now, Mr. Speaker, we punish them for their attachment to a representative whose only fault is, that he has the same opinion of the public conduct of a majority of the members of this House as his constituents. The resolution (Morris and McNab’s), after reciting the old stories, tells us that Mr. Mackenzie is hereby expelled—not before, but now. As in Wilkes’s case, the expellers depend on their majorities, and seek to avoid discussion. Yet the House of Commons eventually condemned and expunged its own resolutions declaring Wilkes unfit and disqualified, because it was admitted to be unconstitutional in the House to dictate to the people who they should and who they should not elect, and because the free choice of representatives remains in the people. Who are we, that we should dictate to the people of York, or any other county, who they should and should not make choice of? The mere servants of the people, to whom for a limited time a limited and delegated authority is committed. The right to sit and vote in this House is as well secured to every qualified individual as his right to hold and enjoy his property which he has bought, earned, or inherited; the former right is the most