

ount, which was principally composed of items for which he had taken credit twice over. The same report charges Mr. Robinson "with great dereliction of duty." Mr. Robinson and his friends would have found it more for the benefit of his character, if they had permitted Lord Durham's remarks on this subject to pass unnoticed.

It is unnecessary to allude to the subject of the disposal of the political prisoners. This matter has been already amply discussed, but we positively deny the truth of Mr. Hagerman's statement, that the community loudly demanded more numerous examples than those that were made. So far was this from being the case that the petitions in favour of Lount and Matthews were signed by great numbers even of the Tory party. Mr. Hagerman feels very acutely the allusion of Lord Durham to the execution of these unfortunate men, for which the learned gentleman feels that he is held by the public to be principally responsible. Exasperated at the implied censure on the Upper Canada government, contained in Lord Durham's remarks on this subject, Mr. Hagerman has been rash enough to deny their truth. Lord Durham asserted that these unfortunate men "engaged a great share of public sympathy; and that their pardon had been solicited in petitions signed, *it is generally asserted*, by no less than 20,000 of their countrymen." Mr. Hagerman in reply to this observation, asserts *positively* that "there were not 5,000 signatures appended to the petitions presented." On this assertion we shall make a few remarks. Lord Durham, it will be observed, merely states that "*it is generally asserted*" that the petitions were signed by upwards of 30,000 persons, in confirmation of which, it is only necessary to refer to the newspapers of the day, and to common report *never before* contradicted. When we saw Mr. Hagerman's report, we commenced enquiries upon the subject, and asked several parties who had taken an interest in the petitions what the number of signatures was; the answer of one was 10,000, and none stated less than 30,000. One gentleman stated, that he had seen a petition measuring 30 yards long in the possession of John Bell Esq. Barrister at Law, and referred us for further information to that gentleman, who had, he said, taken charge of all the petitions. We immediately called on Mr. Bell, and asked him if he recollected the number of signatures, to which he replied, that he thought there were about 38,000, but he could not be sure. One petition, he said, numbered 8,000. Another gentleman informed us, that there were about 10,000 signatures to the petition from the Gore District.

But we have *official* information on the subject. Sir George Arthur in his despatch to Lord Glenelg, states that *within three days petitions from not less than 8,000 persons* had been presented, so that the report drawn up by Mr. Hagerman contains a *gross misstatement* for which there is no excuse, as its author had every opportunity to ascertain the truth. Sir Geo. Arthur's despatch will prove to every dispassionate enquirer that the unfortunate individuals alluded to, "engaged a great