

near four thousand voters, three fourths of whom were at a distance, and on their way to come and vote in favour of Petitioner, and actually coming to the said Poll for the purpose of voting, but were prevented with an armed force and all sorts of violence, and turned back by armed men, bearing the uniform of volunteers then in Her Majesty's service, and armed as such, and countenanced as well by their commanding officers, as, by the said *William Bouron*, and the said *J. W. Dunscomb*—That the said military force and other organized partizans from without the county, or having no votes therein, prevented the petitioner from being duly elected as he ought to have been, and illegally, violently, and corruptly, secured in favour of the said *J. W. Dunscomb* a false and unjust return as member for the said county—That previous to and during the said pretended election, large sums of money were expended by persons unknown to petitioner to defeat the liberty of the election, to pay and feed the armed force and other riotous people mentioned above, and that a large mill, and the miller's dwelling house, were converted into a tavern to distribute intoxicating liquor to such as would declare themselves partizans of the said *J. W. Dunscomb*; and that a tavern bar was specially erected for that purpose, before the election, in the above mentioned mill, and that the same was kept open during the election, and for some time after the closing thereof—That deadly weapons, clubs, and other offensive arms, were used at the said election by the military force and other armed partizans aforesaid, to prevent the electors from voting in favour of petitioner, whose voters were kept and forcibly turned back, their carriages and sleighs being turned out of the road, and some being even constrained to come and vote, against their opinion, for the said *J. W. Dunscomb*; and several electors favorable to petitioner, when repairing to the Poll, were beaten to death, and also several others grievously wounded, by the partizans of the said *J. W. Dunscomb*, while none of the partizans of the latter were in any way injured, but while the voters of your petitioner behaved all the time in the most quiet and peaceable manner, and were obedient to the laws and the true interests of Her Majesty's said writ—That threats of violence, to intimidate electors favorable to petitioner, had also been used a long time before the election, and all over the said county, by the said partizans, and even by persons holding the commission of magistrates, some of whom even menaced to kill the inhabitants if they came to vote—That on the second day of the said pretended election, a riot was excited near the Poll, by a violent assault on the part of the aforesaid partizans of the said *J. W. Dunscomb*, and that thereupon the said *William Bouron* publicly, and loudly gave notice that he did adjourn the Poll for one full hour, and that thereupon the voters of petitioner dispersed to come again within the limited time, but that as soon as they were at a distance, few minutes having not yet elapsed, the said Returning officer began again to take votes in favor of *J. W. Dunscomb*, whose partizans had knowingly kept their ground upon an understanding of what was to happen; and that since that time petitioner's voters never having been able to obtain access to the Poll, petitioner thought it his duty to resign, under protest, and appeal to this Honorable House—That in law and in fact Petitioner was duly elected at the said election to serve for the said county, and that the insertion in the return of the said *William Bouron*, of the name of the said *J. W. Dunscomb*, was illegal, fraudulent, corrupt, and an act of open violence against the rights and liberties of the electors of the said county—Whereupon petitioner humbly prays the House diligently to inquire into the facts thus set forth, and thereupon order that the pretended election of the said *J. W. Dunscomb* be declared null and void, and petitioner's name be inserted in the said return, instead of that of the said *J. W. Dunscomb*, and that

Petition of Jacob De Witt complaining of the undue election of J. W. Dunscomb for the county of Beauharnois