

thereon, which examination and resolutions he read in his place and afterwards delivered the same in at the Clerk's table, where they were again read as follow :

ROBERT JOHN PARSONS called and examined.

What is your name ? **Robert John Parsons.**

Are you printer of the House of Assembly ? **I am.**

[A Report of the House of Assembly "on the present state of the Administration of Justice in Newfoundland," having been here handed the witness]—

Did you print that Report ? **I did.**

Under what authority did you print it ? **Under the authority of an order of the House.**

Did you publish that report in the Patriot newspaper ? **I did.**

Under what authority did you so publish it ? **Under the authority of an order of the House of Assembly.**

Were any proceedings instituted against you for that publication ? **Yes. Mr. Garrett, the High Sheriff, brought an action of damages against me for libel.**

Was that case brought to a trial ? **Yes ; and a verdict returned for the plaintiff, damages £80 sterling—making something about £100 currency.**

Has that sum been paid by you ? **Not yet.**

Has Execution issued ? **No, but I am every day liable to it.**

Did you not state in your paper that an individual Member of this House was the cause of your being fined ? **I cannot recollect.**

Have you not published that an individual caused that prosecution ? **I certainly did consider that Mr. Garrett caused that prosecution.**

Did you not mention in the Patriot newspaper that it was Mr. Morris who was the occasion of your being fined ?

I certainly considered that as Mr. Morris instituted the proceedings before the House—as he originated the report—as he conducted it through, and moved that it be printed—for these reasons I considered he was the cause.

[Here the witness was ordered to withdraw. Being subsequently recalled.]

Did you make that publication in compliance with the request of any individual Member of this House, or in compliance with an order of the House ?

Strictly and entirely in compliance with an order of the House.

Resolved,—That it is the opinion of this committee that it is the inherent right of the Commons House of Assembly to order their proceedings to be printed and published, not only for the use of Members, but also for the information of the public.