

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

First Day—Saturday, March 1st, 1856.

The Committee met pursuant to notice.

PRESENT:—Messrs. Wilson, Sanborn, Masson, Felton, Stevenson, Clarke, and Ferres.

Some discussion arose as to whether any strangers should be allowed to be present, a reporter from the *Globe* and some Members of Parliament being in the room.

Mr. *Felton* objected to the proceedings of the Committee being reported by reporters on one side only. He did not object to Members of Parliament being present.

Mr. *Brown* did not think that it was competent for the Committee to shut out reporters. If they were to be excluded Members of Parliament must be excluded also.

The Committee then proceeded to appoint a Chairman.

Mr. *Felton*, seconded by Mr. *Stevenson*, moved that James Moir Ferres be Chairman of the Committee. This was opposed by Mr. *Sanborn* who proposed Mr. *Wilson*, but after some little discussion, Mr. *Ferres* was nominated without a division.

The discussion was then resumed as to whether reporters should be allowed to be present.

Mr. *Wilson* thought that the proceedings ought to be published.

Mr. *Stevenson* did not object to reporters being present, but said that it was a breach of privilege to publish any of the proceedings of a Committee before they have reported to the House.

Dr. *Masson* and Dr. *Clarke* thought that it would be very improper to publish the proceedings as they went on.

Hon. *J. A. Macdonald* said that the proceedings of the Committee would be reported to and become the property of the House, and he understood that the proceedings of a Committee could not be published until they were reported to the House.

Mr. *Ferres* said that the proceedings of the Committees of the House of Commons were published before they were reported.