

tification that the House had appointed him to be their Clerk, and stating that he was in doubt as to the propriety of his accepting of the appointment, having previously received from the Crown a Commission appointing him to the Office of Clerk of the General Assembly.

A Petition of GEORGE THORNE and others, inhabitants of the Town of Harbour Grace, was presented by Mr. PACK, and read, setting forth,

That, in the last Session of the House, an Act was passed, entitled "An Act to regulate the streets of the town of Harbour Grace," which said Act provided that the main or lower street thereof, from the shop and dwelling-house occupied by PETER BROWN, Esq. to the premises occupied by THORNE, HOOPER & Co. should be only thirty feet in width. The Petitioners humbly conceive that the House could not be aware that a considerable portion of such part of the main or lower street was, at the time of the passing of the said Act, and now is, upwards of sixty feet in width; and that, in the more contracted parts thereof, many of the erections now standing are in a dilapidated state. The Petitioners are of the opinion that the security of the town requires such part of the said main or lower street, extending from and including the shop and dwelling-house of Peter Brown, Esq., and the dwelling-house of Mr. Churchill; and extending west to and including the premises occupied by Messrs. Thorne, Hooper & Co. — to be made of an equal width (fifty feet) with the other parts of the said main or lower street; and that all buildings and erections whatever, made from and after the fifteenth day of June of the present year (and all others, as circumstances will admit of the same,) should be made to conform thereto.

The Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the House will be pleased to make provision for the same, giving such further powers to the Commissioners appointed under the said Act, as will enable them to carry the same into effect, and more effectually to enforce the regulation of the whole line of the main or lower street. And further to provide for the regulation of the lanes and bye-roads in the said town of Harbour Grace and its vicinity; empowering the said Commissioners to open or widen, or shut up the same, as may be necessary for the general convenience of the town. The Petitioners further pray that the House, taking into consideration the reduced circumstances of a large portion of the inhabitants of the said town, consequent upon the calamitous fire with which it was recently visited, will be pleased to grant them some pecuniary assistance, to forward such part of the contemplated improvements as are necessary to be immediately entered upon, the whole expense of which they fear they are, from the circumstances referred to, unable at present to bear.

On motion of Mr. PACK,

Resolved,—That the said Petition be referred to a select Committee to examine and report thereon, with power to send for persons and papers.

Ordered,—That Mr. PACK, Mr. POWER, Mr

COZENS, Mr. KOUGH, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. KENT, and Mr. HOYLES, be a select Committee for the above purpose.

Mr. KENT moved that the House do come to the following resolution, viz. :—

Resolved,—That in consequence of EDWARD M. ARCHIBALD Esq. not accepting the situation of Clerk, the House do proceed to the nomination of another person.

Which, being seconded and put, and the House dividing thereon, there appeared for the motion two, against it, eight.

For the Motion.
Mr. KENT
Mr. PACK.

Against the Motion.
Mr. KOUGH
— HOYLES
— SWEETMAN
— THOMAS
— CARTER
— POWER
— COZENS
— BENNETT.

So it passed in the negative.

A Petition from ROBERT JOB, whose name is subscribed thereto, was presented by Mr. THOMAS and read, setting forth,

That the Petitioner is desirous to aid in providing for the future safety, and in promoting the comfort of the inhabitants of the town of St. John's. Petitioner, under the impression that every thinking man, who has the same experience with himself, must agree with him in opinion that, however well the fire companies may be organized, and forces applied in times of extensive fires, cases may naturally be expected to occur where no human aid can be made effectual in stopping the progress of the flames until the whole of this dangerously-constructed town shall have been laid in ashes; and should it be while the harbour is frozen up, in all probability the greater part of the sealing fleet would share in the general destruction. The contemplation of the bare possibility of such an event, which must be followed with famine, and perhaps death, to thousands, should rouse the energies of every man to use all the means which Providence may have put within his power to guard against it. Under these strong convictions, the Petitioner seizes the present opportunity of bringing before the House this subject in that point of view in which it is seen by himself; and he thinks he may add, by the greater part of the householders—*that, while the buildings in this town continue to be erected of wood, no advantages in widening the streets or fire-breaks will be a security against its destruction, should a fire occur during a gale of wind.* Petitioner therefore prays that the House will make such enactments, during the present session, as will guard against the danger; and determine that, in future, no building on the line of Water-Street, on either side, which shall exceed eight or nine feet in height, shall be constructed entirely of wood, but that stone or brick walls, and slated or other incombustible roofs are indispensable.