

public matters. "Courts also notice the territorial extent of the jurisdiction and sovereignty exercised *de facto* by their own government and the local divisions of their country,—such as states provinces, counties, counties of cities, cities, towns, parishes and the like, so far as political government is concerned or affected, but not the relative positions of such local divisions, nor their precise boundaries further than may be described in public statutes." 1 *Taylor on Evidence*, sec. 15. * * * And "the stated days of general political contests, * * * the date and place of the sittings of the Legislature and in short to borrow the language of the Vice-Chancellor in *Taylor vs. Barclay*, "all public matters which affect the government of the country." *Ibid.* sec. 16. BAYLEY Justice says:—"It is quite true that this Court will take judicial notice of the general division of the Kingdom into counties, because they are continually in the habit of directing their process to the Sheriffs of those Counties and because they are mentioned in a great variety of statutes." BEST J. in the same case says:—"We ought it is true, to take judicial notice of the counties in England and of those which are Maritime Counties as being mentioned in a variety of Acts of Parliament." HOLROYD J. in the same case, who seems to admit this proposition, says, "still the Court cannot take judicial notice of the local situation of Orfordness." *Degbell's case*, 4 B. and Ald. 246. By reference to all the statutes now, and at the time of the election, in force, we find but one County of Pictou in the Dominion of Canada. That county we know from other legal sources as well as the election statutes, to be in Nova Scotia and by the name of the County of Pictou, an electoral division for representation in the House of Commons of Canada. (See section 40 British North America Act 1867, "Each of the eighteen counties of Nova Scotia shall be an electoral district. The County of Halifax shall be entitled to return two and each of the other counties one member.") And by the same legal principles and evidence we are bound to know that Nova Scotia is in the Dominion of Canada. I think therefore that the County of Pictou must be taken to mean an electoral district for members for the House of Commons. And as to the objection, that the election in question was not alleged directly, in so many words, to have been "for members for the House of Commons," I think the answer may be also fairly given that in the fifth and seventh paragraphs of the petition, references are made to the