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MAY 19 1856

# A LETTER

FROM

**T. S. SHENSTON, J. P.**

TO THE

**INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF BRANTFORD,**

**Respecting the late extraordinary conduct of the Mayor.**

**FELLOW TOWNSMEN,**

My deportment during the three and a half years that I have resided amongst you, has I trust, been such, as to convince you that it has been my earnest desire to "live at peace with all men," and I certainly had good reason to hope, that by taking no part whatever in any public matter, and avoiding all public meetings, I should not have found myself in my present position; and I hope that by adopting this course to obtain a hearing, instead of convening a public meeting "under the act," by requisition to the sheriff, it will be taken as an additional proof of my desire to live in peace and allay the present excitement.

Although I frankly acknowledge that I feel very much pained to find myself in antagonism with any portion of my fellow townsmen, and mixed up with so much excitement, truth compels me to add, that I am not aware of having done one act, or of having said one word, that justice did not most imperatively demand, and before the searcher of all hearts I can solemnly declare, that my only object was to see justice done to the young lady, and to all parties concerned; and that I did no more for Miss Jennings than I would have done for Miss Mathews, Miss McKay, or any other person *similarly situated*.

Had there existed any unfriendly feeling either between the Mayor or Mr. McKay and myself, I would most certainly have declined at once to act. Neither of these gentlemen will pretend to say that any such feeling did exist.

The *Courier* and Councillors Quinlin, Hurst, and Girvin state that I have never before acted as a Magistrate in this County, thereby wishing it to be inferred that I will only trouble myself about County

matters, when by so doing I can annoy the Mayor. To this, I answer that I have never refused, either to sit as associate Judge, assist in the balloting of the Juries, or to draw affidavits, in my capacity as Justice of the Peace; and I have also acted (reluctantly because there are older J. Ps. in town) upon several occasions on summary trials and criminal examinations. The first case on which I sat in this County, was with the Mayor, at his most urgent request. I also acted in the case of Mr.—obtaining money under false pretences from the Dorcas Society and others, which trial was noticed in the Courier, at the time.

The true facts of the present case are as follows:—

On the day previous to the trial, the defendant, Miss Jennings, (personally but little known to me) the head female teacher of the Brantford High School, (a young lady generally known and most deservedly esteemed, and who holds a Provincial Certificate of Qualification,) called at my office in company with a female teacher of the same school, and related to me, in a candid manner, her simple and truly affecting tale, in substance as follows:

She stated that it had always been her desire not to inflict corporal punishment, to avoid which certain other methods of punishment had been introduced into the school; and that whipping was only resorted to when scholars would not submit to the punishment which had been substituted for whipping.

For offenders absenting themselves from school without leave, the punishment is to sit on a box with the word "truant" written thereon, and turned towards the class. On the day previous, Jane McKay, a daughter of Ex-Councillor Duncan McKay, a girl thirteen years of age, for having several times absented herself from school, had been ordered to submit to the usual punishment for that offence of sitting upon this box. Miss Jane would not go, although repeatedly urged and threatened. She was then placed upon the box, but obstinately refused to sit thereon; she was then strapped\* and told to go, but she still refused, was again strapped and then complied. Miss J. was affected to tears at being obliged to inflict this punishment, and addressed her scholars, stating to them how very much it had pained her to inflict so severe a punishment before she could make Jane comply; that she never before had any occasion to do so,—that she wished to rule by love, wished all of them to love her and she would love them in return, &c. Several of the scholars shed tears at seeing her so much affected.

As soon as Jane had submitted to her punishment, Miss J. talked to her in the most affectionate manner; telling her how much it had pained her to have been obliged to strap her—that she would much rather have suffered the punishment herself—and that she would not have done it, had she been enabled to enforce obedience in any other

\* The strap used on this occasion was shown me by Miss J. It was proved in Court to be the one used. I have it now in my possession. It is a piece of russett harness leather; about 1/4 of an inch in thickness; 13 1/2 inches long; less than half an inch in width at the widest end, less than 1/4 of an inch at the other end, and its weight less than half an ounce.

way. Jane freely pressed much re- &c., &c.; ran fection, and app return, and even the day, her flogging to her anything about

On the following contents of which a lengthy and re been obliged to Mr. Kelly, the h plain to them th request, on the f factory. Mr further stated to felt that it would Mayor at court, his character. with the summon well known unif the Police office harsh, and altoo knowing also th McKay had not had always been poor girl unassis the Mayor. In you will agree v moment blame not. If any on not feel thankful girl against the I told Miss trate, but felt it and could not would bring me endeavors to pr

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\* Mr. K. has inf sion; I need not

way. Jane freely acknowledged that she had been a very bad girl, expressed much regret at her conduct, promised obedience in future, &c., &c.; ran to Miss J. and kissed her with child like affection, and appeared much delighted when Miss J. kissed her in return, and evinced in every way she could, during the remainder of the day, her attachment to Miss J. said nothing about the flogging to her parents when she went to dinner, nor did they know anything about it until a (kind?) neighbor sent them word.

On the following morning Jane was the bearer of a letter, (of the contents of which I will say nothing.) To this letter Miss J. sent a lengthy and respectful reply, expressing her *deep regret* at having been obliged to inflict so severe a punishment on her daughter, &c.— Mr. Kelly, the head teacher then called on Jane's parents, \* to explain to them the case. Miss J. also called on them, at Mr. Kelly's request, on the following day, but these interviews were far from satisfactory. Mr. McKay was determined "to have her up." Miss J. further stated to me that she had already suffered most intensely, and felt that it would be quite impossible for her to appear before the Mayor at court, if I did not sit with him, after what she had heard of his character. And learning, gentlemen, that she had been served with the summons during school hours, by the Town Constable in his well known uniform, and required to appear in so degrading a place as the Police office, I could not but think that such conduct much too harsh, and altogether uncalled for to meet the ends of justice; and knowing also that Miss J. had no vote, and that Mr. Ex-Councillor McKay had not only a vote, but no small amount of influence, that had always been used for the Mayor, I did consciously think that the poor girl unassisted, would not obtain impartial justice at the hands of the Mayor. In this opinion, I feel quite confident that nearly all of you will agree with me. Then gentlemen, can any one of you for a moment blame me for having consented to act? I am sure you will not. If any one of you had a daughter similarly situated, would you not feel thankful for the efforts of any Magistrate to protect the weak girl against the strong Mayor?

I told Miss J. that I was most anxious not to act at all as a Magistrate, but felt it to be my *bounden duty* to do so on this occasion, and *could not refuse* her request;—that I very much feared that it would bring me in collision with the Mayor, but would use my best endeavors to prevent it.

My first object now was, to get the time and place changed if possible. To assist me in this task, I first sought the assistance of James Wilkes, Esq., the Chairman of the Board of School Trustees, but failing to find him, I solicited the assistance of Ex-Councillor Woodyatt, one of the most active School Trustees; This gentleman at once expressed his willingness to accompany me, *if he could be of any use* in accomplishing so desirable an object; but for reasons not necessary to state here, he thought *it would be better for him not to do*

\* Mr. K. has informed you through the Press of his treatment on this occasion; I need not now allude to it.

40. I therefore waited upon the Mayor alone, introduced the subject of my visit in the most delicate manner possible. Without much trouble I prevailed upon him to change the time from 9 a. m. (the hour school opens) to 4 p. m. (the hour school closes) but he would not consent to alter the place of meeting from the Police office to the Town Hall; stating with great vehemence, that he did not care a — for "your young ladies." In the discharge of his duty he would use "all alike." He did not care a — for the greatest lady; he would use her just like he would any body else, &c.\* I made answer, that in the County of Oxford, I invariably held trials, in which ladies were concerned, in my dwelling-house, and hoped that he would not insist upon making Miss J. come to the Police office. I then stated that I had been requested to sit with him on the trial of the case, and hoped that it would be quite agreeable to him. He then consented that the trial should take place in the Town Hall, but refused to allow me to adjudicate with him, assigning as his reason, (as he did in his speech in the Town Hall on Monday night) that he had consented to Mr. McNaught † sitting with him, and if he allowed me to do so also, *it would be two against one, and Mr. McKay would not like that.* I expressed my astonishment at such a reason, and suggested, *that if such really were his views*—that Mr. McKay be allowed to call on any other Magistrates; that the extent of my wish was to comply with Miss J.'s request to sit on the case; I did not care how many there might be besides. The answer was that if Mr. McKay asked a dozen, Miss J. would ask as many, and it would not better the matter, *for it would be twelve against twelve*; besides that, "some would be asking James Wilkes to sit, who had laughed at some of his decisions, and therefore did not care about sitting with him." By this time he had worked himself into somewhat of a passion, and declared with loud voice and clinched fists, that McNaught or myself might sit, either of us, *but not both.* I then intimated that all Magistrates had a most unquestionable right to sit and adjudicate on all such trials. This increased his rage, and he said that it was a Police Court ‡ over which he presided as Mayor, and done just what he liked. I saw that it was useless to press the matter any further on that occasion, so bade him good night without intimating to him what course I intended to pursue.

Had I been only *personally* interested in the matter of my request, I would most cheerfully have submitted to his unreasonable

\* Forgetting apparently that there would not be much justice in inflicting as heavy a fine upon a "poor girl" as on a "lady" for the self-same offence, or to imprison a "lady" for as long a period as a "gaol bird" for the self-same offence.

† This gentleman was not solicited to sit by Miss Jennings, or by any person at her request.

‡ The summons says nothing about a Police Court or Mayor. In the body of it, he styles himself "William Mathews, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace," and signs it "William Mathews, J. P."

The act provides that the Mayor alone, or such other J. P., as he may desire, shall adjudicate with respect to any *By-Laws of the Municipality of which he is the head.* But the presumption of a Mayor of any Town usurping to himself the sole right to adjudicate with respect to crimes punishable by Provincial statute, is preposterous in the extreme, and dangerous to the community.

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demand so uncivilly made, rather than hazarded a collision with him. Shortly after leaving the Mayor, I met James Woodyatt, Esq. in front of his own store, and related to him, and Mr. Clement and Kelly, who soon joined us, the result of my interview, but forgot to mention that the Mayor had expressed his willingness that Mr. McNaught or myself should sit with him. I immediately corrected myself, and stated to them that I was *most anxious* not to *misrepresent his conduct in the least particular, or to omit stating any thing in his favor*. I then informed them of this circumstance in his favor, and have not omitted to do so each time I have had occasion to relate the result of our interview.

It was now a question with me what course it would be best for me to pursue under the circumstances. Some may be ready to say I should have let the matter drop. My own disposition and inclination suggested such a course. But could I conscientiously abandon a young lady who had so earnestly appealed to me? I *did not* refuse her my aid, because I felt that I *COULD NOT* do so. Besides the Mayor's conduct to me was *additional evidence of the necessity of her obtaining some assistance*.

At one time I thought of requesting two other Magistrates to accompany me, and sit on the trial, by which method the Mayor could be easily overruled; but as I thought this course open to objection and harsh, I did not attempt it; nor did I even speak to another Magistrate on the subject.

At the hour appointed for the trial I attended, and found the Mayor and Town Reeve prepared to commence the examination. On the Court being opened I arose and publicly thanked the Mayor for having changed the time and place of trial at Miss Jennings' request, made through me. I then asked him whether he was not aware that I was a duly qualified Magistrate for the County, to which he made some evasive reply. I then reminded him that the first trial on which I had sat in this County was with him, at his most urgent request. Then stated that I had been requested to sit with him on the trial of this case, in that capacity, and hoped he would have no objection to my doing so. In answer, the Mayor most abruptly said that he had great objections, and ordered me to sit down instantly.

I then asked him his reason for refusal—asked for an opportunity to prove my right to sit—asked that a minute of my application and his refusal might be entered with the proceedings, &c. All of these requests were not only most grossly and insultingly refused, but *during the whole time of their being made*, I was in a most rude and vehement manner ordered to sit down, and threatened with immediate arrest if I did not. I then asked John McNaught, Esq., the other sitting Magistrate, if he offered any objections to my assisting at the trial. He answered that he had none whatever *personally*. I requested that a minute might be made of that fact, but it was refused. I then informed the Mayor that I took my seat as a Magistrate, to assist in the trial of the case, to which he made answer, "I do not know you at all," &c., &c. I then said no more, until a witness had

been examined by the Mayor; then told him that I considered that I had a perfect right to assist in the examination of each of the witnesses, but that I did not wish to add to the excitement, by insisting upon this right as each witness came up, if he *positively refused* to allow me to do so peaceably. He did so refuse, and I said no more until the close of Jane McKay's examination, when I told her that she had given her evidence in a very candid and praiseworthy manner.

During the remainder of the trial, I did not say one word. At its close I requested A. Gilkison, Esq., Barrister, to insist upon my right of being consulted as to the final decision, &c. The Mayor made some vulgar reply, jumped up from his chair, snatched up the papers in a most unceremonious manner, thrust them in his pocket, adjourned the Court till the following morning at 8 o'clock, and left the Hall.

During the whole trial (?) the Mayor's whole conduct was certainly the most extraordinary that ever I witnessed in a Court of Justice. Miss Jennings's legal counsel \* was called by him an "old broken down Judge," in the most vindictive manner, and, with a violent knock with his fist upon the table—stated that he would do just what he liked in that Court—that he was Mayor, and would remain so in spite of any such fellows as Mr. Gilkison,—and the first question he put to each witness (all scholars in Miss J's class) was, "Well, little Miss, would you like to sit on that box?" &c., &c.

John McNaught, Esq., his colleague, was never once consulted during the whole trial, (?) or an opportunity offered him of examining any witness. In a conversation with that gentleman, two days after the trial, in presence of another gentleman, he characterized the whole proceeding as the most disgraceful that he had ever witnessed during his whole life.†

I need add no more with respect to the trial; it was witnessed by some two or three hundred of you, and I know full well in what light you view it.

Public justice called loud and imperatively demanded that the Mayor's conduct should not be passed over unnoticed. The question is not whether I have done right in attempting to accomplish this, but did I pursue the correct course? I think that I did. I could have brought him into court only through one of the witnesses. I might have insisted upon each witness answering my questions, and committed them for contempt if they refused, and thus brought the matter into Court, but it would have been cruel to commit a witness under such circumstances.

Suppose that myself, or any other J. P. appointed by the Crown, was guilty of such conduct as that of the Mayor's, no one for a moment would pretend but that the only way for the parties aggrieved to do,

\* Arch'd Gilkison, Esq., formerly Judge for the Niagara district, who resigned in consequence of the smallness of the salary.

† A large number of other gentlemen of the highest respectability have voluntarily told me the same thing; but I do not feel at liberty to use their names as I have done this gentleman's. Mr. McN. made the statement in company with another gentleman, and said that he would be most happy to make the same statement before the whole Council, or before any number of persons.

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would be to represent his conduct to the party by whom he was appointed—the Crown. Mr. Matthews was appointed J. P. by the Town Council: to that body, therefore, I made my complaint, praying them to request him to resign. Such a course was, I think, complimentary to them rather than not, even supposing there was any other course open for me to pursue. Suppose it was in the power of the Crown to dismiss the Mayor, methinks that those very Councillors who now complain so loudly of my course, and who called out so lustily to have my petition thrown out of the window, would be amongst the very first to cry out at my complaining to the Crown, of the conduct of THEIR OFFICER.

Judging from what Councillors voluntarily told me, I have no doubt but that I could readily have obtained the signatures of a good majority of the Councillors to a requisition requesting the Mayor to resign, but did not adopt such a plan, because I did not consider it straightforward. Nor did I think it fair that a petition of such importance should come before the Council without the Councillors being previously made aware of it. Hence my Circular to each member of the Council, (Mayor included) on the Wednesday previous to the meeting of the Council. Nor am I alone in thinking that a good majority would have supported a resolution requesting him to resign had the Mayor not resorted to the extraordinary means he did.

With respect to the most extraordinary meeting of Monday evening last little need be said further than what is contained in the "Expositor's" report, copied in the end of this pamphlet. I made no exertions whatever to induce any body to attend that meeting, further than issuing a circular to each Councillor, and asking five other gentlemen to attend.

On the Petition being introduced by Councillor Long, the Mayor ruled it out of order. From this decision an appeal to the Council was made, and the petition received by a vote of 4 to 10.

The Mayor's disgraceful conduct on that occasion was witnessed by so many, and so universally condemned, that it is quite unnecessary for me to allude to it, any further than is necessary for my own defence. It is pretty generally admitted that had an uninterrupted vote of the Council been taken, the Mayor would have been requested to resign. One thing is *certain*, he evidently dreaded a vote. At one stage of the proceedings, when it was likely to come to a vote, he arose from his seat in a fearful rage, in a most insulting manner addressed some of the Councillors who had voted adverse to his wishes, and in a most vehement manner appealed to the meeting, stating his willingness to leave it in the hands of the people then and there. *All the amendments, so far as I recollect, were moved by the Mayor's supporters, and were all of a nature to prevent a vote of the Council being taken on the merits of the case.*

The final resolution was for the Council, who elected the Mayor, to leave the matter to the rate-payers, who had no voice in his election. With this decision I expressed myself perfectly satisfied, expecting of course, that an expression of opinion from the rate-payers would have been obtained in the usual manner, viz. by a public meet-

ing convened expressly for that purpose, and, if demanded, a poll to be opened for receiving the votes of the electors, and not the yells and hisses of the mob.

On the Council disposing of my petition, I withdrew, with, as I then thought, all the spectators, as the stairs were so crowded that I could only with difficulty make my way down. But such, it appears, was not the case, for shortly after I left, the parties remaining in the Hall denominated themselves 'the rate payers of the town of Brantford,' and passed a resolution in which "they fully exonerate the Mayor from all and every insinuation made by T. S. Shenston, Esq., in the matter of dispute," when not one of them had heard a word from me.

I have, gentlemen, now detailed to you at some length, at some trouble, and at some expense, the part I acted, and my motives for so acting in the late affair which has caused so much excitement in the town, and trust that you will exonerate me from all blame. Had I acted towards the Mayor as the Mayor acted towards me, what would have been the result? Had Mr. McKay's daughter been the school Teacher, myself the Justice who had summoned her, and was about to try her, and had I refused to allow the Mayor to sit with me, what, think you, would have been the Mayor's conduct towards me? Would it have been like mine towards him? My wish is to live in peace with all men, (that of course includes Messrs. Matthews, McKay and Lemmon,) and I shall try *still harder* than I have done to do so, but I cannot allow my conduct and motives on any important matter to be so grossly misrepresented as they have been on this occasion, without lifting my poor pen in my defence.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen, your most ob'd't servant,  
T. S. SHENSTON, J. P.

Brantford, June 7th, 1856.

### ADDENDUM.

—o-o—

A Justice acting in a case like that of Miss Jennings's acts *judicially*, and not *ministerially*, as when examining a prisoner for murder, arson or the like, consequently, in some respects, his responsibilities are greater. Having evidently this fact in view, the law provides that in such cases as the former, a Justice *cannot refuse* the defendant the advantage of Council, whereas in the examination of parties accused of such high crimes as murder and the like *he can*.

The Judges always act *judicially*, and the law provides for the associates, without one or more of whom they *cannot act* in any criminal case.

The *Herald* and *Courier*,—the latter a paper completely under the Mayor's control—both give 1000 as about the the number present at the Town Hall Meeting. These the *Courier* calls "rate-payers of the Town." It is certainly somewhat singular that a 1000 rate-payers can be got together at a public meeting in a town that has *only 881 rate-payers altogether, and of this number only 516 voted at the last Municipal election.*

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The 200 or 300 who attended and heard the trial, came out of mere curiosity, and were a much better jury to give a verdict on the Mayor's conduct and mine, than the meeting on Monday. They did pronounce a verdict, and in a most unanimous and decided manner.

Councillor Long, who presented my petition, holds his seat, it appears by a small majority of votes. Different persons in the audience were continually twitting him of this; the Mayor and Councillor Girvin occasionally joining. Now it so happens that this last named gentleman holds his seat by the casting vote of the Returning officer, *nor would he have a seat at all if I had voted as I was urged to do.* A friend came after me with a cutter a few minutes before the polls closed, and urged me to vote against that gentleman, as there was a tie. My answer was that I had not taken the least part in public matters in Brantford and did not feel inclined to do so.

The Mayor and *Courier* strive hard to give a political coloring to the affair, and state that I am acting at the nod of the "Christie clique." With respect to Mr. Christie I have not received any communication from him, as far as I recollect, for more than 18 months. I have only received from him one Parliamentary document during the session; and I only recollect being even in his company once for more than a year; that was in the Cars, and our conversation religious and non-political.

Not a soul ever spoke a word to me with respect to my petitioning the Council, until I spoke to one of the Councillors a few minutes before my circular was in the hands of the printer.

At the opening of the Court, no person but myself really knew what course I would pursue. Miss Jennings asked me the question, after she came into the Court room. With respect to politics I only need state that I have not read one column of parliamentary or political news for the last ten weeks or more. At this moment I really do not know whether the Mayor, Christie or Biggar support or oppose the present Government.

There being no legal question involved, the Mayor ought to have given his decision immediately at the close of the trial; but instead of doing this he adjourned it until the following morning, and then did not give any decision till the evening. Did he want to consult public opinion before doing so? He told Miss Jennings that it "*gave him much pleasure to dismiss the case,*" &c., &c. How does this comport with his description at the meeting and elsewhere, of Miss J's "brutal" conduct, and the "black and blue"? On Miss J. applying for a written discharge, she was informed that the Mayor's decision was for each party to pay their own costs,—would not state how much her's were,—would not state when it was to be paid, nor would he state how long she was to remain in gaol, in the event of her not paying it. By law he is bound to give a copy of his conviction; but he would not give it.

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ing parties to settle their difficulties by each party paying his own cost; but I have yet to learn where the Mayor gets his authority from to make each party pay his own costs. He dare not attempt to enforce such a conviction.

At the last meeting of the School Trustees, when were present Messrs. Wilkes, Woodyatt, Watt, Thompson, Skinner, McNaught, Montgomery, Glasco, Maxwell and Hurst, the following resolution was carried:—

Whereas, this Board having taken into consideration the recent trial of Miss Jennings at the Police Court for correcting a child for disobedience, and having heard the evidence given in the case, *Resolved*, that the conduct of Miss Jennings on the occasion referred to, meets with the entire approval of this Board, and if Miss Jennings was subjected to any cost, this board will reimburse her for the same; and that Miss Jenninge be presented with a copy of this Resolution.

The Mayor and *Courier* have much to say respecting my coming from the adjoining county to fill my present office. To this I have only one remark to make. The County of Brant was formed out of the Counties of Oxford, Wentworth and Halton. Mr. Hincks said that he would waive all his right as an Executive Councillor, to make appointments; but as the Member for Oxford,—from which the Township of Burford and Oakland were taken, with a population then of 5273—he must insist upon his right to nominate one of the officers in the New County, and he nominated me. How I have discharged the duties thereof I leave the public to say.

#### *Extraordinary and Disgraceful conduct of the Brantford Mayor.*

Last night Brantford witnessed a scene such as, we are bold to say, would not have been got up in any other city or town in Upper Canada, and could only be matched by some of the old political meetings in Montreal.

Our readers are aware that T. S. Shenston, Esq., intended to present a petition to the Municipal Council, and the Mayor, it seems, dreading the moral effect produced upon the member by the universal condemnation of his conduct, expressed by every respectable member of the community, thought it necessary to organize a mob of the most heterogeneous description amounting in all to about 300, one third being noisy boys, to crowd upon and intimidate the Councillors from an honest and upright performance of their duty.

On our arrival in the Town Hall, we found it densely crowded, and the heat stifling. The Mayor was endeavoring to rule the petition out of order, before the arrival of Messrs. D. Gilkison and A. Kerby, who were known to be in favor of its reception.

P. B. Long, Esq., moved that the petition be received. Mr. Hurst moved in amendment that the petition be referred to a meeting of the rate-payers.

The petition was received by a vote of 10 to 4, amid the yelling and hissing of the mob. Councillor Gilkison expressed his surprise

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that the Mayor, who was generally so averse to any breach of the rules of order on the part of the Councillors, should now make no efforts to restrain the interference of the mob.

The rage and fury of the Mayor, on the motion being carried was unbounded; with clenched fist he threatened Councillor Long—said he would be Mayor in spite of them till January, 1857, and, if they did not behave themselves, would sit there after that. He permitted the mob to take part in the debate in his favor.

A person sitting near the Mayor rose and addressed the meeting, saying he had a petition for the dismissal of the whole Council, and the Mayor followed by declaring that Mr. Long should never sit there again. He threatens Mr. Gilkison with arrest for describing such language as impertinent, and joined with the mob in the cheers, yells and groans that drowned Mr. Gilkison's voice.

It is impossible to speak too highly of the courage and calmness which the gentlemen of the Council persisted in their course of voting the reception of the address, and standing true to law, order and justice, in spite of the yelling and hooting of the ruffians, who pressed on their very backs. Upon Mr. Turner apologizing for having supported the reading of the petition, and declaring his intention of supporting the Mayor in what he had done with reference to T. S. Shenston, Esq., the Mayor withdrew his objections to the discussion of the petition, and declared his willingness to have it put through. But Mr. Shenston and his friends refused to take another step in presence of so much violence, and left the Hall.

It was clear that Mr. Shenston's friends were by far the most numerous, but they were not of the class to compete with the characters that had been assembled.

Messrs. Racey, Cartan and Gilkison moved adjournments on the grounds that it was impossible to carry on any business in the presence of so much noise and excitement. Mr. Hurst's motion to refer the subject to the Rate Payers was carried, and we understand that it is Mr. Shenston's intention to convene a meeting of the Rate Payers, under the Act, in the County Court House, where the Chairman is elected by the meeting, and is *de facto* the Magistrate for the time being, with power to enforce order, the question in dispute may then be fairly debated.

On the departure of Mr. Shenston and his friends, we are informed that the Mayor mounted the Council Table, "Now for a free fight—bring on your Mr. Shenston." In a rambling speech he abused all the office holders, including Postmaster, Registrar, Sheriff and School Teachers, and promised to have them all dismissed.—*Expositor, June 3d.*

#### *Introduction of the Mob, by Mayor Mathews, into the Town Hall to Intimidate the Town Council.*

It becomes our painful duty in this issue to comment at some length upon the extraordinary scene enacted in our Town Hall at the sitting of the Council on Monday evening last.

If only for the credit of Brantford through the Province, we would gladly pass this matter over in silence, but, however remiss other por-

of the community may be in the discharge of their duty, an honest and impartial press that looks for respect in its locality, as the faithful recorder of, and fearless commentator on passing events, has no choice.

To this complexion has it come at last? Our local readers must be well aware that amidst all the vagaries that have been enacted here for the last few months past, by this man, whose conduct we are now about to review. We have demeaned ourselves with patience, deeming such escapades as only fit to be met with good humored raillery and sarcasm. The mixture of folly, buffoonry and coarseness which has marked the attacks that have been made upon some of the most virtuous, able and esteemed of our citizens, with a view to induce the Executive to deprive them of their coveted offices, required nothing else from us. They defeated themselves by their own grossness.

Law and order are for the present suspended among us. The head of that Municipality which should guard and protect our rights, check vice, and administer justice in our local institutions, has betrayed his trust.

The constituted authority of the Queen has been insulted and defied in open court; the utility of a public school in the highest state of discipline is rendered abortive; the functions of an able and discreet board of trustees are superseded, and a virtuous and defenceless girl, a tried and faithful teacher, taken from her seat by the police, before the eyes of her pupils, treated as remorselessly as a felon, or *low Cyprian* tried upon a charge which had to be dismissed, and, lastly, a ferocious mob introduced into the Council room to yell, hoot, hiss at and intimidate the Municipal Council, and so prevent any enquiry by the only lawful authorities, into these matters.

Such, people of Brantford, is your degraded condition. Such the alarming crisis which your carelessness, indifference and supineness in the choice of the head of your Municipality has produced.

We beg them seriously to consider their conduct, and to reflect calmly and dispassionately upon the consequences that must ensue, if, upon every difference that may arise among them, the mob is called in and permitted and encouraged to take part in their conflicts. We are reminded by lookers on, that Messrs. Quinlan and Hurst, both stated that they would be the first to call the Mayor's conduct into question, if he treated any member of the Board disrespectfully, and yet during the excitement that prevailed on Monday night, they look on approvingly, while the Mayor, with clenched fists threatens one of their number, Mr. Long, with violence and dismissal from the Council for ever.

A gentleman presents a petition, and a Councillor says "pitch it out of the window." A person in the crowd says he has a petition to dismiss them all, and the Mayor waving a paper over his head, joins in the cheer that follows the announcement. We have no space for farther comment to-day; but shall return to the subject in our next, which will doubtless appear before the friends of order have determined upon their course of action.—*Expositor, June 6th.*