

The "Bill for incorporating the Trustees of the St. Andrew's College," and the Bill for Registering all orders of his Majesty in Council, were severally read a third time, passed, and sent to the Council. Mr. Cooper presented a petition which he said was signed by 695 persons, inhabitants of King's County, praying for the disfranchisement of George Town and Prince Town, and praying that a Gaol or Court House might not be erected in the former place. Here Mr. C read a paper which he pulled out of his pocket, giving its contents in lieu of a speech in support of the prayer of the petition. He then moved, that the Petition be referred to a Committee of five Members to report thereon. Mr. Brennan said, he felt extremely sorry that any petition coming from King's County should not meet his support, and more particularly one which was said to be signed by so large a number of the people. But the very suspicious manner in which the present petition was got up and brought forward, made him doubt very much, whether or not it was genuine, or whether such as the prayer thereof was the wish of the people. He had as great an intercourse with a majority of the people of King's County as any Member in that House, and he now learnt for the first time that they wished not to have a Jail or Court House in George Town. He well recollected when at the Hustings in George Town at the General Election, having mentioned something of establishing Circuit Courts there, or of making King's County independent of Queen's County, and he thought it met the people's approbation; at all events he was elected when the Honorable Member who presented this petition was unsuccessful. He (Mr. B.) never brought forward any petition or measure relative to King's County since the Hon. Member (Mr. Cooper) obtained a seat in that House, without first submitting it to him, or at least making him acquainted with the purport of it; and had he (Mr. B.) been sensible that such as the prayer of the petition, would insinuate was the wish of his Constituents, he would have felt it his duty to have gone amongst them on a question of such magnitude, and ascertain their real sentiments. He was told about six or eight days ago, by a respectable man from Three Rivers, that there was some kind of a petition sent round amongst the people, and that he was aware of several respectable names being put to it without the parties knowing anything whatever of it. He (Mr. B.) observed that of all the signatures said to be to the petition, *three only* were on the same sheet with the petition itself, and even those three were only put to it in Town yesterday, as could not be denied by the Hon. Member himself. (Mr. Cooper.) Being therefore aware of the manner in which the Blank Sheets are handed round

to obtain signatures, (continued Mr. B.) and knowing that people all over the Island would sign petitions for the Escheat Bill, I fear the present names have been attached to this petition and obtained without the people knowing the real object thereof. And although I don't accuse Mr. Cooper with any dishonourable or underhand work in that way, yet when I see whole pages of the petition signed by the same hand, and other whole pages with marks or crosses, I don't believe it to contain the wishes of my Constituents and therefore cannot support it.

Mr. Owen said he considered the petition of a very suspicious nature, and could not give it his support, he saw no reason to believe it genuine from the manner in which the sheets of paper were patched together, and he believed the people who signed it never saw the petition.

Mr. Cooper said he wondered at the inconsistency of his honorable Colleague in making such a statement. That he (Mr. Owen) was the very man who handed to him (Mr. C.) in that House several sheets of the signatures to that petition, with a copy of the petition itself from Murray Harbor, and that he (Mr. Cooper) did not know the like was coming from that quarter until then.

Mr. Owen said, that that part of the accusation he could easily explain. That some days ago he received a letter from the Rev. Mr. M'Curdy at Murray Harbor, inclosing a petition from the people of that district, praying the inland mail to be forwarded to that settlement which Petition he had already attended to. That the envelope containing the petition contained also some other papers which he was requested by the letter of Mr. M'Curdy, to hand over to Mr. Cooper. That he [Mr. Owen] handed the paper to Mr. Cooper without examining them and therefore could have known nothing of their contents,

Mr. Angus M'Donald said he could prove a falsity in the very face of the petition, and that if required, he could bring forty respectable individuals, whose names are affixed to it that can prove they never saw it.

Mr. Hugh M'Donald followed in the same strain, and moved that the petition be thrown under the Table. Mr. Cooper moved in amendment that the petition be referred to five members to report thereon to the House. This amendment not being seconded the question was not put thereon.

Mr. Brennan said he did not like to treat any petition so disrespectfully as to throw it under the Table, and although he could not support the prayer of the petition, yet he would vote for it being laid on the table. Mr. Pope, Mr. Owen, and several others spoke to the same effect.

Mr. Compton said he did not see why

the King's County Sages should have anything at all to do with the disfranchisement of Prince County, he thought the Inhabitants of Prince County ought to be allowed to judge for themselves as to their manner of representation, Mr. Hyndman spoke to the same purport. On the question being put for throwing it under the table there appeared for the motion—Messrs. Angus M'Donald, Hugh M'Donald, Nelson, Hyndman, Willock, M'Neil, Compton.—Against it, Messrs. Brennan, Owen, Dalrymple, Cooper, J. S. M'Donald, Pope, Green, Cody, Binns. So the Petition was laid on the Table.

Mr. Pope moved for leave to present a petition from part of the inhabitants of Tryon River, praying for a Grant of Money to repair the Abiteau at that place. Mr. Brennan said he did not think it was fair that the petition should be presented in the absence of the Hon. Member for Charlotte-Town (Mr. Brecken), who gave notice, that he would present a counter petition from the inhabitants of Tryon River, and which in his opinion ought to be presented at the same time, as it might the better decide for the House whether or not to entertain it. Mr. Pope said he did not think it any advantage to have the petition laid on the Table, and that if the petition would be now received that he should pledge himself to make no other order thereon than to lay it on the table, until Mr. Brecken would have time to present the counter petition. But he (Mr. Pope) could inform the House the cause of the counter petition. It was (continued Mr. Pope) got up by old Mr. Lord the *Magistrate*, through spite and opposition, because he asked me to let him *privately* the contract of what money was to be expended there last year, and because I did not give it to him in his own way he would not tender for it, and afterwards insisted that it was his own private property, and that he would not suffer any thing whatever to be done to it, nor permit any person to cross it. This Mr. Speaker I can prove on oath if he is required.—There is another thing Mr. Speaker which in my opinion entitles this petition to peculiar consideration, and that is, Sir, the very logical style in which it is written, it has been drawn up Sir, by a man who expects to be a representative himself for Prince County the very next vacancy,—and I think when the petition is read the House will feel much pleased with the information it contains. The petition was then read to the no small merriment of the auditors, and laid on the table.

Mr. Owen moved for leave to present a petition from

* * * complaining that they are a great want of a road there, and that they have not been allowed by the commissioner (Mr. Lewellyn) to perform any statute Labour thereon, but were compelled