

CONSTITUTIONAL MEETING.

Foremost to public notice, a Meeting of Subscribers to the Petition to the King, and the several branches of the Imperial and Provincial Legislatures, for the redress of grievances, was held at the house of Dr. Barnside, King-street, York, on Friday the 15th August, 1828, for the purpose of forwarding the objects of the Petition, and making arrangements for their transmission to the respective high authorities to whom they are addressed.

W. W. Baldwin, Esq. M. P. was unanimously called to the Chair, and Mr. Henry S. Sullivan appointed Secretary.

The Chairman having explained the object of the Meeting on motion of Dr. Morrison, seconded by Robert Baldwin, Esquire, it was—*1st Resolved*,

That a committee be appointed for the purpose of watching over the interests of the petitioners, and of forwarding by such means as shall seem best calculated for that purpose, the great objects which they have in view, that is to say, the preservation of our constitution unimpaired, the firm and uncompromising assertion of our unquestionable right to the privileges of British subjects, and to the full enjoyment thereof in principle, in form, and in practice, and the constitutional redress of our grievances.

2d Resolved—(moved by Dr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Doell.)—That the said committee do consist of William Warren Baldwin, Esquire, M. P. Robert Baldwin, Esquire, Jesse Ketchum, Esquire, M. P., Dr. Barnside, Mr. Cawthra, and Dr. Morrison, and that any three members shall form a quorum for the despatch of business.

3d Resolved—(moved by Dr. Morrison, seconded by Jesse Ketchum, Esquire.)—That the said committee have full power to add to their number if necessary.

4th Resolved—(moved by Dr. Barnside, seconded by Robert Baldwin, Esquire.)—That the committee do transmit the petition addressed to our Most Gracious Sovereign, to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, to be laid at the feet of the Throne.

5th Resolved—(moved by Dr. Barnside, seconded by Robert Baldwin, Esquire.)—That from the manner in which the Rt. Hon. Vincent Goderich, then His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, received the petitions of the people of this Province on the Alien Bill, and recommended them to the favourable consideration of our beloved Sovereign, he has rendered himself deservedly dear to the people of this part of the British Dominions, and has taught them to regard him as one to whom in the time of trouble and political danger they might confidently look up as a firm avower of their rights, and a generous protector of their just interests.

6th Resolved—(moved by Dr. Barnside, seconded by Robert Baldwin, Esquire.)—That the committee do therefore transmit the petition addressed to the House of Lords, to the Right Honourable Viscount Godolphin, with a request that he would present it to that august House, and support its prayer with his talents & influence.

7th Resolved—(moved by Dr. Barnside, seconded by Mr. Johnson.)—That from the liberal sentiments expressed and the just views of colonial policy taken by the Honourable Edward Stanley, Esquire, in his speeches in the Imperial House of Commons, we are led to entertain an earnest hope that he will be amongst the most vigilant, and firm as he has been amongst the most able supporters of our rights and privileges.

8th Resolved—(moved by Dr. Barnside, seconded by Mr. Johnson.)—That the committee do therefore transmit the petition addressed to the Imperial House of Commons to the Honourable Edward Stanley, Esquire, with a request that he would present it to that House, and support its prayer, with his talents and influence.

9th Resolved—(moved by Mr. Ketchum, seconded by Mr. Wilson.)—That alive to every grateful feeling for those warm expressions of interest, for the rights of British subjects in distant colonies which so frequently and happily pervade the British Senate; we necessarily place great reliance for the support of our petition on the judgment, the prudence, and the talents of Sir James Macintosh and Joseph Hume, Esquire, whose vigorous wisdom and eloquence have given life as it were to those expressions so claiming our gratitude.

10th Resolved—(moved by Mr. Ketchum, seconded by Mr. Wilson.)—That the committee do therefore enclose to each of those gentlemen a copy of the petition with a request for his support.

11th Resolved—(moved by Dr. Morrison, seconded by Robert Baldwin, Esquire.)—That at a time when we are about laying our complaints before the Imperial Parliament, and are soliciting the aid of the talents and influence of members of that august body in procuring us redress, the recollection of those obligations which we and the empire at large owe to the late Right Honourable Charles James Fox, for his noble exertions in defence of Colonial rights, at a time when those rights were generally so imperfectly understood, leads us to turn with confidence to the present head of his illustrious house, inheriting as he does, the liberal and enlightened principles of that great and lamented statesman, as one to whom we in common with all others suffering from misrule and mal-administration throughout the British Empire, have a peculiar right to look up for assistance and support.

12th Resolved—(moved by Dr. Morrison, seconded by Robert Baldwin Esquire.)—That the committee do therefore transmit a copy of the petition to Lord Holland, with a request for his support.

13th Resolved—(moved by Robert Baldwin, Esquire, seconded by Dr. Morrison.)—That from the generally enlightened views and liberal policy, of the Rt. Honourable William Blackstone, we feel disposed to attribute his mistaken opinions as to the feelings, wishes, and constitutional rights of the people of this and our sister Provinces to misinformation rather than to a desire to trench upon our rights or liberties, and this we the more readily believe from his statement in the Imperial House of Commons, as

reported in some of the public prints. "That he believed the people of these provinces would readily acquiesce in the alteration of their constitution by the Imperial Parliament and in the raising of revenue on the colonists, and the deposal thereof by act of that Parliament," in which opinion, never was so able a politician more mistaken than that Rt. Hon. gentleman as we hold it to be a principle never to be abandoned that our constitutional act imposed by the Parliament of Great Britain and as accepted and acted upon by us, is in truth a treaty between the mother country and as her children of this Colony, pointing out and regulating the mode in which we shall exercise those rights which, independent of that act, belonged to us as British subjects, and which, therefore, neither the Parliament of the mother country, nor any other power upon earth could legally or constitutionally withhold from us: and that thus that act, being in fact, a treaty, can only be abrogated or altered by the consent of both the parties to it, that is to say, the mother country and the colony.

14th Resolved—[moved by Robert Baldwin, Esquire, seconded by Dr. Morrison.]—That the committee do therefore transmit a copy of the petition to the Right Honourable William Hunkeler, with an assurance of the high respect which we entertain for his great talents and of the firm reliance which we place on his Honourable intentions; and that we have thus communicated our petition to him that he may see by the contents how far he has been misled by those who are equally enemies to his deservedly high political reputation, and to the rights, liberties, and best interests of His Majesty's faithful subjects in these colonies.

15th Resolved—[moved by Robert Baldwin, Esq., seconded by Mr. Ketchum.]—That at this time, when from the misdeeds of Provincial administrations the question of colonial policy has become so peculiarly important to the empire at large, and the want of information as to the feelings and wishes and intention to the unquestionable rights of His Majesty's faithful colonial subjects, is likely to endanger that unbounded confidence which has hitherto been reposed in the Imperial Parliament, we feel a hope that Henry Bragham, Esquire, will not refuse us the aid of his splendid talents in support of our present remonstrance and petition, from which support, we look for the more important results, as in addition to the advantage of being assisted by the energy and talent that so eminently distinguish that great man, colonial policy in general has formerly occupied his attention, and employed his pen.

16th Resolved—[moved by Robert Baldwin, Esquire, seconded by Mr. Ketchum.]—That the committee do therefore transmit a copy of the petition to Henry Bragham, Esquire, with a request for his support.

17th Resolved—[moved by Mr. Crawford, seconded by Robert Baldwin, Esquire.]—That the committee do also enclose copies of the petition to the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lord Redoubt, & Lord King, and request those noblemen to afford it their support.

18th Resolved—[moved by Dr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Ketchum.]—That the committee do also enclose copies of the petition to the following members of the Imperial House of Commons, and request them to afford it their support, viz. Henry Labouchere, Esquire, Henry Bright, Esquire, Henry Warburton, Esquire, &c. Honourable John S. Wortley, William Jos. Denison, Esquire, Sir Francis Burt, Lord Milton, Lord Rivington, Alexander Baring, Esquire, Mr. Alderman Wood, the Right Honourable Sir George Bouverie, the Right Honourable R. W. Horton, the Right Honourable Thomas Wallace, Sir Charles Wetherell, Sir Nicholas Tindal, to Thomas F. Lewis, Esquire, Chairman, of the Committee on Canada affairs, and to the other members of that committee; and that they do likewise enclose copies of the petition to Charles Bonquet, Esquire, Chairman of the Canada Company, William Wilkins, Esquire, Deputy Chairman of the same, and to the other Directors of that Company.

19th Resolved—[moved by Robert Baldwin, Esquire, seconded by Dr. Morrison.]—That lest it might be imagined either by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, or by the present provincial administration that there was a wish to act in any but the most open and candid manner, the committee, notwithstanding the publicity with which all our proceedings have been attended to, do before they forward the petition to England transmit a copy thereof together with a copy of the proceedings of this meeting, to the Private Secretary of the Lieutenant Governor, to be laid before His Excellency for his information and that of the Provincial administration.

20th Resolved—[moved by Dr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Ketchum.]—That a subscription be forthwith entered into, and promoted for defraying the necessary expenses of the committee.

21st Resolved—[moved by Dr. Morrison, seconded by Mr. Ketchum.]—That John S. Baldwin, Esquire, be requested to act as Treasurer.

The business having been finished, Dr. Bernside was called to the chair, and the thanks of the meeting voted to the Chairman and Secretary, after which, the meeting dissolved.

W. W. BALDWIN,
Chairman,
HENRY S. SULLIVAN,
Secretary.

York, U. C. 15th Aug. 1828.

This day, at a General Meeting of the Constitutional Committee, appointed for the purpose of watching over the interests of the petitioners to His Majesty and the several other branches of the Imperial and Provincial Legislatures, for the redress of grievances, and of forwarding by such means as shall seem best calculated for that purpose, the great objects which the petitioners have in view, William Warren Baldwin, Esquire, M. P. was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee, and Robert Baldwin and Thomas D. Morrison, Esquires, appointed Secretaries.

W. W. BALDWIN, Chairman.
ROBERT BALDWIN, } Secretaries.
T. D. MORRISON, }