

R E P O R T

FROM

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

CARRICKFERGUS FORGERIES ELECTION

P E T I T I O N.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
4 February 1831.*

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R E P O R T.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE to whom the Petition of Lord *George Augusta Hill*, stating that several of the Names subscribed to the Petition of *William Henderson* and others, Freeman, complaining of the Election and Return for the Borough of *Carrickfergus* are Forgeries, and also the Petition of *James Simms*, *Henry White* and others, complaining that their Names were forged as Signatures to the said Election Petition, were referred, and to whom the last-mentioned Petition was also referred; and who were empowered to report the MINUTES OF EVIDENCE taken before them to The House;—HAVE examined the Matter thereof, and have come to the following RESOLUTIONS:

1.—*Resolved,*

THAT it is the Opinion of this Committee, That fourteen out of thirty Signatures to the Petition purporting to be an Election Petition against the return of Lord George Augusta Hill for the Borough of Carrickfergus, delivered into the Table of This House upon the 15th day of November last (such Signatures purporting to be those of parties entitled to vote at the last Election for the said Borough), were not written by the persons intended to be represented by the same, or with their concurrence, but are Forgeries, one of the remaining Signatures belonging to a Freeman long since dead, and another to a party not a Freeman.

2.—*Resolved,*

THAT it is the Opinion of this Committee, That Hutcheson Posnett was privy to the Forgery of the said Signatures.

3.—*Resolved,*

THAT it is the Opinion of this Committee, That John Morison Eccleston was privy to the Forgery of the said Signatures.

4 February 1831.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Lunæ, 20^o die Decembris, 1830.

SIR ROBERT HARRY INGLIS, BART.

IN THE CHAIR.

THE Petition of Lord *George Hill*, was read.

20 December
1830.

The Petition presented the 15th of November, referred to therein, was read.

The Chairman was directed to apply to The House for power to send for papers and records, and for leave to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of The House.

Orders were signed for the attendance of various witnesses, which were entrusted to the Agent for Lord *George Hill*, in order to so many of them being summoned as were found to be able to give material evidence; the Agent being informed that in case any were needlessly summoned, the Chairman would not feel it proper to certify for the payment of their expenses.

Martis, 18^o die Januarii, 1831.

SIR ROBERT HARRY INGLIS, BART.

IN THE CHAIR.

THE Petition of *James Simms* and others, presented to The House on the 20th December last, was read.

18 January,
1831.

The Agents for the parties were called in.

Mr. *Hubbersty* attended on behalf of Mr. *Handley*, the Agent of the Petitioners.

Mr. *Cookson* attended on behalf of Messrs. *Clayton & Scott*, the Agents for the petitioners against the return of Lord *George Hill* for Carrickfergus.

Mr. *Hubbersty* prayed for further summonses for witnesses.

Mr. *Hubbersty* requested that Mr. *David Legg*, a solicitor residing at Lisburne, and Mr. *Cunningham*, the town clerk of Carrickfergus, might be present during the examinations, so as to speak to the fact whether there were any other freemen of the same names as those who were about to be examined.

Mr. *Cookson* prayed of the Committee to direct that all the witnesses should withdraw except the witness under examination; but on explanation withdrew his objection in respect of Mr. *Legg* and Mr. *Cunningham*.

Mr. *Cunningham* and Mr. *Legg* were admitted on the special grounds stated.

Henry White, called in; and Examined by the Committee, as follows.

WHAT is your name?—*Henry White*.

Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—I am.

Henry White.

*Henry White.*18 January,
1831.

Did you sign a petition complaining of the return of Lord George Hill?—I did not.

Did you authorize any other person to sign it?—No.

Can you write?—I cannot, but I can make my mark.

Did you make any mark?—I did.

To what petition?—I made a mark that I did not sign against Lord Hill.

[*The Petition presented on the 20th of December was shewn to the Witness.*]

Did you make that mark?—Yes, I did.

Were you asked to sign the petition against the return of Lord George Hill?—No, I was not.

Did you vote for Lord George Hill?—No, I did not.

Did you vote for any other gentleman?—I did.

For whom?—For Lord Spencer, I think they call him; I think I have seen him in the room since I came in.

Look round and see whether he is now in the room?—This is the man, and I voted for him, and will vote again for him. (*Sir Arthur Chichester.*)

You did not sign the petition, complaining of the return of Lord George Hill?—I have signed no petition against Lord George Hill.

Is there any other freeman of your name?—No, there is not.

You never signed the petition against Lord George Hill?—No never, I was never asked.

Mr. *David Legg* was Examined, as follows.

Mr.
David Legg.

WHAT do you hold in your hand?—The names of the freemen of the corporation of Carrickfergus.

On what authority do you present that?—I have examined the rolls, and taken the names from the rolls.

Was that roll so held by you used at the late election for Carrickfergus?—This was not, but I have that which was; this is it (*presenting it.*)

Have you examined that?—I have.

Can you state whether there is any other Henry White, except the person now in the room?—There is no other Henry White upon the roll.

Do you yourself know any other person of the name of Henry White?—No.

Have you such knowledge of the town as to know that there is no other of that name?—Yes.

Are those rolls arranged alphabetically?—Yes.

Are the two copies of each other?—No.

What is the difference?—This roll was made out for the election of Carrickfergus; there were 700 freemen's names on the roll of 1785; very few of them are in existence, and we did not think it necessary to take their names; this roll contains all the names of the freemen.

On what authority do you state that that roll contains the names of all the freemen, now the freemen of Carrickfergus?—I attended in the Town Clerk's Office; I asked them for all the rolls, and the memoranda and books containing the names of the freemen and their certificates; he handed me all of them, and from those I made out this roll.

That is, in point of fact, a copy from the document produced to you by the clerk of the peace, which he told you was the roll of the freemen?—It is not a copy, it is an extract.

What knowledge have you of Carrickfergus, which enables you state that there is no other Henry White?—It is my native town, and from the part I have taken in the election I am enabled to say, that to the best of my belief there is no other freeman of the same name.

Giving your answer not only on the roll you hold in your hand, but from your personal knowledge of the town of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

You having been engaged in the last election?—Yes.

You say that this roll you have in your hand was used at the election?—The rolls of the corporation are not alphabetically arranged. It was found by the assessor impossible to refer immediately to the names objected to, and, by consent, this roll was used by both parties for the purpose of reference.

[*The Witness White withdrew.*]

James

James Willis, called in ; and Examined, as follows.

James Willis.

18 January,
1831.

WHAT is your name ?—*James Willis.*

Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus ?—Yes.

Did you sign a petition complaining of the return of Lord George Hill ?—No.

Did you authorize any other person to sign it ?—No.

Is that now shown to you your signature ?—(*the original Petition being shown to the Witness.*)—This is not my hand-writing.

Have you any idea whose hand-writing it is ?—No, I do not know the hand-writing.

Did you vote at the last election ?—Yes.

For whom ?—For Mr. Adair.

Were you asked to sign the petition ?—No, never, nor consulted upon it.

To your knowledge is there any other person of the name of *James Willis* ?—There is no other in the corporation.

Mr. David Legg was further Examined by the Committee, as follows.

FROM the roll you hold in your hand, do you state to the Committee whether there be or be not any other *James Willis* a freeman of Carrickfergus than the witness now before the Committee ?—There is no other *James Willis* on the rolls.

[*The Witness Willis withdrew.*]

Mr. Adam Cunningham was Examined by the Committee, as follows.

ARE you town clerk of Carrickfergus ?—I am.

Do you produce a roll of freemen ?—I do.

Have you got it with you ?—I have got several here. This is the oldest roll (*producing the same.*)

Will you produce the roll of the freemen of Carrickfergus ?—This is the oldest ; that is the second ; and that is the third ; and this book contains a great number at different periods.

Will you state to the Committee, from your examination of those rolls, whether there are in the town and county of Carrickfergus more than one person of the name of *Henry White*, more than one person of the name of *James Willis*, and more than one person of the name of *Robert Chaplin* ?—They are the only three of that name.

Was there more than one of the name of *Philip Williamson*, *William Williamson* and *Thomas Hamilton* ?—I am sure of *Williamson*, but there may be of *Thomas Hamilton*.

You are sure there is only one *William Williamson* ?—There is but one *William Williamson*.

Is there more than one *Philip Williamson* ?—No.

Is there more than one *Thomas Hamilton* ?—I am not certain of that.

Will you refer by-and-by, and ascertain that. Is there more than one *Adam M'Dowell* ?—No.

Is there more than one *William M'Dermott* ?—No.

Is there more than one *Robert Willis* ?—No ; there is none in existence but one.

Is there more than one *John Paisley* ?—I think not.

Is there more than one *William Reid* ?—There are two *William Reids*.

Is there more than one *John Hamilton* ?—There is.

Is there more than one *Edward Williamson* ?—No.

Is there more than one *James Simms* ?—I am not certain there are two *Simms*.

Are they both *James Simms* ?—Yes.

Both freemen of the town and county of Carrickfergus ?—Yes, they are.

Is there any freeman of the name of *Hugh Gormal* ?—I do not know any one ; it is not within my recollection ; I believe not ; there was a *Hugh Gormal*, but he is dead long since.

Is there any freeman in existence, or was there any freeman in existence at the time of the election, of the name of *Hugh Gormal* ?—I am convinced there is none.

Is there a person of the name of *Garnal* ?—There is one man of the name of *Garnal* ; *John Garnal*, I think it is.

Is there a man of the name of *Hugh Garnal* ?—I believe not.

Robert Chaplin, called in ; and Examined, as follows.

Robert Chaplin.

18 January,
1831.

WHAT is your name ?—Robert Chaplin.

Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus ?—I am.

Did you sign the petition complaining of the return of Lord George Hill ?—I did not.

Did you authorize any person to sign your name to that ?—I did not.

Look at that signature (*the Petition being shown to the Witness*) ; is that your signature ?—No, it is not.

Do you know whose hand-writing it is ?—I do not.

At the late election, for whom did you vote ?—I voted for Sir Arthur Chichester.

Is there to your knowledge any person of your name a freeman of Carrickfergus ?—Not any.

What is your occupation ?—It is termed sometimes a cordwainer or shoemaker.

To Mr. *Legg*.]—Is there any other person of that name, belonging to the corporation ?—There is not.

To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Is there any other person of the same name, except the witness now before the Committee, belonging to the corporation ?—There is not.

To *R. Chaplin*.]—Were you asked to sign the petition against Lord George Hill ?—Never.

Did you see any person going about with the petition ?—I did not.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Philip Williamson, called in ; and Examined, as follows.

Philip Williamson.

WHAT is your name ?—Philip Williamson.

Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus ?—Yes.

Did you sign the petition against Lord George Hill ?—No.

Did you authorize any person to sign it on your behalf ?—No.

Look at the signature now shown to you (*the Petition being shewn to the Witness*) ; is that your signature ?—It is not.

Do you know who signed it ?—I do not.

Did you vote at the late election ?—I did.

For whom ?—For Mr. Adair, I think it was.

Were you asked by anybody to sign the petition against Lord George Hill ?—I was.

By whom ?—By a man of the name of Ingram, a man that was sent ; there were three men came, and he was sent to my house from Belfast ; this man came and asked me if I would sign a petition that a gentleman had brought down from Belfast against Lord George Hill.

Ingram you mean ?—Yes ; I asked what it was ; he told me a gentleman who had the petition sent him for me and others ; Ingram lived next door to my house, and he said the gentleman sent him in to me to see whether I would sign this petition.

Who was near you at the time ?—My brother and I were in the shop ; he came into the workshop.

Who was the other person besides the gentleman from Belfast and Ingram ?—He told me it was a man of the name of Eccles ; I did not know the man.

You did not see the three people ?—I did not.

You did not know there was anybody but Ingram ?—No, only as Ingram told me.

Did you refuse to sign ?—Yes ; my brother and I were in the workshop, and Ingram came in.

What is your brother's name ?—William Williamson.

Looking at the hand-writing of your name, have you any idea by whom this was written ?—No, I have not.

Did you ever see that petition before ?—Yes, I did.

Did Ingram bring it to you ?—No, I did not see that ; I beg your pardon, I do not recollect seeing that before.

Did you ever before see the parchment which is now before you ?—No, I do not think I did.

Have you seen any parchment of the same kind ?—No.

Is that your hand-writing ?—(*the Petition complaining of the forgery being shown to the Witness*)—Yes, that is my hand-writing.

When you answered yes, to having seen this petition, did you think that you were looking at that you signed ?—Yes.

Did

Did your brother sign the first petition against Lord George Hill in your presence?—Not at all. *Philip Williamson.*

Did he refuse to sign?—He was never asked. When I told Ingram I would not sign, he went away, and he was never asked.

18 January,
1831.

Is there any other freeman of your name in Carrickfergus?—No.

Did Mr. Ingram tell you what the contents of the petition were when he asked you to sign it?—Yes; he said it was concerning Lord George Hill bribing and causing to be bribed; I just told him I did not know, and for that reason would not sign any such petition.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

William Williamson, called in; and Examined, as follows.

YOU are a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Did you sign a petition complaining of the return of Lord George Hill?—I did not. *W. Williamson.*

Did you authorize any person to sign it?—I did not.

Is that your hand-writing?—[*The signature to the Petition being shown to the Witness.*]—It is not.

Do you know whose hand-writing it is?—I do not.

Were you asked to sign any such petition?—Percival Ingram came into the room where I and my brother were working; he said there was a gentleman from the Marquis of Donegal's office in his house to sign a petition against Lord Hill; I asked him the purport of the petition, and he said that it contained that he bribed; that he gave meat and drink, and promised places of emolument; and my brother said he would not sign it; that he knew Lord George Hill did no such thing, and so he went out, and asked me no such question.

For whom did you vote?—I voted for Mr. Adair.

Is there any other freeman of the name of William Williamson, to your knowledge?—No, there is not, to my knowledge.

Mr. Adam Cunningham was Examined as follows.

DO you know this witness?—I do.

Is there any other person of his name besides himself a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Not of his name. *Mr. Adam Cunningham.*

Is there any other person of the same name as the last witness, except himself, a freeman of Carrickfergus?—There is not.

Are you clerk of the peace of the county and town of Carrickfergus?—I am.

Can you state whether there are any persons that you conceive to be freeholders of the name of Henry White?—He is a freeman.

James Willis?—He is a freeman.

Robert Willis?—Robert Willis is a freeman.

Robert Chaplin?—He is a freeman.

Are there any persons of those names freeholders?—None.

Edward Williamson, Philip Williamson, William Williamson, William Reid, Thomas Hamilton?—There is a William Reid a freeholder and a freeman also.

Is he the same individual who is freeman and freeholder also?—Yes.

Thomas Hamilton?—A freeman?

Is there any freeman of the name of Thomas Hamilton?—No.

John Hamilton?—There is no John Hamilton a freeholder; this is the roll of freeholders (*producing the same.*)

Is there a freeholder of the name of Adam M'Dowell?—No.

Of William M'Dermott?—No, none.

Is there any other of the name of John Hamilton?—No.

Any of the name of Hugh Gormal?—No.

Any of the name of John Paisley?—No.

Is there any of the name of Robert Willis?—No.

[*The Witness Williamson withdrew.*]

Adam M'Dowell, called in; and Examined, as follows.

WHAT is your name?—Adam M'Dowell. *Adam M'Dowell.*

Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes, I am.

Did you sign a petition complaining of Lord George Hill's return?—No, I did not.

*Adam M'Dowell.*18 January,
1831.

Did you authorize any person to sign your name?—I did not.
 Look at the name written at the bottom of that parchment (*the Petition being shown to the Witness*); is that your hand-writing?—I signed my name against it.
 Is that your hand-writing?—(*The Witness looked at it.*)—No, it is not.
 Do you know whose hand-writing it is?—I do not.
 Were you asked to sign the petition against Lord George Hill?—I was not.
 Is there any other person of your own name, Adam M'Dowell, to your knowledge a freeman, or a freeholder, entitled to vote at Carrickfergus?—No, I know of none.

For whom did you vote?—For Mr. Chichester.

To Mr. *Legg.*]—Is that the Adam M'Dowell who is a member of the corporation?—Yes; there is no other.

To *M'Dowell.*]—Do you mean Sir Arthur Chichester, the gentleman whom you see present?—Yes.

Is that your hand-writing?—(*A declaration that they had not signed a Petition against the Return being shown to the Witness.*)—Yes, I think that is.

Look at it and be certain whether that is your signature?—Yes, I will swear it is my own hand-writing.

Did you ever sign a paper of that kind?—I signed a paper at Carrickfergus.

That is a statement that, having seen a petition with your name affixed, you never had signed that petition, or authorized any one to sign it?—I signed that; I am sure that is my hand-writing.

You say that is your hand-writing, and that that on the parchment is not your hand-writing?—Yes.

How do you know?—I will tell how I know; that is the way I make my D, and I think I never made that D.

Do you recollect how many papers you signed about this election at Carrickfergus?—I think I signed two.

There is one of the papers you have already mentioned; what was the second paper you have signed?—I think that was on parchment. Mr. Hanley was present when I did it.

What was the nature of the other document which you signed?—They were both against the forgery.

When did you sign the other against the forgery?—That was, I suppose, a fortnight to-morrow since that came in that Mr. Robert Hanley sent for me.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

William M'Dermott, called in; and Examined, as follows.

W. M'Dermott.

WHAT is your name?—William M'Dermott.

Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Did you sign a petition against Lord George Hill?—Never.

Did you authorize any person to sign it?—No person; I am not a scholar myself. Can you write?—No.

Were you ever asked to sign or to make your mark to any petition complaining of Lord George Hill's return?—Never.

Did you ever complain that your name had been used, without your knowledge, to a petition?—I never signed no paper but for Mr. Hanley.

Did you make a mark to that petition now shown to you complaining of the forgery?—Yes.

For whom did you vote?—For Mr. Adair.

To Mr. *Cunningham.*]—Is there any other person of the name of William M'Dermott, a freeman of Carrickfergus?—No.

Is that the person referred to on the roll?—Yes.

To *M'Dermott.*]—What did Mr. Hanley tell you this petition was, when you signed it; what did he say to you when he asked you to sign the petition?—Mr. Hanley asked me whether I had signed any petition against Lord George Hill, and I said I had not; and he asked me whether I had any objection to put my hand to this paper, and say that I had not signed it.

He gave you to understand that the parchment you signed, was to state that you had not signed the other petition?—Yes.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Edward

Edward Williamson, called in; and Examined, as follows.

WHAT is your name?—*Edward Williamson*.

Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Did you sign your name to a petition complaining of Lord George Hill's return?

—No, I did not.

Did you authorize any person to sign your name for you?—I did not.

Look at the parchment now shown to you, is that your writing?—It was a small piece of paper I signed, to certify that I had not signed it; that my name was forged.

Do you know that hand-writing, whether it is your signature or not?—I know it is not my signature.

Do you know whose hand-writing it is?—I do not.

Were you asked to sign a petition complaining of Lord George Hill's return?—I was.

By whom were you asked?—I cannot tell; I did not know the man at all.

Was it a person not a native of Carrickfergus, or living in Carrickfergus, that asked you?—I think he was not a native of Carrickfergus, or I should have known him.

Did any persons come with him?—Yes; there was John Eccleston and Percival Ingram came with him.

Did the stranger ask you to sign a petition?—He did.

Had he the petition with him, when he asked you to sign?—He had what I considered to be a paper in one of his hands, but I cannot tell whether it was a big paper or a small one; I told him I would not sign any paper at all against any gentleman.

For whom did you vote?—I voted for Mr. Charles Adair.

To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Is there any other person of the name of *Edward Williamson*, freeman or freeholder, except the person whom you see as a witness?—There is no other.

Is there not another *Edward Williamson* entitled to vote at elections of Carrickfergus?—I beg your pardon, there is another.

Williamson.]—There is; but he is in the East Indies.

What evidence have you that he is in the East Indies; is he your son?—Yes.

When did he go to India?—He went in the year 1814.

Have you heard from him lately?—I heard from him a fortnight before Christmas.

Where was he?—In a place called Kernaut, in the Bengal Establishment.

Was that letter received by the post?—It was.

Have you got it with you?—I have not.

Have you seen it?—Yes.

Was it addressed to yourself?—It was one of my daughters it was addressed to.

Had it the foreign post mark?—Yes, it had.

Have you every reason to believe that your son is in India?—I have.

He was not at Carrickfergus at the last election?—Never; and never was at Carrickfergus at any election since he was a freeman.

Was he at sea or in Ireland in the month of November last?—Certainly not.

Then his name cannot be the name signed to that petition?—Indeed I do not think it can.

Had that letter the Indian post mark upon it?—Yes.

When were you asked to sign the petition complaining of Lord George Hill's return?—I think it was about the beginning of November. I am not positive to the day.

At what time of the day?—It was at night, after daylight was gone; by candle light.

Where were you at the time?—Sitting at my own fire-side.

Were any of your family present?—Yes, my wife and two daughters were present at the time; my two sons were in the shop at their work.

Did you know the name of the gentleman who asked you to sign the petition?—Indeed I did not.

Did you ever see him before?—No.

Have you ever seen him since?—I would not know him if I saw him; I never knew any thing about him.

He sat down in your house?—Yes, but it was not long that he staid.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

E. Williamson.

18 January,
1831.

James Simms, called in ; and Examined, as follows.

James Simms.

18 January,
1831.

WHAT is your name ?—James Simms.

What are you ?—I was a carter awhile, but I have not done much work this long while.

Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus ?—I am ; my grandfather was a freeman too, and my father ; I recollect them all freemen myself.

Did you sign a petition complaining of the return of Lord George Hill ?—No, I never did ; I never was asked.

Did you authorize any person to do so ?—No, I never heard any thing of it till it was a long time over.

Is that your handwriting (*the Petition against the Return being shown to the Witness*) ?—I cannot write at all in my own hand ; I was never spoke to by any body about it.

Did you make a mark ?—I did not at that, the first one that I heard any thing of it was Mr. Hanley told me and Dr. Martin ; I asked them to read it to me ; I signed a parchment to the contrary. I never signed my name to a petition against any man in my life, I would be rather for them.

To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Do you know this person ?—Yes.

Is he a freeman of Carrickfergus ?—Yes.

To *Simms*.]—You say your father and your grandfather were freemen ?—Yes ; Mr. *Cunningham* knows that.

When did your father die ?—I think within these twenty years.

Was his name James Simms ?—Yes, and my grandfather's name was James too.

Was he a freeman ?—Yes.

How long ago was that ?—About forty years ago ; I suppose he voted in the election at that time.

Have you any cousin or other relation of your own name ?—Yes, I have an uncle's son here ; my uncle James, he is here.

Is he a freeman ?—Yes, a younger lad than me ; they are all dead except the young man that is made free ; except this one that is here with me.

What is the occupation of your cousin, your uncle's son ?—He was first and foremost a shoemaker ; he learned to be a shoemaker with his father and Jack Hay, in Carrickfergus ; then he fell to the fishing trade and learnt the fishing trade ; he is now got master of a vessel, a schooner ; I believe she is belonging to Mr. Hanley and Mr. Stevenson.

He is your cousin ?—Yes, he is.

There are several other James Simms's ?—Yes, but they are not made free.

To Mr. *Legg*.]—Is there any other than this James Simms ?—I find the names of five James Symms, the grandfather and father, and another James Simms, the witness, and his cousin to whom he alludes.

Simms.]—I beg your pardon, but there is a William Simms who lived in the country ; but I believe he is dead.

To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—You have stated that the witness is, to your knowledge, a freeman of Carrickfergus ?—Yes, he is.

State, to your knowledge, how many of the same name of James Simms are now living entitled to vote at the election for Carrickfergus ?—I could not do that accurately ; there is another family of Simms in the country.

Did you attend at the last election ?—I attended the assessor in his private chamber.

Do you know how many James Simms's voted at the last election ?—I do not indeed.

To *Simms*.]—What is your occupation ?—The last occupation was driving a horse and cart of my own, now, sometimes I work and sometimes I go idle ; I work at different things.

Do you drive things to market ?—I have driven to Dublin, and all the way round the north of Ireland.

Is there any Simms a shoemaker ?—That is the person I spoke of ; he was a shoemaker, but he has quitted it for some time past.

Do you know whether James Simms, who you say lived two miles from Carrickfergus, is alive or dead ?—I cannot be positive ; but I believe old John Hamilton could tell you.

How far did he live from Carrickfergus ?—About two miles, in the middle division.

What

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What was his line of life?—A farmer.

To Mr. *Legg*.]—Are James Simms the grandfather and the father, down in the list you have given in?—They are not.

How long ago did you make up this roll?—That roll was made at first as a private roll; it was found before the assessor such an inconvenience referring to the town clerk's roll, that that was used as an alphabetical roll; and those observations "dead" and so on, were our own private marks.

When was the roll made?—Immediately previous to the election.

Long since; twenty years ago?—Yes.

Simms.]—I am the third in our line; my grandfather and my father and myself were all by birth.

To Mr. *Legg*.]—What is the meaning of M. D. in the roll that you put in?—Middle Division.

To *Simms*.]—You say this man lived two miles distant from Carrickfergus, was there any particular name to the place?—It was a country place called the Middle Division; it is struck off into divisions, West Division, and so on.

In what division are you?—I am in the Middle Division also, in the road just as it strikes off to another division.

[*The Witness withdrew*.]

James Simms, called in; and Examined, as follows.

ARE you a mariner?—Yes.

Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Did you sign a petition against the return of Lord George Hill?—I did not.

Did you authorize any person to sign your name to it?—I did not.

Can you write?—No, I am not a good writer.

Look at the signature to that petition before you, is that your hand-writing?—I do not know; I do not think I did sign that; if it is the one against Lord George, I never signed it, nor never saw it; it was never produced to me.

You cannot speak positively to whether it was signed by you?—That is not my hand, if it is the petition against Lord George Hill.

Can you write?—I can a little.

Did you write that?—I did not.

Did you sign by a mark any thing else?—I did.

Look at that mark? (*To the Petition complaining of the Forgery*)—I did not.

Did you make that mark? (*Another mark to the same Petition*)—I did not.

You said just now that you put your mark to some paper?—I did not to a paper of that description.

But to a paper?—Yes.

Did you write your name to anything or not, to your knowledge?—I did write my name in a kind of a way.

Did you upon this occasion attach your name?—I did to a petition in favour of Lord George, to a petition in the Court-house of Carrickfergus.

How long ago is it since you wrote your name to the petition in the Court-house of Carrickfergus?—I cannot say, but it was shortly before we came here.

Within the last month?—Yes, within the last month certainly.

Were you absent from Carrickfergus at any time in the course of the last three months?—Yes.

At what time were you absent?—I was absent from the 27th of October until some time about the 20th of November; I think nearly about a month.

Before signing the petition, which you state you did in favour of Lord George Hill, did you sign any other paper with your mark?—Yes.

Upon this subject anything?—Yes.

Look at this paper (*the Declaration*), and state whether that is the paper you signed with your mark?—I made a cross; but I think that is not the mark that I made.

Do you remember the purport and meaning of the paper?—It was read to me, but I do not recollect the words of it very much.

"We, the undersigned, having seen our names affixed to a petition against the return of Lord George Hill as representative for the county of the town of Carrickfergus, do hereby certify and declare, That our signatures to such petition never were signed by us or with our approbation."—Yes, it was to that purport.

Was it this kind of statement?—Yes; it appeared to me like a letter.

To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Do you know the witness?—Yes.

*James Simms.*18 January,
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Is he a freeman of Carrickfergus?—He is.

To *Simms.*]—Do you know anything of a person of your own name now dead?—Yes, my uncle Jemmy.

When did he die?—It is a good many years I dare say, nearly about a dozen.

Do you know any other person of your own name a freeman also?—No, I do not, except my cousin Jemmy that is here now.

Do you know a farmer of that name living near Carrickfergus, about two miles from your cousin?—I do not.

You say that neither of those signatures (*to the petitions*) is your's. Is that your mark?—No, it is not my mark.

Is that your mark?—No, it is not. I never marked upon parchment of that kind. I wrote my name upon parchment as well as I could.

Is that your hand-writing?—(*The Petition against the Return being shown to the Witness.*)—I cannot say exactly; I rather think it is not mine.

Cannot you say whether that is your hand-writing or not?—I rather think it is not, but I am not sure.

You cannot state positively whether that is your hand-writing or not?—What is the meaning of this petition; I should have a better idea of it.

Will you write your name?—(*The Witness wrote his name.*)

As you can write your name, why should you put your mark?—I did not like to put my name unless it was just when I was forced to do it; and if I can get any person to write my name for me, I just put my mark, unless where it is anything particular.

For whom did you vote at the last election?—I voted for Lord George.

Were you asked to sign the petition against Lord George Hill?—No, never.

*[The Witness withdrew.]**John Hamilton*, called in; and Examined, as follows.*John Hamilton.*

WHAT is your name?—John Hamilton.

Did you know a freeman of Carrickfergus of the name of James Simms, not being either of the witnesses now examined?—Yes, belonging to the middle division, the same division I live in.

Is he alive or dead?—He is dead.

When did he die?—He died a year past in the summer.

What business or profession had he?—His father learned him to be a weaver, and then he took a sore leg, and quitted it, and had a farm of land.

Do you say he died a year ago last summer?—Yes.

How do you know he died at that time?—I saw the funeral.

How far do you live from Carrickfergus?—I suppose about a mile and a half; to the best of my knowledge it is that.

Was he in the middle division?—Yes.

What are you?—A farmer.

Is there any other John Hamilton to your knowledge, a freeman?—Yes, there is.

More than one?—There are two.

What is the first John Hamilton?—He is a stone mason.

What is the second?—The second is a labourer now; he was a shoemaker, but he became a labourer.

The third is yourself?—No, my son.

Did you sign a petition against the return of Lord George Hill?—No, I never did.

Did you authorize any one to sign your name for you?—No, I never did.

Look at the parchment now shown to you, and to your name at the bottom of it, and say whether that is your hand-writing?—That is not my hand-writing; I never wrote that.

Do you know whose hand-writing it is?—No.

To *Mr. Cunningham.*]—Do you know this person?—Yes.

Is he a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

To *Hamilton.*]—For whom did you vote?—I voted for Lord George Hill.To *Mr. Legg.*]—How many freemen of the name of John Hamilton are there on the roll?—I find eight.To *Hamilton.*]—Do you know any other John Hamilton besides the two you have mentioned?—No other living that I know of as freemen.To *Mr. Cunningham,*]—Do you know any other person of the name of John
Hamilton

Hamilton, except the witness and the other two you have mentioned?—Not to my knowledge alive.

To Mr. *Legg.*]—Do you know from this roll of any persons now living as freemen of the town of Carrickfergus, except the witness and the two persons whom he has already named?—I do not.

You say there are eight of that name upon the roll?—Yes; on the roll of 1785 there is John Hamilton, town and county of Antrim, jailor for the county and the town of Carrickfergus; that is No. 252.

To Mr. *Cunningham.*]—Do you know any thing of the John Hamilton who was jailor?—Yes; he is long dead, to my knowledge.

Where did he die?—I cannot recollect that, but several years.

Before the last Carrickfergus election?—Yes, many years ago.

Mr. *Legg.*]—The next is John Hamilton; residence, town; addition, jailor and shoemaker, on the roll of 1785, No. 253.

To Mr. *Cunningham.*]—Do you know any thing respecting him?—Yes; he is the father of the two witnesses; their father was jailor, and I believe his grandfather was jailor too, not of this witness, but of the other two.

Do you know of his death?—I do; for many years there was an old man designated John Hamilton Gunner, he was fond of fowling, and there was a son of his, called London.

Did he die long before the last election?—Yes; and there was another in the revenue, they called Snowhead.

Mr. *Legg.*]—There is John Hamilton, town, sailor; roll 1785, No. 254.

To Mr. *Cunningham.*]—Do you know any thing of that person?—That is the one that was in the revenue.

Is he alive?—No.

When did he die?—Many years ago; I cannot recollect the year. I was instructed always not to molest the rolls, I wanted them struck off, as I knew they were dead, but I was not allowed to strike them off.

Mr. *Legg.*]—The next is John Hamilton, Middle Division, labourer, in the roll of 1787, No. 77; that is the witness before the Committee. The next is John Hamilton, of the town, cordwainer, No. 207. The next is John Hamilton, Middle Division, farmer, of the roll in 1787, No. 230.

To Mr. *Cunningham.*]—Did you know John Hamilton, of Middle Division, farmer?—I am not certain; I know this John Hamilton is of Middle Division, and I think there was another, the father of one of the witnesses here.

To *Hamilton.*]—Do you know any thing of John Hamilton, of the Middle Division, farmer?—Yes, I did.

What became of him?—He has been dead about three or four years.

You knew him personally?—I knew him personally; he was just a neighbour.

How far did he live from you?—About a quarter of a mile; his son is here as a witness.

Mr. *Legg.*]—The next is John Hamilton of the Bank, labourer, of the roll in 1803, No. 114. The next is John Hamilton, Middle Division, shoemaker, in the year 1807, and No. 99.

Are the two last brothers?—They are not.

To Mr. *Cunningham.*]—Who is the Gunner the father of?—The Gunner was the grandfather of a witness who is here; the father of the two witnesses was called London.

Which John Hamilton is he?—He is John Hamilton the jailor of the town and county of Carrickfergus; he was both a shoemaker and jailor; the son succeeded the old man, I think; but the sons can explain that.

Was that John Hamilton, whom you call the Gunner, the son of the jailor of the county of Antrim?—No, not of the county of Antrim; there are two distinct counties.

Did you know the jailor?—There was one was in the revenue; I surmise that it was him.

To *Hamilton.*]—Did you know that John Hamilton who was the jailor?—No, I do not recollect him.

Was he any relation of your's?—No, not that I know.

Do you know that there was such a man living at any time?—Yes, I have heard tell of all those that were mentioned, and I know a good many of them.

To Mr. *Cunningham.*]—Were you personally acquainted with the John Hamilton who was in the revenue?—Yes.

You are quite sure he is dead?—Yes, quite sure.

John Hamilton.

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*John Hamilton.*18 January,
1831.

The cordwainer was called by the name of London?—Yes.
His sons are present?—Yes.
He was a son of the Gunner?—Yes.

[*The Witness Hamilton withdrew.*]*John Hamilton*, called in; and Examined, as follows.*John Hamilton.*

WHAT is your name?—John Hamilton.
Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.
Did you sign a petition against the return of Lord George Hill?—No, I did not.
Did you authorize any person to sign your name?—No, I did not.
Look at the parchment which is handed to you (*the Petition being shown to the Witness*); is that your hand-writing?—It is not.
Do you know whose hand-writing it is?—I do not.
Were you asked by any one to sign the petition?—I was not.
Can you write?—A little.
Did you sign a petition complaining of the forgery of your name?—Yes, it was brought to me; I was asked to sign it.
Did you sign it?—I signed for Doctor Martin.
Can you write?—Yes, I wrote my name.
Is that your hand-writing (*the signature being shown to the Witness*); which of these is your's?—This is it, I think, (*pointing it out.*)
What are you?—A mason by trade.
Are you the son or grandson of any other John Hamilton?—My father's name was John Hamilton.
What was he?—A shoemaker.
Had he any other name than John Hamilton?—No.
Do you know any one called by the name of London?—Yes.
Was that your father?—Yes.
How long ago did he die?—I think he has been dead five years.
You know that he died at that time?—Yes.
Do you remember your grandfather?—I do.
Was he of your own name?—Yes.
Did you ever hear of his being called John Hamilton Gunner?—Yes.
Is he dead?—Yes, a long time ago.
For whom did you vote?—For Mr. Adair.
Do you live at Bank?—Yes.
Were you asked by any one to sign the petition against Lord George?—No, I never was.
What occupation was your father?—A shoemaker; the name of London was a nick-name.
Had he any other occupation?—No.
Was he in a public situation?—No.
What was your grandfather?—He was a jailor at one time and a shoemaker too.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]*John Hamilton*, called in; and Examined, as follows.*John Hamilton.*

WHAT is your name?—John Hamilton.
What are you?—A cordwainer by times.
Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.
Did you sign a petition against Lord George Hill's return?—No.
Did you authorize any person to sign your name to such petition?—No.
Were you asked to sign it?—No.
Can you write?—No, I cannot.
Did you write that name?—(*The Petition being shown to the Witness*)—No.
Did you authorize any person to sign your name to a petition complaining that your name had been used?—No, I did not.
Did you agree to complain to the House that your name had been improperly signed to the petition?—I heard that one of my name had.
Did you tell any person to sign a petition on your part to say that you were not the one whose name was used?—No.
Did you put your mark to a parchment stating that you had not signed such a petition?—Yes I did.
Are you any relation of the last witness, John Hamilton, the mason?—No.

For

John Hamilton.

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1831.

For whom did you vote?—For Lord George Hill.
 Was your father a freeman?—Yes.
 Was his name John Hamilton?—Yes.
 What was he?—A farmer.
 Is he dead?—Yes.
 How long ago?—Nearly four years.
 Was your grandfather a freeman?—I cannot say; I never saw him.
 Were you asked by any one to sign a petition against Lord George Hill?—No.
 To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Do you know this witness?—I do not know whether
 he is free or not. I cannot tell. I have no doubt of the fact.
 To Mr. *Legg*.]—Do you know this witness?—Yes.
 Is he a freeman?—Yes.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Thomas Hamilton, called in; and Examined, as follows.

Thomas Hamilton.

WHAT is your name?—Thomas Hamilton.
 Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.
 Did you sign the petition against Lord George Hill?—No.
 Did you authorize any person to sign your name?—No.
 Will you look at the parchment handed to you, and at the name at the bottom of
 that, and say whether that is your hand-writing?—(*The Petition against the return
 being shown to the Witness.*)—That is not my writing; I think not.
 Do you know whose hand-writing it is?—I do not.
 Look at it again, and say whether you have any doubt whether it is your hand-
 writing?—It is not my hand-writing.
 Did you authorize any person to sign your name?—No, never.
 To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Is that the Thomas Hamilton, the freeman?—He is.
 To *Hamilton*.]—Were you applied to to sign any petition?—Mr. Eccleston came
 to my house one evening, and a brother of Mr. Cunningham was in the house
 along with me at the time, and he called us out, and said he wished to speak to us
 outside the door; we went out with him, and he asked us to go to Mr. Ingram.
 We asked what it was he wanted. He said there was a young man from Belfast
 wanted to see us there. We asked who it was and what they wanted, and he did
 not say; and Mr. Cunningham asked whether it was to sign a petition, and he said
 he believed it was, and I objected to go to Mr. Ingram's.
 Did he tell you what the petition was about?—No, I did not ask him.
 But you objected to signing the petition?—Yes.
 How long ago was it that Mr. Eccleston came to your house?—I do not exactly
 know.
 Was it a month or two months ago?—I think more than a month.
 Was it more than two months ago?—I suppose it might be.
 Do you recollect on what day of the week it was?—I do not know indeed.
 In what part of the day was it?—Early in the evening; I suppose about five
 o'clock, or six may be.
 When you were told it was to sign a petition, you refused?—Yes.
 Had you left your house to go with this person, Mr. Eccleston, or not?—I went
 outside to go to Mr. Ingram, who is a man who keeps a public house, I thought it
 was to treat us perhaps to half a glass.
 When you found it was to sign a petition, you left him?—Yes.
 You did not see the petition?—No; and I never saw no parchment. But
 Mr. Eccleston was the person that came to my house.
 You refused to sign the petition?—Yes; he did not ask me to sign the petition,
 he said there was a young man from Belfast wanted me to do it.
 Mr. Eccleston came to you for that purpose?—Yes.
 Telling you that he was sent by a young man from Belfast, who wanted you to
 come and sign a petition?—Yes.
 Who first mentioned the petition?—It was Mr. Cunningham asked him.
 Whether it was to sign a petition?—Yes; what it was what was wanted.
 Had you previously heard of any petition about to be presented?—No, I had not;
 it was not me who asked the question.
 Was the object of the petition explained or mentioned?—I know nothing more
 of it than I have stated; what sort of a petition it was, nor anything further
 about it.

Thomas Hamilton.

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Is there any other person of your name, a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Not one belonging to the corporation, I believe.

Is there any freeholder of your name?—Not to my knowledge.

To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Is there any other, except the person now present?—No, no other.

To *Hamilton*.]—You have looked at the paper, and you do not know whose hand-writing it is, you say?—Yes.

Have you a brother?—Yes; John Hamilton.

Look at the name of John Hamilton to the petition; do you know that hand-writing?—(*it being shown to the Witness.*)—I do not know the hand-writing.

What is your brother by trade?—A mason.

For whom did you vote?—For Mr. Adair. There was no one of us voted out of the Marquis of Donegal's interest for these 150 years, I suppose.

Look at that signature, is that your writing?—(*To the Petition complaining of the Forgery.*)—Yes.

Is that your writing?—(*To the Declaration.*)—Yes.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Robert Willis, called in; and Examined, as follows.

Robert Willis.

WHAT is your name?—Robert Willis.

Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

What are you?—A fisherman.

Did you sign the petition against Lord George Hill's return?—Never.

Did you authorize any person to sign your name?—I did not.

Look at the parchment now shown to you?—I suppose they may be there, but I could not write that, nor I did not authorize any one to write it for me.

Did you put a mark to any paper?—No, not against him.

Did you put a mark to any paper, saying you had not signed your name?—I did.

There is a cross to that paper (*the Declaration*); did you put that?—I did.

For whom did you vote?—For Sir Arthur Chichester.

Did you sign also the petition complaining of the forgery?—I did.

To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Do you know the witness Robert Willis?—Yes.

Is he the person whom you know to be a freeman?—Yes.

Do you know any other person a freeman of the name of Robert Willis?—No other living.

To *Willis*.]—What was your father's name?—Robert.

Is he dead?—Yes, he died in April last.

You were present at his funeral?—Yes.

Do you know any other Robert Willis?—There is another Robert Willis, but he has not been in the place these eight or ten years, and I do not think he is a freeman.

You have not seen him?—No, I have not; he was a friend of my own.

If he had been in Carrickfergus, you would have known it?—Yes; he is a half-brother of my own, my father's child.

Do you know what has become of him?—He went out to America.

You have not seen him for eight or ten years?—I have not.

You have heard from him?—Yes, I heard of his being living about five or six years ago.

Where was he living?—He was in South America at that time, I think.

To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Was there any other Robert Willis who voted at the poll for Carrickfergus in August last?—No, no other.

To *Willis*.]—Was your half-brother Robert Willis?—He was the one who is abroad.

You have not heard from him since five years ago?—No, I am certain I have not.

You have no reason to believe he is in Carrickfergus; and, on the contrary, believe that he is not?—I am sure he is not in Carrickfergus, or I should have known it.

To Mr. *Legg*.]—Is there any other Robert Willis on the roll?—I find three on the roll of 1787; one Robert Willis of the town, chandler, he is the father of the present witness; the second Robert Willis, West Division, bleacher, in 1807.

To *Willis*.]—Is that your half-brother?—No, that is a mistake in the list; there is none of the family bleachers in our place; I have been in the fishing employment above thirty years and better.

Was

Was your half-brother of the West Division?—No, I lived in the west end of the town myself.

Were you ever a bleacher?—No.

Were you admitted a freeman in 1807?—Yes, I think that was the time.

Was there any other Robert Willis at that time?—No, I think not.

Mr. Legg.]—Then there is Robert Willis of the town, chandler, 1813, No. 83.

Willis.]—My half brother, who was gone abroad, was in the same employment as my father.

Was that person, admitted in 1813, your father or your brother?—I suppose it was my brother that was the last, I suppose.

Do you know a Robert Willis, a chandler, who was admitted in 1813?—That would be the younger one, that one that was abroad, but I do not know of his being admitted a freeman.

Was he younger than you?—Yes.

Was your brother a chandler?—Yes, he was the same employment as my father.

At what age were you yourself admitted?—I was upwards of twenty at the time.

What is your brother's age now, supposing him to be alive?—I cannot say; I was not reared with the family; I was born before any of those; I am older than James.

[The Witness withdrew.]

John Hamilton, the elder, again called in; and further Examined, as follows.

DO you know a person of the name of Thomas Hamilton, except the witness who came in a quarter of an hour ago?—No, not any in being.

Did you know any other Thomas Hamilton at any former time?—Yes, I did; but I am not quite sure whether he was a freeman or not; but he has not been in the country these four or five years; he is in America, and I am not quite positive whether he was a freeman or not.

Do you know that he went to America?—Yes.

Have you ever seen or heard any thing of him since?—Yes; there have letters from South America come from him to his father, who lives a little bit off me.

How long ago were the letters from South America?—There was a letter about a year ago; his father told me he had a letter from him at that time.

You have not seen him in the course of the last year?—No, he was not to be seen these three or four years, I am sure.

Have you any reason for thinking or knowing that he has left South America since that last letter you have mentioned?—It appears that he was living in America then, and there is no account from him since; I have not heard any account of his leaving.

For anything you know or believe he is in South America?—Yes.

Where did Thomas Hamilton, who is gone to South America, live?—About a quarter of a mile from where I live, in the Middle Division.

Mr. Legg.]—In the roll it appears West Division, "Hamilton, Thomas, West Division, labourer."

To Hamilton.]—What was the Thomas Hamilton who went to America four or five years ago?—He was a labourer.

Are you quite sure that the Thomas Hamilton of whom you speak lived in the Middle Division?—Yes.

And not in the West Division?—No.

How long did you know him previous to his going to America?—I knew him ever since he was a child.

Did you ever know the Thomas Hamilton that lived in the West Division;—Yes, I did.

What has become of him?—He went to Scotland.

When did he go to Scotland?—I cannot tell, a good many years; a great many years since he went away.

Have you ever heard anything of him since?—Yes, he was in Ireland about, I suppose, seventeen or eighteen years ago, but I cannot speak exactly.

He was back in Ireland once?—Yes, but he went back to Scotland, and I have heard no account from him since.

Have you heard anything of him since he was in Ireland, seventeen or eighteen years ago?—No; he was in Carrickfergus at the time he came back, but I cannot tell how many years ago that is.

Robert Willis.

18 January,
1831.

John Hamilton.

*Robert Willis.*18 January
1831.

Since that time have you ever heard of his name?—No.

Have you ever seen him in Ireland or heard of him in Ireland at any time since that?—No, not since that.

What business was the Thomas Hamilton who lived in the West Division?—He was a labourer; that man in the Middle Division was the same.

What age was the Thomas Hamilton, who went to Scotland seventeen years ago, when you saw him?—I cannot say indeed.

Was he twenty or fifty years old?—I dare say he was twenty.

Was he as old as yourself; were you young men together?—I will not say that he was not as old as myself, but I cannot say, indeed.

[*It appeared that Thomas Hamilton was admitted to his freedom in 1787.*]

What is your own age?—I suppose I am about sixty-three, but I am not quite certain.

To Mr. Cunningham.]—Have you heard of Thomas Hamilton of the West Division, admitted to his freedom in the year 1787, within the last two years?—No, they moved from one division to another, and they were set down some of them without any occupation, and the witness may speak to their last residence and not where they formerly lived.

The divisions join each other?—Yes; and they move from place to place.

Does there appear to have been more than one Thomas Hamilton who voted at the last election?—I cannot say indeed without referring to the book; it is not in alphabetical order.

[*The Witness was directed to examine the Poll Book, with a view to answering this Question.*]

[*The Witness Willis withdrew.*]

James Willis, again called in; and further Examined, as follows.

James Willis.

YOU are a chandler?—Yes, and soap-boiler.

Your father died in March or April last, did he not?—He died the 12th of March last.

You have a brother who went to South America, have you not?—Yes, about eight or ten years ago.

Have you heard from him of late?—No; we suppose he is dead.

Was he a freeman?—He was.

What was his name?—Robert.

Was he a chandler?—Yes.

Was he admitted to his freedom?—He was.

In what year?—I cannot exactly say.

If the Committee find a freeman admitted in the year 1813, was that your brother?—Yes; he was quite young, not above eighteen or nineteen when he was admitted.

There is another Robert Willis, who has been examined?—Yes; he is a fisherman; he is supposed to be a son of my father's before marriage.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Mr. William Reid, called in; and Examined, as follows.

*Mr.
William Reid.*

WHAT is your name?—William Reid.

Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—I am taken as such.

Did you sign a petition against the return of Lord George Hill?—I did not.

Did you authorize any person to sign it?—I did not.

Look at the parchment shown to you, and state whether that is your signature?—This is my name, but it is not my hand-writing.

Were you asked to sign any such petition?—No, I was not, or I certainly would have signed it.

Look at the hand-writing again; you say it is not your own hand-writing?—It is not.

Tell the Committee whether you know whose hand-writing it is?—I do not know; it is not mine.

Did you sign a declaration, that your name was put to that petition without your consent?—I did.

Did you sign a petition complaining of the forgery?—Yes.

Is the parchment now shown to you that containing your hand-writing?—Yes.

Is that now shown to you the declaration you signed complaining of the forgery?—Yes.

For

For whom did you vote?—I voted for Sir Arthur Chichester, and I think a very worthy gentleman too.

Do you know any other person of your own name?—There is one of the same company.

Who is he?—He is a pawnbroker.

What are you?—I am a joiner by trade.

To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Do you know the witness?—Yes.

Is he a freeman who voted?—Yes.

To *Reid*.]—Do you know the hand-writing of the other William Reid?—No, I do not.

You have stated that if you had been asked to sign the petition, you would have signed it; as you have signed the counter-petition, was that petition explained to you previous to your signing it?—It was.

What did you understand that petition to be?—I understood it was to be a consideration taken into respecting the forgery.

It complained that your name had been signed without your knowledge or permission?—Yes.

You would have signed it if you had been applied to?—Yes.

[*The Witness withdrew*.]

Mr. *William Reid*, called in; and Examined, as follows.

WHAT is your name?—William Reid.

What are you?—A pawnbroker.

Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes, I am, and a freeholder; I voted as a freeholder at the last election.

For whom did you vote?—I voted for Lord George Hill.

Did you sign the petition against the return of Lord George Hill?—I did not.

Did you authorize any person to sign your name for you?—I never did.

Will you look at the parchment now shown to you, and state whether that signature purporting to be William Reid, is your hand-writing?—It is not.

Do you know whose hand-writing it is?—I do not.

Were you asked to sign any petition on the subject?—I never was; there was never such a petition presented to me for signature.

Did you hear of such a petition being in the town?—I did not hear of its being in the town till it was out of the town.

You saw no person carrying it about or any thing of that sort?—I did not; I never saw it in the town till after, till a copy of it came to Carrickfergus from Dublin.

You signed the petition complaining of the forgery?—I did; that is my name and hand-writing.

To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Is this Mr. Reid a freeman?—Yes, and freeholder.

You know him to be a freeholder?—Yes.

Are there more than two William Reids who are freemen?—No, only two, one of whom is a freeholder.

To Mr. *Legg*.]—Did the witness vote as a freeholder at the last election for the borough of Carrickfergus?—I am not prepared to say that.

[*The Witness withdrew*.]

John Paisley, called in; and Examined, as follows.

WHAT is your name?—John Paisley.

How do you spell your name?—P-a-i-s-l-e-y.

Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Did you sign a petition complaining of the return of Lord George Hill?—No, I did not.

Did you authorize any person to sign such a petition on your part?—No, I did not.

Were you asked by any one to sign such a petition?—No, I was not.

Look at the parchment now handed to you, and at the name there?—That is not spelt in the way I spell my name; this is l-i-e.

Mr.
William Reid.

18 January,
1831.

Mr.
William Reid.

John Paisley.

*John Paisley.*18 January,
1831.

Do you know any man of the name of John Paislie spelt as that is, in Carrickfergus?—No, I do not.

To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Is there any other of that name on the poll?—I believe not.

Mr. *Legg*.]—There is one on the roll in 1775.

Does he spell his name i-e or e-y?—It is spelt l-e-y.

In the same way as the witness has spelt his name?—Yes.

Is there any name on the roll spelt l-i-e?—There is not.

The party on the roll is admitted as free in the year 1785?—Yes.

To *Paisley*.]—Was your father of your own name?—No, my father was James.

Had you an uncle or other relation of the name of John Paisley?—No, my father never had any brother; my grandfather was John Paisley.

Was he a freeman to your belief?—I believe he was.

To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Do you remember a freeman of Carrickfergus in the year 1785 of that name?—It is a collected roll at that period. Here is a John Paisley, North East Division, farmer, in the year 1785.

To *Paisley*.]—Do you know when your grandfather died?—I do not suppose it is less than five or six and thirty years ago, but I cannot swear to the date; I was a little boy.

Do you remember his death?—Yes, I do.

When were you admitted?—I could not tell you the exact year; I suppose it was about twenty years ago.

Your grandfather was called John Paisley?—Yes.

What age was he when he died?—I cannot tell; I was a little boy at the time. It is just as well as I can recollect his death.

What trade was he?—He was a farmer.

Mr. *Cunningham*.]—He might have been admitted many years before 1785, that is a collected roll up to that time; it only proves that he was a freeman at that time; he might have been so many years before that.

To *Paisley*.]—For whom did you vote?—I voted for Mr. Adair at the last election.

Did you sign that declaration?—(*it being shown to the Witness*.)—Yes, that is my name and hand-writing.

[*The Witness withdrew*.]

Mr. *David Legg* was further Examined, as follows.

Mr.
David Legg.

WAS there more than one Thomas Hamilton who voted at the last election?—No, only one; he is described as Thomas Hamilton, residing at Joy Mount Bank.

Is that poll-book taken by you?—No, it is the sheriff's poll.

Have you examined the records of the corporation?—I have.

Do you find any name or more than one name of Hugh Gormal there?—I have looked for the name of Hugh Gormal or Gormill, and I find one name on the roll of 1787, No. 180, Hugh Gormill, West Division, labourer; and on the roll of 1803, No. 101, Hugh Gormall, Middle Division, farmer; I do not find any other names.

Mr. *Adam Cunningham* was further Examined, as follows.

Mr.
Adam Cunningham.

DO you know either of those persons?—I know that Hugh Gormall, of 1803, if he was of the Middle Division, he has been long dead.

When did he die?—I do not know; a few years since.

Did you know him well?—Yes, I knew him to be a farmer.

To Mr. *Legg*.]—Did any Hugh Gormall vote at the last election?—It is impossible to answer that at present, without searching the whole book.

To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Were you at his funeral?—No, I do not recollect being at his funeral.

Were you well acquainted with him?—No, only to know that he was a farmer.

With respect to Hugh Gormill, West Division, labourer, 1787, did you know him at all?—I do not recollect him.

John Hamilton, the elder, again called in; and further Examined, as follows.

John Hamilton.

DID you know a person of the name of Hugh Gormal?—Yes.

Was he a freeman?—I think he was.

In

John Hamilton.

18 January,
1831.

In what division did he live?—In the Middle Division.

What was he?—He was a labourer.

What age would he have been if he had been alive now?—I cannot say exactly; I suppose he would have been seventy if he had been alive now.

Is he dead?—He is dead.

How do you know that?—I saw the funeral; he was an old man when he died.

Was he a freeman; did he ever vote in your knowledge?—To the best of my knowledge he did.

Have you any recollection of the fact at all of his having voted?—I heard them say that he was a freeman, but I never saw him vote.

Are you sure he belonged to the Middle Division?—Yes.

What did you mean by labourer?—He laboured; he lived with his brother awhile, before that he wrought for people for money.

Had he ever any property of his own; did he ever hire land or hold any property?—He had at some early time, but it was gone long before he died.

Do you know of whom he held the land?—Yes, he held it of a Captain Ellis.

Did you ever know a person of the name of Hugh Gormill?—Indeed I cannot say as to that.

Did you ever know more than one person whose name was pronounced Hugh Gormall?—Yes, I did.

Who was the other you knew?—I knowed another, but it is an old date too, I have not known him in the country these many years of the same name.

Was he a freeman?—I cannot say to that, it is so long ago.

In what division did he live?—He lived in both the West Division and the North East Division at different times, and he lived some time in the Middle Division too.

Was he a labourer or a farmer, or what?—He was a labourer.

This is a long time ago?—It is indeed.

How long ago do you suppose it was?—I could not say exactly, it is a long time ago.

Do you know any thing of his death?—I heard he was dead, but the certainty of it I cannot say.

How many years ago is it since you saw him last?—It is above twenty, and a good deal above it.

If he had been in Carrickfergus, you must have seen him in that interval you think?—I did not see him; I cannot tell how many years ago, I am sure it was above twenty, but the certain time I cannot say, indeed.

Have you any reason for believing that that man is alive now?—No; I have no opinion that he is living, but I cannot say, I do not believe he is.

[The Witness withdrew.]

Mr. David Legg was further Examined, as follows.

LOOK at the petition handed to you, and read the seventh name in the third column; how do you read that?—Robert Bonlad.

Do you find any such name in the roll?—I do not.

Mr.
David Legg.

Mr. Adam Cunningham was further Examined, as follows.

LOOK at the seventh name in the third column to the petition against the return, how do you read that?—Robert Bonlad.

Do you find any such name upon the roll?—There is no such name upon any of the rolls, that I am convinced of; nor nothing like it.

Do you know a person of the name of Bashford?—I do.

What is his christian name?—Robert.

Do you know any person of the name of Bowlad?—No, I do not.

Do you know a person of the name of Bowles?—No, there is none.

Look at the second name on the fourth column, and state what you call that?—I think it is Archibald; but the other name I cannot make out; if it is Jones, there is no Archibald Jones.

Is there any person of the name of Archibald Joines?—I know of none.

To Mr. Legg.]—Will you look at the second name in the fourth column of the original petition, and read it?—Archibald Joines.

Mr.
Adam Cunningham.

Mr.
Adam Cunningham.
18 January,
1831.

Is there any such name in the roll you have submitted to the Committee?—There is not.

To Mr. *Cunningham*.]—Was there any person of that name voted at the election?—Not that I recollect.

Do you know a freeman of the name of Archibald M'Dolpin?—There is an Archibald M'Alpine.

Where does he live?—In the town; he is the pound-keeper in Essex-street, in the town of Carrickfergus.

He is a freeman?—He is.

Do you recollect for whom he voted at the last election?—No, I cannot tell.

To Mr. *Legg*.]—Do you know for whom he voted?—I think he voted for Sir Arthur Chichester.

Mr. *Robert Hanley*, called in; and Examined, as follows.

Mr.
Robert Hanley.

WHAT is your name?—Robert Hanley.

We understand you are well acquainted with Carrickfergus?—I am, very well.

Are you sufficiently acquainted with Carrickfergus to be able to tell the Committee anything respecting two persons, Hugh Gormill or Hugh Gormall?—Yes, I know both those persons that were freemen.

Describe them if you please?—There was one lived in the Middle Division.

What was he called?—He was, I suppose, a labourer at his death. His father was a farmer. He was described either as a farmer or labourer; he laboured as a bleacher.

Is he dead?—I was not at his funeral; but I have understood he was dead some years ago.

What would have been his age if he had been alive now?—I suppose he would have been about seventy-five, perhaps more.

Do you know anything of Hugh Gormill or Gormall, of any other division?—He was a herd to my father.

What would have been his age?—I suppose he would have been above seventy.

Do you know of his death personally?—I was not at his funeral, but I knew the man, and I think, from every report, he has been dead twenty years; I knew his sons very well.

Knowing his sons very well you have every reason to suppose he is dead?—Yes.

Did you ever hear the son say that he was dead?—Yes, I have; being a herd to my father I heard it.

To the best of your knowledge is there any freeman, or person claiming to be a freeman of the name of Hugh Gormill or Gormall in Carrickfergus at this time?—I am pretty certain there is not.

Will you look at the seventh name on the third column; do you think there is any person entitled to vote in Carrickfergus who would sign as that is signed?—I do not know any one of this name which is signed here.

How do you read that name?—I have heard the name was Bashford, but I do not know it of my own knowledge.

Look at the second name on the fourth column; how do you read that?—I cannot read that name at all.

Archibald is supposed to be the first?—I suppose it is.

How do you read the second name?—There is not any freeman of a name like the last part; I would make it Loins.

Is there such a name as Joins or Johns?—There is no such name in the corporation.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Mercurii, 19^o die Januarij, 1831.

SIR ROBERT HARRY INGLIS, BART.,

IN THE CHAIR.

John Hennedy, called in; and Examined.

WHAT is your name?—John Hennedy.

Are you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Did you sign a petition against the return of Lord George Hill?—I did.

Will you write your own name?—(*The Witness wrote the same.*)Did you sign that Petition now shown to you, (*the Petition against the return*)?

—Yes, that is my hand-writing.

At what time did you sign this?—I do not remember the day of the month; but it was in the month of November.

In whose presence?—In the presence of Mr. Posnett.

Any other persons?—Six other persons.

Who were they?—Felix Stuart, William Haggan, Robert Bashford, William Hennedy, and John Haggan.

Was there any other person present?—No, there were six, and Mr. Posnett.

Do you mean that you formed the sixth?—Yes.

Did you ever deny that you had signed the petition against Lord George Hill; did you ever say to anybody that you had not signed the petition, which petition you now say you did sign?—I did.

To whom did you deny it?—To Mr. Hanley, Doctor Martin, and John Carry.

Why did you do that?—I thought they had no authority for asking me, as being men of the opposite side.

Where did you deny this?—In my own house.

Was any inducement held out by them to you to say this?—No.

Has any inducement been held out to you to give a different story now, or at any other time?—No.

Neither party said any thing to you which made you deny it on one day and admit it on another?—No.

When did you first deny that you had signed the petition?—I do not remember; it was after that; but I do not remember the time.

Was it a week or a month ago?—I suppose a month ago; I cannot exactly say the time.

It was after you had signed the petition?—Yes, it was.

About how long?—I do not exactly know; it was a considerable time; I suppose a fortnight; I cannot justly say how long it was.

Did you see the man sign the petition who signed immediately after you?—I was in the room, and saw him sit down and take a pen in his hand, but not standing over him.

What was his name?—William Haggan or Robert Bashford; I am not sure which of them.

You saw him take a pen into his hand after you had signed?—Yes, I did.

You knew Robert Bashford personally, did you?—Yes, I did.

At whose house was it the names were signed?—Felix Stuart's.

Who asked you to go there?—A gentleman came up to my own house, and said that I was a wanting.

Who was the gentleman?—Mr. Posnett. I did not know what I was wanted for till I was sent down.

Who asked you to sign the petition?—Mr. Posnett.

Who is Mr. Posnett?—I believe him to be a clerk of Lord Donegal's.

Does he live at Belfast or Carrickfergus?—He lives at Belfast; he does not live at Carrickfergus.

Did you read the petition before you signed it?—I heard them read it.

Did you look at the name immediately before yours when you signed it?—I did not look, but I dis-remember who it was at this time. I dis-remember who the person was.

*John Hennedy.*19 January,
1831.

*John Hennedy.*19 January,
1831.

Were there many other names signed before yours?—There were a number of names.

Were there names signed on the right-hand and the left-hand of yours?—There were names signed on the right-hand, but none on the left.

At what o'clock was this?—It was about breakfast time.

What became of the petition after you had signed it?—After we had signed it Mr. Posnett rolled it up and took it away.

After you or after they had signed it?—After we all had signed it.

Do you mean the whole of you six?—Yes.

Where did he go to?—He said he had to meet a batch of gentlemen at Mr. Cowan's mill, at half-past nine o'clock.

Did you see him leave the house?—I did; I saw him leave the room.

Was he walking or in a car?—I only saw him leave the room, I did not go out of the house with him.

Did anybody go with him?—No.

Did you hear him quit the house?—I saw him leave the room out of our presence.

Was it on the ground-floor you were?—It was on an upper-floor.

Did you see him in the street; do you know that he left the house at that time?—I did not see him in the street afterwards.

Was any person below at the time?—None, to my knowledge.

Did you ever see the petition afterwards?—I never did.

You say it was about breakfast time?—Yes.

What was the distance from Felix Stuart's house to Mr. Cowan's mill?—He could walk it in about five minutes.

Is there any part of the town between Felix Stuart's and Mr. Cowan's mill?—Yes, Mr. Stuart's is in the middle of the town and Mr. Cowan's mill is in Joy Mount Bank.

Can you tell any of the names on the right hand of yours at the time when you signed it?—There was one in particular I took notice of, Robert Ker and Logan.

Can you mention any other?—James or John Logan, I am partially acquainted with the man, but I took notice of the names.

How many names do you suppose there were at the right hand when you looked at it?—I did not count them, but I suppose there was—I cannot say to be sure.

State as nearly as you can recollect whether there were twenty or a hundred names?—There was not twenty.

You say William Hennedy was present?—Yes.

Did he sign the petition?—Yes, he did.

Did you see him sign it?—I did see him sit down to sign it, and hold his hand right to it.

Did you see his hand before you wrote your own?—No, I signed before him.

Do you recollect whether it was in the same column with your own signature?—It was not.

Did he sign before or after you?—After me.

Did any person sign after him of the six?—No, I do not remember that any one did, I think he was the last.

Was Percival Ingram in the room at the time?—He was not.

Had you seen him shortly before that?—I had not.

Mr. Posnett left the room saying that he was going to Cowan's mill?—Yes, he did.

Is the middle division of Carrickfergus between Felix Stuart's house and Mr. Cowan's mill?—The one is in the town, and the other is at the end of the town, what is called Joy Mount Bank.

Through what part of the town do you pass going from Felix Stuart's to Mr. Cowan's?—Past the Court-house.

In what division of the town?—The town runs straight down on the right hand side.

Did you ever deny to any other persons than those you have already named that you did sign the petition against Lord George Hill's return?—I do not remember any one party asking me, except a gentleman they brought with them at another time that I did not know.

Did you say that you denied it more than once?—Twice, I said; the second time

time they came, I said, if I had not signed, I had sanctioned it, which was all the same; and they never asked me any more questions about it.

Who was the person who asked you that question?—Mr. Hanley, and, I believe, Dr. Martin, and another gentleman that I did not know.

Had you ever any communication with Mr. Posnett after this time?—No, I saw him; I was about five minutes in his company; but I may say I had no communication with him; he and others were talking.

Where was that?—In Belfast.

How long after you signed?—It was last week; it was not me that was with him, but I was in company; but the man that was with him; I had no communication with him at all.

What other persons were there at that time in company with Mr. Posnett when you saw him last week in Belfast?—William Haggan and Robert Bashford had business with him.

Anybody else?—John Haggan and me happened to be passing, and fell in company with them; we fell in with them in the street.

Was there any conversation at that time about the petition?—Not with me; none in particular; no conversation with me at all.

If you wanted to go to William Reid's house, the joiner, from Felix Stuart's, in what direction should you go?—His house is in Mount Joy Bank too.

Is Joy Mount Bank the place where Mr. Cowan's mill is?—Yes.

You said you could recollect the month and the hour of the day; try to recollect the day of the week when you signed the petition against Lord George?—I believe it was on Tuesday; I am not just sure, but I believe it to be that.

Can you now state the day of the month?—No, I cannot.

Who signed immediately before you?—Felix Stuart.

Were there any other names in the same column above Felix Stuart's when he signed?—There were.

Do you know whose names they were?—I do not know; the petition was a very short time with us.

Felix Stuart was the first of those named that were with you at the time you signed?—Yes.

Was there any eating going on at the time?—None.

Was Robert Willis one of the party?—No.

Do you know where Percival Ingram lives?—I do.

Where?—In Joy Mount Bank.

Do you know John Milburn?—Yes.

Where does he live?—In Joy Mount Bank.

Do you know Adam M'Dowell?—Yes, I do.

Where does he live?—In the country; but I do not know in what part.

Do you know William M'Dermott?—Yes.

Where does he live?—He lives out at the North-gate, at the north side of the town.

Was that on the same side of the town as Percival Ingram's?—No.

On the opposite side of the town?—No, rather to the left hand.

None of those persons were present at the time you signed?—No.

Had you seen any of them personally before?—No; I do not remember that I had seen any of them.

You said there were signatures on the right hand of the parchment, when you signed; were there any on the other side?—No; they said that was for the gentlemen.

Did you say you had denied twice that you signed the petition?—Yes; I said the second time, if I had not signed, I sanctioned it, which was all the same.

Who was present at that time?—There was Mr. Hanley and Dr. Martin, and another gentleman that was a stranger to me.

It was not at the same time when you mentioned the three persons before whom you denied that, because you thought they had no right to ask?—It was another time.

There were two of them the same?—Yes.

There was a third, who was a stranger, the second time?—Yes, there was.

Have you since known who that stranger was?—Yes; I saw him since.

Where did you see him?—I saw him when he gave me the summons.

Do you see him in this room?—Yes; this is the gentleman. (Mr. Hubbersty.)

Did you ever deny it again to any other person?—No, no one asked me; I was never asked by any one; I never denied it to any other person.

*John Hennedy.*19 January,
1831.

Are you intimate with Percival Ingram?—Not very.

Whom did you vote for?—Sir Arthur Chichester.

Do you know whom William M'Dermott voted for?—No, I do not; I believe he voted on that side: but there were different candidates, and I do not know who he voted for.

Or Adam M'Dowell; do you know whom he voted for?—No, I do not.

You never had communication with them about the petition?—Never; I never spoke to them about it.

Was Mr. Posnett known to you before this occasion?—I saw him.

Were you acquainted with him, or he with you, previously?—No.

You did not see Robert Willis sign?—No, I did not.

Did you see William Hennedy sign the petition?—Yes, I saw him sit down and take the pen and write his name.

He did not sign in the same column with you?—No.

How came that?—He was last when he sat down.

What prevented his signing in the same column with you?—I do not know, it was not intended, I am sure.

Did Mr. Posnett leave the room at all at Felix Stuart's while you were there?—He got a call at the head of the stairs, and went to the stair head; he got a call by a girl out of the room to go for his breakfast, and he went to the head of the stairs; he had not much time to be further.

Nothing was done with the petition during that time?—Nothing.

Somebody called him out of the room?—Yes, a woman or girl.

How long was he absent?—Not a minute, about a minute, perhaps, or thereabout; I do not know whether he was down the stairs or not, but he was not beyond that.

He did not leave the house?—I do not know whether he did or not, but he had not much more than time to be at the outside of the door and up again; there was scarcely time for any one to write a name while he was out.

How long was the petition in the room altogether while you were present?—I suppose it might be half an hour, or thereabout.

With the exception of the short absence you have mentioned, was Mr. Posnett there during all that time?—Yes.

When you got to Felix Stuart's was Mr. Posnett there, or did he come in afterwards?—He was there; Mr. Posnett read the petition, and I signed it.

How came you to go to Felix Stuart's?—Mr. Posnett came up to the two next doors, and told them that he wanted them down there, and my next neighbour took me down with him; he did not know the business at all.

Who was that?—John Haggan.

Mr. Posnett left you, and you followed him down to Felix Stuart's?—He was down before us.

How long?—I do not recollect seeing him at all, unless it was just his back.

Mr. Posnett did not speak to you before you met him at Felix Stuart's?—No.

Who desired you to go to Felix Stuart's?—John Haggan; and I went down along with him.

Do you know the fact of Mr. Posnett's having called at John Haggan's and your other neighbours before you went?—No, I do not.

All you know is that John Haggan told you this, and you went accordingly to Felix Stuart's?—Yes, he said I was wanted there, but he did not say what it was I was wanted for.

You live in the Irish quarter?—Yes.

You said you saw Mr. Posnett's back?—I believe it was his, but I did not know him to be the man at the time.

How many persons are there live in that row of houses where you live?—I do not know.

How many houses are there?—There are five or six.

Are not you quite sure?—I will count them; there are six.

Do you remember the names of the persons who occupy them?—I can; there is John Haggan, John Innes, John Hennedy (that is myself), James M'Key, William Haggan and Robert Bashford.

Are they all freemen?—They are.

Do you know for whom they voted at the election?—Yes, I do.

For whom?—They all voted for Sir Arthur and the other candidates on that side.

Who

Who where the other candidates on that side?—There was Mr. Adair.

No other gentleman?—No.

They all six voted for Sir Arthur Chichester or Mr. Adair?—They did.

Haggan lives next door to you, does he?—There is a house between his and mine.

It was he that desired you to go to Felix Stuart's?—He said we were wanted down there by some man of business.

He did not mention for what?—No.

Then when you went to Felix Stuart's there you found Mr. Posnett and the other persons you have mentioned?—Yes.

Who desired you to sign the petition?—The petition was read to us.

Read by Mr. Posnett?—Yes.

Why did you sign it?—We signed it.

Who asked you to sign?—He left the petition down for us to sign in his presence.

Did he say anything to you at that time?—I do not remember him saying any thing.

Did he ask you to sign?—He did; he read the petition, and asked us whether we would sign.

Was the petition always in one place in Mr. Posnett's sight or not?—It was in his sight.

Was it on one table or two?—It was on one table all the time.

Where was that table?—Opposite the fire-place.

In the centre of the room?—Yes.

Was Mr. Posnett near that table the while?—Yes.

When he went away he took the petition with him?—Yes.

(Mr. Hubbersty.)—You stated that I was present when you denied your signature; are you sure there was no other person present besides Dr. Martin and Mr. Hanley?—I do not remember.

Your house is not a very large one?—No, but I did not attend; I was at work.

You were sitting at your loom?—Yes.

Do not you remember whether there were two or three persons besides yourself in this room?—I do not remember seeing any other.

Are you quite sure there was or was not?—I think there was no more; for it was but a small place they had to stand in.

Did you not positively state to me that you had not signed the petition against the return of Lord George Hill?—I did say so to Dr. Martin and Mr. Hanley; but I did not know you at that time.

Did you not say positively in my presence that you had not signed the petition against the return of Lord George Hill?—The second time I was called on I said, if I did not sign it I sanctioned it.

Did you not assign a reason for refusing it; and was there not a further conversation on the subject?—I do not recollect it.

Did you not mention a person who was a friend of yours?—I do not recollect.

Did you not say you were a friend of Lord Donegal's?—I did.

And that therefore you would not have any further conversation with me upon the subject. Who is the landlord of your house?—I believe Lord Donegal.

Did any person point out the part of the petition were you were to sign?—No; when the man signed his name I knew where I was to write.

Did any person ask William Hennedy to sign in the particular place where he has signed it?—No, I do not think they did.

Did you learn from any person that there was a petition about to be signed against the return of Lord George Hill?—I do not remember ever hearing it from any person.

Did you ever represent that your reason for denying your signature was, that you were afraid of your life?—No, I do not think I did.

Are you sure you did not?—I might; I rather think there was a danger, in denying it, of being hurt.

Explain how?—There was among the lower order of people so much contention, that you durst not say what you thought.

From whom did you apprehend danger?—From the lower order of persons.

From whom in particular?—I cannot name any one in particular.

In point of fact you were afraid?—I should state that the people of Carrickfergus were some of them violent.

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You had heard that there were a great many persons residing at Carrickfergus who had at once denied that they signed this petition?—Yes.

Did you hear of any of them being hurt?—No, I did not.

Do you mean that you were induced to deny your signature from fear?—No, I was not afraid to sign.

Has there been any disturbance in consequence since this election?—There was many little disturbances.

Was anybody hurt?—Indeed I do not remember.

Had there been any processions, any burning in effigy, or any thing of that kind?—Yes.

(*Mr. Cookson.*)—Was there any thing particular taking place at Carrickfergus on the morning on which you signed the petition at Felix Stuart's?—There was an effigy hanging in chains at the corner of the streets; after it was pulled down, it was trailed through all the town.

Who were the persons who were burnt in effigy, what were their names?—I do not know, because I was not at it at all.

How happened you to know there was any burning in effigy?—I heard after it was trailed through the town; I heard it was burnt afterwards.

In going from your house to Felix Stuart's, had you to pass through any crowd?—I had; the crowd where it was hanging, at a place called the Irish Gate.

With whom did you go?—With John Haggan.

Were there any other persons?—None.

You two walked together?—Yes.

Had you previously seen on that morning Robert Bashford?—I do not remember, I think I did not, till I saw him there.

Did you find him at Felix Stuart's, or did he come in after you?—I found him there, I think.

Was William Haggan there when you went in?—I believe he was.

Was William Hennedy there when you went in?—I do not remember whether he was, or whether he came in afterwards, but I believe he was there.

Where were you at the time John Haggan came and told you you were wanted at Felix Stuart's?—I was in my own house.

This was about breakfast time in the morning?—Yes, or rather before.

You say Mr. Posnett was at Felix Stuart's when you went there?—Yes.

Did Posnett continue there half an hour?—Yes.

You say he was not out of the room, except to go to the head of the stairs?—Yes.

Did you see him in the course of that day afterwards?—No, I cannot recollect that I did.

Did you hear that he was sent for to Felix Stuart's afterwards?—I do not recollect.

How long did you remain at Felix Stuart's after he was gone?—A good while.

How long do you mean by a good while?—An hour or two it might be.

During that time Mr. Posnett did not return?—No, he did not.

You mentioned that there were five persons present besides yourself, did all those persons remain in the room at Felix Stuart's during the whole time you were there?—No, I do not think they did.

Who left first, do you recollect?—I did not mind, I believe it was John Haggan, and myself next.

Did you know of William Hennedy's leaving the room?—No, I did not.

Do you think William Hennedy left the room after Mr. Posnett left, before you left?—No, I do not think he did, I think he was after me.

Did he ever go out of the room to your recollection?—I do not recollect that he did.

Do you mean to say that he might or might not, or that to your recollection he did not?—He might or might not, but if he did he was very shortly out.

Is William Hennedy any relation of yours?—My brother.

Is William Hennedy here?—No.

How far from Felix Stuart's is Mr. Eccleston's?—Just opposite.

You have no recollection of any question being asked of Mr. Posnett about something to drink after that?—I do not know that exactly.

(*Mr. Hubbersty.*)—You have stated that when you went through Irish Gate there was an effigy hanging?—Yes.

What

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What person was it meant to represent?—They said it was a friend of Lord George's.

Lord George Hill's?—Yes.

(Mr. Cookson.)—On what account were they burning him in effigy?—I do not know, they said they were going to prove bribery.

Against whom?—Against Lord George.

John Haggan, called in; and Examined.

ARE you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Did you sign a petition complaining of the return of Lord George Hill?—I did.

Write your name.—(*The Witness wrote the same.*)

In whose presence did you sign it?—In the presence of Mr. Posnett, Felix Stuart, Robert Bashford, William Haggan, John Hennedy and William Hennedy.

At whose house?—Felix Stuart's.

On what day?—I do not know.

On what day of the week?—I cannot tell.

What month?—I think it was in November, and I think it was on a Tuesday morning, but I am not sure; I took no notice at the time.

At what o'clock?—Between nine and eleven o'clock in the morning.

Did not you deny that you signed the petition?—I did.

To whom?—To Mr. Hanley.

In whose presence?—In the presence of Dr. Martin and John Carry.

Where?—In my own house.

Do you live with your brother?—I do not.

What induced you to deny it?—They were very stiff men on the opposite side, and I thought they had no call to ask me any question about it; they were three very stiff men on the opposite side indeed.

Who desired you to sign the petition?—Mr. Posnett brought it to me, and asked me to sign it.

Did you go with him?—I did.

Did you tell anybody else to go?—I did.

Whom else did you tell to go?—I told my brother there was a gentleman wanted to speak to him, and I told Robert Bashford, and I told this man here, and we fell in with Billy Hennedy at the same time, and went all together.

You all went to Stuart's?—Yes.

Did you read the petition?—He read it to us.

Did you look at the names that were signed to it before you signed it?—Yes.

In what state was the parchment when you signed it; were there any names to your right or to your left?—They were all to the left hand side column; I believe there was a second column began, but I cannot say exactly; I am not positive as to that.

You mean the beginning of the column which you signed?—Yes.

Whose name is the name before yours?—I cannot tell.

Can you remember any name signed after yours?—I do not particularly.

What became of the petition after you signed it. Did any other person sign it?—We all signed that was there.

After you had signed it did any other person sign it?—Yes, I think I was not the last to sign it.

Did you see the petition in possession of anybody going out of the house?—Yes.

In whose possession?—Mr. Posnett took it with him when he went away.

What did he do with it?—He put it in an inside pocket in his coat.

Did he say any thing?—He said he was in a particular hurry, and he could not stop.

Did he say what he was going to do with it?—Yes, he said that he had to go to the Bank, Mr. Cowan's, to have a few there, at his mill. There were to be a few signatures there.

What do you mean by the Bank?—Joy Mount Bank; that Mr. Cowan was to have a few in his mill for to sign.

Did you see him quit the house?—Yes, I saw him quit the room I was in.

Did you ever see the petition again?—Never again.

Can you at all remember the order in which the six you have mentioned signed their names; who signed first?—I think Felix Stuart, but I am not sure.

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Look at the parchment now shown to you (*the Petition.*) Is that your handwriting?—I think it is.

Have you any doubt about it?—Not the least.

Did you take any notice of the names before Felix Stuart's?—No, I cannot say that I did; I took notice of a few names at the end, and every one or two before him.

Can you mention any names that you did notice?—I think I saw Percival Ingram for one, I think I saw Hugh Larmour there, and John Logan I think was one, and Samuel Hughes I think, John Milburn and Robert Ker.

Did you notice their names from knowing their persons, or from any thing remarkable in the signature?—I knew the names. I knew the men well, except Samuel Hughes. There was another name too, I could not read it particularly, but I believe it meant Archibald M'Golpin; I could not read it, but I was told that was what it meant; my brother read it and said it was Archibald M'Golpin he was sure.

Do you recollect any other name there?—I do not indeed.

Do you recollect at what time William Hennedy signed?—At the same time I did. I think he was the last man in the room that signed.

Did you see those persons sign?—I saw them sit down in a chair and take a pen in their hand; I did not stand over their shoulders while they were signing; but afterwards I saw their signatures, to one in particular I did see.

Which was that?—Robert Bashford.

Did you ever see Mr. Posnett after this time?—I did; I saw him a few days ago, before we left Ireland.

A week before you left Ireland?—I saw him on Tuesday, yesterday eight days, in Belfast.

Have you seen him between November and yesterday eight days?—No, I think not; certainly not.

Was Mr. Posnett with you all the time?—Yes; now I do not say that he was all the time, he was there about two minutes, or three, not more than that.

Was any thing done to the petition by any person in his absence?—Nothing; it was just read, and he went out for that length of time, and there was nothing done till he came in.

Is Mr. Posnett here?—He is, I believe.

Did Mr. Posnett tell you in what column to sign, or in what way?—Yes, he showed me where.

Did he tell you why you were to sign there, or why you were not to sign any where else?—Yes he did.

What reason did he give?—He said that the gentlemen of the place were to sign there, that that place was left for them.

There were no signatures to the left at that time?—No, none.

Did you see where William Hennedy signed?—No, I cannot say that I did.

You do not know in what column he signed?—I cannot say, I think he was after me in signing.

You have stated that you denied to Dr. Martin and Mr. Hanley, and John Carry, that you did sign this?—I did.

State what passed at that time?—They came in and told me they had been round to a great many other names that had been on the petition, who all denied signing.

What passed then?—To see if I had signed, and I said that whoever told them that my name was on the petition could surely tell them the truth about it without their coming to me about it; that wherever he was informed that my name was to the petition they could surely inform him whether it was true or not; he said, Oh, I got this from Dublin; and I said, Oh, you must apply to Dublin then for your information; I will not tell you.

You told them you would not tell them?—Yes, I did.

What was your reason for this?—I thought they had no authority for asking me such a question.

Did you or not say any thing more to them?—Yes; he insisted on knowing, and I at last told them I did not sign it. Dr. Martin made an observation, that I surely would tell them to clear my character; I said I did not think, supposing I signed that petition, that my character was any the worse for it. "By no means," says Mr. Hanley. I did not wish to be quizzed by them.

Did you say if they gave you ten pounds you would tell them?—No; it was to this gentleman (Mr. Hubbersty) I said that.

(Mr. Hubbersty.)

(Mr. Hubbersty)—Is William Haggan your brother?—Yes.

What is his calling?—He is clerk to Mr. Lepard, a cotton manufacturer.

Does he keep his books?—Yes, I believe so.

Did you ever sign any petitions on subjects of public interest at any time?—I do not remember.

Do you know what I mean by petitions on subjects of public interest?—I do not know.

There have been various petitions against, and in favour of Roman Catholic claims?—There have.

You have heard of those petitions?—Yes.

Petitions respecting reform?—Yes.

Did you ever sign any of those petitions?—No.

Had you ever any conversations with your brother respecting those petitions?—No.

Had you ever any conversation with your brother respecting the petition against Lord George Hill?—No.

You are confident of that?—Yes, not since it was signed; it has been public talk ever since it was signed; those who signed it were ridiculed by the opposite party for doing so.

How long was the petition in the room of Felix Stuart while you were there?—I do not know; not long; a very short time indeed.

How long do you suppose?—Half an hour; not more.

You have stated to the Committee that Mr. Posnett was never absent from the room for more than two or three minutes?—Not more.

On what table did the petition lie during his absence?—Supposing that was the front of the house; that was the table there—(*describing it.*)

Was that table near the fire?—There was no fire in the room.

Did any persons except those you have mentioned come into the room while that petition was there?—No.

Did any of you leave the room while the petition was there?—I cannot say; I think not.

Was there any confusion in the room in consequence of persons coming in and going out?—No.

The business was conducted very quietly?—Yes.

Did you find any persons in the room when you went in?—No.

You say that all the six went there together?—We all went down together; Mr. Posnett was the first who went there.

You are quite satisfied there was no confusion in consequence of persons coming in and going out of the room?—No.

Nothing was done to the Petition while Mr. Posnett was absent?—No.

You saw Robert Bashford there, you say?—Yes.

You saw him sign?—Yes.

Was he in a state to sign his name that morning?—Yes, he was.

He was sober?—He had drank two glasses that morning; he complained of the want of spectacles; Mr. Posnett said "Oh, it will do very well;" and he said, "Oh, if I must write, here at it, here goes;" and he made bob, bob, and dashed on; at the time, Mr. Posnett said, "keep it closer together, or you will be in the other column;" and with that, he just made a scrawl; I think he had made a letter or two, and he said, "Oh, that will do very well."

You said that Bashford said, well, if I must write, here goes; here at it?—Yes, if I must write without my specs.

Had he been very much urged to sign the petition?—There was no one urged.

Was Mr. Posnett in a great hurry to get the petition signed?—Yes, he was in a hurry to get to Belfast.

Did he say at what time he wanted to go to Belfast?—He said he meant to go in the cars.

At what time do they leave?—They leave at eight and ten.

Do they leave after eleven?—They leave if they get a job, if they get passengers.

If they get a sufficient number of passengers?—I have seen them go with one, and with six or seven.

There are some cars go at regular hours?—Yes.

And he said he wished to go in one of those cars?—Yes.

Do you remember my seeing you at Carrickfergus?—Yes, I do, very well indeed.

Do you recollect my asking you whether you had signed the petition against the return of Lord George Hill?—I do.

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Will you state it?—I said, I had given Mr. Hanley all the information upon the subject that I had to give.

Did you say anything more?—I said, if the truth was a very material point, if you would pay me I would tell you the truth.

Did you not say you would not tell the truth without being paid?—I did not; I said, “if the truth is a very material point, what would you give me to tell the truth?” you said, “Oh, what do you ask?”

Did I not ask you what sum you expected for telling the truth?—Yes.

What was your answer?—I said 10*l.*, and Mr. Hanley said, “Oh, it is a joke; I beg you to consider it so;” and it was a joke altogether. The Carrickfergus people can make very free with one another with their jokes.

Did I not urge you to speak the truth in any manner rather than a jocular one?—I think that you stepped from the door and came in again, and gave me a bit of paper.

Did I not tell you that it was a serious question, and recommend you to answer it?—I do not remember.

Did I not tell you that if you refused to answer me there was another tribunal before which you would be compelled to answer?—I never heard you say that; if you said that at that time I did not hear it.

(*Committee.*)—At any time did you hear that?—No; I did not hear him say such a word as that; I do not think he said it.

(*Mr. Hubbersty.*)—You stated to the Committee that since you signed the petition against Lord George Hill’s election you have seen Mr. Posnett at Belfast?—I did.

Who was with you?—Robert Bashford, and my brother, and John Hennedy.

Is John Haggan a relation of yours?—Yes.

What relation?—He married a sister of mine.

Whom else did you see at Belfast with Mr. Posnett?—No one else.

Did you go to Belfast by appointment?—I did not.

Did you meet him by accident?—I did not.

(*Committee.*)—Did you go to see him?—I did.

(*Mr. Hubbersty.*)—Where did you go to see him?—I went to the office in Belfast.

Whose office?—The Marquis’s. I believe it was Mr. M’Cartney’s.

Was it Mr. M’Cartney’s house?—I cannot tell.

Do you know the Donegal Arms Inn?—That is in the High-street.

Was this office in the High-street?—It was not.

What reason had you for saying it was at Mr. M’Cartney’s office?—They told me so.

Did you find Mr. Posnett there?—He was in the hall, standing; I went to see whether the summons compelled me to come to London, for I did not want to go.

Had you any conversation with Mr. Posnett?—I had a great deal.

What is Mr. Posnett?—I do not know; he told me he was a clerk from the Marquis’s office. He told me that the first time I saw him.

Did he say the Marquis’s office or Mr. M’Cartney’s office?—I think he said the Marquis’s office, but I cannot say, indeed.

Did you know him before you saw him at Carrickfergus?—I never knew him before.

You say that a great deal passed with him at Belfast respecting this petition; what was that?—How it would turn out, what end it would come to, particularly whether it would be thrown out, or pass, or not.

What petition were you speaking about?—This petition.

The petition against Lord George Hill?—Yes; conjecture among ourselves that it would be passed.

(*Committee.*)—Was that the petition you had signed?—Yes.

(*Mr. Hubbersty.*)—Did anything pass in conversation respecting the forgeries at the foot of that petition?—Indeed I do not remember.

There was nothing passed respecting the forgery?—Nothing particular, that I remember.

How long were you in Mr. M’Cartney’s office with Mr. Posnett?—Not a moment; I met him in the hall; I did not go into the office.

You say you had a great deal of conversation with him; what was it?—Oh, I do not know, indeed; merely whether it would have a real action, or what.

(*Committee.*)—Do you mean that there was no allusion to the accusation that some

some of the signatures were forged?—It was a talk of how it would turn out, and who it was had done it.

State what passed?—None of them knew anything about it.

Did Mr. Posnett ask you whether you could guess who had done it?—He did not; he need not do that, for he had it all the time in his own possession.

Who do you say expressed a wonder who had done it, you or he?—The whole company, I suppose.

Did Mr. Posnett say who he thought had done it?—He did not say.

He did not conjecture who had done it?—No, I do not think he did.

(Mr. Hubbersty).—Did he state that he was coming to London himself?—He said he had not been summoned, and that if he did not get a summons, and money to bear his expenses in regular time, he would not come; but he supposed he should get it the next day.

Have you seen Mr. Posnett since you came to London?—Yes.

Have you talked to him?—No, no more than passing by; I had no business with the man at all.

Do you know John Eccleston?—Yes.

Had you any conversation with him upon this subject?—No, never.

Did you see him on the morning on which you signed this petition?—I do not know, he was not with us.

Did he come to the Irish quarter to you?—No.

Did you see him the day before?—No.

Did he ask you to sign the petition?—No.

Is his house nigh to Felix Stuart's?—It is just opposite.

Had you, or any of you, any breakfast at Felix Stuart's that morning?—I had not.

Had any of you?—I do not know, I was not there, I was at home at eleven o'clock, I did not stop.

Did Mr. Posnett breakfast there?—I do not think he did.

Did he come into the Irish quarter to fetch you?—Yes, he came to my house.

About what time?—I think about four o'clock.

About what time did you leave Felix Stuart's?—I cannot tell; I think I was at home at eleven, and he was gone a long while before I left.

Had he been gone an hour?—Indeed I cannot say; I took no notice of such things as that.

(Mr. Cookson).—You have said something as to what took place at the time the petition was signed in Felix Stuart's house; what was said previous to your signing?—when you went into the room you say you saw Mr. Posnett there, what did he say to you?—He said that he had brought it from Belfast to see whether we would sign it; we said if it was right we perhaps might; that we could not say till we heard it read whether we would or not.

When you heard it read, you agreed to sign it?—Yes.

Was there any objection made?—Yes; the objection was, that no man but a burgess belonging to the corporation could be a member; my brother said he would not sign such a petition. Mr. Posnett said it did not make any difference. Mr. Posnett said if that is against the law in the House of Commons, they are better lawyers there than you or I are, and they will set it right; he said that any man, as he understood, that was worth 500*l.* a year was entitled to be a member, and Mr. Posnett said they would take it into consideration in the House of Commons.

When you heard the petition read, you exercised your own judgment in signing it?—Yes, undoubtedly.

You were not influenced by any representations on the one side or the other?—No, we were not.

Will you point out on that petition the signature of Bashford?—This is it, (*the signature which had been taken for Boulad or Bowlad.*)

Do you know any freeman of Carrickfergus whose christian name is Archibald?—I do; I know that very man in particular.

What man?—Archibald M'Golpin.

Is there any other Archibald that you recollect?—No, I do not, in particular.

Your brother, you say, said it was Archibald M'Golpin's?—Yes.

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John Haggan.

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1831.

Look at that signature, (*the signature appearing like Joines being shown to the Witness?*)—Yes, that is the signature.

What induced your brother to say that was Archibald M'Golpin's signature?—

I cannot tell, indeed; he knew the man.

What trade is Archibald M'Golpin?—He is a butcher just now.

(*Committee.*)—You saw Mr. Posnett afterwards at Belfast?—Yes, I did.

Did you go of your own accord, or did he send for you?—I went of my own accord; I did not want to come here, and thought he might tell me whether I must.

At that time, you say, there was some conversation about the forgeries?—Yes.

Who were present?—There were the last Witness and Bashford, and William Haggan and myself.

Those were present, and went from Carrickfergus?—Yes.

You all went together?—Yes, they were expecting summonses too.

You went without any invitation at all?—Undoubtedly.

Did you understand from them how they happened to interfere about it?—It was known a day or two before that there was summonses, and I was coming down to Belfast to buy some things, and they came with me to know how it was going on, and inquire the news.

How came you all to meet to go?—We meet generally every evening, and more men than ourselves; there are committee-rooms, where the poor people meet there as well as here.

On some previous evening you determined to go?—Yes, the night before.

Were there any particular persons names in that conversation mentioned as having been forged?—It was generally reported that there were a great many forgeries; that was a thing we knew nothing of.

Do you recollect any of the names that were mentioned as forged?—Yes.

Who were they?—There was three Williamsons, I think, and a Hamilton or two.

Simms?—I suppose so; I do not remember it all particularly.

Will you try to remember any other names; do you remember Henry White's name?—I heard his name was down too, but I know nothing but just from hearsay.

Nobody present affirmed that they were forged, but it was the general talk in the place?—Yes, just so.

You discussed this matter in general conversation?—Yes.

Who first of all mentioned about those names having been forged?—I cannot tell positively indeed; it was the common topic through all Carrickfergus.

Did Mr. Posnett say anything as to how it could have happened?—No, he did not say a word as to how it was done, that I remember.

Did you collect from anything he said that he had heard this report before, or that it was quite new to him when you mentioned that there were reports about those persons?—I do not remember, I took no notice of the conversation, it was trifling conversation among us.

Had you conversation on any other matter than that?—Not that I remember; there were different things talked about, but I cannot tell what it was; we drank half a glass of rum together, we could not do that without saying something to each other.

Was that the principal subject of your conversation?—Indeed I think it was.

Did you learn from any other person that he had any other object in going to him than to speak about those forgeries?—No, indeed I did not.

Had you any other object in going to Belfast with those persons to see Mr. Posnett besides talking of those forgeries?—Yes, I think that there was a rumour that my brother was going to be blamed for forging, and that Mr. Posnett said that we were a set of drunken vagabonds, and that we would sign any thing for whiskey; we went to Mr. Posnett to hear what he would say about that, and he said, there was no such thing; he said this was only hearsay altogether.

You had heard your brother was charged with forging those names?—Yes, one name in particular.

What name was that?—I do not know; my other brother told me of this; that he was blamed about it, but it is not a halfpenny-worth together; I knew nothing of it.

How long were you in conversation with Mr. Posnett?—About half an hour; Mr. Posnett said there was nothing of the kind.

It was your brother William Haggan that was charged with forging?—Yes, it was

was, another brother of mine told me it was in agitation; but that is hearsay altogether.

Did that induce you to go to Mr. Posnett?—Yes, the summons and that together.

What did you ask Mr. Posnett?—We asked Mr. Posnett whether he had said we were such a ruffianly set of people; he said no, he never did.

Did you see the petition when you went to Belfast?—No.

Do you know what had been done with that petition at that time?—I do not know, I always understood it came here; I know no other.

Was it after the petition had come here, or before that this conversation passed?—This conversation was yesterday eight days, when I was in Belfast.

Mr. Posnett gave you no account at all about the petition?—No, none in the world.

He said nothing about it?—Indeed not that I recollect particularly.

If you do recollect any thing, state it?—I do not remember any more, only that we wished to know whether he had said we were such a ruffianly set of people we would sign any thing for drink, and he said he never had said any such thing; but it is all hearsay; and he said more, he said that he never saw a more regular set of men.

Than whom?—Than the five or six who were with him that morning to sign the petition.

Did he tell you what he did with the petition after he took it away that morning?—He said that after we signed it, it was to be in Dublin or London at such an hour; that it was time that it was away.

Did he mention his intention of sending it off that day?—Yes, to go by the car, and that it was to be in Dublin, I think, at such an hour; it is so long ago that I cannot recollect every word particularly.

Did he tell you upon this late occasion when you were in Belfast, that he had sent it off that day?—I do not think there was any talk about sending it off; it was well known at that time that it was here, and there were no questions asked.

What he said about sending it off was when it was signed?—Yes, it was when it was signed.

Did you not come over from Belfast to Liverpool in the same steam-boat with Mr. Posnett?—I did.

Did no conversation pass between you during the voyage?—None, in the world, only the time of the day.

Did no conversation pass between you and Mr. Posnett on the subject of the petition, or the forgeries, in the steam-boat, or at any time since you met him at Belfast?—No, none in the world.

William Kirke Martin, C. M. and M. D. called in; and Examined.

WHAT is your name?—William Kirke Martin, C. M. and M. D.

You live at Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Were you present any day in the course of the last three or four weeks at Carrickfergus, with Mr. Hanley and Mr. Hubbersty?—I was.

Have the goodness to state to the Committee what passed when you were with them at the house of John Haggan and John Hennedy?—Yes; at the house of John Hennedy, Mr. Hubbersty and I went into the shop of John Hennedy; he was sitting at his loom, and we immediately introduced the business to him; we asked him whether he had signed the petition; he said he had not signed the petition against Lord George Hill; he declared just in the same way as he had previously done at the time when we called upon him after receiving a copy of the petition which had been lodged against Lord George; but, says he, I do not know what I might have done had it been presented to me; those were just his words.

Mr. Hutchinson Posnett, called in; and Examined.

WHAT is your name?—Hutchinson Posnett.

(Chairman.)—It is my duty to inform you that you are at liberty to decline answering any question, the answer to which may tend to criminate yourself; where do you live?—At Belfast.

In what profession?—That of an accountant.

In whose office?—I have been lately in the office of Joseph M'Cartney, Esq. who is agent for the Marquis of Donegal; not employed there entirely, but occasionally.

John Haggan.

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*W. K. Martin,
C. M. & M. D.*

*Mr.
Hutchinson Posnett.*

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Did you at any and what time in the month of November, carry a petition to Carrickfergus against the return of Lord George Hill, such petition to be there signed?—No.

Did you there receive a petition?—I sent it forward to Carrickfergus previously. When you sent it in what state was it?—It was merely drafted; there were names to it, but I cannot say exactly how many; I think four.

At what part of the petition were those names signed?—I think they were at the right-hand corner of it.

When did you see that petition again?—On the evening of the 8th of November; the Monday evening.

At the house of whom?—At the house of Mr. John Eccleston.

Who is Mr. John Eccleston?—He is a resident freeman of Carrickfergus.

In what state was it when you saw it?—Those four names were to it, I think; and whether there was any more or not I cannot say; I do not remember.

Did you then take the petition into your own hands?—I did.

What did you then do with it?—I went down to a part of the town called Mount Joy Bank, accompanied by Mr. Eccleston; and I went to the house of Percival Ingram; I think it was the first house we went to; he is an innkeeper; on calling at Mr. Ingram's he was in; I was shown up stairs into a front room along with Mr. Eccleston, and I explained to Mr. Ingram the object of my visit; he at once agreed to sign the petition, and I told him that as I was a stranger in Carrickfergus I would feel obliged to him if he would get me some other persons, as he better knew where they resided than I did; I think that he signed the petition previous to going out for that purpose; he then went out accompanied by Mr. Eccleston, and in a few minutes, Hugh Larmour, another signature attached to the petition, came in; I read part of the petition to him, and I think he read the remainder of it himself, and he affixed his signature to it; then they returned; Ingram and Eccleston returned; and in a very few minutes after their return Robert Ker came in, and he read both parts of the petition, the one of which was a duplicate of the other; I did not read them both myself; he read both parts carefully over, and signed both.

What became of the other part?—It is only from hearsay; I do not know, but I understand it was lodged in the Hanaper office, in Dublin.

Go on with your statement?—Shortly after Ker had fixed his signature it was wearing towards nine o'clock, and having called at some other houses shortly after that.

With whom did you go out?—Along with Mr. Eccleston.

Did Mr. Percival Ingram go with you?—I think he did not, but I cannot state with certainty; Yes, I now recollect that Mr. Ingram was with us; we called at some houses in the same district of the town, but found the people apparently gone to bed. At one house they said they were in bed, at another that they were about to go; we then conceived it was perhaps too late to apply for more signatures that evening, and went home.

Who carried the petition all this time?—I did. I then proceeded in company with Mr. Eccleston to his own house, where I stopped that night.

Who kept the petition?—I gave it to Mr. Eccleston.

At what o'clock did you give him the petition?—I think it was a few minutes after nine; fifteen minutes after nine, perhaps, but I am not exactly sure.

How many names had it when about fifteen minutes past nine you gave it into the hands of Mr. Eccleston?—That I cannot exactly say.

You had seen four names in the first instance; afterwards the name of Hugh Larmour; afterwards the name of Robert Ker; afterwards the name of Percival Ingram, making seven?—Yes, those were to it; I do not know of any more; shortly after that there was another person came in and signed it at Mr. Eccleston's house.

Shortly after fifteen minutes after nine?—Ys, shortly after that; I may be incorrect as to the time.

Who was it?—John Milburn.

In whose house did Hugh Larmour, Robert Ker, and Percival Ingram, sign?—In Percival Ingram's house.

You then went to no other house where you got a signature?—None.

You say you gave the petition to Mr. Eccleston?—I did.

Was it rolled up?—It was apparently rolled up just in a careless kind of way.

Did you see what was done with it?—I am not certain what he did with it, but I think

I think he put it into his desk : he has a small desk in his office, and I think he put it in there.

Did you give it him before John Milburn signed it ?—I think I did.

Was it brought out again for John Milburn to sign it ?—It was lying on the desk.

It was lying on his desk ?—I think so.

When did you next see it ?—The next morning.

At what o'clock ?—I think it was half past seven ; it was as soon as day-light was visible.

That was on the Tuesday ?—Yes.

Did you open it ?—Not immediately ; I put it into my pocket immediately on receiving it.

Did you look at the name of John Milburn then ?—At the time he signed it I was looking at him signing it.

When you next looked at the petition where was it ?—It was in the house of Felix Stuart.

At what o'clock ?—I think it was about half-past eight, or between that and nine, I was there.

That was the first time you took it out of your pocket ?—The next time I took it out of my pocket.

Then you had it in your pocket from half past seven to half past eight ?—Yes, perhaps an hour, or an hour and a quarter.

What was done with it in the house of Felix Stuart ?—When I first went into the house of Felix Stuart there was some man that promised to meet me there that morning for the purpose of signing it.

Will you name him ?—I think John Haggan and William Hennedy, and John Hennedy, and Robert Bashford and Felix Stuart. I think there were two of the name of Hennedy, and two of the name of Haggan, not being personally acquainted with the inhabitants of Carrickfergus perhaps I may not describe them so correctly.

Did they all meet you there ?—They did. Previously to the time of my meeting them there I had taken the petition out of my pocket, and went over to Eccleston's house for a pen ; I was absent about five minutes, I think I could not be much more ; I went to Stuart's house previous in consequence of the appointment of these men, and before they came in I went over to Eccleston's house, which is right opposite ; I think I was gone about five minutes.

You say that you had taken the petition out of your pocket ; did you take it in your hand with you ?—No, I left it on the table.

Was anybody in the room at the time ?—No person.

Was any person in the room when you came back ?—Not any one.

Where was Felix Stuart himself ?—I do not know, I did not see him in going out nor in returning.

Did you take up the petition when you came in again ?—I did.

Was there any alteration on the face of it ?—I did not open it.

The Committee understand you to say that you took it out of your pocket then, and only laid it on the table ?—I just laid it on the table.

And it was in that state when you came back ?—It appeared to be so.

Was it in exactly the same state as you had left it ?—As far as I can judge it was on the same table ; there were two or three tables in the room.

How soon after did the other persons you have named come in ?—I think in five or six minutes.

What passed ?—When they came in they took chairs and sat down, and I produced the petition to them, and if I recollect right, I read almost the whole of it over, and they afterwards affixed their signatures to it.

Did it appear to be in the same state as when you had seen John Milburn write his name ?—I cannot take upon me to say ; I paid very little attention, not being aware of the care that should have been taken of anything of the kind, never having had to do with anything of the kind before.

There was nothing that called your attention to its being in a different state ?—No, nothing.

Who signed first of the five or six persons ?—I think it was Felix Stuart, the proprietor of the house, signed first ; I will not take upon me to say, but I think his was the first signature.

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Did Felix Stuart come in with the others?—He came in immediately after them. When they came in he followed them immediately afterwards.

Do you recollect who signed afterwards?—I do not remember, I think some of the Haggans, but I am not certain.

Do you recollect when William Hennedy signed?—I think he was either the third or the fourth, but I am not sure.

Do you remember pointing out to him, or to any other person, the place on the parchment where the names should be signed?—No, I do not remember that.

Did you give any further instructions?—Not the least.

Did you tell them that a different set of persons from themselves, higher or lower, were going to sign?—I told them that there were other persons expected to sign it.

How came you to mention that?—Upon my word I do not know just now what the cause was, but they were asking me such a variety of questions; every one in the room was asking me why such and such persons in the neighbourhood did not sign it, and I told them they would sign previous to its going away, I think that was the cause.

Did you mention those persons by name or by class; Did you mention their names, or the gentlemen?—I think the way I mentioned it was in a general way; that I mentioned no one particularly.

Did you say that the common people were to sign in one place and the gentlemen in another, or any thing of that sort?—Certainly not; I never mentioned any such thing, some of the parties there made that remark, Oh, you have one place for one class, and another for another; not at all I said; there is the petition, sign it as you please, I recollect that perfectly.

When the five signed it, what did you do with it?—I staid with them I suppose ten or fifteen minutes, till Mrs. Eccleston called me to come over to my breakfast, my breakfast was ready, and the car I intended to go to Belfast by was waiting.

What did you do then?—I put the petition into my pocket, and went over to Eccleston's house; I put it down on the table in his room, a little front office or room he has.

Was it in that front office where you breakfasted?—No.

Where did you breakfast?—In an apartment behind that.

Communicating with it?—You had to go through a little passage between the two.

Is there any door into the front office except that which joined the other to the passage?—The door goes out of the passage into the front office; there is likewise a door out of the passage into the apartment we breakfasted in.

There is only one door into the front office?—One door only.

How far is it from the breakfast-room, how many feet?—I suppose it is just adjoining, they are merely separated by a partition, whether a wall or a boarded partition I cannot say.

If any person had been in the one room, and you in the other, you would have heard each other?—You might or you might not; if they spoke I think I should.

Did you leave the door of the front office open?—The door of the front office generally is open, I never saw it closed.

Was the door of your breakfast-room open?—It was not.

When did you return into the front office?—I think it was about fifteen or twenty minutes, as soon as breakfast was over.

What passed then?—At that time one of the party, from Mr. Stuart's on the opposite side of the way, had called in and wanted to speak to me.

Which of the party was it?—I think William Hennedy, I am not certain, for I never saw them till that day; I went over with him for a minute or two; I think it could not be more, for I was anxious to get away to Belfast; I remained there but a very few minutes, and returned; I do not think I was more than three minutes until I returned, and I then went off to Belfast, and took the petition with me; when I went up the street to where the car stopped it was away, and I was obliged to walk to Belfast.

What did William Hennedy come to you about?—He said that they wished to speak to me; they had been taking a little spirits, and they drank a little more afterwards.

What did they want to speak to you about?—Upon my word I do not know, for the questions were so silly that I never charged my memory with them at all.

When you returned into the front office, after having your breakfast in the back room, you took up the petition?—I did.

Was

Was it in the same place where you had left it?—It was on the same table.

In the same position?—I think so, I did not observe any difference not paying any particular attention to that circumstance; I cannot say, but I think it was.

You followed the car you say?—Yes, I went off, but the car was gone before I got the length of the house it started from.

What conveyance had you?—I walked to Belfast.

With the petition in your pocket?—Yes, with the petition in my pocket.

What is the distance between Carrickfergus and Belfast?—Eight miles.

The petition, to the best of your knowledge, was in the same state when you left the town, as it was when you brought it from Felix Stuart's, and laid it down in Mr. Eccleston's house while you had your breakfast?—I do not know that.

You stated that when you had breakfasted, you found it lying in the same place in which you left it; that you could not observe any difference?—I could not observe any difference in the position of it; when I did examine it, it was lying in a half-folded state, and I did not open it to examine it. I gave it another fold and put it into the pocket of a surtout coat I had on.

The names which were on it on the Monday night were the four names to which you have first called the attention of the Committee, and then the names of Larmour and Robert Ker, and the name of Percival Ingram; and then at fifteen minutes past nine that night the name of John Milburn was added?—I think it was about that time.

Then on the morning, the Tuesday morning at half past eight, the name of Felix Stuart, then the name of John Hennedy and Robert Bashford, two of the Haggans, and William Hennedy?—Yes.

And you saw no other name signed?—I did not, those were all the persons I saw sign it at any one time.

What did you do with it when you walked with it to Belfast in your pocket?—I came to Mr. M'Cartney's office with it.

You went straight there from Eccleston's?—Straight.

What became of it then?—It was afterwards sent to Dublin.

In whose hands did you leave it?—When I arrived at Belfast, I was anxious to see Mr. M'Cartney previous to his departure for Derry that day at one o'clock, he was leaving at that time. I found on going to the office that he was gone to the coach-office; I laid the petition down in a little back office where I commonly read, and went off, hoping to overtake him previous to his departure; on going to the coach-office I found the coach had started, and I then went to the post-office where the coach is sometimes detained ten or fifteen minutes to take up the mail; on going there I found it was just gone a few minutes before.

Then you went back again?—I went immediately back to the office.

What passed then?—I immediately gathered up the petition, put it up into a small parcel, tied it with a cord and sealed it, and directed it to Clotworthy M'Cartney esq., and sent it by the boy to the Dublin coach-office as a parcel, Mr. M'Cartney having left orders for me to do so previous to his departure for Derry.

By whom did you receive those orders?—By a boy in the office.

Was he in the office when you sealed up the petition?—He was not.

Was your object in following Mr. M'Cartney to give him that petition?—I did not follow him to give him that petition, only to see whether he had any other instructions to give me; I left it in the office.

You left it in the office where you generally performed your business?—I did, and I found it when I returned lying on the same table.

When did you see the boy?—Immediately after I came in, or very shortly afterwards.

Did he come into the office after that?—No, I called him in to take the parcel away.

You called him into the office where you were sitting?—Yes, after having tied up the petition.

Do you know any thing more of this petition?—Nothing; that was the last time I have seen it.

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You say you went to some houses after you left Percival Ingram's, before you went to Eccleston's, and found they were going to bed?—Yes.

Do you remember the names of the people?—I think I called at the house of a man of the name of Williamson.

Do you remember any other?—No, not that I recollect; I know I called on others, but not knowing the names of the persons, I cannot say. I think I remember one of the name of Williamson.

You say that Percival Ingram, Hugh Larmour, and Robert Ker, all signed at Percival Ingram's house?—Yes.

Do you recollect who signed first?—I do not. The truth is, I suppose it will be necessary for me to explain that never having a thing of the kind in my possession before, I took very little notice of it, which I am exceedingly sorry for. If I have another in my possession I will watch it a little better.

Your object was to obtain signatures?—Yes.

Did you not watch the signatures?—Merely while they were signing them. I think I remember that Percival Ingram signed at the head of the column; the others I do not recollect.

Do you recollect where John Milburn signed?—I do not recollect exactly the position of his signature.

Did it never occur to you to look over the signatures you had got, just to run over the names?—No, indeed it did not.

Have you no idea, from opening the petition, of the appearance of the names?—No, I did not pay attention to it.

Did you ever count them to see how many you had obtained?—I never counted them.

Your object being to obtain signatures to the petition, can you not tell the Committee how many columns there were?—I really do not remember how many there were.

Were there more columns than two when you last saw the petition?—I think there were.

When Ingram signed what column did he sign in?—It was either the second or the third from the right hand, but I do not know which, I am sure.

Supposing it to have been the third, was there any column on the left of it?—I think none at that time.

Did Eccleston breakfast with you?—He did.

Was he in the room all the time?—He was.

When did you first see that there were more than four names on the right-hand column?—I think it was after the signing of some of the parties in Ingram's house on the Monday night.

When did you first see that there were more than two columns?—I do not recollect. There were either two or three I think when Ingram signed his name, but I will not undertake to say which.

You stated that there were four names before you sent it to Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Is your doubt at present as to whether there were two or three columns depending on whether Ingram signed at the head of the second or the third column?—Exactly. I cannot say whether it was the head of the second or the third, but my recollection is strong.

Your recollection is that there were no columns to the left of the column Ingram began to sign?—That is my impression.

When did you first perceive there were more columns?—I cannot say that I ever perceived there were more. There were two or three, but I cannot take upon myself to say which.

Did you never count the number of signatures?—I did not.

When were you at Felix Stuart's before you went to breakfast, or about that time; did you express the purpose of going to any other place?—My determination was to have gone down the Bank again, but my time was limited; I felt desirous to arrive in Belfast previous to Mr. M'Cartney's departing, and likewise receiving the message that the car was about to start, I feared I should lose my seat in it.

Where

Where did you propose going?—To Joy Mount Bank.

Did you mention any name to whose house you wanted to go?—No, I do not recollect mentioning any names,

Mr. Cowan's Mill?—Yes, I think I remember having stated that it was my intention to go in that direction, but I did not go there, because the car was going away.

Did you say you were to meet a batch of gentlemen at Mr. Cowan's mill?—No, I did not.

Did you observe, when you met at Felix Stuart's house, and those persons signed, that they signed in the same column under Ingram, or in another column? I think they signed in the same column; I think some of them did, but that I cannot recollect which.

You say those men met you there by appointment?—Yes.

When was that appointment made?—That morning after I left Eccleston's house.

Did you go to that house?—I did; I found the men out at the time I went to Robert Bashford's house; they had some foolery of an effigy hanging in the street, and the men had gone out to see it, or something of that kind.

You read the petition to those men?—After their arrival at Felix Stuart's.

You then gave it to Felix Stuart to sign?—I laid it down on the table, and I think he signed first.

Did you look at the signatures before you gave it to Felix Stuart to sign?—No, I did not; I did not look particularly at them.

You do not remember where Felix Stuart signed his name?—I do not.

You saw him sign?—I did.

You say you directed the petition to Mr. Clotworthy M'Cartney?—I did.

To what place?—In Dublin.

That is the last place you heard of it?—Yes, until lately.

When was the last time you saw the petition open?—In Felix Stuart's house, after the signature of those persons.

You afterwards took it to Eccleston's house?—Yes.

Did you not see the petition there?—Yes, but it was not open; I laid it down in the state in which I brought it over from Felix Stuart's house.

Were there, to your knowledge, any fresh signatures in Eccleston's house?—Not to my knowledge.

Did you lose sight of the petition at any time?—While I was at breakfast.

Did the breakfast-room look to the street?—No, it did not; it is the kitchen of the house; there is a door out of that into the passage, a little hall.

Were you aware of any persons having come into the house while it was lying there?—If I recollect right, one man came in and asked for Mr. Eccleston.

Do you know who that man was?—No, I do not, he was a stranger; but I have a recollection of some one tapping at the door, and asking whether Mr. Eccleston was within.

When you returned into the room where the petition had been left, did you find any alteration?—It appeared to be lying in the same place.

Was there any thing in the appearance of it that called your attention to it, as if some one had been meddling with it?—No, nothing at all.

Nothing particular?—No.

There was nothing that drew your attention to it, as thinking anybody had taken it up?—No, nothing.

When you went back again to Felix Stuart's, did you leave it upon the table?—I think I put it into my pocket previous to going to Felix Stuart's, but I never took it out again in Felix Stuart's house.

Do you think it possible that a dozen people could have come into the house while you were at breakfast, and you know nothing about it?—I cannot say, but I think it is possible, but that it is improbable.

There was one person you took notice of?—Yes.

Did Mr. Eccleston go out to that person?—No, he did not.

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Did it never occur to you, as a matter of mere curiosity, after you got the petition away, before you folded it up, to see that it was in the same state?—Indeed I did not; I never thought any more about it, for petitions in my country are sometimes thought very little about.

Did you ever hear before this inquiry was directed that there had been any forgeries?—I did hear that.

How soon after was that?—I think it was in the course of three weeks, a fortnight, or three weeks afterwards that such a thing had been done; I never had an idea that any thing of the kind would be attempted.

Have you seen the petition since you have had charge of it in the way you have spoken of?—I have never seen it since.

Look at the petition, and see whether it is in the same state as it was when you last saw it open?—I think it is not.

In what respect?—It appears to me there is more writing to it now, more signatures; I could not take upon me to say, but I think there are.

Does it appear to you that there are more columns?—It is the columns I speak by.

Not the number in each column?—No.

You now see that Ingram's name is in the second column?—Yes, I see now that it is at the head of the second column.

Your recollection is there were no names at the head of Ingram's when he signed?—That is my impression.

Did you see the signature of Adam M'Dowell?—No, he did not sign in my presence.

Did you see William M'Dermott sign?—I did not.

Did you see Felix Stuart sign, or did he sign it in the room with you?—He signed it in my presence.

At the time he signed it was there any name immediately above his in the petition?—I cannot recollect the fact as they were in the habit of writing very widely, leaving spaces between the names.

Did you observe when Felix Stuart signed the petition, the names of Adam M'Dowell and William M'Dermott?—I did not.

At the time you saw Felix Stuart sign it did you observe the names of Percival Ingram and John Milburn in that column?—I think I did.

Did you observe whether there was any blank between John Milburn and Felix Stuart?—I think there was, they were in the habit of writing very widely.

Did you perceive William Hennedy sign?—I did.

Do you recollect why he signed the last column and not the second?—I do not, but observe that he has done so here.

At the time he signed did you see the signature of William Henderson the first or the last column?—Yes, I think I did.

And another extraordinary name second, did that strike your attention?—Yes, that struck my attention very forcibly before it left the office, the reason was, that I could not make out what it was.

Did you observe whether there were any names above that of Hennedy?—I think there were a good many.

Did you see the name of Hugh Gormal and John Paislie?—I think they were both there.

Did you observe the name of Robert Ker?—I think I did.

Can you recollect whether there was a space between the name of Robert Ker and William Hennedy?—I do not recollect.

Have you any recollection at the time you saw this of any name in those two columns to the left?—I have not.

Nor did you see any one of those persons sign?—I did not; certainly not.

You saw Robert Ker sign, you say?—Yes, I did.

Jovis, 20^o die Januarii, 1831.

SIR ROBERT HARRY INGLIS, BART.

IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Hutchinson Posnett*, again called in; and Examined.

AT what o'clock did you reach Carrickfergus on the evening of Monday the 8th of November?—I think about half-past six.

Tell the Committee again the precise object for which you went to Carrickfergus?—For the purpose of procuring signatures to the petition.

Going to Carrickfergus for the express purpose of procuring signatures to the petition?—And bringing it up to Belfast again.

Did you or not at any time when the petition was in your custody count the names, and the number of the signatures?—I did not.

Did you or did you not, looking at the petition, see that there were more names in one column than in another, more columns than one or two or three; or did you not in some way or other satisfy yourself that the object of your journey from Belfast to Carrickfergus had been fully accomplished?—I recollect that there were more columns than one; but I never counted any column to know what the number of signatures in each were, or the number in total.

Did you look at the petition in such a way as to be able to tell the Committee now, or to have been able to tell Mr. M'Cartney at the time that you had accomplished the object of your journey fully, did you see that there were more columns than one, more names in one column than in another, and generally speaking that you had got more than you can now specify in detail; you have specified only four in the first instance; three, in the second, one, afterwards six; after that five in one column, and one in another?—I was not aware that any number was required to the petition, consequently I could not exactly say whether the object of my mission was fully attained or not, but from the limited time I had, all the persons I could call upon conveniently I had got.

When you reached Carrickfergus where did you go to?—To Eccleston's house.

How long did you remain there?—I think about one hour; I may be very incorrect as to the time, for not paying particular attention it is merely from general recollection.

Had you any conversation with Eccleston respecting this petition?—I had.

Did he sign it?—He did not.

He is a freeman?—Yes.

Did you ask him to sign it?—I did not.

Did he give any reason for not signing it?—He was speaking on the subject, and he said, I for my own part would rather not sign that petition, as there appears to be a very strong feeling in the town against Sir Arthur Chichester's friends; I think he holds some public situation; he gave me his reasons.

Did you show him the petition?—He had it in his possession at the time.

How many names were there attached to it at the time?—I think four; I think it was pretty nearly in the same state as I sent it off on the Saturday evening.

Where did you spend the rest of the time?—In going to Joy Mount Bank, and calling on those persons I spoke of yesterday, and returning to Eccleston's house where I slept.

At what time was it you first parted with the possession of the petition?—On the evening of the 6th of November.

The question refers to the evening of the 8th of November, how soon after you came into Carrickfergus did you part with the possession of the petition?—I think it was about nine o'clock, or a few minutes after.

How long was it out of your possession?—It was out of my possession till the next morning.

In whose possession was it?—It was in the possession of Mr. Eccleston.

From nine that evening till seven the next morning you did not see it?—No; after nine o'clock, about five minutes after nine, when John Milburn signed it.

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How soon the next morning did you see it again?—I think about half-past seven.

Did you read it?—I did not.

Did you examine the signatures?—I did not.

Did you open the petition?—I did not; I merely put it into my pocket.

Where did you first open it that morning?—In Felix Stuart's house that morning.

How many signatures were there attached to it when you opened it at Felix Stuart's house?—I cannot say.

Was there more than one column?—I think there were.

More than two?—I really do not know; I think there were; but I cannot state.

You were sent to Carrickfergus to get signatures to this petition, were you not?—Yes.

That was your express duty?—That and to bring it up from Carrickfergus again; they wished to send it off on the Tuesday for Dublin.

Were you in the habit of going at other times to Carrickfergus?—I have been there on several occasions.

Were you acquainted with the people there at all?—Very little; I do not know four of the people, except those I have seen since I have been here.

You say there were four names to the petition when you first saw it; do you remember who they were?—One was Henderson; another was a name I could not make out, which impressed it strongly on my memory.

Were they all in the same column?—I think they were.

You read over the petition you say at Felix Stuart's house?—Yes, I read a great part of it, but they stopped me and asked me questions, and I was wanting to get away.

Did you observe the number of signatures to it at that time?—No.

Were they numerous?—I think they were not.

Having perceived the signatures of four persons, and those which were attached in your presence the evening before, were there more than those eight at the time you presented it to those six men for signature?—Really I cannot take upon myself to say whether there were or not; I think there were to the best of my recollection.

Did not that circumstance strike you, you having been cognizant only of eight signatures, Percival Ingram and the others?—The impression upon my mind has always been, that there were more upon it, but I cannot take upon myself to say.

That circumstance did not strike you, you having seen only eight signatures the evening before, that they must have been attached while you were absent?—They must, I should think, but it never struck me.

There were four signatures at first?—Yes.

Then you saw Percival Ingram, and Larmour, and Ker, and Milburn, attach their names?—Yes.

Was there any alteration in the numbers when you came to Felix Stuart's house and read the petition?—I could not take upon myself to say.

Were there only eight?—I cannot say.

What is your belief?—My belief, and indeed my opinion is, that there were more, but I will not take upon myself to say whether there were or not; had I been so fortunate as to have counted them, I would have been much more correct in my view.

You believe that when you went to Felix Stuart's house there were more than eight?—I cannot say indeed.

Do you think there were more than eight?—I think there were eight at least.

Do you think there were more than eight?—I cannot say indeed.

Are you well acquainted with Mr. Eccleston?—I am.

Are you in the habit of meeting him frequently?—No, but in former years I have known him, for I suppose these twelve or fourteen years since the time of his former residence at Belfast.

Did Mr. Eccleston mention to you in the morning whether any other signatures had been attached to the petition?—He did not.

You stated that you breakfasted at Mr. Eccleston's?—I did.

Did you breakfast in a back room communicating by a passage with that front office on the table of which you had put down the petition?—Exactly so.

Does

Does the passage communicate directly with the street?—It does.

Was the front door of the house shut when you went in?—It was open, I think; I am certain it was open when I went out.

Was it shut after you came in?—I cannot say, for I immediately passed into the room where the breakfast was ready, being in a hurry to get away.

You stated that you heard one person, and one person only came to the house?—Yes.

That that person was William Hennedy?—No, that was another person; William Hennedy came in afterwards, and asked for me.

You stated that a person came in, and asked whether Mr. Eccleston was at home?—Yes, that was another person.

Did you hear any person, William Hennedy or the other, go into the front room?—I did not.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—When did you first see this petition?—I cannot take upon me to say; it was perhaps a fortnight or three weeks previous to its going to Carrickfergus.

Where did you see it?—In Mr. M'Cartney's office in Belfast.

In what state was it?—It was drafted at that time.

Explain to the Committee what you mean by that term?—In Ireland, when we say that any thing is drafted, it is after it has been committed to paper; it was committed to the parchment as it now is.

It was in the state it now is, with the exception of the signatures?—Exactly so.

Did you send it to Mr. Eccleston at Carrickfergus?—I did.

Did you write any letter with it?—I think I did.

By whose direction did you write that letter?—I did not write it by the direction of any person.

By whose direction did you send the petition to Mr. Eccleston?—It was my own idea entirely; it may be well for the information of the gentlemen of the Committee to state, that Mr. M'Cartney stated, that it would be as well the petition should be sent to Carrickfergus to get the signatures of some of the freemen, and thinking it inconvenient to myself to go, I thought I would give it to Mr. Eccleston, who I knew had voted for Sir Arthur Chichester; being a steady correct man, I thought I would send it to him, and I wrote, if I recollect right, a line to say that it required signatures, and I sent it down by the cars.

By whose car did you send it?—One of Graves's.

When was that?—On the Saturday.

When did you next see the petition?—On the Monday evening.

Where was that?—In Mr. Eccleston's house.

Did you not see it in Belfast in the course of the Monday?—I did not.

Did not you hear it was at Belfast in the course of that day?—I did not.

Did you see Mr. Eccleston at Belfast on the Monday?—I did.

Did you go to Carrickfergus alone?—I have already said I went by the car; it was in company with Mr. Eccleston, and some others who were strangers to me, I believe Carrickfergus people.

Were you accompanied by any person who had to do with this subject, except Mr. Eccleston?—I was not accompanied by any one on that subject.

Mr. Eccleston and you went in company?—We were in the car together.

And for the same purpose?—His purpose was to go home, mine was on the subject of the petition; but I understood he was on business connected with the decease of his late father in Belfast that day.

You saw him in Belfast that day?—I did.

Where?—He called at Mr. M'Cartney's office.

Had you any conversation with him in Mr. M'Cartney's office on the subject of this petition?—I do not remember having any.

Had you any conversation with any other person on the subject of this petition, in Mr. Eccleston's presence?—No, not in my recollection.

Did any conversation pass between Mr. Eccleston and any other person respecting the petition in your presence?—None.

Was not the petition mentioned either by Mr. Eccleston or yourself at Belfast, on that day?—It might have been, but I have no recollection of it.

State whether you had any conversation with Mr. Eccleston on the subject of that petition, in Belfast or on your return?—On his return back I had; he told me in going down to the car or on our return, that he had the petition in his pos-

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session, but that he had not obtained any signatures to it; that I believe was the only remark that passed upon the subject.

Had you written to him to request he would get some signatures affixed to the petition?—I think I had done so.

You sent it for that purpose?—Yes.

Did he not assign any reasons for not having attended to your wish?—I think he stated he did not wish to have any thing to do with the petition.

The question refers to any thing that passed between Mr. Eccleston and yourself on your way back to Carrickfergus; did you understand from Mr. Eccleston that he had the petition about his person at that time?—I did not.

Where did you understand it was?—I understood it was at his own house.

You understood he had left it at Carrickfergus?—Yes, I did.

Committee.]—Did he say to you that there were four signatures upon it?—He did not make any remark of the kind.

He did not say whether any signatures had been attached or not?—I think I remember that he said he had not obtained any signatures to it.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—As you and Mr. Eccleston travelled together to Carrickfergus, I presume you went to his house with him?—Yes.

How soon after did you see the petition?—I think in about half an hour.

Into which room of his house did you go?—I think it was the place where we breakfasted on the following morning.

Mr. Eccleston produced the petition to you?—Yes, he did.

Did you see where he took it from?—I think he took it from a desk.

In which room?—In the office.

In your presence?—He brought it from that.

You have said he took it from a desk, did you see him?—He mentioned that he had it in the desk, consequently I concluded he had it there.

Did he leave the room in which you say you breakfasted, and go into the other for the purpose of bringing the petition?—I do not remember.

Do you not remember how it was produced to you?—It was produced by Mr. Eccleston.

Committee.]—Were there any signatures to it at that time?—There were.

How many?—I think, to the best of my recollection, four.

Did he make any observation upon the four signatures?—He did not.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—Were those four names signed in your presence?—They were not.

None of them?—No.

Do you know any of the four persons whose names they profess to be?—I have seen them.

Committee.]—Did you say that he told you that same day that he had obtained no signatures?—I think he did.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—Who instructed you to go on Monday from Belfast to Carrickfergus?—Mr. M'Cartney mentioned that it would be well to have the petition up from Carrickfergus, and I said to him in the evening previous to his leaving the office, shall I go to Carrickfergus; he said I wish you would.

You have been speaking of a petition in the singular number, as if there were one?—There were two parts.

Did you send both those parts on the Saturday to Carrickfergus to Mr. Eccleston?—I did.

Did each part contain four signatures?—I think it did.

Did Mr. Eccleston, on reaching Carrickfergus, produce both parts to you?—He did.

Did all the persons, who you informed the Committee signed the petition, sign both parts?—They did.

Did you take both parts back to Carrickfergus?—I did.

What did you do with them?—I sent them to Dublin.

Both of them?—Yes, both of them.

Committee.]—In one inclosure?—Yes.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—Addressed to Mr. Clotworthy M'Cartney?—Yes.

Is he a brother of Mr. Joseph M'Cartney of Belfast?—Yes, I understand so.

Did you write any letter to him upon that subject?—I did not.

Was there any letter to him?—I believe not.

You made up the parcel?—Yes.

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Committee.—Then you must know whether there was a letter or not?—I think there was not; there were some other little matters from Mr. Joseph M'Cartney himself. I will not say there might not be a letter among them, but I cannot say whether there was or not, for I wrote none.

What other little matters were there made up?—Some other papers that were sent. There is scarcely a day that there are not papers sent to Dublin from that office.

Mr. *Hubbersty.*—In whose writing is that petition?—[*The Petition against the return being shown to the Witness.*]—I do not know.

Is this petition in the same hand-writing as the duplicate?—I think it is.

Whilst you were at Percival Ingram's house on the evening of Monday the 8th of November, did Mr. Eccleston leave you in Ingram's house?—He did.

More than once?—I am not certain, but I think more than once, I think twice.

Do you know the object of his leaving you?—He went out with Percival Ingram for the purpose of sending in freemen to sign the petition.

Did he inform you whether he had made any applications whilst he was absent?—I think he did.

Did he inform you that those applications had been successful, or otherwise?—I think he stated, that he had applied to one of the Hamiltons, and that they had refused him; that is my impression.

Did he mention any other person?—No; unless the parties he sent in that actually did sign.

You have stated to the Committee, that about half after six you reached Carrickfergus, and soon after nine you went back to Eccleston's house, and then delivered the petition to him?—Yes.

During the time that elapsed between your arrival at Carrickfergus, and your delivering it to Mr. Eccleston at night, was it ever out of your possession at all?—It was not.

Never?—Never; it never was out of my sight; at least it was lying on the table, but I did not consider it out of my possession, I had charge of it all the time.

Percival Ingram it appears signed his name at the top of the third column [*from the left*]?—Yes.

You have informed the Committee that at that time the petition contained only six signatures; the four affixed to it when you reached Carrickfergus, and then the names of Hugh Larmour and Robert Ker?—I think I did.

How does it happen that Percival Ingram did not sign his name in continuation in the same column?—I will like to state that; in Ireland there is a sort of little pride sometimes among people, and Percival Ingram thinks himself perhaps of a higher grade in society than the parties signed in the first column; and according to my recollection he might have made a remark of the kind, and consequently commence a new column.

In what station of life is Percival Ingram?—An innkeeper.

And what besides?—I believe that he is a tailor too.

What is Hugh Larmour?—I do not know.

What is Ker?—I do not know what his business is.

Do not both Larmour and Ker live in the same row of houses with Percival Ingram?—I have heard that they did, but I do not know.

Did Percival Ingram, or Hugh Larmour or Ker, sign the first?—I think it was Percival Ingram, but I will not say.

Then how does it happen that Larmour did not sign his name under Ingram?—I cannot say; it was entirely left optional with the parties where they chose to sign.

And you did not point out to any individual where he was to sign?—I did not; in fact I knew so little about it, I could not point out to them any thing on the subject.

You have informed the Committee that six freemen came to you to Stuart's by appointment?—Five.

Who made that appointment with you?—The parties themselves.

Name them?—I think the two Haggans, and either one or two of the Hennedys, and old Bashford, Robert Bashford.

You explained to them the object of your wishing them to come to Stuart's?—I did; it was their suggestion for me to come to Stuart's, but I explained my object to them in Carrickfergus.

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Where?—I think it was in the West Street, in the western division of Carrickfergus.

In the house of any person?—It was in the house of one of the parties, I think.

Were they all present?—I think four of them were.

You explained to them the object of your application?—Yes.

Did you inform them you had the petition with you?—I did.

Did you ask them to sign at that time?—I did.

Did you produce it?—No, they said it was improper to produce it then; but if I would go down to Felix Stuart's, they would follow me.

You are quite sure you explained to them the object of your application?—Yes, that I had the petition.

That it was against the election of Lord George Hill?—Yes.

Inform the Committee the names of those different persons?—I think there were the two Haggans; there were persons I did not know, and I may be very incorrect in naming them, but I know they were four of those who afterwards signed at Felix Stuart's house; old Bashford I know perfectly; I can recollect him perfectly.

State the names of the four; you say there were two of the Haggans?—I may state that which is incorrect, and I do not wish to do that. I know Bashford was one, and I think one of the Haggans, and I think one of the Hennedys, and who the other two were I cannot say.

Have you seen any one of those four persons here in London?—I have.

Have you seen more than one?—I think there are two of them.

Two persons to whom you explained that this was a petition against the return of Lord George Hill?—Yes.

You have stated to the Committee that at Felix Stuart's you read the petition, or the principal part of it, to the freemen then assembled?—I think I read the most of it, but not all.

Were all the six then present, Stuart included?—Yes.

Did any one of them make any objection to sign the petition?—There was one of them made an objection.

State what it was?—The objection, so far as my recollection goes, there is a part of the petition, I think, states that Lord George, not being a burgess of the corporation at the time of the election, and he said "Oh! it is no matter whether he is a burgess or not; I protest against that position, for any man may be elected who is eligible in other respects." I endeavoured to explain, not knowing much the nature of the thing, that that did not bind him to any thing his signing it; but there it was, please yourself whether to sign or not; he still hesitated as to signing, but after the others had fixed their signatures, he did the same.

Who was this?—I think it was one of the Hennedys, but I am not certain.

You have informed the Committee that you have seen two of the four persons to whom you explained the nature of this petition in London?—Yes.

Have you seen those two persons since your examination of yesterday?—I saw them going out of the other room as I went out.

Did you speak to them?—Not yesterday evening; this morning I just asked how they were.

Have you had any conversation with them respecting their examination or your examination?—Not the least.

One of the persons who signed in Felix Stuart's house you call old Bashford?—Yes.

Point out on the petition what you consider as his signature?—This is his signature; I could not read it myself, and I told him at the time, is that the way you write your name? Yes it is. I could not read Bashford from that, nor Robert; but I know that is the man's name.

Did he at all hesitate before he signed the petition?—Not the least.

He did not assign any reason for hesitating?—There was no hesitation, except on the part of the man I allude to, and I think that was one of the Hennedys.

Bashford did not give any reason for hesitating to sign at the moment?—He did not hesitate.

Did he wear spectacles?—He had not any on that day.

You heard him say nothing about spectacles that day?—Not according to my recollection.

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He did not say any thing about not being able to sign without spectacles?—Not to my recollection; he might do it.

Was he sober?—He was not tipsey at the time he signed the petition; they had drank some.

Were you so near as to see the operation of his signing?—Yes, I did.

Had you any apprehension that he would exceed the fourth column?—No.

You did not say any thing about his scrawling his hand out, that he would get into the other column?—I have no recollection of it.

There was no impression upon your mind, that you thought him likely to exceed the boundary?—Yes, I do recollect my saying he was writing very wide, or something to that effect.

At what time did you reach Felix Stuart's on the morning of the 9th of November?—I think a few minutes past eight o'clock.

Had you been into Eccleston's house between the time you left it to go to those persons in the West Division and going into Felix Stuart's house?—No, I had not.

At what time did you leave Felix Stuart's house to go to breakfast?—I think it was about half-past nine.

How long do you think you were in Felix Stuart's house with those people?—I think about an hour, or three-quarters of an hour; I can merely give within half an hour.

How often did you leave the room at Felix Stuart's during that period; did you leave the room at all?—I did.

How often?—Once.

For what space of time?—Five or six minutes; it was previous to the men coming in that I left the room.

You were in the room for sometime by yourself?—Yes, five or ten minutes.

Did you go down the stairs when you left the room?—I did.

Where was the petition during those few minutes?—It was on the table.

Was it opened or closed?—It was closed.

Did you find it in the same state when you returned?—Yes, I believe it was.

Did you find any body in the room?—No person.

From the time that those freemen arrived until the time that you went over to Mr. Eccleston's to breakfast, did you leave that room at Felix Stuart's?—No, certainly not.

Was there any person came and knocked at the door to speak to you?—Yes.

Did you go to the door?—No; it was Mrs. Eccleston came, just as I was going, to say that breakfast was ready, and I said I would come immediately.

You are certain you never left the room during the time you were there when those persons were there?—Yes.

Did any person come into the room while you were there with those persons?—Not to my knowledge; I was sitting at the front table with my back to the door, sitting in a kind of semicircle round the table and the door was closed, certainly, whether any person came in, I do not know.

Did any of those six freemen you have spoken of leave the room when you were there?—I do not recollect.

Was there any confusion of persons coming in and going out of the room when you were there?—Not that I remember, I do not remember any strangers having come in.

The room was as rooms generally are where business is transacting?—Yes, I did not observe any confusion.

Do you remember seeing me at Belfast?—I do.

Was there any conversation passed at Felix Stuart's between you and any of those freemen you have named respecting other persons who might be likely to sign this petition?—I do not recollect any particular conversation having happened.

Did you feel satisfied when you had got that number of names to it that the petition was sufficiently signed?—I had no idea whether it was sufficiently signed, but my time was so limited I could not stop any longer.

You have already said there was no confusion in the room at Felix Stuart's, were there persons coming in and going out of it?—Not that I recollect.

Do you recollect a conversation having passed between you and me at Belfast?—Yes, I do.

Do you remember assigning any reason to me why this petition might have been signed by persons without your knowing it?—I do not recollect that.

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Was not the conversation I had with you at Belfast on your part wholly voluntary?—Indeed, I laboured under an impression in Belfast, that you came on what my ignorance conceived to be a commission from the Honourable House of Commons, with full power to examine and to put to oath any person that you thought fit to call before you, and I conceived that I was entitled to give to a gentleman waiting on me any information, and from your gentlemanly behaviour towards me in asking those questions, I thought I was entitled to answer you in common courtesy.

Did any expression of mine lead you to believe I was invested with that high power you refer to?—I conceived from your waiting upon me and asking me whether I would obtain voluntarily here, you said I have the power to compel you, if you do not, said I, my object, as far as I have gone, has always been to give as little trouble as possible, consequently I will go voluntarily.

Was there any other person at that conversation?—I think there were two; a gentleman I do not know and Mr. M'Cartney.

Was not Mr. M'Cartney in the room during the whole of our conversations?—I believe he was.

Did I see you more than once?—Twice, I think.

Was not Mr. M'Cartney present during the whole of those times?—I think he was.

Did he not request you to give me information upon the subject?—He did, certainly.

Do you not remember stating to me that you had not paid much attention to the petition, and that when you were at Felix Stuart's it might have been signed by persons without your knowledge, there being great confusion from persons going out and coming in?—I remember stating, that it might have been signed by persons without my knowledge, as I paid little attention to it, but I do not remember stating that there was great confusion.

Did you not state as a reason for using the word confusion, that there were many persons going in and coming out: I confine my question to that?—I do not remember that.

When you left the room at Felix Stuart's to go to breakfast, what did you do with the petition?—I put it into my pocket.

Where did you take it to?—To Eccleston's house.

Was it ever taken out of your pocket after that time, before you left Carrickfergus?—It was.

When?—In Eccleston's house.

Did you open it?—No.

Did you ever open it after the time you left Stuart's, till you left Carrickfergus?—I did not.

Did you not state to me, at Belfast, that when Mrs. Eccleston called you to breakfast, you left the petition lying on the table in Mr. Stuart's house?—That was on the former time, at my first going there, that I left it there.

You have already stated, that from the time the freemen came till the time you went to breakfast, you never left the room?—I have, and have stated it truly.

Did you not state that when Mrs. Eccleston summoned you to breakfast, you left the petition on the table?—No, it was the first time I left Felix Stuart's room, I left the room twice, and I think I stated in Mr. M'Cartney's room on Monday, in Belfast, you asked me, did you leave the room more than once, and I said I did.

I am alluding to the conversation which took place on the Saturday, not on the Monday: on the Saturday, did not you inform me, that when Mrs. Eccleston called for you to come to breakfast, you left the petition lying on the table, in Felix Stuart's house?—It was the first time that I left it there.

Did you not inform me, that when Mrs. Eccleston called you to breakfast, you left the petition lying on the table, in Felix Stuart's house?—I think I did not say any such thing.

Did you not assign that as a reason to me, that the signatures might have been affixed to it?—I think not, to the best of my recollection.

Will you endeavour to recollect yourself?—There is a possibility of my having stated so, but I have no recollection of my having stated any such thing; there might be a confusion at the time.

Committee.]—Pause for a moment, and recollect yourself.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—Did you not inform me, that when Mrs. Eccleston called for you to come to breakfast, you went over to the house, and left the petition lying on the table in Felix Stuart's house, and assigned that as a reason why the names might

might have been affixed in that case?—I think there must have been a confusion as to the time, it was the first time that I left the room that I stated that.

You have already endeavoured to remind me, that on the Monday you said you left the room twice; I am referring to the conversation on the Saturday in Mr. M'Cartney's lower office, in Belfast?—The conversations, I believe, were the same in both instances.

Will you give an answer as specifically as you can do so; when Mrs. Eccleston called you from Felix Stuart's house, to go over to her own house to breakfast, did you not inform me on Saturday in Belfast, that you left the petition lying on the table whilst you went to breakfast?—I think not.

And that you assigned that as a reason why the additional names might have been affixed to it in your absence?—I think not.

Have the goodness to look at that paper—[*a fac simile of the signatures*—] did you ever see a paper similar to that before?—I did.

Where?—In Mr. M'Cartney's office.

Was it not produced in my presence?—I think it was.

Was it not referred to in the conversation by both Mr. M'Cartney and myself on the Saturday?—I do not remember its having been particularly referred to.

Do you remember in Mr. M'Cartney's lower office there is a large desk between the window, do you remember sitting at the desk with that paper before you?—I do.

Was it not near one of the windows of the room that you stood?—Yes.

Do you remember my asking you, with a paper similar to that before you, whether when you sent the petition to Mr. Clotworthy M'Cartney in Dublin, it did not contain the same number of signatures?—I do not remember your asking me that question.

May I entreat you to answer that distinctly?—I am endeavouring to do so.

Mr. Farrer was with me?—He is a clerk I believe in Lord Downshire's office, I did not know him at the time, but have learned that since.

You have informed the Committee that you saw and referred to a paper similar in appearance to this?—I saw it lying on the desk.

Did you not look at it with me and Mr. Joseph M'Cartney?—Yes; I recollect particularly the name of Larmour upon it; and I remember your asking me the question at what time he signed it, and I remember having answered you that he was the first who signed at Percival Ingram's house.

Did not Mr. M'Cartney, in your presence, refer particularly to the name of James Willis?—I do not remember his having done so.

Did he not say that Mr. James Willis was a highly respectable person?—Yes; I think I do remember that he did so.

Did he not say in your presence that he had been told by Mr. Willis that that signature was a forgery?—I do not remember that.

Did he not say also that he knew the names of the Hamiltons were forgeries?—I do not remember that.

Did you not hear Mr. M'Cartney express himself very anxious that this inquiry should proceed?—He did.

Did he not request you would give every information in your power, and say he would do the same himself?—He did.

I have described to you the position of Mr. M'Cartney's desk, and the situation in which you stood, did I not on that day, the Saturday, ask you to inform me whether the petition you forwarded to Mr. Clotworthy M'Cartney at Dublin, contained the same number of signatures?—I do not recollect that.

Was there no such question put?—I do not recollect that.

Did you not inform me that it contained all those signatures?—I do not remember any such circumstance; I beg you will put me right if I am going wrong. This gentleman presses me with questions which I cannot possibly bring to my recollection; I am willing to go as far with him as I can, but I cannot recollect this.

[*Committee.*]—If the conversation took place, it was on a subject sufficiently important to claim your attention?—It was, certainly, but I did not know the importance of it at the time.

At the time the questions were put to you, you must have been aware of its importance?—I began then to think of its importance; I had not previously done so indeed.

Conscious at the time of its importance, do you now remember the conversation to have taken place as it is put to you?—Part of it I do, part of it I do not.

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Mr. Hubbersty.]—On that occasion you informed me, as you have done to the Honourable Committee, the names of the persons who had signed in your presence?—I did.

I asked you whether the others were signed in your presence, and you stated that you did not know when they were signed?—I did.

You recollect my calling your attention to those particular signatures?—I remember your speaking of the additional signatures, certainly.

Do you remember assigning any other reason than that which has been stated to-day, why those signatures might have been affixed without your knowledge?—I do not remember having assigned any.

Committee.]—State what did pass?—I have already stated it all, according to my recollection.

Did any thing occur to you which has not been asked ; if so, will you state it?—I think there is one part Mr. Hubbersty has not touched on yet ; that is, he asked me, if I remember right, as to the times, the different times, that it was out of my possession, and I assigned as a reason, that the signatures might have been affixed without my knowledge that it was out of my possession, and yet I could not for the life of me think how it could be done at such short intervals, several of them being only a few minutes at each time, and beyond that I think I stated up stairs, and owing to the shortness of time, one of them, as I stated to the Honourable Committee, being but twenty minutes, the last five or six minutes, the other fifteen, while I ran to the Post-office.

Were any notes made of these conversations on your part, or the part of any other person?—There was no note taken at the time, on either of the occasions, to my knowledge.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—I remember your referring to the petition having been out of your possession for the periods you have mentioned?—It astonished me how any person could have had the means of affixing the signatures in so short a time.

You have informed the Committee that your profession is that of an accountant?—Yes.

What situations of life have you been in within the last few years?—I will state.

Have you been a clerk in the Guardian newspaper office?—I have.

Have you been a clerk in the News Letter office?—I have.

On those occasions you have been perhaps privy, if not party, to the signatures of petitions on public matters?—I have signed petitions myself.

And you have been concerned in the arrangement and management of other petitions, perhaps?—No, I never was ; there were several petitions lying at both those offices, particularly on political subjects, during the time I was there.

Did you not inform me that you considered this petition very much of that kind?—I did.

And that therefore it might have been signed, without your paying attention to the matter, in your presence?—I think I did.

You have stated, that on the Saturday when I saw you in Mr. M'Cartney's presence at Belfast, you did not tell me that when Mrs. Eccleston called you over to breakfast, you left the petition lying on the table in Felix Stuart's house, and assigned that as a reason why the signatures might have been affixed in your absence ; on the Monday following, did you not assign to me the self-same reason in nearly the same words?—I think not, according to my recollection.

Committee.]—In point of fact, did you take the petition with you when you went to breakfast or not?—I think I did ; I have no doubt on earth of that, but there is a confusion ; there seems to be a confusion in the times ; I went twice from Stuart's house from my first entering it, which was the only time I was ever in the man's house till I left Carrickfergus ; the first time I left the petition, the second time I took it with me. Mr. Hubbersty seems to think I have stated to him that was the last time ; I know it was the first time, and that is just where the confusion arises now ; I may be in error, but I think I am not in error.

The first time you state there was no person in the house?—No person.

Did you ever state to Mr. Hubbersty, with regard to the first or the second time, that the petition might have been signed in your absence?—Perhaps I did, there was a possibility of that.

You stated that there were no persons in the room when you went out or returned?—No ; but who might have been there in the interim I cannot tell.

Mr. Hubbersty

Mr. *Hubbersty*.]—You have admitted that you did assign to me, as a reason why some of those signatures might have been affixed in your absence, that you had left the petition lying in Felix Stuart's house on one of the occasions?—I told you I had left it on one of the occasions.

You are quite satisfied you did not specifically refer to that time when you went over to breakfast at Mr. Eccleston's, as the time when it might have been done?—I am certain it could not be that time.

Committee.]—The question is not whether you left the petition at that time at Felix Stuart's, but whether you stated that having left it at that time, it might have been signed with other names than those you had witnessed?—I did not state that to the best of my recollection; it is very difficult for a person to recollect circumstances happening in a hurry; when a person is most hurried and pressed for a few minutes time, and having a number of things to attend to, a number of men to attend to such as there are in our country, not the most regular—to remember at the distance of several months the exact circumstances, but I know the fact, that I took the petition with me when I went to breakfast.

Mr. *Hubbersty*.]—When you returned to Eccleston's house on the night of Monday, you state that you delivered the petition to Mr. Eccleston?—I did.

Will you be particular upon that subject; are you quite sure you delivered the petition to Mr. Eccleston?—Perfectly.

Are you equally sure you received it from him the following morning?—I am.

Where did he state he had left it during the night?—I think he stated that he had put it into his desk.

When you left Felix Stuart's house to go to Mr. Eccleston's to breakfast, and as you now state took the petition along with you, did you show it to Mr. Eccleston?—No, I did not.

Did you open it?—I did not.

Did he ask you how many names had been signed to it?—No.

Did he not ask you what effect had been produced by your presence that morning?—He did not; he may have asked me did I get signatures, I may have answered that I did, but how many he never asked me, nor did I tell him; the tea was pouring out on the table; I had a surtout on, I just pulled the petition out of my pocket and went in and had my breakfast; I had scarcely finished my breakfast when one of the party called over for me, and I went over and staid a few minutes.

Committee.]—Did Mr. Eccleston breakfast with you?—Yes.

Did Mrs. Eccleston breakfast with you?—Yes.

Did either of them leave the room whilst you were at breakfast?—No, neither of them.

Did either of them open the petition from the time you went in till you went out again?—I do not think one or the other.

You had nothing to do with it at Eccleston's house?—No.

What was your reason then for taking it out of your pocket?—Only that the two parchments were rather bulky and it was not well folded, and I just pulled it out of my pocket and threw it down on the table.

Did you breakfast in your surtout?—I did.

Mr. *Hubbersty*.]—How long were you at breakfast?—About fifteen minutes.

Did you sit down to your breakfast?—Yes, I did.

With your great or surtout coat on?—Yes.

You mean what we call an outside coat?—Yes, one that is worn over the other.

Had you no conversation with Mr. Eccleston during the breakfast, as to the propriety of obtaining additional signatures?—None, for I was in a hurry to get off at the time.

Were not the names of any freemen mentioned?—Not that morning; at least when I say not on that morning, I mean not at that time, but on the morning before my leaving Eccleston's house, he told me where to go where I would meet with the persons I wanted at Carrickfergus, as I did not know the town myself.

The Williamsons were not mentioned?—No, not that morning.

Was nothing said as to the persons who had voted in opposition to Lord George Hill?—Not that morning.

When you came into Mr. Eccleston's house, where did you find Mr. Eccleston?—At what period?

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At the breakfast?—I think he was in the kitchen or the little room where we breakfasted.

Did he see the petition at all?—He might have seen it, but I cannot say.

You have already informed the Committee, that you took it out of your pocket being folded and threw it on the table in the front room, and went into the back room to breakfast?—Yes, he was standing in a little passage as I went in, I have no doubt he saw me flinging it on the table; the house is very small; the passage is so very limited, that persons standing at the door might look into the other room, it is only about three feet.

Does the passage you enter on opening the front door, extend to the back of the house?—It does not extend to the back of the house, it goes into the kitchen.

Describe the position of the two doors, that into the front office and that into the kitchen?

[*The Witness drew a plan.*]

Where is the staircase?—The staircase runs out of the kitchen.

Committee.]—If you are standing in the kitchen, you front the door into the street?—Not exactly, for there is a small passage; the fire place is here, (*describing it*) and we sat near the front of the fire, the morning being cold; there is a desk stands in the front room, and in going in from the street I pulled it out and flung it on the table; Mr. Eccleston was standing in the door-way, waiting seemingly to sit down to breakfast.

There is no door from the back room directly into the street?—No, I put the petition on the table, not on the desk.

Was the kitchen door open or shut?—I think the kitchen door was shut during the time of breakfast.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—You have stated that while you were at breakfast somebody tapped at the door, and asked to speak to Mr. Eccleston?—I think I did.

Have you any doubt of that?—No.

Do you know who that person was?—No.

Did Mr. Eccleston go out?—He did not.

Did he speak to him?—No.

What door do you mean?—The door of the kitchen, where we were breakfasting.

Was there any answer given?—I think there was; that Mrs. Eccleston said he was at breakfast, and would see him in the course of the day, or some slight answer of that kind.

Did he go away immediately?—I think he did.

Was the door opened to him?—I think it was not opened at all.

How did he obtain entrance?—At the front door there is a large door which shuts at night, and a small half-door that shuts during the day, the other half not being entirely closed; and there is one of those at that house, and I think the half-door was closed, when we came in, with a little small latch.

When you threw down the petition on the table, did you shut the door of the front room?—I did not.

Will you write the name of Philip Williamson?

[*The Witness wrote the same.*]

Write the name of William Williamson?

[*The Witness wrote the same.*]

Mr. Hubbersty.]—You have also said that William Hennedy came to you whilst you were at Eccleston's house, and asked you to go over to Stuart's, for that they wanted to speak to you?—Yes.

You went over?—Yes.

How long did you remain?—I think about three or four minutes, I think not more.

Where was the petition during that time?—It was in my pocket.

When did you put it in your pocket; how soon after you breakfasted?—Immediately.

Had you finished your breakfast when William Hennedy came?—I had not; I was at the last cup of tea.

Did you go with him?—I followed him immediately.

As you went from the room in which you breakfasted, did you go into the other room and put the petition into your pocket?—I did.

Where

Where did you find it?—Lying on the table.

Was it on the same table where you had placed it?—Yes it was.

Was it in the same position?—I think it was; I did not observe any difference.

Was it closed?—Yes, half closed.

You think it was in the same position as it had been when you threw it down on the table?—Yes, it appeared to be so.

Did you ever open the petition after you then put it into your pocket?—No, never.

How many names were there at the foot of the petition when it was last opened in your presence?—I cannot say.

Have you any reason for recollecting that there were apparently more signatures than those which the petition contained when you originally sent it to Carrickfergus, and those which were signed in your presence?—Indeed I cannot say that I have.

You have stated that when you returned to Eccleston's house on the night of Monday, soon after nine, you gave him the petition?—Yes.

At what hour did you retire to rest?—I think soon after ten o'clock.

Where were you from the time you gave him the petition till you retired to rest?—Sitting in his kitchen.

Where was he?—I think he was there.

He did not go out?—I think he did not, but I am not certain.

Did you sup with him?—They do not usually take supper after tea in Ireland.

Do you think he retired to rest at the same time as you did?—Yes, he did.

You are sure of that?—Yes.

Was he up when you rose the next morning?—I was up the first, I think.

Did you see him?—No, he got up about the same time.

Who was down stairs the first?—I do not remember which of us was down stairs the first.

Did you ask him for the petition?—I did.

In whose room where you when you asked him?—The front office.

Where did he take it from?—I think he took it from a desk in the corner.

Does he usually keep that desk locked?—There is a lock upon it.

Did you see him unlock it?—I do not remember.

You say you think he took it from a desk in the corner?—Yes.

The room is a very small one?—Yes, it is a very small one, indeed.

Then you have no difficulty in recollecting where he took it from?—Not having any object in minding that circumstance, I cannot say positively, but I have no doubt he took it from that desk.

Have you any recollection whether he unlocked that desk?—I have not.

Committee.]—Will you sign your name and your description, and where you live?

[*The Witness wrote the same.*]

Do you generally sign your name at full length?—Yes.

That is your ordinary signature?—Yes, it is the signature I put to any thing, unless I am in a hurry signing a receipt.

When you sign ordinarily, you sign with your full name?—Yes, I do.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—Is that paper in your hand-writing?—[*A paper being shown to the Witness.*]—It is.

[*The same was delivered in.*]

Mr. Posnett.]—Will you permit me to see that again?—[*It was shown to the Witness.*]—That is mine.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—Did Mr. Eccleston tell you on Tuesday morning what he had done with the petition during the night?—He did not.

Did he not tell you he had locked it up during the night?—I do not remember that.

Do you remember having stated that he told you so?—No.

Do you not remember, on the 3d of January, informing me in Mr. M'Cartney's house, that Mr. Eccleston told you he had locked it up during the night?—I do not remember that; I may have said so.

Endeavour to recollect whether Mr. Eccleston did not tell you so?—If I had known it he must have told me so, for I did not know it of my own knowledge, not having seen it.

If he told you he had locked it up during the night, you knew it only because he said so?—Certainly, I should know it then.

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Did he or not tell you he had locked it up during the night?—He may have done so.

Committee.]—What is your recollection upon the subject?—I cannot remember whether he told me so or not, it is very possible he told me so, the impression is strong upon my mind that he did say so.

Mr. *Hubbersty.*]—Then if the impression upon your mind is that he told you so, did you inform me so?—It is very like I did.

Then the Committee are to understand from you distinctly, that in fact this petition was not in your custody during the night between Monday the eighth and Tuesday the ninth of November?—It certainly was not.

You are quite sure about that?—Yes.

You have no doubt upon that fact?—Not the least.

Have you a perfect recollection of delivering it to him on the Monday night, and an equally perfect recollection of receiving it back from him on the Tuesday morning?—Perfectly.

When you went over to Eccleston's house to breakfast, did you go into the house alone?—Quite alone.

Did any body follow you into the house?—Not at that time.

Have you been to Mr. Eccleston's house at other times?—I have been there, but not often.

It is a very small house?—Yes; an old fashioned house.

Do you think that a person sitting in the place where you breakfasted could or could not hear any person coming into the house?—I think if they were sitting quiet, with no person in the room but themselves, they must have heard it, if they paid attention to it.

Do you think if any person came into the house while you were breakfasting with Mr. and Mrs. Eccleston, they would not have been heard?—I do not know that; my opinion is, that I could come from the street into that house without any person hearing me while they were sitting in that back room, if I chose.

As persons usually walk into a house when there is no occasion for secrecy?—I do not know whether they might or might not.

Committee.]—Mrs. Eccleston spoke to the person who came to the door without the door being opened?—I think she did.

Then she heard the person knock at the door, and he heard her voice?—Yes; but a person knocking at a door and speaking, and a person coming in without speaking, is another thing.

At which door did he knock?—The door that shuts the kitchen from the little passage.

She answered him while the door was shut?—Yes.

That person, whoever he was, went away?—Yes, I think he did.

Did you hear the man come in before he knocked at the door?—No, I think not.

You could not hear the steps of any person until he came to the door?—I might or might not; but I do not recollect that I did.

Do you remember having heard the steps of any person approaching the door?—No; I think the floor is a common earthen floor, if I recollect right.

Mr. *Hubbersty.*]—When you left Eccleston's house, soon after seven o'clock on Tuesday morning, did you ask Eccleston to accompany you?—I did not.

Whilst you were at Felix Stuart's house, did any communication pass between you and Mr. Eccleston?—None.

You never heard or saw any thing of him from the time you left his house till you went to breakfast?—No.

Mr. Eccleston is a schoolmaster?—He teaches a public school at Carrickfergus. He teaches reading and writing?—Yes.

How early does he begin his school?—Ten o'clock is the general hour in Ireland; I suppose that is his hour.

He was not engaged before breakfast?—No.

That was not the reason he did not accompany you?—No; I dare say he would have accompanied me if I had asked, but he gave me directions.

What directions did he give you?—He said it was a row of houses standing on a hollow ground, about a hundred yards up the Western Division.

Did he tell you the names of the persons who lived in that row of houses?—Yes; he said the best way will be for you to go to old Robert Bashford's house, and if you do not know the rest he will get them for you.

The

The rest of whom?—The rest of those who were likely to sign the petition.

Whom did he name as likely to sign?—I think he named the Haggans and Hennedys, the two brothers of each, and Bashford himself.

Did he name Felix Stuart?—He did not mention him.

Did he recommend to you to go to Joy Mount Bank again?—No, he did not.

He did not say any thing about any persons living in Joy Mount Bank as being likely to sign?—No, he did not.

Committee.]—Had you any fresh conversation on the Tuesday morning respecting the signatures you were likely to get?—Nothing relative to the Bank.

Relative to any others?—Yes, the Western Division where I went to, that was on the Tuesday morning.

Mr. *Hubbersty.*]—During your examination of yesterday, you stated that after you had been at Felix Stuart's you intended to go to the Bank again?—I did.

What reason had you for intending to go to the Bank again?—My intention was to procure some more signatures, as I understood there were some people in the neighbourhood of the mill that I would get.

Explain to the Committee the source of your understanding?—Eccleston told me there were some more people there who would like to sign if I went down there.

When did he tell you so?—The night before.

At the time you had the conversation respecting the Haggans and Hennedys, it was at the same time?—It was.

Did you make any appointment with any persons to go there?—No.

Had you made any appointment with persons living in that neighbourhood?—No.

Do you know Mr. Cowan?—Yes.

Did you see him while you were in Carrickfergus?—I did.

At what time did you see him?—I think it was about seven o'clock in the evening.

On what day?—Monday the eighth.

Who was with you?—Mr. Eccleston.

Was that previous to your going to Mr. Ingram's, or afterwards?—It was previous.

What was your object in going to Mr. Cowan's?—He understood more about the freemen than I did, and I thought as he was friendly to Sir Arthur Chichester, he would refer me to those who were likely to sign.

You knew him?—I had seen him before.

You went there of your own accord?—Yes.

Did Mr. Cowan make an appointment for you to come to his mill?—No, not then.

Did he say you would get any persons there to sign?—No, he did not.

Did you ever state that you had an appointment with persons at Mr. Cowan's mill?—No, I did not. I remember having stated at Felix Stuart's that I had to go down to the Bank to meet some persons which I intended.

Did you state to them that there was a batch of gentlemen waiting to sign at the mill?—I think not.

You never use the word gentlemen with reference to the freemen of Carrickfergus?—I may have done so.

Did you say, upon that occasion, that you were going to meet any gentlemen?—No, I think not.

Did you say that you were going to meet any persons?—I said I was going to meet some persons; but I think I did not say anything about Mr. Cowan's mill.

What passed between you and any other person at Felix Stuart's when William Hennedy came to fetch you out from breakfast?—When I went over to Felix Stuart's house again, they were sitting round the table.

Who were they?—The parties who had signed. I think Stuart was down stairs, and there were but five of them. It appeared to me to have been what I will state. I think it was that they wanted me to treat them to more whiskey, and I called for a pint of spirits, and left it with them; and my principal aim was to get away without being further annoyed, as my time was expired; I was not five minutes in the house.

Did you go back to Eccleston's?—I did.

How long did you stay there?—Only just to bid them good-bye, and so off.

You never took the petition out of your pocket again till you got to Belfast?—No, not again till I got to the office.

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You have already stated that after you put the petition into your pocket, when you were called by Hennedy to go over to Felix Stuart's, you never opened it?—No. Not even while you were at breakfast?—No, I never did. Will you write the name of Robert Chaplin?

[*The Witness wrote the same.*]

[*Committee.*—Your sole object in going to Carrickfergus was to get signatures to this petition?—And to bring the petition back.

The number of persons that you yourself actually saw sign, was not above five or six?—I saw ten sign it.

When you took the petition back you carried it to Belfast to the very room you yourself occupied as the accountant at Mr. M'Cartney's house?—Yes.

That being the sole object for which you went to Carrickfergus and carried it back again, did you never look at the petition at all?—Indeed I did not, I never opened it afterwards, the time was very limited.

Having the petition in your hand, opening and looking at that petition would not have taken half a minute?—It would not certainly.

That being the sole purpose for which you went, did it never occur to you to see what signatures there were to the petition?—Indeed it did not, I thought so very little about the signatures at that time, I did not pay attention to them.

You were two days at Carrickfergus?—I went there on Monday the eighth, and returned on the Tuesday morning.

That was the sole purpose for which you went there?—Yes.

And yet you never looked at the petition?—Not from the time of bringing it away from Carrickfergus.

If any body had asked you how many names were on the petition when you came to Belfast, what should you have answered?—I should have gone and looked at the petition; I could not have told them without opening the petition, and I would have done that of course.

You knew only of ten names?—I knew of ten names, the ten names which were signed in my presence, and four before.

You would have said there were fourteen?—If I had said any thing, I would have said fourteen at that time.

You did not see Mr. M'Cartney on your return from Belfast?—No, he was off to Derry; my object in hurrying was to save time to see him in case he had any instructions for me.

Was Mr. Joseph M'Cartney likely to see Mr. Clotworthy M'Cartney?—No; and he was going to Derry, which are at opposite directions.

Your object in seeing Mr. Joseph M'Cartney was to tell him what had been done with the petition?—He seemed anxious that the petition should come up that day and go to Dublin by the post.

He might be anxious to know how many signatures there were there?—He might if he had been at home.

Did not you ascertain the fact to inform him?—I did not.

Did you write any letter with the petition?—I did not.

When did you next see Mr. Joseph M'Cartney?—The following Monday.

What passed with him then?—He asked me, "Did you send the petition?" "I did;" "Did you dispatch it the day it came up?" "I did Sir," and he asked me no further.

Is not Mr. Eccleston very well acquainted with the freemen of Carrickfergus?—He must be so, it was his birth-place, and he has resided there all his life, except the time he resided in Belfast.

Did you not wonder he gave you no more information?—No, I thought he did very well.

Do you or do you not believe, that when you took the petition back to Belfast, there were more than those fourteen names upon it?—The impression upon my mind is, that there was, and I will state my reasons for saying so, that I could scarcely think it likely that in Mr. M'Cartney's office, though a public place where people were passing and re-passing, any person could have a knowledge of the freemen so as to put down names to it, and I did not suppose they could get it in Dublin; that was my only reason for supposing they had been previously affixed; from my own knowledge I know nothing about it.

Your belief is that there were others?—It would be my belief for those reasons.

Have you any other reason for believing it?—None.

You say that positively?—I do.

On the first evening of your arrival at Carrickfergus, you went out in the evening before

before nine o'clock to several people who were gone to bed?—Not to several, but a few; some were going to bed, and some we concluded, from the houses being dark, were gone to bed.

Do you know whose houses you went to?—I think we called at the house of one of the Hamiltons, and we went into the house of one of the Williamsons.

Did you go into Williamson's house?—I did.

Did you ask him whether he would sign a petition?—He was tipsy, and he was sitting at the fire, and he said, I will sign nothing to-night.

Did he refuse to sign it altogether?—He qualified it by saying he would not that night; my determination was to call upon him the next morning, and I suppose it was in allusion to that I must have said to those other parties that I was going down to the Bank, that was near Mr. Cowan's mill.

What is the name of that Williamson?—I think it is Edward.

Were his two sons with him?—No, they were not.

Were they in the same house with him?—I think they were.

Did you speak to them?—No, I did not.

Did they speak to you?—No, I did not see them at all.

What profession is Edward Williamson?—I do not know.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—Into what room of Williamson's house did you go?—His kitchen; for that is the principal room in small Irish cottages.

Were you in his workshop?—No.

Committee.]—To what other houses did you go?—I think we went to the door of one of the Hamiltons; but it being a very dark night, and not finding the house, I said, I may as well go into a friend's of Lord George Hill's here as others; for I did not know them, and we then went into Ingram's house, and they volunteered to go out and send them to me, as they knew them well.

Did you go to any others?—No; not at that time.

As your belief and impression upon your mind is, that the names were put on before you carried it back to Belfast, because of the improbability of their being put on afterwards, what do you believe to be the most likely time or place when the names could be put on without your knowledge?—I cannot take upon myself to say; I have thought it over five hundred times, and I can fix upon no particular place as being more likely than another.

What do you believe to have been the most likely opportunity, without your knowledge, of those names being put there while you were in Carrickfergus?—There were three or four opportunities, but which of them was the most likely, I cannot say.

What were they?—One was during the time I went for a pen in Felix Stuart's house, the other was during the night while I was asleep, the other was during the time I was at breakfast, and the period when it was out of my possession from the previous Saturday; and my impression is there were none then, for I think there were but four when I got it again.

You went for a pen in order to enable the persons to write?—Yes.

Did they write after you returned?—Yes.

After you had brought the pen back you saw it again?—Yes.

You looked at one of the parties, Robert Bashford, while he was signing his name?—Yes.

What names were upon the petition then?—I do not know, it might have been at that time just as well as any other.

You say it might be during the night without your knowledge, at what time did you go to bed?—About ten o'clock.

Did Eccleston go to bed at the same time?—He did.

Was the house shut up or left open when you went to bed?—I do not know.

Have you reason to think it was left open?—I have not.

You delivered it to Eccleston and he put it up into his desk?—Yes.

Did you hear any disturbance in the house in the night?—None.

Had you much conversation with Mr. Eccleston when you came back that night as to persons likely to sign it next morning?—Yes; it was then I received information where to go next morning; at least, principally so.

Did he tell you it was probable Williamson, who was intoxicated, would sign the next morning when he was sober?—Yes.

Did you go to Williamson the next morning?—I did not.

Why did you not?—I had not time; after meeting those persons I found I should be too late for Belfast, and I lost the car, and had to walk those eight Irish miles.

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Did any of those persons who signed in your presence want any assistance in guiding the pen?—No, not at all.

They could all write with facility?—Yes.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—On Saturday the first day of the present year, did you not inform me, as a reason why those names might have been signed without your knowledge, the confusion which existed in the room at Felix Stuart's house, by persons coming in and going out?—With very great respect to you and the gentlemen of this Committee, I think I have repeatedly replied, that I do not recollect having done so, and I think that should be quite sufficient.

Committee.]—You state that you think there was no such confusion?—I think not. It is necessary further to explain, that I am as anxious as any person to throw light upon the subject. I did state to the Honourable Committee the situation of the table in that room in Stuart's house; the door was situate as this is; in coming in, that door was closed. I think still we were sitting round in a sort of semi-circle on the opposite side of the room; persons might have come in without my noticing it. I was in conversation with those six persons.

But the petition was in your sight all the time?—Yes, it was. The Chairman mentioned some time ago that the petition was before me all the time, and was part of the time before me on the table; and in consequence of the drink on the table it was laid aside on another table at the time. I did not mean to say that any person could come in, go to that petition, and take up a pen and sign without my seeing it.

It was constructively in your possession being within your own sight during the whole time?—It was.

Stuart and Bashford and those persons signed on the Tuesday morning?—They did.

You saw the petition then lying open before you?—Yes.

There were no names you say to the left of the column that they signed at that time?—That is my impression.

Then those names could not have been entered by Eccleston, or with or without his knowledge during the night before?—So I would suppose.

Then that second opportunity you state to have occurred for signing those names could not have occurred?—So I think; my impression is according to your question, that those two columns were not there at the time those men signed.

You had then an opportunity of seeing it after Eccleston had had it in his possession during the night?—Yes.

Then they could not have been added during the night?—I would think not.

The only other opportunity when they could have been added according to your belief, was while you were at Belfast?—Yes.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—At what time did the coach which conveyed this parcel to Dublin leave Belfast?—It leaves at half-past four o'clock in the afternoon.

At what time did you reach Belfast from Carrickfergus?—I think ten or twenty minutes past one.

Then there were some hours after your arrival before the coach went off?—Yes, two hours and a half or three.

How long did you detain the petition before you forwarded it?—I think half an hour, or more.

Were there any persons coming into the room?—There were several came into the room on business.

Do you think that any persons touched that petition?—I cannot say, indeed; I was out of the office twice.

Committee.]—You have stated that there was no person, to your knowledge, in the office?—No, not to my knowledge.

Mr. Cookson.]—Mr. Hubbersty has several times asked you, whether you did not state to him that the petition might have been signed at the time you left it at Felix Stuart's?—I think he has.

Did you not say to him, that you did not see how it was possible that it could have been signed on any of the occasions, when you mentioned to him that it was out of your presence?—I do not remember that; perhaps I do not understand the question right: I think what Mr. Hubbersty asked me was, as to the time that I went to my breakfast, whether that was not the time. He confined it to that; and I answered, No, that that was not the time, that it was a former time; and I am sorry Mr. Hubbersty labours under the impression that I told him, in

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Mr. M'Cartney's office, that was the period, for it was the first time of my leaving the room, when I went for a pen.

Did you make any observation to Mr. Hubbersty of the extreme improbability of the petition having been signed at any of those times when it was out of your possession?—I think not.

You were asked whether you did not state at Felix Stuart's, that you had to meet a batch of gentlemen, and you say you did not state that?—I used no such expression.

Did you state any thing about having to go in that direction?—I did; I think I remember having stated, that I had to go in that direction.

Do you recollect having stated any thing about having to go to Mr. Cowan's mill?—I do not recollect stating that, but stating that I was going to Mount Joy Bank, which is in the same direction.

Did you state the purpose?—The obtaining signatures was the only object I could have in view.

Though you did not state you had to see a batch of gentlemen, did you give the gentlemen to understand that you were going for the purpose of seeing persons to obtain their signatures?—I did, certainly.

When you received the petition, in the first instance from Mr. M'Cartney, at Belfast, had you any directions as to the number of signatures that were to be obtained to it?—None whatever.

What were Mr. M'Cartney's instructions, as far as you remember them?—He told me it was necessary to procure some signatures to the petition; and I said to him, I think, Sir, it will be best to send down to Carrickfergus. He said, certainly, unless I had occasion to go myself; and I did not wish to go, and I suggested the sending it to Eccleston, and he acquiesced in that.

It was by your suggestion it was sent to Mr. Eccleston?—Yes.

When did you next hear of the petition?—I next heard of it on the Monday.

From whom?—From Eccleston.

Where?—In Belfast.

How came you to see him?—He came up to Belfast on business of his own.

Where did you see him?—At Mr. M'Cartney's office.

For what purpose did he come?—To see me, I understood, for the purpose of telling me he had not obtained signatures to the petition; nor did he wish to interfere, indeed he stated that he did not wish to take any active part in it.

Was Mr. M'Cartney present then?—He was not.

Did you see Mr. M'Cartney afterwards on the same day?—I did.

Did any thing pass relating to the petition then?—I mentioned what Eccleston had told me.

That he objected to procure signatures?—Yes, something to that effect.

Did Mr. Eccleston state any particular reason?—The reason he stated at Belfast was, that there was such a very extraordinary feeling in Carrickfergus raised by Lord George Hill's party, and that he held some public situations there, and it would be very inexpedient for him to take any part against him.

You having stated this to Mr. M'Cartney, what took place next?—Mr. M'Cartney said, has he the petition here? or something to that effect, I answered, that I understood he had not the petition. Mr. M'Cartney expressed a wish to have the petition, as he must send it off the next day; I then volunteered to go down to Carrickfergus and bring it up.

Mr. M'Cartney at that time knew from your representation of what you had heard from Mr. Eccleston, that there were but four signatures to the petition?—I think he did; he stated to me that Eccleston had declined doing any thing in it.

When Mr. M'Cartney gave you the petition, you say there were but four signatures?—That was all.

Did Mr. M'Cartney suggest to you the propriety of getting more signatures at Carrickfergus?—I do not recollect that he did.

You went to Carrickfergus with Mr. Eccleston?—I did, in the same car.

If Mr. M'Cartney had not expressed any wish for further signatures, how happened you to think of going to procure signatures from different freemen at Carrickfergus?—I understood there were more signatures required to it; Mr. M'Cartney did not desire me to get any number of signatures, or to get signatures.

It had been sent down on the Saturday, for the purpose of procuring further signatures?

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signatures?—Eccleston told me by the way, that he thought there might be more signatures procured to it.

At the time you went to Carrickfergus, did you know of Mr. M'Cartney having to leave Belfast on the Tuesday?—I did not; he had not told me any thing of it.

At the time you left Belfast to go to Carrickfergus?—He had not told me any thing about it at the time, of his having to go to Derry.

What then made you anxious to return to Belfast early on Tuesday morning?—I had learned that his intention was to go to Derry; knowing that the mail started at one o'clock, I thought I might not see him unless I got home.

Then you did understand he was going to Derry, and that he was going by mail?—Yes, it is the only mode of conveyance by that line.

Did Mr. M'Cartney leave any instructions with you, previous to your going to Carrickfergus, as to forwarding the petition to Dublin?—No instructions whatever.

When you returned from Carrickfergus to Belfast with the petition, did you find any instructions as to what was to be done with it?—None.

Then how came you to forward it to Dublin?—I had learned previously from Mr. M'Cartney that it was to go to his brother at Dublin that day, and among other papers it was sealed up and sent to the coach-office as a parcel.

You say there were other papers?—There were.

Did Mr. M'Cartney leave those papers for you?—Yes, they were left in the office.

Were there instructions left with them?—No, I do not think there were, but another young man that was there said they were to go.

Another young man who was in the office, said that those papers were to go with the petition?—Yes.

By whose directions were those to go?—I do not know; I suppose by Mr. M'Cartney's; they were addressed to Mr. Clotworthy M'Cartney.

By whom?—Part of them in the hand-writing of Mr. Joseph M'Cartney.

Had you no instructions whatever as to your procuring any particular number of signatures to the petition?—None whatever.

The main object of your going down to Carrickfergus was to bring back the petition, in order that it might be sent on the following day?—Yes, that was one of the principal objects.

And to obtain signatures you say?—Yes.

I think you said that you did not know that your object was fully answered when you returned, because Mr. M'Cartney was not there to inform you?—Precisely.

You had got as many signatures as the time would permit, but you did not know whether there were more than sufficient or less than sufficient?—I did not.

Committee.]—Will you write the name of Henry White?

[The Witness wrote the same.]

Will you write the name of Edward Williamson?

[The Witness wrote the same.]

Do you generally write a hand so large as this?—Generally; it is my usual mode of writing.

A paper, you have acknowledged to be your's, is written much smaller?—I do write smaller sometimes; but this is my ordinary writing.

Write the name of Robert Willis?

[The Witness wrote the same.]

Write the name of James Simms?

[The Witness wrote the same.]

Mr. Cookson.]—How often have you been at Carrickfergus?—I cannot state precisely the number of times.

Did you ever reside there?—No, never.

Had you any intimate acquaintance there?—None with the town generally; I knew four or five individuals in it.

Do you know James Simms?—I do not.

Henry White?—No.

Robert Willis?—I have seen him since I came here.

At

At the time you went down to Carrickfergus, on the subject of the petition, did you know Robert Willis?—No.

Or James Willis?—No.

Or Robert Chaplin?—No.

Or Edward Williamson?—No.

Philip Williamson?—No.

William Williamson?—No.

William Reid?—Yes, I think I knew William Reid previously; I had seen him.

What is he?—He is a pawnbroker.

Are there more William Reids than one?—I understand now there are two in the corporation, but I did not know it at that time.

Did you know Thomas Hamilton?—I have seen him here, but I did not know him previously.

John Hamilton?—I have seen him here.

Did you know him before?—No, I did not.

Adam M'Dowell?—No.

William M'Dermott?—No.

Did you know a person of the name of Hugh Gormal?—No.

Or John Paisley?—No.

Did you ever see, previously to that time, any list of the freemen of Carrickfergus?—Never.

Did you know, at the time you went to Carrickfergus, of the existence of all or any, and which of those persons whose names have been mentioned to you?—I did not know of the existence of any of them, with the exception of Percival Ingram and John Eccleston.

And William Reid, probably you mean?—Yes, I knew him previously.

Did Mr. Eccleston give you any paper containing names?—He did not.

But he gave you instructions as to seeing some persons?—He told me the names of some individuals, and I think I took a memorandum on a slip of paper, when I went up to the western quarter of the town.

Did you make a memorandum of those persons, whose names I have mentioned in my question?—No, only of those living there. Old Bashford was the man I was to call on, and I took a memorandum of his name, in order to find his house.

Committee.]—By the western quarter, do you mean Joy Mount Bank?—No, that is the northern quarter.

Mr Cookson.]—He gave you no written list of the names of the freemen on whom you were to call?—No, he did not.

Did any other person give you a list?—No.

Have you ever, up to the present time, seen any list of the freemen of Carrickfergus?—No general list; I have never seen any general list of them.

Have you seen any particular list?—I have seen that *fac simile* list, purporting to be a list of some of them.

Until the time when you saw this paper, had you ever seen any paper containing those names?—Never.

Had you any acquaintance whatever with the individuals whose names were upon this petition, except those you have mentioned?—I never saw one of them to my knowledge, till I saw them in the steam boat coming to Liverpool.

Committee.]—How long had you been employed in Mr. M'Cartney's office?—A few months.

Were you employed there during the election for Carrickfergus?—Part of that time.

Did Mr. M'Cartney take any interest in the general election, as agent for Sir Arthur Chichester?—I believe he was agent for Sir Arthur Chichester, as public report says.

Had he no list of the freemen likely to support Sir Arthur?—He may have had it, but I never saw it.

Were you employed in any way connected with the Carrickfergus election?—No.

What was the nature of your employment in Mr. M'Cartney's office?—Merely as an accountant; I had been there on other business.

You were not there on election business?—Not for the borough of Carrickfergus.

Did you never see a list of the freemen of Carrickfergus in the office of Mr.

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M^r. Cartney?—Never a general list; I have seen small detached slips with five or six names upon them; I never saw six names together.

You stated that you made a memorandum from Mr. Eccleston's suggestion, of the freemen in the western quarter?—No; he told me to see Robert Bashford, and lest I should forget the name I wrote it down previous to my going away.

How many names were written down?—I think only two.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—Since your examination of yesterday have you seen Mr. Eccleston?—I have.

For what space of time have you been in his company?—I have been in his company the principal part, or all the time, since I have been here.

Have you had any conversation with Mr. Eccleston respecting the subject now going on?—No.

Have you had any conversation with him respecting your own examination?—No.

Have you had any communication with him on the subject of what passed yesterday?—Certainly not.

[The Witness withdrew.]

John Hamilton (farmer), again called in; and further Examined, as follows.

John Hamilton.
—

CAN you write your name?—I can.

Did you sign this petition complaining of the forgery?—For Lord George Hill I did.

Is that your handwriting?—(*The signature to the Petition complaining of the forgeries being shown to the Witness*)—I think this is mine (*pointing out one of the signatures.*)

Is that your ordinary hand-writing?—Yes, it is.

Did you write that differently from what you commonly do?—That is my common hand-writing; I am a bad writer.

[The Witness withdrew.]

John Hamilton (mason), called in; and Examined, as follows.

John Hamilton.
—

DO you find your hand-writing to that petition now shown to you?—That is my hand-writing.

Is that your ordinary mode of writing?—Yes.

[The Witness withdrew.]

Thomas Hamilton, again called in; and further Examined, as follows.

Thomas Hamilton.
—

IS that your writing to that petition?—It is.

Is that your ordinary mode of writing your name?—Yes, that is the way I generally write.

[The Witness withdrew.]

Edward Williamson, again called in; and further Examined, as follows.

E. Williamson.
—

IS that your handwriting to the petition now shown to you?—It is.

Is that your ordinary manner of writing your name?—Yes, it is.

[The Witness withdrew.]

Phillip Williamson, again called in; and further Examined, as follows.

Phillip Williamson.
—

IS that your hand-writing to the petition now shown to you?—It is.

Is that your ordinary manner of writing your name?—Yes, it is.

[The Witness withdrew.]

Robert Chaplin, again called in; and further Examined, as follows.

Robert Chaplin.
—

IS that your hand-writing to the petition now shown to you?—It is.

Is that your ordinary mode of signing your name?—Yes, it is.

[The Witness withdrew.]

Adam M'Dowell, again called in; and further Examined, as follows.

IS that your handwriting?—(*The Declaration being shown to the Witness.*)—Yes, it is. *Adam M'Dowell.*

Is that your ordinary mode of signing your name?—It is.

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[*The Witness withdrew.*]

William Williamson, again called in; and further Examined, as follows.

IS that your hand-writing (*to the Petition*)?—Yes.

Is that your ordinary mode of signing your name?—Yes, it is.

W. Williamson.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Mr. John Morison Eccleston, called in; and Examined, as follows.

DID you, on any day in the month of November, and on what day, receive from Belfast a petition complaining of the return of Lord George Hill?—On Saturday evening, the sixth of November, about six o'clock, I received by one of the Belfast cars a parcel containing two copies of a petition

In what state were those copies when you so received them?—When I opened them in my office and examined them, there were three names that I could read correctly on the right hand side of each of the petitions, and a name that I could not read.

What did you do with the petition then having four names to it?—After having read the petition I locked it in my desk.

At what time did you take it from your desk?—Not until the evening of Monday.

What did you do with it then?—I gave it to Mr. Posnett.

At what o'clock?—I think it might be somewhere about seven o'clock, but I am not particularly sure as to the hour.

It was of course then in the same condition as it was when on Saturday the sixth you had locked it up in that desk?—Precisely so.

When Mr. Posnett took it into his hands did he leave your house?—He did.

Did you accompany him?—I did.

Where did you go?—We went direct to Joy Mount Bank to the house of Percival Ingram, who keeps a public house in that street.

What passed at the house of Percival Ingram?—Mr. Posnett, after I had told Mr. Ingram who he was, mentioned what he had got in his possession, and asked him if he would sign it.

Was it signed accordingly?—Ingram signed it.

Did any other person, and who, sign it in your presence?—A man of the name of Hugh Larmour, and another of the name of Ker, signed in Ingram's house.

And in your presence?—And in my presence.

Do you remember where Hugh Larmour signed his name?—I do not,

Do you remember where Robert Ker signed his?—I do not particularly.

Was your attention called by any thing said by Percival Ingram to the place where he was to sign his name, and did sign his name?—No, I do not recollect anything particular; I was standing away from the table; I did not see the name actually written, but I saw the man in a position to write; I was at a considerable distance in the room.

When you saw the petition in that house of Percival Ingram's, how many names appeared written thereon?—I think there appeared to be seven or eight names.

The four you have first specified; the name of Hugh Larmour, the name of Ker, and the name of Ingram?—Yes.

But you cannot state where either Ingram, Larmour or Ker, respectively signed their names?—I think I recollect Ingram making this observation, that he would take the head of a column; but I do not recollect particularly; I was paying very little attention to the thing at the time.

What passed when, having those names, the petition was taken from the house of Percival Ingram?—Mr. Posnett folded up the petition in such a size as that he could put it into his top coat pocket, which he did in my presence in that room, and we went altogether out of the house, and I think, to the best of my recollection, that we went after Ingram to the next house but one, the name of

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Williamson, and they all went in together, that is, Ingram and Mr. Posnett, and I believe Larmour, but I am not sure; and I was behind them in the hall, and I heard the conversation in the kitchen which took place, and they turned and came out, and we all came up the street together.

Did you see the two younger Williamsons, William and Philip, in the house?—Indeed I do not recollect that I did.

You say you heard the conversation?—I heard some of the conversation.

Who were the parties speaking?—Old Mr. Williamson, and Mr. Posnett and Ingram, all spoke.

Was the petition signed by any person in the house of Edward Williamson in your presence?—No.

Was any refusal on the part of Edward Williamson heard by you?—Yes, I think I heard the word that he refused to sign.

He having refused to sign the petition, did Mr. Posnett carry it forwards to any other house?—He did not exhibit the petition there.

What conversation did you hear?—I heard Mr. Posnett observe to old Mr. Williamson, that he had a petition, mentioning the nature of it, and the old man spoke out, and said he would not sign any petition.

Thereupon Mr. Posnett carried the petition to another house; what house was that?—We left Mr. Ingram's then, and on our way, going up the street, we called at John Milburn's house, and I went first into that house.

What passed?—Milburn was not within, his mother said he was not within, but that if he was wanting particularly, she would send him up to my house, and Mr. Posnett, I think, said he would be obliged if she would do so.

What passed then?—When we got to my house he was there.

Where did you go in the mean time from his house before you went to your own?—I think we returned into Ingram's.

On your reaching your own house, you found John Milburn there?—Yes.

About what o'clock was that?—I think it was near about nine o'clock.

Did John Milburn, in your presence, sign any petition?—He did.

Whereabout in that petition did he sign his name?—I am sure I cannot recollect in what part of the petition he signed it.

Were you looking at him with the pen in his hand?—I was looking at him at the time, but I did not see where he placed his name.

Did he make any observation as to the place where he should affix his name?—No, I think not.

How far were you from him at the time when he signed his name?—About three steps.

From the general view you had of the petition at that time, can you state whether he signed on the left of the petition, or on the right, or in the centre?—I think it was towards the left, from the position in which he was sitting at the desk, for he was between me and the petition, and I could not see the petition for his body, but from the position in which he was sitting it was, I should say, on the right hand side.

From that time, what became of the petition?—Mr. Posnett, immediately on his signing his name, folded the petitions up in the same manner in which they were folded before, and handed them to me, and I think I locked them up in my desk, where they remained until the morning in my office.

Had any person except yourself access to the desk in which you so locked up the petitions?—No person.

Was the key ever out of your own possession?—Never.

In the state in which they were when they were placed by you in the desk on Monday night, about nine o'clock, they were taken out of that desk on the following morning?—On the following morning about seven.

By whom?—By myself.

By you delivered, to whom?—To Mr. Posnett.

Did you see him take them out of your house?—He put them into his top-coat pocket, in the same position as he did the previous evening, and walked out of my house.

Did you see him open the petitions when you delivered them to him from your desk?—No, I do not recollect that he did.

Did he open the petitions at all?—I do not recollect that he did.

Did you see him carry them to any and what house?—I do not know the house he took them to, he went out of the house up the street; I remained in my house. When

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When did you next see the petitions?—The next time I saw the petitions was lying in a singular manner, when Mr. Posnett went to put them into his pocket, he had laid them down in my office, but I had not seen them, nor knew they were there till he took them in his hand to put them into his pocket.

At what o'clock?—Near ten o'clock on Tuesday the ninth of November.

Under what circumstances did Mr. Posnett come to your house on Tuesday the ninth of November, and at what hour?—He left my house about seven in the morning, and went to a district of the town for the purpose of obtaining signatures, and was to have breakfasted with me at nine o'clock; at nine o'clock the breakfast was ready, and he was not forthcoming, I understood by my wife that he was over in Felix Stuart's house, a publican's opposite the way, and after nine some time she went over to ask Mr. Stuart if Mr. Posnett would come to his breakfast, and after some time, I cannot exactly state precisely, but it was some time between nine and ten o'clock, he came across to my house and took his breakfast.

You had not seen him in your house between something past seven o'clock and something past nine o'clock, when he returned to breakfast?—No, it was well on to ten o'clock, I recollect I was getting uneasy about my breakfast, to get away to my business.

He did not, to your knowledge, enter your house from the time of his leaving it with the petition in the morning, and the time when he returned to breakfast, throwing the petition into your front office?—No.

Were you in the house all the time?—Yes.

And Mrs. Eccleston?—Yes.

If he had returned in the interval, could you or not have seen him?—I think it is improbable but what I would have seen him.

When you saw him between nine and ten o'clock, in what position were you?—I was waiting at the breakfast table for his coming in.

At your breakfast table, can you see any person enter your house?—Not from my general seat in the house.

From that room in which was your breakfast table, can you see any person enter your house?—Yes, at the outside part of the room; it is a small room situate something like this room, but a great deal smaller; I generally sit like here, the fire place is there (*describing them*.)

The house being small and the room being small, you probably can tell whether any person can enter that house without those in the kitchen noticing it?—We are so close to the street, that frequently when persons were passing we were alarmed as if they were coming in when they were merely passing the door.

If any person entered your house, you would be at once aware of it?—Not always, for near about that time a person entered my office and stole a cloak, so that we are not always aware of it.

In the morning between seven and ten o'clock, you being up at the time, would probably be aware of the entrance of any person into this house?—It is not very probable that many persons could come in there, without the knowledge of the family.

In point of fact on the morning of the ninth of November, do you know whether any person entered your office between nine and ten o'clock, except Mr. Posnett, and if so, whom do you believe to be the person?—I do not recollect any person coming in that morning; I believe an individual whom I did not know came who was wanting me to write something for him by way of certificate for a coffin, my wife told him I was at breakfast and he went away; he was a stranger there that did not belong to the place.

How long was he there?—Not half a minute.

Did you hear any other person enter your house except that person?—Yes, after the breakfast was over and I was up from breakfast and in the hall, a person came in.

The question refers to the time previous to Mr. Posnett quitting the house?—This man came before he left.

Do you mean that besides that person who came about the coffin, another person came?—Not during breakfast.

As soon as breakfast was over, Mr. Posnett left the room?—He did, he was anxious to get away.

In quitting your room when the breakfast was over, did he go to the front office in which the petitions had been left?—He did.

In your sight?—Yes, I saw him go.

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Did you see him take the petitions up?—I did not, but I saw him put them into his pocket, for I could not see into the room where he was standing with them, but I saw him come out putting them into his pocket.

What interval had elapsed between his coming into the house and the time of his going away?—I suppose twenty minutes.

Did you see the petitions after that?—Never.

Did Mr. Posnett state to you what his object was in coming to Carrickfergus?—He did.

State to the Committee what the object was?—To obtain signatures to a petition.

Did he ask you to assist him in that object?—He asked me to direct him to where the greatest number of Lord Donegal's friends lived in one place, and I did so.

Did you furnish him with the names of such friends?—No.

Neither by word of mouth nor by writing?—I mentioned the names of individuals as I was going down to Ingram's.

As you mentioned the names of individuals to him, did he in your presence write down any of those names?—He did not.

Did you communicate to him at any time the names of any persons resident either in the Western Division or in the Joy Mount Bank?—Certainly.

In what manner did you give him that information?—I mentioned to him that there was a Robert Bashford, a William Haggan and a William Hennedy, that were active agents during the election for Sir Arthur Chichester, and that if he would go to them, they would be more likely to obtain persons to sign than any others that I knew.

You mentioned this on Monday the eighth of November?—Yes.

On Monday the eighth of November, you stated that you went to the house of Williamson, did you, before you went to the house of Williamson, tell Mr. Posnett to what house you were carrying him?—No, I do not recollect that I did; but I think it was mentioned by some of the persons in the room.

Did you state to him generally, that you were going to the Joy Mount Bank?—Yes.

Did you know that at Joy Mount Bank there were several freemen, friends of Sir Arthur Chichester's interest?—I did.

Among those friends, did you specify the names of James Simms, Henry White, Robert Willis, James Willis and Robert Chaplin?—No.

Tell the Committee, as you say you did not specify any one of those five names, what names you did mention as friends of the interest of Sir Arthur Chichester on Joy Mount Bank?—I mentioned that Ingram, whose house we were going to, was a friend of Sir Arthur's, and that he could collect there all the friends of Lord Donegal in that neighbourhood; and as we were going past the house previous to our coming to Ingram's house, we tried the doors of several of them, and at that hour in the evening the people of that place go early to bed; I am pretty sure I mentioned the names of individuals whose houses we passed.

State the names of those houses?—The first was William Reid's, the second was John Hamilton's and the third was Milburn's who signed the petition; the fourth was Ker's, and then the fifth was Ingram's house.

Mr. Posnett, being a stranger in Carrickfergus, received from you then the names of five of the freemen in the interest of Sir Arthur Chichester, whose names were likely to be added to the petition complaining of the return of Lord George Hill?—Merely as friends of Sir Arthur Chichester, not knowing what might be the men's will that I could speak to.

In point of fact, two of those names were afterwards signed in your presence?—Yes, they were.

Those were the names of Percival Ingram and John Milburn?—Yes, and Robert Ker.

Did Mr. Posnett state to you, on coming in to breakfast on the ninth of November, what success he had found in the object for which he told you he came to Carrickfergus, you not having accompanied him on that morning?—He did not further than this, that he said he was glad to get free of them, for they were annoying him for whiskey; that was all he said.

Did he say how many had annoyed him for whiskey, or how many had signed the petition?—He did not.

Did he say he had got many or few names to sign the petition?—He did not, comparatively

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comparatively speaking; we had no conversation about the petition whatever at breakfast.

Had you not given him reason to think that you felt with him about this petition, that you took an interest in it?—No, I was rather otherwise disposed; I was rather disposed not to have anything to do with it at all.

Why did you object to having anything to do with the petition?—I had reasons; I held a public situation in Carrickfergus, and as such I did not wish to have my name mixed up with it as a sort of leader in such a thing, having friends on both sides the question, both in Lord Donegal's interest and the Marquis of Downshire's interest. I hold the situation of secretary of the grand jury of the county of Carrickfergus, and that is composed of gentlemen on both sides; and I did not like to appear in this, lest I should give offence to the opposite side of the question; and further than my showing Ingram's house, is all that I had to do with the petition, for I did not wish to have my name mixed up with it at all, if possible.

At what o'clock did Mr. Posnett quit your house on the morning of Tuesday the ninth of November?—I think it might be very near about ten o'clock, a few minutes in or over, I cannot say.

Did you see him quit the town?—No, I did not.

Did he tell you he was going to call on any and what persons?—To call at the house where the cars stand.

Did he say that he wished to obtain the signatures of any other persons?—No others; he did not express a desire to get any more names after that time that he left me.

He not only did not tell you the number of names he had obtained, but he did not show you the petition, so that you might form a general estimate of the number?—I did not see the petition at all.

Though the object of his going to Carrickfergus was to obtain signatures, though he slept in your house and breakfasted with you, are the Committee to understand that he did not mention the names or numbers of signatures, to obtain which he had taken the journey?—He did not, and I will explain at once the reason for that. I had a copy of my father's will in my possession to show to Mr. Posnett, and to ask him his advice, and I embraced the opportunity of that morning to do so; and during the short time we were sitting at breakfast we talked it over. I wanted his advice, as I was appointed an executor and one of the legatees, and I think it is likely I shall be annoyed before I get back to Carrickfergus; and I wanted to get the advice of a gentleman in Belfast on the subject of it, and that occupied my attention more than the petition, for the petition was a matter of no consideration, whereas the other engrossed all my attention at the time.

You say you received the petition on Saturday the sixth of November?—I did.

Did you carry that petition to Belfast with you on Monday the eighth?—I did not.

Did you confer on the subject of the petition at Belfast, with any and what persons?—The first person I went to was Mr. Posnett, and I told him that I did not wish, in consequence of that I have stated, to take a leading part in procuring signatures to the petition. He went out of the outer office into the inner office, and told Mr. M'Cartney, and I went to Mr. M'Cartney, and told him the same I had told Mr. Posnett.

Of how many persons might your family consist living in the house, in which this breakfast took place?—My wife and my child.

You have stated that no person, probably, could enter your house at that time without observation; was there any person in your house who could have had access to your front office during the time of your being at breakfast?—No.

Did you leave the room during the breakfast?—I did not, during the whole time.

Did your wife leave the room?—No.

Did Mr. Posnett leave the room?—No.

The Committee understand that you never saw the petition from the time when you received it from Mr. Posnett at nine o'clock on the evening of Monday the eighth, till you delivered it to him on the Tuesday morning about seven?—Yes.

And you saw the outside of it only between nine and ten?—Just so.

And you have never since seen the signatures appended to such petition?—Never.

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Have the goodness to write the names of Thomas Hamilton and John Hamilton in your ordinary way?

[*The Witness wrote the same.*]

Will you write the name of James Willis?

[*The Witness wrote the same.*]

Will you write the name of Robert Willis?

[*The Witness wrote the same.*]

Will you write the name of John Paisley?

[*The Witness wrote the same.*]

Will you look at the petition put into your hand, and state to the Committee in what respect it differs from the state in which it was when you delivered it on Monday the eighth of November to Mr. Posnett?—There are a great many more names to it now than there were then; the only names that I saw to it were the four I have stated here, Henderson, Logan and Hughes, a name that I cannot make out, and Larmour, and Ker, and Ingram, and Milburn, that is the whole that were in at that time when I saw it last.

Are there many more names now than there were at the time you last saw the petition?—I think there are twenty-two more.

You say the key of the desk was not out of your possession on the night of Monday, where did you keep it all the night?—In my own pocket.

Up stairs in your bed-room?—Yes.

Have you any recollection of Posnett coming over to your house before he came to breakfast?—I have not.

He did not come to you to borrow any thing?—Not that I recollect; I was in the interval of time up stairs washing and shaving.

He did not ask you for a pen?—He did not; he might have one without asking me, the office was open.

When you went to breakfast was the door shut?—It was not latched, but it was laid to.

What partition is there between your breakfast-room and the office?—A brick partition plastered.

So that you could have heard if there was anybody in the office?—I think it is very improbable that I would not have heard if any person had been in the house; it is possible but not probable.

After you went to breakfast did you leave the room at all?—No.

Did you and Mr. Posnett leave it together?—We did after breakfast.

When your wife went out, when this stranger called, did she go far?—She did not go out, she went only to the door.

What servants have you in your house?—None at all.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—Will you look at that piece of paper, is that in your hand-writing?—(*A paper being shown to Witness.*)—It is.

Look at the written parts of this instrument, and tell me whether they are in your hand-writing?—(*A deed being shown to the Witness.*)—They are.

The writing on both sides?—Yes.

Look at that instrument also (*another deed*), and state whether that is your hand-writing?—It is.

The same on the back?—It is.

Whilst Mr. Posnett was at Mr. Ingram's house, on the evening of the eighth of November, did you leave the house at all?—I did.

Did you leave him in it?—I did.

Did you leave him more than once?—I think twice.

Where did you go to?—I went to the house of Thomas Hamilton.

Did you ask him whether he would sign this petition?—I did not.

Who was with you?—No person.

What did you say to him?—I told him there was a gentleman in Ingram's that wanted him to sign a petition; he said he would not sign it; he seemed to know what it was.

Was any other person with Hamilton?—Yes

Who was that?—James Cunningham.

Is James Cunningham a freeman?—Yes, he is.

Had you any conversation with him?—Not further than that.

Did you explain to them the nature of the petition?—No further than that.

Did

Did James Cunningham say he would sign the petition or not?—He refused also; he said he would not go.

You have stated to the Committee that you called at Milburn's house, was that before you went to Ingram's, or afterwards?—I believe both before and after.

Is that in your way to Ingram's?—Yes.

When you returned did you see what person did take up the petitions from your desk after Mr. Milburn signed it?—I think it was Mr. Posnett.

You have informed the Committee that Mr. Milburn signed it at your desk in your front office, do you remember what person next had possession of the petition?—I cannot state positively, but I think it was Mr. Posnett.

What did he do then?—He folded it up and I locked it up.

Did he deliver it into your hands?—Positively, I cannot say whether he put it in the desk or I did; but it was locked in the desk all night.

You mean it to be distinctly understood that that petition was locked up in your desk during the night?—Yes, it was.

Did you ever give to any persons a different account of the situation of that petition during that night?—Not to my knowledge.

Did you never state, that after Milburn signed that petition, Mr. Posnett folded it up, and put it into his great coat pocket?—No, I think not.

I am referring to a conversation which took place when I was present at Carrickfergus, and fortunately there were other gentlemen present; refresh your recollection, and say whether you did not state at Carrickfergus, that after Milburn signed the petition, Mr. Posnett folded it up and put it into his great coat pocket?—I do not recollect that I stated so.

Did not you state, that after Mr. Posnett had put it into his great coat pocket, immediately after Milburn had signed it, on the night of Monday the 8th of November, you never saw the petition from that day till the day on which you were speaking?—No, I do not recollect stating so.

Do you not recollect that you stated you never saw the petition after that?—I never did see the interior of the petition after that.

Did you not state in Carrickfergus, within the present month, that after Milburn signed the petition on the evening of the Monday the eighth of November, Mr. Posnett put it into his great coat pocket?—Not that I recollect.

Did you not state, that after the petition was folded up, and put into the great coat pocket of Mr. Posnett, you never saw the petition?—In point of fact, I never did.

Committee.]—You saw that which you believe to be the petition?—Exactly so; that is the difference between my first statement and that Mr. Hubbersty is now asking me.

Did you ever make any statement of the kind put to you?—If I did, I do not recollect it; in point of fact, I never did see the petition after Milburn signed it, the interior of it; I saw the exterior of it in his pocket.

The question appears to refer to an apparent contradiction between that which you state in this room, and that you are alleged to have said elsewhere: here you are stating that you put the petition into your desk, or that Mr. Posnett, while you opened the desk, put it into it, about nine o'clock, or soon after nine, on Monday the eighth of November. The statement you are supposed to have made elsewhere was, that after Milburn signed it Mr. Posnett put it into his great coat pocket; did you ever make any such statement as that you are alleged to have made?—It may have been construed as such, but in point of fact, that which I state now is the truth.

Mr. *Hubbersty.*]—Do you remember my calling upon you, at your house, on the fifth of the present month?—Perfectly well.

Do you recollect my mentioning, that if you had no objection I should be glad to have an opportunity of conversing with you upon the subject of the petition?—Perfectly well.

Do you remember that your calling at my inn was a matter perfectly voluntary?—You stated that you could not enforce my attendance, but I stated that I had not the slightest objection to going and conversing with you upon the subject.

At the inn at Carrickfergus, on the evening of the fifth of the present month, did I not say to you, that I had no wish to ask you any question respecting the petition, but had rather hear your own account of it?—That is all right.

Did you not make a detail on the subject?—I stated that which struck my recollection at the time.

During your statement, made in this voluntary manner, without questions proposed

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posed to you, did you not say, that after Milburn signed the petition, Posnett put it into his great coat pocket, and you never saw it afterwards?—I made a mistake between putting it into his great coat pocket at nine that night or seven the next morning; it was perfectly inadvertent and unintentional; the point of fact was, I did put it into my desk, though I had forgotten it until further recollection.

Do you not recollect telling me, that on Saturday the sixth, you locked it up in your desk when you received it from Mr. M'Cartney's office?—I did.

You stated very openly what you had done with it, and where it had been deposited?—I did.

It is your wish that the Committee should now understand, that that which you informed me at Carrickfergus on the fifth, that Mr. Posnett had put it into his great coat pocket on the Monday night, was incorrect, and that it was on the Tuesday morning?—Between the point of time of his putting it into his pocket, I made a mistake.

Committee.]—In the interval the Committee are to understand, that the petition was in your desk under lock and key, and in your house?—It was.

Did you ever mention to Mr. Hubbersty that you had locked it up that night in any conversation?—We only had one conversation, probably if we had conversed again, my recollection would have served me, that I should have recollected how it was that it had occurred.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—It has been stated to the Committee, that Mr. Posnett, on the morning of Tuesday the ninth of November, breakfasted at your house?—He did.

How long was he in the house with you at breakfast?—Indeed I cannot say, it could not exceed twenty minutes.

Had he then his great coat on when he came in?—He had.

Did he take it off at breakfast?—I cannot recollect.

Did he sit down?—He did.

Will you recall to your mind whether you stated upon the same occasion that Posnett came to your house and took his breakfast standing, that he never sat down with you, but went off as soon as possible?—I think he sat down, I am sure he sat down for a time.

Committee.]—The question is not what Mr. Posnett did, but what you stated, did you or not state to Mr. Hubbersty, that he took it standing?—He did in point of fact sit down, but he took a great part of his breakfast on his feet, and when he sat down it was rather for the purpose of looking at an article I was showing to him, a copy of the will, he took the principal part of his breakfast standing.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—You have stated to the Committee, that on Monday the eighth of November you went to Belfast?—I did.

Did you go expressly with respect to this petition?—That was my principal errand.

You explained to me very satisfactorily your reasons for not interfering?—I told you, perhaps, more than I would wish to say.

You have informed the Committee that you have not a recollection of Mr. Posnett's coming over to your house from Felix Stuart's from the time he went there till breakfast?—I do not particularly recollect that he did.

Did he tell you that he had occasion to come over for a pen for the freemen to sign?—Indeed I do not recollect that he did.

On the Monday and the Tuesday did you inform Mr. Posnett where you had deposited the petition during the night?—I do not recollect that I did, I think we both went into the office together, and that I handed him the petition, and he went out of the house immediately.

Did he or you rise first that morning?—I believe we both rose together.

About what time?—About seven o'clock.

Did he ask you to accompany him?—No, he did not, I had already refused the night before, I only went down to show him Ingram's house.

Were you in Felix Stuart's house that morning?—No.

Did you leave your own house?—Not till after breakfast.

How did you intimate to Mr. Posnett that it was time to come to breakfast?—My wife went across the street.

Did you or she leave the room during breakfast?—I believe she went over to the door.

Is Mrs. Eccleston in the habit of writing?—She can just write, but it is very indifferently.

Do you know Mr. Cowan of Carrickfergus?—Yes, I do.

Did you see him on the Monday night?—I did.

Who was with him?—Mr. Posnett.

Did

Did you go to his house?—I did.

What was your object in going to his house?—My object was to show first Mr. Posnett the house, and that he might give Mr. Posnett some directions, about getting signatures.

Will you explain what passed with Mr. Cowan?—Mr. Cowan read the petition, and after doing so he mentioned a number of names that would be likely to sign it.

Repeat those names?—Indeed, I cannot all of them.

Can you mention any?—He mentioned William Blackburn, James Tenant.

Any other?—My recollection does not serve me to mention any other.

Did he mention any other living on the Bank?—He lives on the Bank, and Hugh Larmour he mentioned.

Did he mention the Williamsons?—No, I do not recollect that he did.

You have seen the petition containing those names, did not many of those persons live near Mr. Percival Ingram's house, the Williamsons for instance?—They live the next door to it.

William Reid?—He lives within three or four doors.

Robert Chaplin?—Robert Chaplin within three doors.

Thomas Hamilton?—Within five or six doors.

John Hamilton?—Within three or four doors.

You have informed the Committee that you did not go into Williamson's house with Mr. Posnett?—I went inside the house, but not into the kitchen.

You heard the conversation?—I did.

You heard old Williamson refuse to sign the petition?—Yes.

And you heard the language he used?—I did not; but I am positive it was the language of refusal.

Was it a decided refusal, or did it leave an impression upon your mind that he might sign on another day?—It did not appear like an absolute refusal.

Was it, I will not sign, or I will not sign to night?—I cannot say indeed; I think it was not an absolute refusal.

Did he appear to be sober that night?—Indeed I do not think he was.

Have you seen Mr. Posnett since the meeting of the Committee yesterday?—Yes, I have.

You have been in his company some time, perhaps?—Yes.

Have you had any conversation with him respecting the pending inquiry?—Yes, he was talking with me on the subject.

Did he give you any account of what passed while he was in this room yesterday?—He did not enter into a detail of what passed in the room, but he mentioned the proceedings of the Committee.

He told you he had undergone an examination?—Yes.

Did he state the particulars of what passed?—He stated the mode in which the examination was conducted.

Did he state any questions that were put to him?—Yes, I think it is likely he did.

Have the goodness to state what those were?—I cannot recollect indeed; the whole of the witnesses were talking about us as well as him.

You were alluding now to being in the adjoining room, are you?—No, not particularly; we were talking in the hall.

Where are you staying in London?—In Jermyn-street.

Who is staying at the same house?—Mr. Posnett.

Did you dine together yesterday?—Yes, and breakfasted together this morning.

Did Mr. Posnett mention any questions which had been put to him in this room?—Yes, he did; he mentioned the tenor of the examination, and the manner in which the questions had been put.

Did he mention the particular questions put to him?—Yes, he told me he was asked about some few circumstances of the petition.

Did he tell you what answers he had given to the Committee?—No, I did not ask him; I knew he could give no other account but that I could give; we both came from Belfast together.

Has not Mr. Posnett, since you and he left this place yesterday, told you that he informed the Honourable Committee, that during the night of Monday that petition was locked up in your desk?—No.

Did you have any conversation upon that part of the subject?—I had not.

You are quite sure of that?—I am positive.

Mr. Cookson.]—You have stated that Mr. Posnett did not, to your knowledge, return from your house from half-past seven till half-past nine, when he came into his breakfast?—Yes.

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Were you in your house the whole time?—Yes; but I had been up stairs, and had washed and shaved in the mean time.

During what portion of Mr. Posnett's absence was that?—I suppose that would be about eight or half-past eight o'clock.

During that time was Mrs. Eccleston in the lower part of the house?—She was.

Though you were up stairs at the time, there was nothing to prevent Mr. Posnett getting a pen from your office, if he had come over?—Nothing in the world.

Mrs. Eccleston was in the lower part of the house?—She was in the kitchen at the same time, and the office was in the front of the house.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

John Holmes, called in; and Examined, as follows.

John Holmes.
—

ARE you well acquainted with Carrickfergus?—I am.

And with the freemen of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Do you know any person of the name of John Hamilton?—I know different persons of that name.

Do you know John Hamilton, a farmer?—I do.

Is he a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Have you been in the habit of seeing him write?—No, I cannot say that I have; I am not certain whether I was present when he signed his name; there were a great number signed.

Have you received letters from him and acted upon those letters?—No, I have not; I know that he is not a very good writer; I recollect being present, but I will not swear that it is his hand-writing.

Whose hand-writing, in your judgment, is that signature of John Hamilton? (*to the Petition against the return*)—I do think I know.

Whose hand-writing do you think that to be?—I do think it is John Eccleston's.

Have you seen John Eccleston write?—Frequently.

How long have you known him?—Since he was a child.

Did you teach him to write?—I did not.

How many times have you seen him write?—Very often; because I was connected with vessels which he kept an account of.

Look at that paper; whose hand-writing is that?—(*A paper being shown to the Witness.*)—I believe that is Eccleston's hand-writing.

Having seen that, do you think that the same person who wrote that wrote the name of John Hamilton?—I do think it is; that is my own belief.

Do you think the two hands resemble each other?—I think they do.

Is your opinion formed of that being John Eccleston's hand-writing, from the similarity that you see in these hand-writings?—From his general way of writing.

Do those two in your judgment resemble each other?—Yes.

Does the formation of any two letters in these two resemble each other?—The m in Hamilton is just the same as in this paper.

Does it appear to you that the general character of these two hand-writings is the same?—Yes.

Does the J resemble the J in the other?—No, it does not.

Have you any other reason besides the comparison of the hands?—No, only from my general knowledge of his hand-writing.

You live in the same place with him?—Yes.

You are not on bad terms with him?—No, not by any means.

Mr. Cookson.]—Have you never had any disagreement or misunderstanding with him?—No.

You say Mr. Eccleston kept some accounts; what did they relate to?—Vessels that I was concerned in.

Had he an interest in those vessels?—No.

Was there any objection made to these accounts at any time?—No, they were settled mutually.

There was no disagreement or dispute between you and Eccleston on the subject of those accounts?—No.

At no time?—No.

You have stated to the Committee, that on looking at the signature of John Hamilton you believe that to be the hand-writing of Mr. Eccleston; why did you pitch upon Mr. Eccleston as the person whose hand-writing it is like?—From my knowledge of his hand-writing; I really did conclude from the similarity it was his.

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The similarity is so great, that the conclusion you came to is quite irresistible, and you came to it at once, that this is the hand-writing of Eccleston?—I do, and I have never seen any cause to disbelieve it.

Had you at the time you first came to any opinion, heard any thing about the petition?—I heard of the petition previous to seeing that signature.

Had you heard any thing as to whose custody the petition had been in?—Yes, I was told that Posnett and him had been getting signatures to it.

Do you mean to say that had no influence whatever upon your mind in coming to the conclusion that is his signature?—No, I was perfectly unaware whose it was till the people there had found it.

Did you know whether any forgeries, or alleged forgeries, applied to this petition at that time?—Yes, hearing persons deny their signatures, who I had reason to believe would not tell an untruth.

Did you know that the signature of John Hamilton was forged before you said that?—Yes; John Hamilton said it was forged, and he was most indignant at it.

Had you heard of the petition being in the possession of Mr. Eccleston, of the names having been forged to that petition?—I did not hear particularly of its being in the possession of Eccleston more than Posnett.

But of both?—Yes.

Is there any other signature here that is at all like the same hand-writing?—No, it does not strike me that there is; I could form no opinion till I saw a fac-simile, then I did think that it was his; I have heard of nothing to change my opinion.

You had better look at the original?—(*The Witness referred to the original.*)—There is very little difference; only this is not so heavy, not so strong as it is in the fac-simile; I have not seen any thing to change my opinion; really the order of the hand is so, that I really believe it to be the case.

Committee.]—Looking at that petition, do you see any other names which you believe from your knowledge of the hand-writing of Eccleston to be his hand-writing?—Really I would not like to say; there are none in my humble opinion that bear any similarity to that.

Mr. Cookson.]—Were you ever on more intimate terms with Mr. Eccleston than you are at present?—No.

You see him, and are on kindly terms with him?—Yes.

Did you never, in relation to the account respecting the vessels, charge him with having cheated you?—No, at no time, not a sixpence.

There was in point of fact no dispute or disagreement whatever between you and Mr. Eccleston, or between you and any other owner of the vessel?—Yes, there was; but not any thing with Eccleston.

What was the dispute?—I had kept the accounts for a number of years, and Eccleston's uncle and another of the owners handed the account over to him without consulting me, which I did not like.

In point of fact, Mr. Eccleston put you out of the keeping the accounts?—No, he did not.

Mr. Eccleston was substituted for you in keeping the accounts?—Yes, he was.

And you disliked that?—Not with him, but with those who had done it; they should have consulted me, as I had as good a share in the vessels as they had.

Eccleston's uncle was one of the parties?—Yes.

The only misunderstanding or disagreement was Mr. Eccleston being substituted by the owners for keeping the accounts?—Eccleston and I never had any disagreement; but I thought the others treated me with disrespect, that having so large a share in the vessels as I had they ought to have consulted me.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Mr. J. M. Eccleston, again called in; and further Examined, as follows.

HAS there ever been any quarrel or disagreement between you and John Holmes, of Carrickfergus, the witness last under examination?—On my part there is no bad blood; but I have reason to believe that on his towards me there is a good deal, and has been existing for a length of time.

Have you any reason for thinking so?—I have.

What is your reason?—I do not like just to enter into that; it is political in fact.

Has there been any dispute about accounts of ships?—There was, it was the two causes.

Between whom was the dispute?—My uncle and Mr. Holmes were joint partners of two vessels.

L

Have

John Holmes.

20 January,
1831.

Mr.
J. M. Eccleston.

Mr.
J. M. Eccleston.
—
20 January,
1831.

Have you been in the habit of speaking to or conversing with him for some time?—I never suffered it to rest on my breast towards him, though he did speak very harshly to me upon many occasions, and harshly of me, and I was not conscious of having given him offence.

With reference to this subject or other subjects?—Not with reference to this subject.
[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Mr.
Thomas Hanley.
—

Mr. Thomas Hanley, again called in; and further Examined, as follows.

LOOK at the last name in the second column to the petition against the return, the name of John Hamilton, do you know whose hand-writing that is?—I can only speak from belief.

Whose hand-writing do you believe that to be?—I believe it to be John Eccleston's.

On what do you found your belief?—Having seen him often write, and having employed him to write in filling leases and on different occasions; he is the secretary to the grand jury of which I am a member, and I have very often seen him write.

Do you see any other name upon that petition that you think is his hand-writing, or like it?—I cannot take upon me to say the others are feigned hands; they are not written in the same manner; all this is written in the style in which he writes himself, but the others are not exactly.

Do you know whose hand-writing that is?—(*A paper being shown to the Witness*)—This is Mr. Eccleston's.

Do you see any great similarity between these two?—I think there is.

Has there ever been any subject of dispute between you?—Never; he and I are on very good terms.

If you had heard nothing at all about this forged petition before, or its having been in Mr. Eccleston's possession, or any other person's possession, merely on a sight of it would it have occurred to you that it was Eccleston's hand-writing?—Certainly it would, I am perfectly well acquainted with it; another man might write like him, but I have no doubt in my own mind about it.

Is your opinion about it at all mixed with the circumstances of there having been a forgery, and of it having been in the hands of Eccleston?—I should know it if it had been signed to any letter or any other writing.

If none of these circumstances which have occurred in this case had occurred, would it have occurred to you on the sight of the name that it was his hand-writing?—If I had been particularly asked as to the name it would, otherwise if I had not looked particularly at it, it might not.

Is it from other circumstances having raised your suspicion, and forming your opinion from those other circumstances as well as the hand-writing, you come to that opinion?—I should say that it was his from looking at it.

Have you compared it before now?—I never saw the petition itself till yesterday.

Your former opinion was from the fac-simile?—Yes; there is very little difference; the one is rather stronger than the other.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Mr. J. M. Eccleston, again called in; and further Examined, as follows.

Mr.
J. M. Eccleston.
—

WILL you write the name of William Williamson?—

[*The Witness wrote the same.*]

Will you write the name of Phillip Williamson?—

[*The Witness wrote the same.*]

Mr. Hubbersty.]—Will you look at this certificate of burial, is it in your hand-writing?—[*The same being shown to the Witness.*—Yes.

Will you read such of the words as are not in your hand-writing?—Henry Carter, curate of Carrickfergus, January 6th, 1831.

Will you look at another certificate?—[*The same being shown to the Witness.*—The whole is mine except the signature and the date.

Those extracts were made by you as clerk of the parish of Carrickfergus?—They were.

You stated that your absence from home is a source of great inconvenience?—Very great; at this moment I do not know but there may be a loss of a considerable property by my being here at this moment; Mr. Hanley can prove that if necessary.

[The Agents were asked whether the farther attendance of Mr. Eccleston was considered by them necessary, and they having stated that it was not, his further attendance was dispensed with.]

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Mr. *Hutcheson Posnett*, again called in ; and further Examined, as follows.

With what seal did you close the parcel containing the petition which on the ninth of November you made up and forwarded to Mr. Clotworthy M'Cartney ?—I really think it was the seal attached to my watch, whether it was that or the seal of the office with the letter M upon it, I cannot say.

Will you make an impression of your own seal ?—There is no figure upon it.

[*The Witness made the impression.*]

Could it be any other ?—No, unless it was in the hurry, I took the other young man's watch.

Do you always wear your watch ?—Yes, I always do.

Then it is not likely you would ask for another ?—No, it is not likely, I really believe it was my own.

If you made use of the office seal would that be known to Mr. Clotworthy M'Cartney ?—I think he certainly would know the seal used in his brother's office.

You describe that as having the letter M upon it ?—It has.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Mr.
Hutcheson Posnett.
—
20 January,
1831.

Mercurii, 2^o die Februarii, 1831.

SIR ROBERT HARRY INGLIS, BART.

IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *James Daly*, called in ; and Examined, as follows.

WHAT are you ?—I am Clerk in the Hanaper Office in Dublin.

Do you bring the original petition lodged in the Hanaper Office in Dublin, complaining of the Election at Carrickfergus ?—I do.

Will you produce it ?

[*The Witness produced the same.*]

Under what circumstances was this petition transmitted to you or received by you ?—As Clerk in the Hanaper, they lodge generally two parts of a petition against the return of a member, one part is kept in the office and the other is transmitted to the Speaker.

By what conveyance or by what hands, was the petition now delivered by you, placed in your custody ?—By Mr. Clotworthy M'Cartney, personally, in the office.

Is the petition you have delivered in now, in the same state in which it was when it was delivered to you ?—It is perfectly the same ; it has been in my custody under lock and key since.

By Mr. *Hubbersty*.]—Upon receiving two parts of this petition, were you directed to transmit either part in particular ?—Certainly not, they were perfectly the same to me, and the first that came to my hand I sent off ; I considered them both as duplicates ; I had no direction from any one to send either part.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Mr. *Clotworthy M'Cartney*, called in ; and Examined, as follows.

WHERE do you live ?—In Gloucester-street, Dublin.

Did you at any time, and at what time, deliver to the Clerk of the Hanaper in Dublin, a petition in duplicate complaining of the return at Carrickfergus ?—I delivered a petition and a duplicate, in fact two parts of a petition, some time about the 10th or 11th of November, I do not exactly recollect the day.

From whom and by what conveyance did you receive those petitions ?—I have been looking to see whether there was any letter came with it, but I can find no letter, and from the best recollection I have, I got it by the mail as a parcel from Belfast ; I take for granted from my brother's office in Belfast, but there was no letter with it.

The parcel was directed to you ?—It was.

Was the parcel opened by you ?—It was.

In what way was the parcel closed ?—It was sealed as parcels usually are that come by the mail.

With what seal ?—I cannot recollect.

Are you in the habit of receiving parcels from your brother's office in Belfast ?—Frequently.

Mr.
C. M'Cartney.
—

Mr.
C. M^cCartney.
—
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Are they usually sealed with any seal of the office?—Sometimes with one and sometimes with another seal, the principal part of them are sealed with a coronet, a seal that is used for Lord Donegal.

In whose hand-writing was the parcel directed to you?—I could not say positively, there are one or two people that direct parcels.

Will you name any one or two?—I do not know the clerks in Belfast.

Was there any thing in the seal of the parcel, different from what you have been in the habit of seeing in other parcels?—It appeared to me a parcel that had come as they usually do.

In short, have you any reason to suppose that the parcel in its progress from Belfast to you had undergone any alteration?—Certainly not.

And you delivered the contents of the parcel, being the petition in duplicate, to the clerk of the Hanaper Office in Dublin?—Yes, I recollect giving it to Mr. Daly myself.

Did you look at the petition at the time you delivered it?—Yes, I did.

From your observation of the petition, state to the Committee what was the general number of names?—I did not count them, and I could not state any thing that would be satisfactory.

You have stated, that in the state in which you received it, you transmitted it?—Certainly.

Have you been able to ascertain distinctly whether it emanated from your brother's office or not?—No, I have not.

You received it in the ordinary course of business, as a parcel from your brother?—As a parcel coming from the office.

Did you acknowledge the receipt of it?—I must have acknowledged the receipt of it; I should think there can be no doubt that it came from him.

By Mr. *Hubberstij*.]—As you received no letter with the parcel, how did you know what to do with this petition when you received it?—I wrote to Belfast to say, that if they intended to forward a petition, it must be up before a particular time, and it was my direction to them that was the cause, I suppose, of the petition coming up.

Were there any other papers in the parcel?—I think not; I think it came alone.

Will you remember, as far as you can, what the fact is?—I think I came alone; but it is a mere matter of recollection now; I cannot speak positively.

Had you received previous directions from some person to present this petition when it arrived?—No; I wrote to Belfast to tell them that if the petition was to be forwarded, that it should come before a particular time. I do not suppose they knew much about it at Belfast.

By Mr. *Cookson*.]—You mentioned that you had delivered the two parts of the petition about the 10th or 11th of November, was that the day on which you received the petition?—Yes; I took it the same day as well as I can recollect.

Was the petition, according to your recollection, in your possession or under your control from the period when you opened that parcel till the time when you delivered it?—Yes, it was; I did not give it out to be copied, for I was obliged to go to the opposite party to get a copy of it.

You have mentioned that you think there was no other paper in the parcel with the petition, do you feel any degree of confidence in saying that?—I cannot say positively; but from the floating recollection I have, it occurs to me that there was no other paper; but there might have been.

Is it usual to send a variety of things in a parcel from Belfast?—Very often; and a variety of things come very often, three or four in a week, so that it is not very easy to recollect.

If it should have been stated by any other person that there were other papers in the parcel, would you wish it to be considered that you contradict that individual?—Clearly not.

In point of fact your recollection of what was in the parcel is very indistinct?—It is vague, certainly.

You said you could not speak as to the particular seal with which the parcel was sealed, but that the parcels are usually sealed with a coronet?—I think the greater number have coronets; the parcel appeared to me to be a parcel coming in the usual way from Belfast.

Then on whatever day you received it, it was on that same day that you lodged it in the Hanaper Office?—I lodged it on the same day, for I was very anxious to have it in in time.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Felix

Felix Stuart, called in ; and Examined, as follows.

Felix Stuart.

2 February,
1831.

ARE you a freeman of Carrickfergus ?—Yes.

Did you vote at the last election ?—I did.

For whom ?—Sir Arthur Chichester.

Did you sign a petition against the return of Lord George Hill ?—I did.

Is that your signature ?—(*the petition being shewn to the Witness.*)—It is.

State to the Committee under what circumstances you signed that petition ; by whom was it presented to you ; at what time, and in what place ?—It was fetched to me in my own house.

On what day ?—I think it was on the 25th of November, but I am not sure to the day.

Recollect yourself ?—I am not positive.

What day of the week was it ?—I am not positive whether it was Monday or Tuesday, or what day.

At what o'clock of the day was it ?—It was about nine o'clock in the morning.

Were any persons present at the time when you signed the petition ?—There was.

Who were those persons ?—There were seven persons.

Mention them ?—There was William Haggan, John Haggan, John Hennedy, and William Hennedy, and Robert Bashford and myself, and a man of the name of Posnett.

In whose possession was the petition ?—It was in Posnett's possession.

Did he present it to you ?—He did, and said he was come to get signatures for it.

Did he ask you to sign it ?—He did, and I said I would if he would read part of it.

He held the petition in his hand and read part of it ?—He laid it down on the table and read part of it.

And then you signed it ?—Yes.

Were you the first of the six that signed ?—I was.

State to the Committee the name of the person that was immediately above your own when you signed ?—I saw several that I knew. I saw Percival Ingram's name, and I saw Larmour and Robert Ker's.

Do you recollect where Percival Ingram's name was ?—I do not ; but if I saw the petition I could show it again.

Can you state whether Percival Ingram's name stood in the same column with the name of Larmour and the name of Ker ?—I cannot say.

Did you see any other person's name besides the three you have now mentioned ?—I think I did.

State to the Committee who signed after you ?—I saw John Haggan signing after me ; I think John Hennedy was the next after him.

Was the name of Robert Ker on the right hand or on the left hand ?—I cannot be positive, but I know I read it.

Were there any names on the right hand when you signed, or any names on the left hand ?—I think there were some on the right hand.

And no names on the left hand ?—None to my knowledge ; I think there were none.

After Haggan, who signed ?—I was backwards and forwards into the room, and there was nobody to attend them but myself, and I was getting some drink of some kind or another, whiskey I believe.

Did you see Robert Bashford sign ?—I did.

State to the Committee what passed when he signed ?—I saw him writing at it, but I did not wait till he finished his name.

Did you hear him make any remark on the subject of his signature ?—None, only than he ran into the other column.

You say you saw the two Haggans, John Hennedy and Bashford sign, and you say you also saw William Hennedy sign, tell the Committee where William Hennedy signs ?—I think he was the last that signed to my knowledge, but I cannot be positive.

What passed when he the last had signed ?—There was but little passed, only that we made some objection, saying that we did not see any men of landed property signing before us.

Was any statement made by Mr. Posnett with respect to men of landed property signing

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signing after you?—He said there was to be at ten o'clock a few to meet him at a certain place to sign along with us.

Did he mention at what place?—He did, at Mr. Cowan's mill.

Did he describe the persons that were to meet; the class of men?—Some of them he did.

Mention their names?—Mr. Cowan and Mr. Kirke and Mr. Dunn.

Did he describe them as gentlemen?—Yes, he did.

When the petition had been signed by the sixth in your house, was it taken by Mr. Posnett or by any body else?—It was lifted by him again and taken away.

Did you see him do any thing with it?—No, nothing but roll it up.

Roll it up or fold it up?—I do not know which.

Were there any other persons coming into your house at that time?—None.

Were there any going into the room or out of the room?—None had any communication into the room but ourselves.

Was there any confusion at the time?—Not much.

Did you remain in the room the greater part of the time?—I was out and in a great part of the time to attend to them.

Did you see Mr. Posnett leave the house at any period while the others were in it?—I did.

At what time was that?—It was just shortly after that, and he came backwards and forwards.

It was after he had folded up the petition, and had taken that petition with him?—He took it; whether he left it and went out and came in again, I cannot say.

Did you see that petition after that time, in your own house?—I think I saw it opened again, but I am not positive.

In your own house?—Yes.

For what purpose?—I do not know, but I think it was opened again.

When?—At that very time.

Within half an hour or an hour?—It was within half an hour, I think.

Did any person call Mr. Posnett away from your house?—They did.

For what purpose?—They wanted him to take tea in a neighbouring house.

Did he go?—He did.

Was that the time when he folded up the petition?—It was.

Was that the last time you saw the petition?—I think it was, but I cannot be positive, for I can hardly recollect it now.

Was Mr. Posnett at your house after he went to breakfast?—He was.

Did he bring the petition with him at that time?—I think he did.

Did he open the petition again at that time?—I think it was opened again.

Was any body else waiting to sign?—No other body was there to sign but ourselves.

They all had signed when it was opened in the first instance?—Yes.

Was William Hennedy there at the same time?—He was; he was never out of the room that I saw.

Was Hennedy an active person at the late election?—I cannot say whether he was or not; he was friendly enough to the side he was in.

Can you state to the Committee at all what names followed Robert Ker's?—I cannot, for I just looked it over; but I recollect seeing his name there; and Ingram's and Larmour's.

Can you state in what order the names followed Percival Ingram's name?—I cannot.

You saw Percival Ingram's name?—I did; and I think, but I am not sure, that it was at the head of the column.

State to the Committee, from your best recollection, whose name was before your own when you signed it?—I could not say, indeed.

Were you directed to sign in any one part?—I was to sign in the column, and not to touch the columns before, but to sign in any other place that I chose.

Was your name near Percival Ingram's?—No, I think it was not; I think it was a good piece above mine, to the best of my knowledge now.

But on the same column?—I think so.

But you are sure that there was no name on the left of your's?—None, I think.

And you believe that there was the name of Robert Ker and that of Hugh Larmour on the other side?—I am not positive, but I know I read them over.

And

And you saw John Hennedy, Robert Bashford, William Haggan, John Haggan, and last of all William Hennedy sign?—Yes, I do think so.

Did you ever see this petition afterwards?—No, never, after that day.

Do you know whether Mr. Posnett left Carrickfergus shortly after he was at your house?—I never saw him but that day that I took much notice of him; I saw him before, but that was all.

You never saw him afterwards?—No.

What caused you to make the remark, that there were no names of any men of landed property?—I do not know what was the cause of it, it was remarked amongst us.

You thought that the petition did not look respectably signed?—It was that was the meaning at the time.

Did you ever see the petition afterwards, signed in a more respectable form?—I never saw it again.

How soon after this did you hear that there had been names put to it by persons who had not signed?—I did not hear for a good while again, till it went to Dublin.

How long was that after?—I do not know how many days it was.

What day did you sign the petition?—I am not sure whether it was on the 21st of November or not; I did not keep any record of it.

What month was it?—I thought it was November, but I am not sure, or it might be October.

Do you know Adam M'Dowell?—I do.

Do you know William M'Dermott?—I do.

Are they freemen of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Did you see their names signed to the petition?—I suppose may be I did, but I do not recollect.

If the name of either of those parties had been signed before you, should you or should you not have noticed it?—I do not recollect minding it.

You can only recollect that the name of Percival Ingram stood before your's, and that you believe there were several names?—There were several names of other people.

You say, that it was a subject of conversation among you, that there were no men of landed property that had signed, it is obvious therefore that you had read the names?—We had looked over them.

Therefore every name which had been attached to the petition before you signed, must have been read by you at some period or other before you signed?—Yes, we read them over; but I do not recollect them now.

If the name of William M'Dermott had been the name immediately before your's, should you or should you not have noticed it?—I could not say.

For whom did William M'Dermott vote?—He voted for Sir Arthur Chichester.

For whom did Adam M'Dowell vote?—I do not know.

Examined by Mr. Hubbersty.

When did you first see Mr. Posnett with this petition?—It was in the morning that I signed.

Did you know him previously?—I did not.

Had there been any meeting at your house before that morning respecting this petition?—No.

Did any of those persons whom you have named breakfast at your house that morning?—No, they did not.

Did any of them sup at your house the night before?—No, I think not.

Will you recollect yourself?—I minded their taking some little refreshment afterwards.

What sort of refreshment?—They took some bread, and fish of some kind, salmon or something.

About what hour?—I suppose it was about eleven or twelve o'clock.

Who first came to your house on the morning you have mentioned respecting this petition?—I cannot say, for they were all up stairs when I went into them; they sent for me down stairs to go to them.

How did it happen that you signed your name first if they were all there previously?—They were all there before I knew any thing about it; they were all in the room standing.

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I ask you how it happened that you signed your name the first?—I said that I would sign it; if the rest would not sign it I would sign it myself.

Did any of them object to signing it?—Not that I recollect.

Was no objection made to any part of the petition in your presence?—There was, I think, a little.

What was it?—Something concerning the burgesses; the petition said that Lord George was no member of our corporation, and there was some objection made about that.

Who made that objection?—I think it was Haggan.

Which of them?—William.

Does Robert Bashford usually wear spectacles?—He says he does at reading or writing, but I never saw them on.

Did he make any complaint at the time he was asked to sign this petition, that he had not his spectacles?—He did.

Did Mr. Posnett ask you to get other persons to sign?—No.

Did he ask you what persons were likely to sign?—No, he never asked me such a question.

How many names were at the foot of the petition when you signed your name?—I do not know.

You have already informed the Committee that you read over the names; are you well acquainted with the freemen of Carrickfergus particularly?—Some of them I am.

Did you see any persons that you had been long acquainted with?—I did; I knew Ingram and Larmour, and other people too; but I do not recollect them all.

Did you see the names of any persons whom you had known from very early life, having been brought up in the same part of the county of Carrickfergus?—Yes; I had known Larmour from an early part of life, and Robert Ker.

Will you tell the Committee where you were born and brought up?—I was bred and born at Loch Mourn about two miles off.

Did you see the names of any persons who were born and bred at Loch Mourn?—I do not recollect.

Was not Adam M'Dermott born there?—Yes.

Was not John Paislie born there?—Yes.

You knew him from a boy?—Yes.

Do not you think if you had seen those names at the foot of the petition, you should have noticed them?—Yes, but I could not recollect them.

But you think it probable, if you had seen those names at the foot of the petition, you should have noticed them?—I might have noticed them at the time.

To the best of your recollection, was either of those names at the foot of the petition when you signed it?—I could not mind it at all.

Cannot you state your belief?—I could not say positively whether they were there or not.

You have stated also that you saw the names of Larmour, Ker, and Percival Ingram, can you inform us who the others were?—I do not recollect.

Did you see the name of Milburn?—I did not mind it.

Did you see the name of Henderson?—I think I did see the name of Henderson.

Did you see the name of Hughes?—May be I saw them all, but I do not recollect.

Was there amongst the names you have mentioned one person whom you have recollected so long as Paislie and M'Dowell?—No, I do not think I recollect any of them so long as those, I remember them as boys.

Perhaps you went to school together?—Yes.

Do not you think that if either of those names had been at the foot of the petition, particularly when you had noticed that there were no names of persons of landed property, that you would have remembered them?—I do not recollect.

Committee.]—In fact, you do not remember?—No, I do not.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—To the best of your recollection, how many names were at the foot of the petition when Mr. Posnett folded it up?—I cannot say, but there were several, there were a good many.

How often did Mr. Posnett leave the house on the morning of which you have been speaking?—Only once.

How long was he absent?—I could not say how long he was absent.

Did

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Did you see him go out?—I did.

Did you see him return?—I did.

Where did you see him go to?—I do not know where he went to, for I was busy, but he was not long before he came in.

How long was he?—I think he was not half an hour.

When he returned did he return alone?—He did.

Did you see any person with him?—I saw a little girl come for him from a neighbouring house; she said she wanted him to take some breakfast.

Whose house was that?—Mr. Eccleston's.

During the time Mr. Posnett was absent, did you see any person go from your house to bring him back again?—I do not recollect, they were passing and re-passing me when I was in the bar, and I could not say.

The bar is on the ground floor of your house, is not it?—Yes.

And these men were on the upper floor?—Yes.

Do you think it probable that if any one of those persons had gone to fetch Mr. Posnett back, you would have seen him go?—I would have seen him go past me, but I did not observe for what purpose it was.

Is John Eccleston's house opposite to yours?—It is across the street.

What do you suppose to be the width of the street?—I cannot say.

Is it 20 yards?—No.

Is it 15?—I do not think it is.

When you were in the upper room of your house, in which these men were placed, if you were to look out of the window, could you see into Eccleston's house?—I cannot say, for I never observed any thing in that way, if the windows were open I could see into the house.

How many windows are there in the front of your house?—There were two in the room that we were in.

Is there any other room in front of your house on that floor?—Yes, there is another.

Is that to the east or to the west?—To the westward.

How many windows are there in the front of Eccleston's house in width?—There is one on the ground floor and one on the floor above.

What height do you suppose the room you were in is from the ground?—I suppose it is fifteen or sixteen feet.

Have you seen Mr. Posnett since you came to London?—I have.

When?—I have seen him to day.

Did you see him yesterday?—I did.

Did you see him on Sunday?—I think I saw him, but that was all.

Are you lodging at the same house with Mr. Posnett?—I am.

Have you had any conversation with him on the subject that is now before the Committee?—None.

Has not he told you that he has been examined?—No, we had no conversation at all about it.

Are you perfectly sure that you have had no conversation whatever respecting this subject?—No conversation respecting this.

Did you see Mr. Eccleston before you left Carrickfergus?—I did.

Had you any conversation with him on the subject?—None.

Did you see John Haggan before you left Carrickfergus?—I did.

And John Hennedy?—Yes.

Have you had any conversation with them upon the subject?—None; only asking them how they went and in what way they passed their time when they were here.

Did you ever see a paper similar to this, which I hold in my hand, before?—(*a fac simile of the petition.*)—No, I never did; I have seen the petition.

You are quite sure that with none of the persons I have named you have had no conversation upon the subject of this petition?—None of any consequence.

Will you inform the Committee what conversation you have had, which, in your opinion, is of no consequence?—I have had none of any consequence, only asking whether they had been examined.

What answer did they give you?—No answer to any purpose.

Did not they inform you that they had been examined?—They said they were examined, but they never told me how.

Who told you that they had been examined?—It was Mr. Posnett.

When?—I think it was when I came.

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What day was that?—Monday.

You asked him if he had been examined?—I asked him if he had been examined, and he said he was.

Did you ask him if any body else had been examined?—No.

Did not you ask Mr. Eccleston if he had been examined?—We knew he had been examined when he came home.

How did you know it?—He had sent word in a letter.

To whom?—To his mistress.

Did not he tell you when you saw, him that he had been examined?—No.

Did not he tell you that Mr. Posnett was left in London?—No.

How did you happen to go to Mr. Posnett when you arrived here?—He gave me a card to go to that Hotel.

Who gave you the card?—Mr. Eccleston.

Did not he tell you that Mr. Posnett was there?—No.

Did not you know that he was there?—No.

Did not you know that he was in London?—No, not till afterwards; I knew that he was not at home.

When did you first learn that he was in London?—When I saw him.

Did he tell you that any other person had been examined besides himself?

—No.

Did he mention any question that had been asked of him?—No.

Did not you ask him how it happened that he was left in London so long?

—No.

Did you ask him when he was going away?—No, he did not know himself.

Did you ask Mr. Posnett whether he was sworn at the time he was examined?

—No, I did not.

Did he tell you whether he was or was not?—No, he did not.

When did you last see Mr. M^cCartney?—It was on Tuesday in the last week.

Where at?—At his own house.

Did he send for you?—No, I was up in Belfast.

And you called upon him?—Yes.

What was your object in calling upon him?—It was for money belonging to the trade at Carrickfergus.

Had you any conversation with him respecting this petition?—No, not a bit.

Did you tell him you were coming to London?—I did, and showed him the summons.

And you are quite sure you had no conversation with him on the subject?—Not a bit.

Did he tell you that Mr. Posnett was in London?—He did; he said he was not home.

Did he tell you when he expected him?—No, he did not.

Is Mr. Posnett Mr. M^cCartney's clerk?—I believe so; I have seen him in the office.

Are not the persons you have named as having been in your house on the morning you have mentioned, in the habit of frequenting your house as a public house?—Sometimes they are.

Did they ever meet at your house a short time before they came to London?—I believe they might be in and out again, but I do not recollect them all together.

Do not they frequent your house in an evening?—No; sometimes they are and sometimes not, but never all together.

Have not the two Haggans and the two Hennedys been in your house frequently, all four?—They dined at Christmas together, but not at other times.

Were not those four persons all together in your house a day or two before they left Carrickfergus for London?—They might be there.

Committee.]—Did you or did you not see them?—I saw them out and in again, but I never saw them all together but at Christmas, dining.

Were you personally acquainted with Mr. Posnett before you saw him at Carrickfergus?—No.

Who came with him from whom you learnt who he was?—I never learnt till I was in the room; there were four or five men that came with him that wanted to speak to me.

Was John Hennedy one of them?—Yes, John Hennedy and John Haggan and William Haggan and Bashford.

John Hennedy is a townsman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

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When did you first hear that Mr. Posnett had come to Carrickfergus with the petition?—Never, till I was in the room among them.

Did Mr. Posnett say any thing about the petition when he first presented it?—He came he said for signatures.

That was when you first came into the room?—Yes, when I was called up.

The other persons you have mentioned were in the room?—Yes.

Was that said before any of those persons you have mentioned had signed it?—Yes.

Were there any signatures to it before?—There were; when we looked it over, we said we would sign it if he would let us hear a part of it, and then he did so.

Did Mr. Posnett expect any other persons to come to your house besides those you have mentioned?—No, there was nobody there but ourselves.

Did he say that he expected any other persons?—No.

Was there any disturbance in the town that day?—There was a great disturbance through the town; not in our house but in the street.

Did the persons who would have been likely to come to sign that petition have any difficulty in coming to your house on account of that disturbance?—I think that was the cause of it.

Do you think if there had been no disturbance in the town that day that more persons would have come?—I do not know.

You had no conversation upon that subject?—None at all.

Were Adam M'Dowell and William M'Dermott well known to the Hennedys and the Haggans?—I cannot say; M'Dermott is acquainted with them; but M'Dowell lives in the country, and I could not say whether he is acquainted.

Has he any landed property?—No; none but some land of Mr. Kirk.

What were the persons of landed property that you expected to sign?—We made objection that no landed property men had signed.

Are there many freemen of Carrickfergus that are men of landed property?—No, there are not.

Are there any of them?—There are some; there is Mr. Dunn and Mr. Kirk, and several others, that have some property.

Did the other persons make any objection to sign the petition after you put your name to it?—Not a bit.

Did you or any person point out to them the names that had gone before as an inducement to them to sign it?—No; they could read it as well as I could do.

Were you more inclined to sign it because you saw the name of one of your friends before you?—Yes.

Who were the intimate friends that induced you to sign?—Mr. Ingram and Mr. Larmour.

And Mr. M'Dermott?—I do not know whether he was there at that time or not.

And Mr. M'Dowell?—I could not say whether he was there at that time or not.

You are intimately acquainted with M'Dermott and M'Dowell?—Yes.

If their names had been there would that have induced you to sign the petition?—Not a bit.

Why not?—For friendship to the side I was on I would have signed it.

You hesitated to sign it till you saw that there were the names of some of your own friends there?—Yes.

Do you know William M'Dermott's handwriting?—No.

You never saw him write?—No.

Nor M'Dowell?—No.

Did William Hennedy object to sign the petition till you had signed it?—No; there was a little objection made about there being no landed property.

Did he object upon that ground?—He said not much; but that he should like to see some men of landed property before us.

What is John Paislie?—He is overseer to Mr. Kirk.

Is he a person whose name would have induced some of the others to sign?—No, I think not.

Is he a friend of yours or of the Haggans?—No, he is not.

Do you know Hugh Gormall?—I do.

Did you see his name to the petition?—I do not recollect it.

Is Hugh Gormall alive now?—Yes.

What is his situation in life?—He is a labourer to Mr. Kirk.

Is he a freeman?—Not that I know of.

You remember the name of Robert Ker, in the petition?—I do.

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Was there any name below it?—I do not mind; I think there were Henderson and one or two more there.

You were told to sign in one of the two columns on the right hand?—Yes, to leave a space for some other people in the fore-side.

Would you have taken any notice of the name of Hugh Gormall being there if you had known he was not a freeman?—I could not say whether I would or not, there was such a stir in the street and one thing or another, that I could not get all things minded.

You looked over the names; if you saw a man that was not a freeman, would not that have attracted your attention?—I could not have minded it at the time; I did not see any that I recollect that was not a freeman, for aught I knew.

Was John Eccleston at your house when the others came in?—He was not at the house that day that I recollect.

Was your room engaged that morning for the purpose of persons coming there to sign this petition?—No, I knew nothing about it till they were all in it.

Who came first?—I saw them dropping in, two and one and so on, till they were up stairs.

Is it a public room or a private room?—It is a public room.

It is a room that is open to any body that likes to come in?—Every body that likes to go in.

Mr. *Hubbersty*.]—Did Mr. Posnett inform you by whose direction he brought this petition?—No he did not; he said he had come down for signatures from Belfast.

Did he state that he came from Mr. M'Cartney?—He did not; but we guessed who it came from, we knew it was our friends.

You have stated that some conversation took place because you did not see the names of any persons of property; do you know James Willis?—I do.

Is he not a very respectable tradesman in Carrickfergus?—He is.

If his name had been at the foot of the petition you would have noticed it?—It might have been there.

Do you think it was there?—I cannot say whether it was or was not.

How many names do you think there were altogether?—I suppose from the look of it, twenty names apparently.

You have said that there were none on your left hand when you signed?—None that I could see, but there might be.

How many of those persons partook of refreshment in your house on that day?—Three or four.

Who paid for those refreshments?—Mr. Posnett paid a good deal of it; a pint I believe, he paid for.

Who paid the rest?—There was little more going I believe.

Do you know when Mr. Posnett arrived at Carrickfergus upon this occasion?—I do not know positively.

Did you hear him say?—No.

Do you know where he came from to your house?—I do not.

Did you see him come?—I saw him going in along with Mr. Bashford.

Did he tell you where he slept the night before?—No, he did not.

After Mr. Posnett left your house on the morning you mention, did you look out of your window down upon Eccleston's house?—I do not know that I did.

Did any of the persons in the room go to the window and look out of it across to Eccleston's house?—I cannot say.

Did any of them in your presence do so?—Not that I recollect.

Are you quite sure that you did not do so yourself?—No; I do not recollect.

How do you know that he went into Eccleston's house for breakfast?—A little girl came for him.

Did you not in fact see Mr. Posnett in Eccleston's house from your own?—No; I did not, I could not.

Did you see Mr. Eccleston?—No.

Not at all that morning?—No, I did not.

Neither in your house nor his own?—No.

Committee.]—Did Mr. Posnett mention to you that morning his object in coming to Carrickfergus?—He did; that he wanted to get signatures for a petition.

Did he make no remark about the small number that came?—No; he laid it down, and he bade them either do it or not do it; he said it was nothing to him whether they did it or not, and then I signed myself, the first of the six.

He

He did not express any regret in so few people coming to your house that morning?—No, he did not; nor I did not know that they were going to be at our house till I was among them.

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Examined by Mr. Cookson.

You mentioned that the men dropped in one ortwo at a time?—I think that was the way of it.

Do you know who came with Mr. Posnett?—I do not.

Do you know how Mr. Posnett came to be in your room?—I do not.

When you were sent for into the room, who came for you?—It was the waiter, a little girl, some of them told me they wanted me up stairs to speak to me.

Were you told who sent for you?—No, I was not, but that I was wanted up stairs.

Till you went up stairs you did not know that Mr. Posnett was there?—I did not.

You said that there was some disturbance in the street?—Yes.

What was the nature of the disturbance?—There was some effigy, or something that had been hanged, or something of that sort; the boys were shouting and making a disturbance in the streets; the streets were crowded.

Did the boys alarm the men who were assembling at your house, so as to prevent them coming all together?—I do not know; I suppose may be it might be the case, there was a great alarm, but I knew nothing about it till I went up.

You said that you did not mind things, particularly on that morning, because there was a deal of disturbance in the street, can you state by what class of persons the disturbance was occasioned?—It was by boys and men with some effigy, or something they were trailing through the street.

Who was the effigy intended for?—It was in the name of Clarke.

Mr. *Hubbersty*.]—Did you see it, are you speaking of your own knowledge?—Yes; from my own knowledge.

Mr. *Cookson*.]—Who was Clarke?—They called him Sampson Clarke.

Is he a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

What was the reason, as you understood, of their making an effigy of him?—I cannot say I heard talk what was the reason.

There was a general understanding in the town that it was intended to represent him?—Yes.

On what account was he represented in that manner?—That he had voted for Lord George Hill, and something about bribery.

You said that Mr. Posnett was at your house twice?—Yes, he was out and in again.

And that about half an hour intervened?—It was inside of half an hour, I think.

Were you in the room when Mr. Posnett left the room the first time?—I was.

Was that after he had signed?—Yes, and I think I was in when he came back again.

How long do you think intervened between?—I think it was inside of half an hour.

When he came back again, did he state any thing relating to the petition?—No, he said he was in a hurry to get away.

Was that on his second visit?—Yes.

Did he mention any thing about returning to Belfast?—I think he did; he said he had to be at a place again at ten o'clock.

Did he say any thing about a car waiting for him?—No, I do not recollect any thing about a car, but it might be so.

You have stated that you signed the first of the persons in the room, was the petition read over previously?—It was mostly.

Was the objection you have mentioned made previously about the burgess?—Yes.

Do you recollect how that was got rid of?—We thought it was right to sign it.

You have said you signed through friendship to the side you were on?—Yes.

And you say you were induced in some measure to sign in consequence of having seen the names of your friends?—I saw some people before me that I knew.

Did that at all convince you of the propriety of signing, seeing their signatures?—No; but it encouraged us a little.

That is, you did not wish to be distinguished from the rest of the freemen?—No.

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Would you have signed the petition if there had been no other name before your's?—I could not say whether I would or not.

But you signed first of the six?—Yes, I said I would sign it, and I did not care whether they signed it or not.

Do you recollect when you signed your name whether there was any space between your name and the name above it?—I do not recollect; I think I followed him, but I am not positively sure.

You have been asked to name the persons whose names were affixed before your's, do you recollect whether the names of the three Williamsons, Edward Williamson, Philip Williamson and William Williamson, were there previously to your signing?—I do not recollect whether they were or not.

They might be there or they might not be there?—They might.

Do you recollect the signature of William Reid?—No, I do not; but there were several names.

You have stated that there were apparently about twenty names?—I think so.

That is on a general estimate, without counting?—Yes, I did not count them.

Do you know or had you heard of any intimidation having been made use of to prevent persons from signing?—No.

You never heard of any thing of the sort by any person?—No.

Committee.]—You write your name very large do not you?—Sometimes I do.

When you signed the petition, did you sign a little way down, so as to prevent interfering with the name above?—I think so; I think I did not touch the name above.

Do you think there was room for two or three names between your signature and the one above?—I do not know whether there was.

Mr. Cookson.]—Were you in the room during the whole time their signatures were being affixed?—I think I was; I was out and in.

Committee.]—You were not desired to leave the room for other signatures?—No.

Do you know whether the signature of Percival Ingram was above your's?—I think it was.

Do you know whether there was any other name between his and your's?—I am not sure whether Larmour's name was there.

Do you know where Milburn signed?—I do not recollect.

Committee.]—Did Mr. Posnett point out to you the particular spot where you were to sign?—He told me to leave a space for gentlemen before us.

He did not point out at what part of the column?—No, but to leave a space for gentlemen that were to sign before us.

You say that Posnett went away from the house, and was absent about half an hour?—I think it was within half an hour.

There were six of you altogether, did the other five persons remain in the room till Posnett came back?—Yes; but they were out and in.

Posnett had taken away the petition with him?—I think he did; I did not see him.

Was there any body that came into the room while Posnett was absent?—None but ourselves, backwards and forwards.

Where did you get a pen to sign with when you signed your name?—I think I had it in my house.

Had any person to go out to get a pen?—No; whether I took up the bottle of ink I could not say, or whether the girl took it up, or whether it was in the room.

But there was no occasion to go out to another house to get a pen and ink?—No, there was no occasion.

Mr. Cookson.]—Up to the time you went into the room was there any pen and ink in the room of your's?—Not that I know of; they might send for them.

After Mr. Posnett left the room to go to breakfast, were you in the room nearly all the time?—I was, backwards and forwards.

Were there any other customers in any other part of the house?—There were; the place was pretty thronged, but where we were, there were none but ourselves in the room.

In other rooms of the house?—Yes.

Who had to attend to those persons?—A girl belonging to the house.

Who attends at the bar?—The mistress and me occasionally.

On the morning between the time Mr. Posnett left and returned, were you in attendance at the bar at all?—Sometimes.

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During these times, of course, you were absent from the room?—Yes.

What number of minutes were you absent?—I could not say.

Were you ever absent for five minutes at one time?—I think I might be.

You spoke of the men who were up stairs being in and out of the room?—Yes.

Did they pass the bar where you were?—Yes; and I noticed them going up and down stairs.

Did any of those men go out of the front door?—Not that I recollect, but they might.

Without your seeing them?—Yes, my being busy.

You were attending upon your guests I suppose?—Yes.

Can you state with any thing approaching to certainty, whether any of the men went out of the front door during the period of Mr. Posnett's absence?—They might, I heard feet on the stairs.

When Mr. Posnett returned, for what purpose did he come back?—He did come back, but I do not know for what purpose he came back.

You say that he was in a great hurry?—He said he had to meet gentlemen at ten o'clock, at a certain place.

When he went out to breakfast, did he state any intention of returning?—I do not recollect.

Was not it a matter of surprise to you that he should return after breakfast, and after he had got all the signatures. Did he appear to have any object in returning?—No; I saw no sign of any thing.

After his return, was there any liquor ordered?—I think there was.

When did Mr. Posnett pay you for the liquor?—He paid it at the time.

Did he pay for any liquor after his second return?—I am not positive.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—Will you describe the situation of the bar in your house?—The door is as it were there (*describing it*), and the bar just across the passage.

Therefore a person passing through the passage would be seen by you in the bar?—They would, if I was not busy.

Committee.]—Do you feel certain that no person went into that room but the two Hennedys and the two Haggans, and Posnett when you were there?—Not to my knowledge.

Is it not probable that any person could go into that room without your knowing it?—They might have been gone into the room without my knowing it.

If any other persons had come to sign the petition, they would probably have stayed to partake of the refreshment?—Surely they would.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—Whoever is serving at the bar, of course, has charge of the door?—Yes; but there might be three or four standing and waiting to be served.

Committee.]—Your belief is, that there was no other person came?—Yes.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—If the person at the bar had not charge of the door, it would be an easy thing for a person to slip out without paying their reckoning?—Certainly it would.

You would expect then the person at the bar to take charge of the door?—Yes.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Mr. Hutcheson Posnett, again called in; and further Examined, as follows.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—HAVE you seen the last witness since you came to London?—I have.

When did you see him first?—I saw him I suspect the day I came to town.

When did you see him first?—I think it was on Monday, I am not certain.

How often have you seen him since?—I have seen him every day since; he stops at the same house.

Do you know how he happened to come to that house?—I do not.

Have you had any conversation with him on the subject of this petition?—Certainly not.

You have avoided it?—I have.

Has he asked you no questions respecting it?—None at all, nothing connected with the evidence, because I abstained from doing it.

Perhaps you will say what questions he asked you?—They were so general that I cannot remember them.

Has he asked you whether you have been examined or not?—He did not ask me any such question.

Did he ask you whether any other persons had been examined?—He did not.

Did he ask you for any information as to the manner in which he would be examined?—He did not.

Mr.
Hutcheson Posnett.

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Did you inform him you were examined?—I informed him that I had been examined.

Did any thing pass as to the mode of examination?—Not one word; I told him not to speak to me upon that subject for I would not answer him.

Have you seen Haggan and Hennedy since they came to London?—I have.

Did you inform them that you had been examined?—Perhaps they may know it from my having stated it to Felix Stuart.

Are they staying at your house?—No.

Have they taken any meals at your house?—No.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

William Hennedy, called in; and Examined, as follows.

William Hennedy.

ARE you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—I am.

Did you vote at the late election?—I did.

For whom?—For Sir Arthur Chichester.

Did you sign a petition complaining of the return of Lord George Hill?—I did.

Will you sign your own name in your ordinary hand writing?

[*The Witness signed his name.*]

Will you write the name of Felix Stuart?

[*The Witness wrote the same.*]

Will you write the name of William M'Dermott?

[*The Witness wrote the same.*]

Will you write the name of William M'Dowell?

[*The Witness wrote the same.*]

You signed a petition against the return of Lord George Hill?—I did.

At what time and under what circumstances did you sign that petition?—I believe it was on the 25th of October or thereabouts.

On what day of the week was it?—It was on Wednesday.

At what hour of the day?—It was between eight and nine o'clock in the morning.

In what place?—In the house of Felix Stuart, a publican, at Carrickfergus.

In whose presence?—In the presence of six people; Felix Stuart, William Haggan, John Haggan, John Bashford, and John Hennedy.

In whose hand was the petition when you signed it?—I was the last of the number who signed it, and it was then on the table when I went forward to sign it.

Whose name was the name before your's when you signed it?—I cannot particularly say.

How many names were signed on the column before you?—A good many, I did not count them.

Can you state to the Committee the names you had read before your's?—I saw Percival Ingram's, I saw Robert Ker's, I saw Archibald M'Galpin, and John Milburn, Hugh Larmour.

Did you see Felix Stuart?—Felix Stuart signed in the room; I saw his name before I signed it.

Did you see the name of William M'Dermott?—I do not think I did.

Did you see the name of Adam M'Dowell?—I do not believe I did.

Did you see the name of John Paislie?—I think I did.

Did you see the name of Hugh Gormal?—I did not.

You are not sure that you saw the name of John Paislie?—I am not, but I believe I saw that.

Did you see the name of Robert Willis?—I did not.

Do you recollect whether there were any names to the right of your's or to the left of your's, when you signed?—They were only on the left; there was a space for other signatures, and it was at the back end of the petition.

When you had signed the petition, you being the last of the six in the room at Felix Stuart's, what was done with the petition?—I do not know, I believe Mr. Posnett took it.

Did you see him take it?—I did.

Did you see him leave the house with it?—I did.

Did you see the petition after that time?—Never after.

Did Mr. Posnett leave the house with the petition more than once?—I do not know what he did with it after.

You

You only saw him leave the house once?—Yes; took it to some part of Ireland, I suppose.

Did he quit the room at all when you were in it?—He did.

How long was he absent?—I believe he came back in a few minutes.

Did he take the petition with him at that time?—He left no petition there, he had it in charge of his eye all the time that I saw it.

Did you see the petition before the morning when you signed it?—No; I heard there was a petition to go, but I did not see it.

Did you see it after Mr. Posnett took it away from the house?—Never.

When you signed there were no names on your right, but there were names on your left?—Yes.

After this you never saw more of the petition?—Never.

You saw Felix Stuart sign?—Him in the red.

Did you see John Hennedy sign?—I saw him write.

Did you see Robert Bashford sign?—I saw him write.

Was there any thing particular in his manner that you noticed?—The reason I wanted him noticed was, that he wanted spectacles, and he said he could not do it for want of spectacles, and he wanted William Haggan to write it for him, and he said I will not, you can write it better than me, for we allowed that it would not do to write it with different hands, and so he wrote it very badly.

When did you first hear that there was a petition sent to Carrickfergus to be signed?—I heard a report through the public that I did not notice; but the first time I heard of it was when Mr. Posnett came into my house, about eight o'clock in the morning, and he requested to speak with me in private; my children was in one room and my wife in the other: I rose and put on my clothes and spoke to him in the entrance of the kitchen; he wanted to get a private place, and I wanted my wife to rise, because the gentleman wanted to go into the room, and that was the first time I heard of it; but I did not hear it then, and he did not tell it, and the reason he did not tell it was, that I did not take him into a room, and the reason was that several of the people, John Haggan and Robert Bashford came into the room; and there was an agent of the Whig newspaper lives opposite my door, and I understood something of Sir Arthur Chichester's business, or Lord Donegal's, and says I, "Do not stop here, for if you do there is a man who will expose our business, and I would rather you would go to some private place." "Where will we go?" Said I, "Go to a public-house;" and they went to Felix Stuart's, and they went two by two to Felix's.

Why did they go two by two?—Not to make the matter public, because those people would think nothing to insult us on the road; they had an effigy about my door; if they had known of that business they would no doubt have torn me and my house to pieces.

Did you live near Felix Stuart's?—No; I live in the Irish quarter, and he lives down at the Spout.

Did you know what you were to do when you went to Felix Stuart's?—I was there told my Mr. Posnett.

You only knew something about Sir Arthur Chichester's business?—Yes; or Lord Donegal's.

When you got to Felix Stuart's did he tell you what the business was?—He did; he said that he had a petition of Sir Arthur's that was to be signed.

Did he say that that was his object in coming to Carrickfergus to get signatures?—Yes.

Did he make any inquiry as to where Sir Arthur's friends were to be found residing?—No, he did not; I mistook one part of it; he stood up with a small list in his hand, and named individuals which we did not wish to make public in the street on that day, for it was very thronged, but I did not know that it was the petition at that time till we got to Felix Stuart's.

Did he read the names that were upon that list that he had in his hand?—He did not.

Did he read them afterwards at Felix Stuart's?—He did not; we saw them in the petition.

Do you recollect who they were?—Part of them, for I never expected it would be questioned.

Do you recollect any of those names now?—I do, such as I have told.

You have told us the names of persons that you saw affixed to the petition; do you

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you recollect any other names in Mr. Posnett's list on the piece of paper that he had?—I saw it, but I did not read that list.

Can you recollect any of the names?—There were White and Simm.

Any others?—I cannot recollect.

Williamson?—No.

Hamilton?—No.

William Reid?—No.

Do you know John Paislie?—I do.

Intimately?—No; I know him and have spoken to him as a neighbour.

Was there any conversation about the description of persons who had signed the petition before you and the Haggans signed it at Felix Stuart's?—We observed them, and I noticed one man, and says I, I would as soon you had got another man as that man, that was Archibald M'Galpin; it was very badly wrote, but there was nothing said of any man's character.

There were very few names to the petition?—There were a good many, but I did not look at them particularly.

Was there any thing said about there being no gentlemen of landed property there?—They asked why there were not some men of that description, and Mr. Posnett said he intended to go to Mr. Corwan's, and see a group before he would leave town.

Who asked that?—I cannot tell.

Did you object to signing the petition, because there were no landed gentlemen's names to it?—I did not on that account.

You were quite ready to have signed it?—I was; there was one thing that I grumbled at, about the burgesses, but every other thing I was satisfied with.

You objected to that part of the petition, stating that Lord George was not a burgess?—Yes, I said that a good thing and a bad thing was put together, and that is because they had taken a spite to people on those occasions, and they persecuted and destroyed them.

You must have looked particularly at the names, to know that there was no gentlemen of landed property?—I am certain there were none, or I would have recollected it.

Did you see whose name was above your's?—I cannot say.

Did any person tell you where to sign?—Yes, they told me to sign under some of those names; one went forward after another to the table.

They objected to sign, because there was no gentleman of landed property had his name affixed to it?—I cannot say, but they wished for the respectability of Sir Arthur that that would be done; they would have been glad to have had that description on account of Sir Arthur.

Who signed first of the party?—Felix Stuart.

Could you see after what name Felix Stuart signed?—No; for it was on the table.

Were you in the room all the time that the petition was lying there?—All the time; I kept my standing in the room, and the door was shut, the door was fastened that it could not be opened.

Had you charge of the petition when Posnett was out of the room?—No, Posnett had charge of it.

Was it left lying upon the table?—Not to my knowledge.

Did Mr. Posnett go out of the room more than once?—I do not know that he went out; Mr. Eccleston sent for him to breakfast.

Who went first to Felix Stuart's?—I do not know; he mentioned that he would go to Greaves's parlour, and we objected to that, and said they might as well go to Mr. Hanley's parlour to do Sir Arthur's business; and he was told to go down to Felix Stuart's, for as I said before, there was an effigy in the town, and I think if this business had been known, they would not have left Carrickfergus.

Did any persons come into the room besides the two Haggans and Bashford and John Hennedy?—Not one.

Was there any conversation about the small number of persons that came to sign it?—They would have been glad to see it numerously signed, on account of Sir Arthur.

Was there some talk about the disturbance in the street keeping them away?—No.

Had you any conversation about the persons that would probably sign, if they were applied to?—No.

Did

Did not Mr. Posnett ask you, if you knew any other friends of Sir Arthur's, that would be inclined to sign the petition?—No he did not to my knowledge.

Did any body suggest any names to him?—No, not in my presence.

Did Mr. Posnett know any of the freemen?—He never knew me before, for I never saw him to my knowledge before.

When he showed you the slip of paper with the names of the freemen upon it, did not he ask you whether there were any other friends of Sir Arthur's that would sign?—No.

He said nothing about the names?—No; he said they were a few friends, and he asked where those persons lived; and I would as soon not have got them if we had had time to have got plenty of respectable people, but at the moment when the town was in such confusion, it was impossible to meddle in such a business almost.

You saw the list in Mr. Posnett's hands of the freemen?—A small slip about half the size of that (*about two or three inches square*).

How many names were there upon it?—I cannot say; I know nothing but what he told me out of it.

Then you did not see the list sufficiently to be able to read any of the names?—I could not read any of the names.

Therefore the names you have given to us now as having been upon that list were what he told you?—The names I told you were not upon that list, but upon the petition.

You mentioned the names of Simms and White?—Those were what he mentioned to me.

Do you mean that you saw them upon the petition?—No.

You said that Posnett had a list of names in his hand, and you said that you did not see the names particularly, but that White and Simms's names were on that list?—That list was this small slip.

Then you did not see the name of Simms on the list, but on the petition?—I did not see them on the petition; he read White and Simms to me to get them.

Could you see enough of that list to be able to say in whose hand-writing that list was?—No, I could not.

You saw the list, although you were not able to particularize all the names?—I saw a small list in his hand.

It could not be a list of all the freemen in Carrickfergus?—No, it could not be that; I have no doubt that my own name was one of them.

Do you know whether it was or was not?—No.

Did you see enough of the list to be able to tell whether there were five names, or ten names, or twenty names?—I do not think there were twenty; I am sure there were not.

Were there ten or fifteen?—I believe from the size of the paper that there might be about seven or five, or there might be nine, and my own name might be among the rest, but I was to collect my friends to put their signatures to the petition.

But he only named a few names?—He asked if I knew such persons.

Did you know them?—Yes.

Did you inform him where they lived?—No.

Were those the only names that he read to you?—That is all I remember.

White and Simms live in Carrickfergus, do not they?—They do.

Do you know whether they were in Carrickfergus at that time?—I do not know; I believe they were.

Have you any recollection of having seen them about that time in Carrickfergus?—Perhaps I might, I believe I did; I saw them generally; I had no particular dealings with them.

You have no reason for thinking they were not there at that time?—I have not.

Did any body else in your presence mention the names of any other persons in Carrickfergus that might be asked to sign?—I do not think they did.

Recollect yourself; you met there for the purpose of getting signatures to the petition; was there any conversation about the persons who were in Carrickfergus who could be got to sign that petition?—There was not.

Was there any talk about any of the persons who were wished or expected to sign the petition?—I believe some of them said that they were to get some gentlemen

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men to sign, that they wished to have it respectable for Sir Arthur, and numerous signed.

Did either you or any body else in your presence and hearing, suggest the names of any persons who were respectable, whose signatures it was desirable to get?—I do not think it.

What was the object upon which you met; for the purpose of consulting about it?—No; for the purpose of signing.

Did any body in your hearing or yourself suggest the names of any body whom it was desirable to get their signatures to that petition?—I do not believe or recollect any person.

Mr. Posnett did not mention any gentlemen that was likely to sign it?—I think he said he had to go down to Cowan's to see a few.

Did Mr. Posnett himself mention any other names than the two you have mentioned?—No, he did not in my hearing.

Did any body else suggest any other name that it was desirable to obtain to that petition?—They did not.

Will you take upon yourself positively to say that they did not, or that you did not attend and have no knowledge about it?—I paid little attention to any thing of the like; I do not remember pointing out any person, although there might a conversation occur in the room that I might not have heard before the petition was signed, they had not taken their seats, and there was no order.

How long were you in the room with those several persons?—Mr. Posnett left it very soon, but afterwards I remained for nearly four hours.

You remained all the time that he was absent?—Yes.

How long were you in the room talking after he mentioned the names of Simms and White?—He never mentioned them in that room, that was at my door.

When you got to Stuart's were there any names mentioned by Mr. Posnett?—I do not think there were.

How long were you in the room with the several persons you have mentioned before he went away?—I dare say twenty minutes.

What was your conversation about during those twenty minutes?—We wished to have respectable names to the petition first, because they would persecute us for signing that petition in Carrickfergus.

And therefore, before any of you signed, it was the general wish that you should get respectable names?—Yes.

Then what passed to induce you to put your names before those respectable names were put?—Because we must do it directly.

Was there any thing said that respectable names would be got, so that if you put your names down at that time, respectable names would be got before the petition was sent up?—We wished that the petition should be respectably and numerous signed.

Was that held out as an engagement to you before you signed?—There was nothing held out to me before I signed.

Some of you had objected that you were called upon to sign it before respectable names, that is, persons of landed property had signed?—We were satisfied of that because there were blanks left upon the other side of the petition that those names should be put down.

Was that stated by any body?—Yes, they said it was for that.

Who said that?—I think Mr. Posnett; he said he wanted a few respectable names.

Then you are understood to state that when you were desired to sign your names you were told by Mr. Posnett that there was room left in order to get respectable names put down?—Yes, I think that was stated.

Can you recollect whether there were the names of any particular persons that were mentioned as being respectable persons whose names it was desirable to get?—I do not remember one, because he did not require directions of us.

Can you take upon yourself positively to state that there were none, or that you have no recollection of any?—I have no recollection of any particular person.

But only that respectable names would be got for which blanks were to be left?—Yes.

You were about twenty minutes in the room before Mr. Posnett left?—Yes.

Mr. Posnett took the petition with him?—Yes; he never left it in the room.

How long was he absent?—I do not know.

Did you understand for what purpose he left you?—I did not.

Have

Have you any recollection about how long he was absent?—I cannot tell, it might be ten minutes or so.

When he returned, how long did he remain in the room after his return?—No time, he was in a hurry to go to get breakfast at Mr. Eccleston's.

Were there any signatures put to the petition after his return?—None; they were all put as fast as they could write.

And there were no other signatures put when he returned the second time?—None; and it was not even produced.

So that you had no opportunity of seeing whether there were names put down upon it while you were absent?—We had not.

Was the petition produced at all?—No.

Did you see the outside of it, or did he keep it in his pocket after he returned?—After he folded it up I never saw it.

And you remained in the room all the time?—All the time.

Before you signed the petition had you taken your seats at the table?—No; I do not think we had, I am not sure.

Did you see Robert Bashford sign?—I did.

Was any remark made?—There was; it was said it would not do, his hand was shaking with fatigue.

He wanted somebody to sign for him?—Yes; because he had no specs.

Who offered to do it?—William Haggan.

Did Mr. Posnett make any remark upon it?—He did; he said it was bad.

Did he say that somebody should assist him?—He touched it to make it plain.

Did he do that to both the signatures or only to one?—To the first one.

In the second one did he keep the line better?—I did not look at the second; he wrote regardless how he wrote.

Did he get anybody to assist him the second time?—I think not.

Nobody helped to guide the pen?—I think not.

Who put the pen into his hand?—I do not know.

Did Mr. Posnett go round to give each a pen?—I cannot say; the ink-bottle was there.

Mr. Posnett pointed out where each person was to sign?—I had knowledge enough to know where to sign myself.

Did he tell you not to sign in the column on the left hand?—I do not think he did; but he said that that was for signatures.

Was the name of Mr. Dunn mentioned to Mr. Posnett?—Not at all.

Or the name of Mr. Kirk?—Not at all to my knowledge.

What is John Paislie?—I believe he is labourer to Mr. Kirk.

A common labourer?—He is overseer of the labourers.

Are you acquainted with Hugh Gormal?—I know him.

What is he?—A labourer.

In whose employ?—I believe at Mr. Kirk's.

Is he a freeman?—I do not think he is.

If Hugh Gormal's name had been upon the petition, should you have remarked it?—I do not think it was, and I made no remark on it; at that time I did not know whether he was or was not, but now I am informed that he was not.

The observation that was made with respect to Robert Bashford getting into the next column, was made with respect to the first petition?—Yes.

In the second one he probably conformed to the rule?—He tried to do better.

Were there any blanks left?—No, each line was filled up; he could not have interlined a new name without it being noticed, but Bashford's occupied two lines across.

Whose name was the one above your's?—I cannot tell.

Was it Bashford's first signature that Mr. Posnett touched up a little to make it more legible?—I think it was, for it required it.

And the one he wrote second was more like Bashford than the first?—I did not see him write the second.

Did you sign before him or after?—After.

Did you look at his name?—I did not; I made off from it and took my seat.

Did you see Hugh Larmour sign?—I did not; he was not in the room.

Which column did you sign your name in?—I believe it was the same.

The column on the right-hand?—The column on the right.

How many names were there in the same column that you saw?—I dare say there might be eight or nine, or there might be seven.

When were those names signed?—I do not know.

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Was Paisley's name there?—I think it was.

Was it above your's?—I cannot say.

You have stated, that you did not see the name of Hugh Gormal?—I did not.

Did you see the name of Hugh Larmour?—I think I did.

Do Paisley and Gormal reside at Carrickfergus?—No, they live about two miles up the North Road.

What sort of inkstand was there in the room?—I could say.

Were there two?—I do not know. There is one thing I wish to say; when I objected about the burgess, I thought it would do harm; because borough signifies burgess, and shire signifies a knight, any thing of a shire; I said it was unnecessary, because every man that is chosen to serve in parliament is a burgess.

Examined by Mr. Hubbersty.

When did you first see Mr. Posnett?—In my own house.

When?—I believe on the 25th of October.

Did you know him before that day?—No.

Did he inform you who had directed him to call on you?—I was a good while putting my clothes on in the room, I dare say four minutes, and by this time Bashford came in, and he said to Mr. Bashford, that Mr. M'Cartney had desired him to call on him.

You said he had a list of names, from which he read the names of White and Simms, which Simms do you mean?—I mean James Simms who lives in Cork Hill; there is James Simms a mariner, and James Simms a labourer; and it was James Simms the labourer.

Where does White live?—At Cork Hill.

For whom did they vote at the last election?—I believe they both voted for Sir Arthur, or for ———

Are you sure that they voted for one or other of those gentlemen?—I am sure that they did.

Were you present when they voted?—I was taking up tallies, and I saw them about the place.

Did you see White vote?—I cannot say, but I am sure he voted on that side.

When Mr. Posnett mentioned the names of White and James Simms, you said that you objected to have any conversation with them?—I did not altogether object, but I would not go for them.

Did you tell Mr. Posnett that you would not go for them?—No, I said never mind them.

Did you object to go for them?—I was not asked to go for them; he said, "where are such persons," but I said, never mind them.

Did you explain why you thought it better not to mind them?—No.

Will you explain now why you think it was better not to mind them?—My reason was that there was such a crowd about the door, there might have been been very bad work.

Did Mr. Posnett ever produce that list again in your presence?—Never.

Did he refer to it at all?—Not at all.

What did he do with it?—I do not know.

Was Mr. Posnett in Stuart's house when you arrived?—He was.

Up stairs?—Up stairs.

You went in by two and two?—Yes.

Who did you go with?—I am not sure, but I believe it was Bashford.

Did Mr. Posnett produce the petition as soon as you were all collected together?—He did.

Before Stuart was called up stairs or afterwards?—I am not sure; Stuart went to get a glass of liquor, and we said he was a friend.

And he staid in the room with you?—Yes.

Then the petition was read over?—Yes it was.

Were there pens and ink in the room?—Surely there must have been a pen.

There was no occasion for any body to go for them?—I do not think there was.

Did any of the persons you have named go out of the house to fetch a pen and ink?—Not to my knowledge.

Did Mr. Posnett inform you when he got to Carrickfergus?—He did not.

Did he tell you where he came from that morning?—He did not.

Did he say who had directed him to your house?—He did not.

Did he tell you where he had slept?—He told them generally that he had been at Mr. Eccleston's.

... You

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You have stated that he went to breakfast at Eccleston's that morning?—He said so. *William Hennedy.*

Were you at Eccleston's house that morning?—I went there after I had taken dinner; I went down to Mr. Eccleston's and asked him if he had signed the petition, and he said not, and then I left him.

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About what time of the day was that?—I think it was about two o'clock.

Where did you dine?—At my own house.

You had not been at Mr. Eccleston's before on that day?—No.

You did not go into Eccleston's house to speak to Mr. Posnett?—No.

You did not see him in Mr. Eccleston's house at all?—I did not see him in the house.

Did you see him come out of it?—No.

You were not in it at all whilst he was there?—I was not at all.

After Mr. Posnett had left Felix Stuart's house for the purpose of going to Eccleston's, did you look out of the window at all in the room you were in?—I did look out.

You could see Mr. Eccleston's house distinctly?—Yes.

A person standing at one of the windows of the room you were in could see Mr. Eccleston's house?—He could see a shade like.

Supposing there had been any person in the front room on the ground floor of Mr. Eccleston's house, you could see him?—Yes.

There was a blind in Mr. Eccleston's window?—Yes.

But you could see over it?—Yes.

Did you see any body in that room?—That was Mr. Eccleston's office.

Did you see any body in that office?—I think I saw Mr. Eccleston.

Did you see any body else?—I think I saw Mr. Posnett; but there were two glasses and the street.

Did you see them there for any length of time?—About ten minutes or so.

In that front office?—Yes.

Did you at all observe how they were occupied?—I saw them bending at the desk.

Will you describe to the Committee the situation of the desk?—There is a hall-door at going in; the door of the office is about two yards from the hall-door and turns in, and then the office turns to the left; and the desk is so that you have your right shoulder to the window.

Have you ever been in Eccleston's office?—Very often.

Then you have a perfect recollection of the desk?—Yes.

Will you state how high you think it is; is it higher than this table?—Yes, a good deal; it might be about four feet and a half.

So that you might conveniently write upon it if you were standing?—Yes, it is the usual height.

Is it the usual height of a standing desk in a counting-house?—Yes.

Did you see both of them standing as if they were writing at this desk?—They might be writing.

You could not see so much of the desk as to see a pen in their hands, but were they in the position for writing?—They might be counting money or they might be doing any thing.

Committee.]—The question put to you is, whether they were in such a position that they might be writing?—They were leaning forward to the desk, but I could not say what they were doing.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—Is the desk large enough for two persons to write upon it at once?—I think they would annoy each other.

To the best of your recollection were both leaning forward towards this desk at the same time?—I do not think they were.

First one and then the other?—They were going like through the room.

If they were going through the room is there another door in it?—None, but another entrance.

Then they could not go through it into another room?—No; unless by coming into the hall.

Will you explain what you mean by going through the room?—We saw them at times going by.

That is, you could see first one pass the window and then another?—Yes; they might have been lifting a hat, or they might have been getting any thing out of the room.

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If they were going by the window you could tell whether they went in the direction of the desk?—I saw them leaning that road.

And you also saw them leaning on the desk?—I could not particularly distinguish; I saw them like stooping to the desk.

Is there a table in that room beside the desk?—I do not know; there might have been a table there but the desk is stationary.

If there had been a table standing in the centre of that room do you think you would be able to distinguish it from the window you were standing at?—No.

The room is very small is not it?—It is.

If the table had been standing in the middle of that room and any large white object had been thrown upon the centre of it, do you not think you would have observed it?—I think I would not; I saw no table.

Do you not think it possible that if a table had been standing in the centre of the room, and a large white object had been placed upon that table you would have seen it?—I would have seen a newspaper probably, but I have taken no observation of the place since. Had I known this question would have been put to me I would have viewed the position of the place.

What width do you think the street is?—It might be about nine yards, I suppose, or seven.

How many paces would it require to walk across?—Seven or nine.

What height do you suppose the floor of the room in which you stood was from the street?—The usual height of a second story; eight or nine or ten feet.

Ten or a dozen feet?—It might be.

Then you were in such a position that you could immediately view over the street into Eccleston's front room?—Yes, we were waiting for Posnett to come, for he promised to come.

Who went to stand at the window with you?—John Haggan and me.

Did William Haggan look out with you?—He might.

From the description you have given of the position in which you stood, if the table had been standing in the middle of the room at Eccleston's, you think it probable that a large object, such as a newspaper, would be visible?—It might, or it might not.

How long do you imagine Mr. Posnett was absent, from the time that he was absent to go to breakfast till his return, for which you have said you were anxious?—I cannot say; he might be about ten minutes. We were going on, cracking about one thing and another: we were all of one sort, and we were speaking freely about what was taking place on the other side of the question.

You did not see them breakfasting in that room where you saw them walking backwards and forwards?—No, it is not the breakfast-room.

Do you think he was absent from you more than twenty minutes?—I could not say.

You have stated that you were waiting for his return?—He promised to shew us the signatures he would get.

Then when he left you at Felix Stuart's, he left you for the purpose of getting other signatures, and he promised to come and shew you the signatures he should get?—Yes.

Did you see him return from Eccleston's house to the house you were in?—I did not.

Then you left the window?—It was further on in time after that; it was, I dare say, three quarters of an hour after the petition was signed by us.

Was it during the time he was absent from you, for the purpose of getting his breakfast, that you saw him?—I am not sure at what time he got his breakfast; but the message that came for him was, to come to breakfast.

Was it during his absence from the room where you were that you saw him in Eccleston's room?—Yes; I do not think he returned after he went to breakfast.

Then he did not perform his promise in returning to shew you the signatures he had got?—No.

Was he absent more than once from Stuart's; did he leave the room more than once?—No.

From the time you first met him there in the morning till he went to Eccleston's to breakfast, did he leave the room at all?—I do not think he left the room.

Then the first time that he left the room was when he was sent for, as you understood, to breakfast?—Yes, whether he went out and came in at the door again, I cannot

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I cannot say; I believe he came once to the door; he called for glasses a-piece when we first went into the room.

You have said that when you saw them walking backwards and forwards in Eccleston's office, it was three quarters of an hour after you had signed the petition; how long do you think it was after Mr. Posnett had gone over as you have told us, to breakfast?—He went over to breakfast in about twenty minutes after he came in first of all, but whether he got breakfast or not I do not know.

Did you ever see him afterwards?—I never saw him afterwards till I saw him in London.

Did you see Mr. Eccleston at any other time on the subject of this petition?—I never spoke to Mr. Eccleston about this petition since that time when I asked him if he had signed it, and he said not; and I thought little of him for it; I thought he might have signed what he asked other people to do.

Who did he ask to sign?—I only heard that he had asked other people; I heard it from report.

As you went to Eccleston's house for the purpose of asking him whether he had signed the petition, did you ask him what other persons had signed it?—I did not.

Did you tell him that Mr. Posnett had promised to return and shew it to you after he had got signatures?—I do not think I did.

You have stated that you have seen Mr. Posnett since you came to London?—Yes, I have.

How did you know where to find him in London?—The man that was with me went to the hotel where he stopped.

Before you came to London did you know where Mr. Posnett was?—I was told that he lodged in a house and the number.

Who told you?—I believe it was John Haggan.

Where were you when he told you so?—I was at John Haggan's father's in Carrickfergus.

[The witness produced a book.]

What book is that in your hand?—It is a memorandum book.

Was that a memorandum you made at the time?—No; when I was leaving I wished to have some place to put my head into; I marked his residence from John Haggan.

You went to Belfast the day after you were summoned?—I did.

What was your object in going there?—To buy yarn and sail cloth, and provide work for my family while I was away.

Committee.]—What is your trade?—A weaver.

Mr. Hubbersty.]—Had you any conversation at Belfast with any person upon the subject of this petition?—William Haggan was there; I do not remember having any conversation.

Did you see Mr. McCartney when you were at Belfast?—I did not.

Did you call at his office?—I did not.

When you saw Posnett in the front room of Eccleston's house, did you mention that to the persons in the same room with yourself?—I wondered what they were doing; we might put what opinion we liked upon it; we might surmise what they were doing.

William Haggan was in the room, was not he?—I have no doubt that he was; there was a crowd in the street about an effigy that took our attention to the window at the time.

Then William Haggan knew that those two persons were in Eccleston's office?—I dare say he did.

Did you speak to him about it?—We were waiting to see if he would come and to see the petition, to see if it were signed numerously.

You were anxious to see what signatures he got to it?—Yes; but the man had to leave town immediately, and that left no time.

Who said so?—Mr. Posnett.

When did he say so?—When he came into the room first of all, he said he was in a hurry, and he had not time to make it public among Sir Arthur's friends.

In point of fact, when Mr. Posnett left Carrickfergus, did you know from him, or from any other person, what number of signatures were at the foot of that petition?—No.

Did no one tell you?—No one told us.

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Did you know from any one that any signatures beyond those which you had seen, had been subsequently affixed to the petition?—No person told me any such thing.

Did you not ask?—I asked Mr. Eccleston if he signed it, but no other person.

Although you had been waiting for Mr. Posnett to see whether the petition was numerously signed, you did not ask any body whether your intention had been carried into effect, or not?—I did not.

You have informed the Committee, that your names were written in lines, and that there was no room to interline any names?—I think not.

[*The original Petition was shown to the Witness.*]

Is that your own hand-writing?—That is my name and hand-writing.

[*The duplicate was shown to the Witness.*]

Will you look at that?—That is my name and hand-writing.

You have already said, that when you signed your name, you did not believe there was room to interline a name above your's?—I am sure there was not, I wrote up close.

Did you look at the adjoining column?—I do not think there were any of those two columns (*the two columns on the right hand*), but these two columns were all there (*the two columns on the left hand*.)

Will you look at the names in the second column, and say whether, to the best of your recollection, all those names were there?—I think, from the appearance of the signatures, that there was no room to interline.

You are well acquainted with the freemen of Carrickfergus generally?—I am.

Then looking at this second column, you know the men to whom those names belong?—I do know all the men, but whether this name, M'Dermott, was on it, I do not know.

You see there are ten names in that second column; you have already stated that you, of the six at Stuart's, signed your name the last; do you think that all those names were then at the foot of the petition?—There are more names than I think were there at the time.

Was Robert Willis's name there?—It was not.

Are you sure of that?—I am sure I did not see it.

Did you see Paisley's name?—I thought I did, but now I see the petition, I thought it was on the other line.

Will you look at the duplicate?—(*The Witness looked at the duplicate Petition.*)—I cannot say whether those names were there, but it appeared to me that the names were pretty close at the top.

Committee.—You stated that you were not sure of the name of Adam M'Dowell, and the name of William M'Dermott, or the name of John Paisley?—Yes.

And Hugh Gormall you are certain you did not see?—Yes.

And you are quite certain that the name of Robert Willis was not there when you signed?—I saw Archibald M'Galpin; I saw John Logan; I saw Samuel Hughes; I saw Perceval Ingram; I saw Robert Kerr, and I saw John Milburn.

You did not see Hugh Gormall and John Paisley?—I am positive I did not.

Did not you say that when you wrote your name there was no room to write another name?—I think not.

If Hugh Gormall's name had been there would not you have seen it?—I did not take particular heed, but I am sure I did not notice Hugh Gormall, for they were all looking over their shoulders in a confused way; if I had been by myself I could have told.

Were there any one of those names in this third column?—None.

Will you look carefully at that signature of John Hamilton; do you know any person of that name?—I know John Hamilton in the country, a farmer; I have a neighbour called John Hamilton, a shoemaker; he lives three doors from my house.

Is he a freeman?—No; but I know John Hamilton in the country, he is a freeman.

Do you know John Hamilton the mason?—Yes.

Do you know all these men well?—Yes.

Is that signature the hand-writing of any one of those men?—I do not think they could write so well; it is not customary for workmen to write a good hand.

Did you ever see any of them write; is not one of them your cousin?—He is my second cousin.

Can

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Can he write at all?—I think he can.

Will you look again at that signature, and see whether you have seen any hand-writing that you think this is like?—I have seen good copies of writing.

Do you mean copies for children?—Men that write a plain hand.

Are you familiar with any person's hand-writing of which that signature reminds you?—I cannot judge; I am not a man of business.

Will you answer the question in the best way you can; are you familiar with any person's hand-writing of which that signature reminds you?—I could not say.

Will you look at the same signature there—(*in the duplicate Petition*); are you familiar with any person's hand-writing of which that signature reminds you?—I do not pretend to be a judge, and cannot take upon me to say that it is any person's hand-writing; I might say things that would not be true.

You do not know any person whose hand-writing it is?—I may know the person, but I do not know that it is their writing.

You have already stated, that when you saw Eccleston and Posnett walking backwards and forwards in the front office of Eccleston's house, you conversed in the room in which you were upon the subject?—Yes.

You wondered what they were doing?—We could not know; we might form an opinion.

Was any opinion as to their occupation at that time expressed?—I cannot say that there was, because I did not know; we might have formed a false opinion.

Did you yourself express any opinion as to what they were doing?—I might have expressed an opinion, and have been wrong.

Did you express an opinion?—I cannot remember.

Are you sure you did not?—We were standing and taking a glass, and many a chat comes over that I cannot remember, but we were not in liquor.

Committee.]—If you did express any opinion, whatever opinion you expressed at the time, did you believe at the time?—I might believe wrong.

If you did express any opinion of what they were about, did you believe the fact upon which you expressed an opinion on at that time?—I cannot think I did; we were not very serious, we were sitting over a glass.

Did you go back to the party and say such and such a thing I have seen, and I believe it to be true?—I never left the room, and I could not see any thing that I could give as fact to any body.

What remarks did you make, did you say "there is Mr. Eccleston and Mr. Posnett in the room"?—I did say they were in the room.

Having expressed your wonder at what they were about, did you state any thing that you believed them to be about at that time?—I might believe them to be writing or doing something.

Did you believe at that time that they were writing?—I cannot say what I believed, for we were enjoying each other's company pleasantly.

Did you express any opinion of having a belief at that time?—I cannot say.

You were standing at the window?—I was sitting at the window.

Being at the window, you told the Committee that you saw Eccleston and you saw Posnett; did you turn round to your companions and say, I can see Eccleston and Posnett, and I see they are doing such and such things?—I said I saw them, for I had been at the window.

Whatever you did state at the time, was it true?—What I saw and stated in the room was true, I saw it with my eyes.

Then what was it you stated?—That I saw them; what they might be doing I do not know.

What did you state at the time?—I stated that they were in the office and that I saw them, and what they were about I cannot say.

State what you saw, and what you stated at that time that you did see?—I saw them, and I could tell nothing what I saw else.

You say you stated something, what is it you stated?—That I saw them and they were going backwards and forwards, and they might have had somebody in the room.

What did you actually see?—I saw them in the room, and I told the rest in the room what I saw.

Did you say any thing else besides that at the time?—No, I said nothing else, I could have nothing to say.

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Did you see any body else in the room with them at the time when you saw them over the desk?—I cannot say; I do not think I did, it was a slight look between the two glasses and across the street.

The question is, what you saw and believed you saw at the time, and what you stated and believed at the time?—What I stated I believed.

What was it you stated?—That they were in the room, and why did he not come up, for we would be glad of his company in the room.

Mr. *Hubbersty*.]—You have stated that you wondered what they were doing, what did you go on to say after that?—I cannot tell.

Did you say anything?—I cannot say; there was no great regularity; one man had got a glass, and he would speak of any subject.

What did you say after you had expressed your wonder?—I have told you all I saw.

The Committee wish to know what you said as well as what you saw?—I cannot tell what I said, but that I said there they were; and I do not know whether William Haggan saw it particularly; John did, for he was next to me, and we were looking at the crowd in the street.

Did not you say to John Haggan anything as to what you supposed they might be doing?—I had no suspicion of such a thing as signatures being put to the petition.

The question is not whether what you said was true, but what did you say to John Haggan, when you expressed your wonder at what they were doing?—I cannot remember what I said, for as I said the glass was going round.

You are quite sure that you do not recollect anything that you said after your expression of wonder?—I cannot say..

Committee.]—When did you first hear that any names had been forged to this petition?—The first thing I heard of it was when I was getting my potatoes up in November; and a carman came with an oath to me, and said, I had done a pretty job, why did I sign a petition against Lord George Hill, and there were so many names forged, and my name, and I did not satisfy him whether I did it or not, because he was a sort of a goose lad. “But what about it,” said I, “I would sign twenty.” He asked, “Did you sign it?” I would not tell him. He said, “Was it a forgery?” I would not tell him whether it was or not. That was the first thing I knew of it, after the return from the Hanaper Office came down. It might be about the 1st of November, the very same man attacked me about it, and was going to beat me for it, and nothing would save me but my own hand.

Did he say any thing to you about your having put any names to the petition besides your own?—No; he never accused me of that.

Did any one else accuse you?—Never; I never put any one’s name but my own name to it.

Examined by Mr. Cookson.

You mentioned that Mr. Posnett had in his hand a list of names at the time he called upon you?—Yes.

And you saw the list, but did not see the names in particular?—I saw a list, and I saw the writing, but I did not read it.

You mentioned the name of White, and you mentioned the name of James Simms; what quarter of Carrickfergus do these men live in?—In Cork Hill, about five minutes walk from my house.

In what part of the town do the other persons mentioned live in; what quarter does Williamson live in?—In German Bank, that is further on.

Is that in a different quarter of the town?—It is in the other side of the town.

Where does Thomas Hamilton live?—The same part.

And John Hamilton?—The same part.

What did Mr. Posnett state this list to be of?—He did not state what it was, but that he was sent by Mr. M^cCartney. At this time Bashford came just as I came out of my own bed-room, just after I was up, which was about eight o’clock, because I did not like to rise early that morning as the other party was about with the effigy.

You say there might be about five or seven names in that list?—There might be.

Do you know where he got that paper from?—I do not.

He is a stranger in Carrickfergus?—He is.

Do you know who sent him to you?—I do not.

Do you know who directed him to the particular part of the town where you resided?—I do not know.

Then

Then you cannot state in particular the names that were upon the list?—I cannot, *William Henneidy.*
he read those two names to me.

Did he mention Bashford's name?—No, Bashford was present.

Did he mention your brother's name?—No, he had seen him, he had been at his house before.

Did he mention either of the Haggans' names?—The Haggans were with him at the door.

In what quarter does James Simms live?—At Cork Hill.

Robert Willis, where does he live?—In Cork Hill too.

Where does James Willis live?—He lives in the town, he is a chandler.

Does he live in the same part of the town that you live in?—No, he lives in the town opposite the market house, and I live up at the Irish gate.

You mentioned that they showed you where you were to sign your name, who was it showed you where you were to sign?—Somebody said sign there, and I just filled it up, and left no interval.

Your name appears in a different column from all other names?—I took mine aside.

Who told you to do so?—I will tell you the reason for that; it was a family affair; my brother and me had not been very intimate, and his name was there, and I did not sign under his, and that was my reason for going from all the rest.

Then in point of fact the part where you signed your name was your own selection?—Yes.

And when they told you where to sign, it was merely that they told you to sign the petition?—Yes, I knew where to sign it.

You mentioned that when Mr. Posnett called upon you in the morning, he mentioned some place where you should assemble to sign the petition?—He wanted to go to a private apartment in my own house, and my children was in one room and my wife in the other, and I ordered her to rise immediately.

Mr. Posnett mentioned some house to you where you should go?—Yes, he said to them that were round to go to Simms's; no, they said they might as well go to Mr. Hanley's parlour.

Who is Mr. Hanley?—He has been an agent for Lord George Hill.

Mr. Hanley is a person who interests himself for the other party?—Yes, and that was the comparison we made, that Simms was an enemy to Sir Arthur, and we would not expose the business by going to his house, and we went to Stuart's.

It is Mr. Robert Hanley you speak of?—Yes.

Is he a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Do you know who he voted for at the last election?—I am not sure, but I am sure he is a good friend of Lord George.

Had you ever heard any thing said which induced you to think that you ran any risk of the injury by signing any petition?—I am certain that I suffered great persecution by that, and I was threatened to be beat.

By whom?—By William Simms.

Who is he?—He is a carman that lives opposite to me.

Is that the carman of whom you spoke just now?—It is the carman's brother; he had his fist up to me and would have struck me, till I told him that I would punish him for it.

Then he is not on the same side with yourself?—No, he is not, he was on that side before, but he has turned about, he voted for Sir Arthur at a former election.

Has there been any intimidation, except that you have mentioned, used towards you, to prevent your signing the petition?—I had signed it before, but my neighbours are not satisfied with me for it.

Can you mention any person that has complained of your signing the petition?—Many a one complains of me.

Has any thing been said to you upon the subject of your having signed the petition since you signed, except what you have mentioned the carman said?—I have been accused for it and blamed greatly for it: they asked why did I do it, and I did not wish to enter into any excuse about it.

You say that you were standing at the window of the room of Felix Stuart's house where the petition was signed?—I was sitting and standing at times, and looking at the crowd, and that took my attention to the window.

When you were standing you could see out of the window, could you?—Yes.

You say that you saw two persons in Mr. Eccleston's office?—Yes.

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I think you said at first you saw a shadow?—Yes, it could be only a shadow that I saw looking through the window, but I believe it was them.

Why do you believe it to be them?—Because I saw them through the glass.

Had you such a distinct view of them that you could identify the persons?—Yes.

That there were two persons, and that those two persons were Mr. Eccleston and Mr. Posnett?—Yes, I thought it was them.

But you knew their figures?—I believe it was them, I would not swear so positively as seeing them in the street.

Did you see them with sufficient distinctness to have spoken to them if they had been in any other house, and you had seen them with equal distinctness?—They could not have heard what I said.

If you had seen those two persons in any other house than Mr. Eccleston's house, would you have known them to be Mr. Eccleston and Mr. Posnett, from the view that you had had of them?—Yes, if they had been in the street.

You saw these two persons in Mr. Eccleston's house, was that the reason why you thought Mr. Eccleston to be one?—Seeing Mr. Eccleston in his own office, gave me better reason to judge it was him.

If they had been in another house in the same street, and you looking across at the same distance, should you have known them to be those persons?—Hardly so much, but it strengthened my opinion that it was them, from his saying that he was going to Mr. Eccleston's.

Who looked through the window besides?—We had two windows.

Who looked besides?—John Haggan.

Did William Haggan?—I do not think he was at that window.

You made some observation that you wondered what they were doing that they did not come: had Mr. Eccleston ever proposed to come?—Never; I was surprised that Mr. Posnett did not come.

Then, when you said that you wondered what they were doing that they did not come, what did you mean?—If I said *they* I ought to have said *he*.

Then you meant to say that you wondered what they were doing that he did not come?—Yes.

You mentioned that it was about three quarters of an hour after the petition was signed that you were looking out?—It might be that.

But you said in another part of your evidence that Mr. Posnett was away about a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes?—I paid no attention to it, for Bashford was in liquor and he was talking loud, and I was disturbed with him, and I did not pay any particular attention to it after I had signed.

Do you mean to say that it was before Mr. Posnett returned the second time that you saw him and Mr. Eccleston in Mr. Eccleston's office?—It was further on; it was nine o'clock, I dare say, when the petition was signed, and then he went over, and I suppose got breakfast; and it was the time about the effigy coming down, and that took my attention.

How long was that after?—It might be an hour or three-quarters of an hour; it might be about ten o'clock.

How soon after the signatures were affixed did Mr. Posnett leave the room?—Pretty quick.

Did he return at all?—After he returned he got to the door, but he paid no attention to the company, and I did not attend to him; I think he had been about the door.

How long was Mr. Posnett away after the petition was signed before he returned to the door, as you recollect?—I do not know, I did not pay any particular attention.

Was it after he came to the door that you saw him in Mr. Eccleston's office?—Yes; it was no doubt three-quarters of an hour after the petition was signed; there were no signatures affixed but the persons I have named.

Then after you saw Mr. Posnett and Mr. Eccleston in Mr. Eccleston's office, did you ever see Mr. Posnett again?—Never.

Did Mr. Posnett ever come over to Felix Stuart's house after that time?—Never.

But Mr. Posnett did after breakfast?—Whether before or after breakfast I do not know; the chat was going round and there was no more attention paid.

Were you perfectly sober at the time?—I was; I said the man along aside of me, who was in liquor, disturbed me.

In point of fact, did you leave the room to go over to Mr. Eccleston's, at any time after Mr. Posnett had left the room?—No, never.

Did any one go over after Mr. Posnett?—I think they did.

Do

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Do you recollect who went over for Mr. Posnett?—I do not know.

What was the reason for going over to Mr. Posnett?—I think it was curiosity to see the signatures of the petition.

Was it any thing about getting any more drink?—I wanted no more, but I think Bashford wanted some more.

You believe that some one did go over to Mr. Posnett; did he go over to Mr. Posnett?—I think he went over to see him.

Mr. *Hubbersty*.]—Who was it that went over?—I am sure I cannot tell.

Are you sure that any body went at all?—I think there was.

What reason have you for remembering it?—I heard that he went to see the petition from curiosity, to see how many there were.

Who did you hear say so?—In the room generally.

You were standing in the room with John Haggan; did John Haggan go?—No.

Was it William?—I believe it might be; I do not know.

Are you certain that any body went?—I think somebody went.

What answer did they bring back?—That he was not in, and we stopped to see the petition, and that caused a little more drink to come in, and still we waited and wished to see it.

Was it your brother that went over?—I do not know.

You think it was William Haggan that went, but whoever it was he brought an answer that Posnett was not in?—I think he did.

Have you any doubt of it?—I speak only from our pass word.

Committee.]—Did you hear the answer that was brought over?—He told it to me.

Did you hear what he told to them?—I cannot remember, or whether he went or not; for I got alongside of Bashford, and I could not hear well. I think it passed round that he was not in; for, as I remember, we were desirous to see the petition, and we sat on.

When you were speaking to John Haggan at the window, expressing your wonder what Eccleston and Posnett were doing, in what part of the room was William Haggan?—I cannot tell, but I think he was on the other side of the table.

Do you think he over-heard what you said?—I cannot tell.

It is a small room, is not it?—It is a large room.

How large?—I dare say it is about fifteen feet long, and about twelve wide; there are two windows in front, and the table was between the two windows, and there was a writing desk in the room.

Do you think he was in such a situation that he could overhear what passed between you and John Haggan?—I cannot say.

Will you write the name of John Hennedy?—(*The Witness wrote the same.*)

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

William Haggan, called in; and Examined, as follows.

ARE you a freeman of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Did you vote at the last election?—Yes.

For whom?—For Sir Arthur Chichester.

Did you sign a petition against the return of Lord George Hill?—I did.

Without entering further into the question under what circumstances the petition was signed, did you or not sign it at the house of Felix Stuart?—I did.

In the presence of Robert Bashford, William Hennedy, John Hennedy and John Haggan?—Yes.

And Felix Stuart himself?—Yes.

On what day, and at what o'clock in the day, was it?—I suppose it was about nine of the morning.

On what day?—I believe it was on Wednesday.

In what month, and what day of the month?—I think it was about the 24th or 25th day of October.

Being in the room at Felix Stuart's at nine o'clock in the morning with the persons you have named did you see the house of Mr. Eccleston opposite?—Yes.

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Were you near the window of the room of Felix Stuart's house?—There are two windows, and I was at one of them.

Did you look into the street, over to the house of Mr. Eccleston?—I did.

Tell the Committee what you saw?—I did not see any thing.

Did you see any person in the house?—I did not.

Were you at the window the whole time?—No, the window I was at was not opposite Eccleston's window.

Did you hear any observation by any person in the room, as to any one or more persons whom they had seen in Eccleston's house?—Yes.

Tell the Committee what passed upon that subject?—It was supposed that they were adding some names to the petition.

Who were the persons supposed to be adding to the petition?—It was supposed to be Eccleston, as it was in his house, and he was not in the house with us.

Who was the other person?—Mr. Posnett.

What induced them to suppose this?—We had a suspicion of our own; but we did not know whether it was so.

Did any person in your hearing say, here is such a person, and such another person doing any thing?—They did.

Tell us what they said?—They said they thought they were writing.

That was said out loud in the room?—Yes.

Did you see the paper on which they were writing?—No.

What made you think they were writing upon the petition?—It was nothing more than a supposition.

Had you had any conversation about the difficulty of getting names to the petition?—No, I am sure there would have been no difficulty if they had then taken time; I am persuaded in an hour's time they could have had a hundred.

If there was no difficulty in getting names why should they write them?—We might be wrong in our opinions, but I am persuaded in an hour's time there could be a hundred people got.

Did you go over to Eccleston's house to know how many signatures they had got?—No.

Did any person go from Stuart's?—Not that I know of.

Was there any wish expressed by those who had signed the petition to know how many had signed it?—I did not hear any one.

Did you care how many signed it?—I considered that there would be a great many more; the man told us before he went away, at about half-past nine, he was to meet Mr. Cowan, and Mr. Cowan was to have a party for the purpose of signing it. Mr. Cowan is a master cotton spinner.

Did you ever talk amongst yourselves again about your suspicion that names had been added to it in Mr. Eccleston's house that morning?—It has been talked about many a time; we did not know that there was any forgery till after it had gone to Dublin.

Did you hear a suspicion expressed, that Mr. Eccleston and Mr. Posnett were writing the names themselves, or that they were standing by when other persons were signing?—It is impossible I could say that.

You say that you heard a suspicion that Mr. Posnett was adding names to the petition?—Yes, it was talked of.

That he was writing them himself?—I do not know, I have heard some people consider that he did them.

What was said at the time, in the public room, by any person whom you have named, as part of the freemen then assembled, as calling out to you such and such a thing is now doing; you have stated that it was said publicly in the room that they were getting names?—It was supposed that they were doing it.

Doing what?—Signing.

That who was signing?—We supposed those two men, one or other.

Did any person ever say that you had signed any name beside your own?—I did hear it repeatedly said.

Any particular name?—Yes; I heard that there was a man that would swear I wrote John Haggan's name.

He is your brother?—Yes; and he wrote his own name at the time in my presence.

Who wrote above your name?—Bashford signed before me.

Had Bashford any difficulty in signing?—The man does not write without specs, and he had none, and he had been-working hard in the morning; he is a man

man that keeps a good deal of cows and makes cheese in summer, and he carries food from the distillery, and he had got two or three glasses of spirits that morning, and between the working and the want of the specs he could not write his name so well as he does sometimes.

William Haggan.

2 February,
1831.

Was there any person at the same window with you in Stuart's house?—There was not; the table was across, between the two windows.

Who was at the window opposite to Eccleston's?—It was William Hennedy and John Haggan.

Examined by Mr. Hubbersty.

You have informed the Committee, that you were at the window furthest from the point opposite to Eccleston's house?—Yes.

You have said that an opinion was expressed in the room, that Posnett and Eccleston were adding names to the petition; did you express that opinion yourself?—I did, like the rest.

Have you expressed that opinion at any subsequent time?—I could not say.

Is it at this time your opinion that they were then engaged in signing names to this petition?—I do not know that I could form an opinion as to that.

At the time you were in the room, did you believe that Posnett and Eccleston were in the front room on the ground floor of his house?—I did.

Did you believe that they were at that time engaged in signing names to that petition?—Yes.

Do you believe it still?—I am sure I do not know.

Has any thing occurred to shake your belief?—I cannot say there has.

Have you not conversed on this subject since that day?—I have, no doubt.

Have you not asserted it to be the fact, to the best of your belief, that the forged names were actually written in that parlour on that morning?—No, I never did assert it in that kind of way.

Do you know Samuel M'Skimmon?—I do.

[The Witness withdrew.]

[Mr. Hubbersty delivered in the following Paper, which was read:]

WE the undersigned, having seen our names affixed to a Petition against the return of Lord George Hill as representative to the county of the town of Carrickfergus, do hereby certify and declare such signatures to said Petition never were signed by us, or with our approbation.

+ James Willis

✓ Edw^d Williamson

+ Rabt Chapln

Rob^t Ker

✓ W^m Williamson

✓ Philip Williamson

✓ Thomas Hamilton

✓ W^m Reid

+ James ^{his} × Simm
mark

✓ John Hamilton

+ Henry ^{his} × White
mark

W^m ^{his} × Henderson
mark

+ W^m ^{his} × M'Dermot
mark

Hugh Gormel

John Paisley

Adam M'Dowell

Robert ^{his} × Willis
mark

Jovis, 3^o die Februarii, 1831.

SIR ROBERT HARRY INGLIS, BART.

IN THE CHAIR.

William Haggan, again called in; and further Examined by
Mr. Hubbersty, as follows.

William Haggan.

3 February,
1831.

DO you know Samuel M'Skimmon?—I do.

Do you remember being in company with him some time about the 12th of December last?—I do not.

Do you remember meeting Mr. M'Skimmon somewhere about the North Gate?—No.

Do you remember any conversation which you have had with Mr. M'Skimmon on the subject which is now investigating before this Committee?—I do not at present remember any.

Do you remember informing Mr. M'Skimmon, at any time, that the forged names were not put to that petition at Felix Stuart's house?—I do not remember it, I might have said it.

Do you remember that you told him, that in fact they were put to the petition at John Eccleston's house?—No, I did not say so; I could not say so.

You have stated that you never informed Mr. M'Skimmon that the forged names were afterwards put to the petition in the house of John Eccleston?—I can assure you that I believe that I am as far from telling a lie as Mr. M'Skimmon, and I could not say a thing that I did not know.

Did you say that you believed it?—As to that I will not say.

Have you any recollection of the conversation to which I allude?—I have not at present.

Do you know James Irwin?—I do.

Do you remember its being said that James Irwin came to Felix Stuart's house when you were there?—Yes, I do.

Do you recollect what it was which was stated to pass between you and James Irwin?—I remember something of it; the man was intoxicated when he came; he is a very uncertain man when he is in that way, and a man that is very much given to making disturbance.

I am only asking you what it is that was said to have passed there; what was it said in the town of Carrickfergus had passed between you and James Irwin?—There was something of a scold ensued.

Was it not said that James Irwin came there, and that you asked him to sign the petition?—It is a matter impossible; I suppose that the petition was in Belfast before James Irwin came there; and how could I ask him to sign it when it was in Belfast, eight Irish miles from Carrickfergus.

I ask you what the report was in the town of Carrickfergus, as to what had passed between you and James Irwin at Felix Stuart's?—I do not know as to the report.

Was it not reported in Carrickfergus, that James Irwin came to you at Felix Stuart's house; that you asked him to sign the petition; that he told you that he would not sign a petition with thieves, rogues and resurrection-men, and that either you struck him or that he struck you?—I never heard so.

Did you never inform Mr. M'Skimmon that you had heard so?—I did not.

Did you not tell him that it was false?—I did not tell him such a story as that, because I never heard it till this minute.

Did you not explain to him that there had been a quarrel between you and Irwin?—It might have been the case, but I do not remember it.

Was there not in point of fact a quarrel between you and him?—There was.

What was the cause of that?—I will tell you, that a man came there intoxicated, and the man has a public house, and it was a house of call for Sir Arthur's people at the election; and I was in the house, and had been repeatedly in the house, and he charged me with writing an anonymous letter against him, saying, that he did not give value for the money that he charged; and such a thing I never did

did and never thought of; but that was the charge against me, and that it was that bred the dispute.

Do you not remember informing Mr. M'Skimmon that that was the cause of the dispute?—I do not recollect that; I do not at present remember speaking with M'Skimmon upon the subject since it happened; it might have taken place, but I do not at this moment remember it.

Was there not a little account between you and M'Skimmon?—There is an account between us at present.

Was there, some time about the month of December last, a little account between you and Mr. M'Skimmon?—I recollect that he spoke to me upon that subject.

Without stating what passed respecting the account, will you state what passed during that conversation between Mr. M'Skimmon and yourself, keeping out of view the account?—I do not remember, but I remember his speaking to me with reference to the account.

Where was it?—It was in James Graham's public house, opposite the Irish Gate.

Did you meet him in the street?—I met him in the Irish Gate, and he said he wanted to speak to me.

And you went into Graham's?—I did.

Will you endeavour to recollect the conversation that passed between you and M'Skimmon upon that occasion, not respecting the account?—I do not recollect.

Had you no conversation with him at that time respecting this petition?—I might have had it, but I do not remember one single item of it; but it might have been the case.

You informed the Committee yesterday that whilst you were in the upper room at Felix Stuart's house, there was a conversation passed in the room with regard to the then occupation of Posnett and Eccleston in Eccleston's house, you informed the Committee that you imagined they were then engaged in putting names to this petition?—I did say so.

And you also informed them that it was still your belief that at that time they were engaged in putting names to the petition?—I do not know whether I might say *they* or not; but I suppose they or some one of them, or may be both, I could not say.

You stated yesterday that it was still your belief that they were so engaged?—I think it was done in that house.

If you think so now, have you quite forgotten that you ever told Mr. M'Skimmon so?—I might have told him, but I do not recollect it; but I say it might have taken place.

Did you ever see a print of that handbill before?—(*A handbill being shown to the Witness, intituled, "The Old Cork Chronicle Extraordinary, November 1830."*)—Yes; I have seen a copy of that.

When you were at James Graham's with Mr. M'Skimmon, did you not ask him if you could get one of these?—I did, and I got one.

Now you remember that you had some conversation about the petition?—There is no doubt I had; for I asked him for a copy of that, and I considered that I was charged, though my name was not mentioned.

In that conversation which passed with M'Skimmon at that time, did you not say that a part of the statement in this handbill was false?—Yes.

Do you now remember that on that occasion you had a conversation with Mr. M'Skimmon on the subject of this petition?—I do not remember it; but I say I do not doubt it.

You remember asking for a copy of this handbill?—I do; I called on him in his own shop for it.

I am alluding to the conversation at James Graham's, did you not ask him at James Graham's if you could get a copy of that handbill?—I have no doubt of it.

Will you now recollect, as far as you can, what passed upon the subject of the petition upon that occasion between you and Mr. M'Skimmon?—I do not recollect; I would not wish to be forced to answer a thing I do not know.

Did you not say on that occasion to Mr. M'Skimmon that the statement that the forged names were put to the petition in the house of Felix Stuart was false?—I did say so, because I knew it was false; there is no doubt I said so.

William Haggan.

3 February,
1831.

William Haggan.

3 February,
1831.

Did you not also say that the forged names were put to the petition at John Eccleston's?—No; that is a thing I do not know.

Do you mean to say that you did not say so to Mr. M'Skimmon?—I did not say that in the way you ask it; I might have said that I believed it was done there; but to say it was done there, I could not say.

Do you recollect what you did say?—I do not.

Did you say you believed they were put to it there?—I have no doubt I did, but to say it was done there is quite a different thing from a man's belief.

How long did you remain in Felix Stuart's house after Mr. Posnett had left it?—May be two or three hours; it was a public day, or an appearance of public disturbance, indeed, for there had been two effigies hanged the night before, and there was a great concourse of the rabble assembled in the streets.

Did you see Mr. Posnett at Mr. Eccleston's in the front room yourself?—I did not.

You have explained that the window at which you stood was not immediately opposite to it?—I sat at one window, and the table went between the one window and the other, and somebody else sat at the other window, and that window was directly opposite.

You remember that they said that they saw Posnett and Eccleston?—Yes.

Who said so?—I remember John Haggan and William Henneidy both said so.

Did they describe in your hearing what they saw?—They saw them at the window, but there was a curtain across the window.

You mean a window blind?—Yes.

Covering the window in part?—About half.

Then in the direction in which they stood they could see over that blind?—They could see the head and shoulders.

Did they describe in your hearing what it appeared to them Posnett and Eccleston were doing?—I do not recollect that they did.

Did they say that they were exchanging places?—Eccleston has an office he does business in.

I ask you if they described Posnett and Eccleston as changing places?—They did say they saw them, first one and then another, at the desk.

Did they say that they saw them doing anything particularly?—They did not.

Did they say that they exchanged pens?—No, I did not hear a word of it.

Who was it that first said that he supposed they were putting names to this petition?—I could not say as to that.

But you were all of that opinion?—It was supposed so.

Was Felix Stuart in the room at that time?—I do not think he was; I think Felix Stuart knew little about it, for being the landlord of the house he was going about paying attention to his business.

How long a time do you think Posnett and Eccleston were in the room together?—I could not say; Posnett left us to go to Mr. Cowan, as I said before, to meet Mr. Cowan; Mr. Cowan was to meet him with what he called a group, to get signatures; and before we had all signed there was a rap at the door, and Mr. Posnett was asked to go to Mr. Eccleston's to breakfast, and he waited and wrapped up the petition, and took it to Eccleston's to take breakfast as we supposed.

Committee.]—Did he mention by name any person that was to meet him at Mr. Cowan's mills?—Not Mr. Cowan's mills; Mr. Cowan was to meet him, but he did not say where.

Can you not recollect how long a time Posnett and Eccleston, in your belief, were in that room together?—I could not.

You had a good deal of conversation on the subject?—We had conversation on different subjects; we did say that we suspected that such a thing was going on.

Will you explain what reason you had for such a suspicion?—I could not explain that.

This was a very interesting petition to you, and you wished to know what further names were put to it, what cause of suspicion had you at the time that they were then engaged in forging names?—I could not say, but still we did suspect it.

Had any thing passed between you and Mr. Posnett?—Not a single word more than what I have said.

Did any thing pass between you and Mr. Posnett respecting the expediency of writing the names of other persons?—I do not remember.

Did

Did not Bashford wish somebody to write his name for him?—He wrote his name first, and did it so badly, that he asked me to sign the second, and I said I would not.

William Haggan,

3 February,
1831.

What did Mr. Posnett say upon that occasion?—I do not remember.

Did he do any thing with Bashford's signature?—He did not.

Did he not take a pen in his hand?—He did not.

Are you quite sure of that?—I stood behind him looking over him, and no man took a pen; I took the pen out of Bashford's hand and wrote my name after it, and he wrote so far astray with it, that I had to write my name a line farther down than it should have been, in consequence of his writing his name so far astray, it began in one line and ended in the other.

Then you saw him sign his name twice?—I did, and from him I took the pen and wrote my own.

You are quite sure no one took the pen and touched up his name?—I am quite sure no one took the pen and touched it up at that time.

Was it done whilst you were in the room?—No, if it was touched I know nothing of it.

Were you ever out of the room when Mr. Posnett went to breakfast?—I was not out of the room for two or three hours after I first went in.

Were you there when Mr. Posnett came?—I was there four or five minutes after him.

From that time till he went to breakfast, you never left the room?—No.

During the time that he was in Felix Stuart's room with you, you never left the room. Did he during that time take a pen in hand and touch any one of the signatures?—He did not.

Are you quite sure of that?—I am quite sure of it.

When Mr. Posnett was at Eccleston's, did any one of your party go to fetch him back again?—No.

Did he promise you that he would come back and show you the petition with the additional names to it that he was going to get?—He did not that I recollect.

Did you wish to have seen it again?—I do not know that we did.

Had you any conversation with those of your party who were present respecting the additional signatures that he wished to get?—I do not recollect it.

Then there was no reason why you should wish to see Mr. Posnett again at all?—No.

Nobody expressed any desire for his coming back again?—No.

You did not hear any?—I do not remember that I did.

Did any one of them leave the room at all?—I think they did not for a length of time; I think my brother John Haggan went out about eleven o'clock.

Did you see Mr. Posnett again after you went to breakfast?—He came to the door but did not come in, he spoke in the door.

Did he mention the petition?—Not that I remember.

To the best of your recollection, from the time he went to Eccleston's to breakfast, till the time he came to the door, did any one of your party leave the room?—I do not think they did.

How long a time elapsed from the time of his going to breakfast till he came and spoke to you at the door?—It might have been half an hour, or from that to an hour.

Then your remaining in the room was for your own convenience not in expectation of his return?—Not by any means,

Was any thing said to you respecting the signatures of this petition by the gentlemen of the place?—There was something said to me by a young gentleman at Belfast.

I am speaking of this meeting at Felix Stuart's?—I do not remember.

Do you remember, when you signed your name, there were any signatures in those two columns?—(*The two columns at the left.*)—There was not one.

Was anything said respecting that place being left blank?—There was.

Will you explain what it was?—There was a remark made why some of the higher order had not signed.

Who made that remark?—I could not say, some of the company, and that was the reason given that there was space enough for them.

Was anything said as to the time when the names of the higher orders would be got to the petition?—There was not.

What did Mr. Posnett say in answer to that observation?—There was an answer given

*William Haggan.*3 February,
1831.

given that there was abundance of room for them, and there would be some of them at it.

And that there would be many of them affixed to it?—Yes.

Did he not mention that the names of some of the higher orders would be got to the petition?—He did.

You heard say that he was going to Mr. Cowan's?—He said he had to meet Mr. Cowan at half-past nine.

Did he not say that he was going to Mr. Cowan's mill?—He did not.

To meet a group?—Yes.

A group of what?—He did not say who.

But a group of persons to sign?—Yes.

Then when you left the room, you fully expected, that before the petition was made further use of, there would be the names of some of the higher orders affixed to it?—I thought there would be some of them at it before it went away.

Did Mr. Posnett while you were with him produce a list of persons whom he had been directed to apply to to sign?—No.

Did he mention in your hearing the names of James Graham and Henry White?—He did not.

Did he mention in your hearing that his time was very short in Carrickfergus?—He did.

Will you repeat what he said upon that subject?—He said that he was to leave Carrickfergus at ten o'clock with some of the morning cars.

Did he say that it was material he should be at Belfast as soon as possible?—He did.

Did he mention that he had to see Mr. M'Cartney there?—I do not remember it.

But he informed you that he should leave at ten o'clock?—Yes, or thereabouts.

Then he hurried away from you, did he?—I suppose the greater part of the hurry was the call to go to breakfast, may be a considerable time before the signatures were annexed, and then he went to Eccleston's.

He was in a hurry to get to Belfast by one of the morning cars, and he was going to Belfast; and you understood that he had to meet Mr. Cowan with a group; and you all thought that his time would be fully occupied?—I thought so, because he said so.

When were you last at Belfast before you sailed from thence?—I was in Belfast, I think, yesterday week.

What day did you sail from Belfast?—Thursday morning.

What day were you served with a summons to attend here?—I believe it was Monday or Tuesday before that, and I was in Belfast the next day.

For what purpose did you go?—I am an agent for a manufacturing company in Belfast; I transact business for them in Carrickfergus, and have done so for seven years; I employ weavers, and supply them with work and money; and I went on business.

Did you see Mr. M'Cartney upon that occasion?—I did not.

Did you go to his house?—No.

Then your object was not to see Mr. M'Cartney?—Certainly not.

Have you seen Mr. Posnett since you came to London?—Yes.

When did you see him first after your arrival?—I think it was on Monday I arrived on Sunday.

How did you know where to find him?—Felix Stuart had directions where he stopped, and I went with him.

Did you not, when you came to London, know that Mr. Posnett was here?—I have heard so.

And you expected to see him when you arrived?—No doubt.

Had you directions from any one to go to Mr. Posnett?—Not any one.

Had you any conversation with him respecting this subject?—Not at all.

You mean to be understood that you have avoided this subject on both sides?—Both sides.

When you came from Carrickfergus, had you reason to believe, or not, that you would be required to give your evidence on oath?—I have been examined before in a court of justice, and of course I expected that I would be sworn here also.

Were you not informed by any person before you attended this place that you probably would not be sworn?—I do not recollect that I was.

Did you not hear from your brother, on his return to Carrickfergus, that he had

not

not been sworn?—It was night when my brother came home, and he was a little tipsy; no doubt glad to get home; there were several met together, and had a glass together, and he might have said so, and I might have forgotten it.

William Haggan.

3 February,
1831.

Examined by Mr. Cookson.

You have mentioned that Mr. Posnett said in the room that he had to go to Belfast by one of the morning cars, at ten o'clock?—At or about ten.

And you said that he also stated that he had to meet Mr. Cowan at half-past nine?—Yes.

You also mentioned that he was called to breakfast?—So he was.

Can you recollect in what order those observations were made; did he go to breakfast immediately after being called?—He went immediately after the petition being signed.

How long after he was called to go to breakfast did he go?—It might have been ten minutes.

Was it after he was called to breakfast that he said he had to go to meet Dr. Cowan, or before?—It was before he was called to breakfast.

You have stated that Mr. Posnett did not promise to return to you after he had procured more signatures?—He did not.

But you say that he did return?—He did.

You say that he spoke to you?—He did.

What did he say?—I do not know.

Have you no recollection of what was his object in coming?—I have not, unless it was to say "Good bye," or something of that kind; it was nothing more, I am sure.

You have said that Mr. Posnett said that a space was left for the gentlemen?—He did, and that he expected to have some.

Did that representation of Mr. Posnett's influence you as to signing or not signing the petition?—By no means; I would have signed had there not been a person signed but myself.

You have told the Committee, that you believe Mr. Posnett and Mr. Eccleston were signing the petition in Mr. Eccleston's house; what is your reason for that belief?—I could not give a reason; it was from their being seen.

Then something must have been stated as to what was seen?—There was nothing seen but first one and then another.

By whom was this seen; did you yourself see any thing?—I did not.

Then of your own knowledge you do not know that those two gentlemen even were in the room?—I do not.

On its being mentioned by William Hennedy and John Haggan that those gentlemen were in the room, did not that excite your curiosity?—I did rise at one time, I looked at the window.

At what window?—At the window they were at; I did look at one time, and I did not see them either one or the other.

You spoke of there being a curtain in the room of Mr. Eccleston's office, what sort of a curtain is it?—It is green baize.

A sort of blind is it that goes part of the way up?—Yes.

You mentioned that your sole reason for having any belief upon the subject was what was stated by William Hennedy and John Haggan; did it not appear to you extraordinary that they were so occupied?—They sat in the window and made a remark.

What remark was it they made?—The remark was, that they supposed they were affixing names.

That was an observation made by them at the time in the room?—It was.

And it was that that induced you to believe that it was the fact?—Certainly.

[The Witness withdrew.]

Samuel M^r Skimmon, called in; and Examined, as follows.

YOU live at Carrickfergus?—Yes.

S. M^r Skimmon.

What are you?—I am a grocer or a huckster.

And you are the author of an History of Carrickfergus?—Yes.

Were you on the 12th of December or about that day, in company with William Haggan?—I was.

Did William Haggan state any thing to you, any thing in reference to the petition

S. M. Skimmon.

3 February,
1831.

petition against the return of Lord George Hill?—He did; shall I relate how it happened, I had some private business with him, we went into a public house to talk it over, as Irishmen very rarely talk in the street.

Will you confine yourself as closely as you can, to your conversation about the election petition?—He said to me, “Have you seen any of these printed papers going about, wherein it is stated that there was a supper at Felix Stuart’s house of potatoes and flukes?” Yes; “That is a lie,” says he, “there is no such thing, there is no potatoes and flukes, and it is also insinuated” says he, “in that squib, that the forgeries were done in the house of Felix Stuart. That is false, it is no such thing, it left Felix Stuart’s exactly at half-past nine o’clock at night for the house of John Eccleston, in which house the forgeries were all committed.”

Did he say half-past nine at night?—Half-past nine at night, and what confirms me in that that I could not be mistaken in it, was the previously alluding to the supper.

Was that all that passed in reference to that particular subject?—Yes.

Did he state any reason for supposing that the forgery had been committed in the house of Eccleston?—He did not give any reason, and I even stopped him, least I should think it was sounding him as it were, said I “William, it is another affair I wished to talk to you about, it is not about that.”

Then you went to your own subject?—Yes.

Examined by Mr. Hubbersty.

In the conversation you had with William Haggan, in which he stated that the forged names were put to the petition in Eccleston’s house, did he not state that as a fact?—I considered it as a fact.

He did not state that he supposed it or surmised it, but that it was done?—He said it was done.

Have you ever had any other conversation with William Haggan upon this subject?—No.

[The Witness withdrew.]

Mr. Robert Hanley, again called in; and further Examined by
Mr. Hubbersty, as follows.

Mr.
Robert Hanley.

WILL you be so kind as to look at the signature of John Hamilton upon this petition—(*The duplicate Petition being shown to the Witness*)—Do you know any person of the name of John Hamilton, who is a freeman of Carrickfergus?—I do.

How many?—Three.

What are they?—One a farmer, one a labourer, and the other a mason.

Is that the hand-writing of any one of them?—It is not.

Have you seen them write?—I have.

One of them makes a mark?—Yes, the labourer makes a mark.

Looking at that signature, whose hand-writing do you think it is?—I believe it to be Mr. John Eccleston’s.

Are you familiar with his hand-writing?—Quite so; I have employed him often, he has written a great deal for me.

Do you know a person of the name of Hugh Gormal?—I do.

What is he?—A labourer.

Is he a freeman of Carrickfergus?—He is not.

Will you look at the signature?—(*The Declaration being shown to the Witness, in which Gormal stated that he did not sign the Petition*)—I saw him write that.

He wrote it in your presence?—He did.

[The Witness withdrew.]

Mr. William Kirk Martin, again called in; and further Examined
by Mr. Hubbersty, as follows.

Mr.
W. K. Martin.

WILL you look at that signature of John Hamilton—(*The original Petition being shown to the Witness*)—Do you know any freeman of Carrickfergus of that name?—I do.

How many?—I know three.

Do you believe that it was written by any one of them?—I do not.

Whose hand-writing do you believe that signature is?—The only person’s hand
this

this resembles, in my opinion, is Mr. John Eccleston's ; it is a very good imitation of his hand.

Committee.—Are you intimately acquainted with Mr. Eccleston's mode of writing?—Very well acquainted with him ; I have been at school with him.

Are you acquainted with his hand-writing?—Yes, I have been on the grand jury to which he is secretary, and have had an opportunity of receiving letters from him.

You have frequently seen him write his name, and write generally?—Frequently.

Are there any other signatures to that petition that you think are in the same hand-writing?—I cannot speak so decidedly to any of the other signatures as this.

Will you look at this signature of John Hamilton?—(*The duplicate Petition being shown to the Witness.*)—I think that is the same hand-writing.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Mr. Adam Cunningham, called in ; and Examined as follows.

DO you know any freemen of Carrickfergus of the name of John Hamilton?—Three of them.

Committee.—Are you familiar with Mr. John Eccleston's writing?—I have seen him once or twice write, but I have some documents that he furnishes us, as the secretary of the grand jury, writing occasionally for the petitions to magistrates at the sessions.

Should you know his hand-writing?—I presume I should likely know it.

[*Two papers were shown to the Witness, one of them being in the hand-writing of Mr. Posnett, and the other in the hand-writing of Mr. Eccleston. The former of the two was shown to the Witness.*]

Is that the hand-writing of Mr. Eccleston?—It is very like Mr. Eccleston's writing, there is a strong resemblance.—(*The other paper was shown to the Witness.*)—I think this is more like ; I settle upon that more than the other, but there is a strong resemblance in the other.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Mr. Hutcheson Posnett, again called in ; and further Examined, by the Committee, as follows.

[*The Witness was informed that he might decline answering any question which he might consider as tending to criminate himself.*]

ON the morning of the 9th of November you were at Felix Stuart's house, and left it to go to the house of Mr. Eccleston?—Yes.

You stated to the Committee that you went there to breakfast?—I did.

State under what circumstances you entered the house, and to what place you went?—I went, in the first instance, from Felix Stuart's house, in order to get a pen.

The question refers to the last time?—It was for the purpose of getting my breakfast ; I was called over by Mrs. Eccleston ; she spoke to me on the stairs, to say that breakfast was ready.

Did you go at once into the breakfast-room?—No, I went into a little office first.

What did you do there?—I put the petition on the table.

How long were you there in the office?—I suppose not more than a minute or two.

Then you went into the breakfast-room?—I did.

In the breakfast-room did you find Mr. Eccleston?—I did.

Did you sit down?—I did.

Did he sit down?—He did.

You have stated that neither of you left the breakfast-room?—Neither of us left the room during breakfast.

Where did you go then?—I went across the street to Felix Stuart's, seeing that one of the party had come over. I was there two or three minutes, or it might be five.

Had you your coat on?—I had.

Had you any conversation at Eccleston's about the petition at breakfast?—I cannot say we had.

Mr.
W. K. Martin.

3 February,
1831.

Mr.
A. Cunningham.

Mr.
Hutcheson Posnett.

Mr.
Hutcheson Posnett.
3 February,
1831.

What did you converse about?—It was general subjects ; respecting the weather for one thing ; and I think he asked me if I had got signatures, and I mentioned that I had.

Was there any particular business on which you talked with him?—Nothing of a particular nature.

And you are positive that he never left the room while you were at breakfast?—I am positive he did not.

Are you positive that Mrs. Eccleston did not leave the room?—I think she did not.

Did he consult you about any business of his own?—He did respecting the will of his late father.

Did he consult you in the breakfast-room?—No, it was in the front office. After breakfast he took me into the little office, and shewed me a copy of his father's will : he was appointed one of the executors, and did not wish to act.

Then if it was stated that it was shown to you while you were at breakfast in the breakfast-room, that would not be correct?—I have no recollection of seeing it at the breakfast-room.

Where did he take the will from?—From his desk, I think.

Where did you examine it?—At the desk, on the left hand side of the door.

How long were you examining the will?—I think it might be ten minutes.

You were in the house, you said, twenty minutes altogether?—About twenty or thirty.

Was it before or after breakfast that you examined the will with him?—It was before breakfast, I think ; if I remember right it was in the morning, previous to going out, that we examined the will ; and afterwards, I think after breakfast, I know he showed me the will twice upon that occasion.

How long did you see it the second time?—I think it might be about five or ten minutes.

Where?—In the office.

At the desk?—At the desk.

Was that second inspection of the will before or after breakfast?—It was after breakfast.

You stated, that immediately after breakfast you were in a great hurry to quit the house?—I was.

And that you did not remain in the house?—I did not remain in the house longer than glancing at the will.

That was ten minutes you say?—It might be, but I paid no attention to the time ; it might be five minutes.

Then if it was stated that you were only there for a minute or half a minute, it would not be true?—I think I was more ; I think I must have been three or four or five minutes.

Then, if any person stated that you were in the office merely for the purpose of taking the petition up and putting it into the pocket of your great coat, that would not be true?—I took the petition up and put it into my pocket, and it might make a wrong impression, because he produced the other, and I glanced at that, so that it might be stated that I did not remain there any length of time, without any wish to state what was not the fact.

Did you lose sight of the petition at Belfast?—No.

You had the petition in your possession the whole time till it was dispatched?—I had.

Who was it that came out from Stuart's house to call you?—I think it was William Haggan ; he said that the parties at Stuart's wished to speak with me previous to my leaving town ; I said that I would go, but that they could not expect me to stop, for that I was in a hurry to go away.

Did you say that you were in a hurry to go away, or to go to the Bank?—I said that I was in a hurry to go to the Bank, as there were some people there that I expected to sign the petition ; but at the same time I knew that it was impossible to go to the Bank, and I wished to get away from them, as they were drinking spirits.

What questions did they ask you when you got back there?—They asked me if I had got any more signatures ; if I remember right, I told them no ; that I had not been any where but to get breakfast.

Was there any remark made about the respectability of the persons?—I think one of the parties said, " You are keeping a portion of this petition for gentlemen," and

and I said no such thing; you may sign where you please; I think that remark was made by Hennedy or by Haggan.

You told him you were going to Cowan's mill, to get more signatures?—I do not remember having mentioned Cowan's mills, but I might have done so; Cowan's mill was situated near the Bank.

Did you mention the names of any persons who were likely to give their signatures?—No.

Did you tell the persons at Stuart's that you were to get more signatures before you left the town?—I told them that I expected to get other signatures; I was detained there nearly an hour while I was at Stuart's, and the consequence was that my time was so limited during the time I was in Belfast that I could not stop.

You stated that you had a list containing a great number of names; will you state to the Committee again the number of names, the names themselves, and the person from whom you received that list?—I stated that I had a memorandum of either one or two names, but that was merely a direction for me to call upon those persons; one of the persons was Robert Bashford, and that he would give me information as to the rest I should call on; that information I got from John Eccleston.

Did you write that information?—I did; I committed it to paper.

Have you the paper with you?—I have not; it was a small piece of paper, not two inches square.

How many names did it contain?—It contained that one, and I think William Hennedy.

Was the name of Simms on it?—No.

Henry White?—No, there was no other name but the two, and I think one of them was Hennedy or Haggan.

You are sure that there was not five or seven?—There was not more than two.

If there were only one or two names, where was the necessity of writing them down?—I was a stranger to the town of Carrickfergus, and my object was to find the man; and I took a memorandum of his name in order that I might find him.

Then all these persons were strangers to you?—Every one of them. I know a good many of them now, but I did not know them then.

Was any observation made within your hearing with respect to the signature of Robert Bashford?—I think there was.

State what that observation was?—I mentioned to him at the time he was signing it, he was writing very widely, and he said "My hand shakes, it is my usual mode of writing;" for I could not read the name he had written. I could not make "Bashford" from it.

Did you offer any assistance, or did any other person, to make that name more legible?—I did not, nor did any person in my presence.

Did he ask any assistance?—Not that I heard of.

Did you offer any assistance?—Certainly not any.

Did any person in your sight take a pen and do any thing to the signature of Robert Bashford to make it more legible?—Not any in my presence.

Did you show the petition to any body at Belfast?—I did not; Mr. M'Cartney was gone off to Derry by the mail that day at one o'clock, and it was ten or fifteen minutes past one when I got in.

Did any one tell you, at Belfast, the persons upon whom you ought to call at Carrickfergus when you got there?—No person there. I went down to Carrickfergus depending upon Eccleston's information entirely.

Did you make any memorandum of the names that you got to inform Mr. Joseph M'Cartney when he returned?—Not any.

What did you tell him when he returned from Derry?—I told him I had sent the petition off to Dublin.

Did you tell him that you had succeeded in getting names?—I did.

Did you tell him any thing about any disturbance in Carrickfergus?—I mentioned the circumstance of there being an effigy which he did not pay any attention to.

Did that prevent your getting any more signatures?—To speak my own sentiments I think it did; for I do not wish to be in any place where there is a disturbance, and in coming out of the town they had those effigies burning in the middle of the fair.

Mr.
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Did they know you were come with this petition?—No, they knew nothing of it; and it was very fortunate for me, I think, they did not.

When Mr. Eccleston consulted you about this will of his father's did you write any thing?—No, not any thing.

Was it a large sheet of paper that you had in your hand?—I think it was something the size of this (*a sheet of foolscap paper*), it was merely a copy obtained from the probate, lodged in the Bishop's Court; in fact I did not wait to read it.

Did he ask you for your advice?—He asked me what I would do if placed in similar circumstances.

And you did not write any comment upon it?—Not a word.

For what purpose did he ask your advice upon it if you did not read it?—He had told me the particulars before.

Where was the will, did he take it out of the desk?—I think he took it out of the desk.

Was the petition lying on the desk when he took the will out?—The petition was in my pocket then, and I was turning out when he produced the other paper. I then just turned to the desk and looked at it for two or three minutes.

This was after you were sent for by one of the party at Stuart's, to go over there?—I think it was.

But it was not before breakfast?—It was after breakfast.

Do you remember whether you stood at the window when you were in the front room of Eccleston's house?—It is a large window, and any person in the room must be nearly opposite to part of the window.

Could any person in the house on the opposite side of the street, see you there?—Perhaps they might, the street is very narrow; I suppose it is not more than twenty feet wide or twenty-five.

Was Mr. Eccleston in the office before he went to breakfast?—He might be.

Did he go in with you?—No, he was standing on his feet in the little room in the inside of the door waiting for me to come for my breakfast at the time I went in.

Was that the only time when you looked at the will, when you were in the front office together?—That was the only time at that time; I have seen it both since and before.

Was that the only time when you were in the front office with Mr. Eccleston?—I had been with him in the morning.

Was that the only time at the period when you went there to breakfast?—The only time.

Did you remain at the desk the five or ten minutes you were talking about the will, or were you walking through the room?—We were walking through the room, sometimes I was anxious to get away, and in fact I did not want to hear any thing more about the will, for I had heard all about it before.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

[The Witness having requested the permission of the Committee to explain part of his evidence, he was again called in, and made the following statement:]

I have rather committed an error, which I am sorry for, in stating that it was the time that I went out to go to Felix Stuart's that Eccleston shewed me the will, he wanted to do so, but it was afterwards, previous to my leaving the town that he took me into this room and showed me the copy of the will.

You stated before, that when you went back to Eccleston's immediately before quitting the town, it was merely to bid him good bye?—So it was, and then he showed me the will.

Had you any conversation about this will at breakfast?—I had, he wished to show it to me, and I said some other time would be better.

You stated that after breakfast you were putting the petition in to your pocket and going out of the room when Eccleston came and stopped you?—Very correct, but I was in error; I put the petition into my pocket and turned, and he pulled out the will, and says he, "Will you look at this?"

Did you take up the petition a second time after breakfast and put it into your pocket?—No, when I went out to Stuart's I put the petition in my pocket, and he immediately

immediately pulled out the will, and says he, "Will you glance at this a moment?" I said stop till I come back, and I turned out, and then previous to my quitting town he said "Will you look at this will," you have promised to do so.

That was after you had been over to Felix Stuart's?—It was; I wished to rectify the thing least there should be any wrong impression about it.

[*The Witness withdrew.*]

Mr.
Hutcheson Posnett.

3 February,
1831.