

AYRSHIRE.

ALTERATION OF POLLING-PLACES AT ELECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the following PETITION, subscribed by 148 Electors of the District, voting at CUMNOCK, has been presented to the Sheriff, under the provisions of the Act 16 Vic., c. 28, sec. 2 & 3, praying for an alteration of the Polling-place of the District :—

“Unto the Honourable the Sheriff of Ayrshire : the Petition of the undersigned Electors of the Parishes of Old Cumnock, New Cumnock, Muirkirk, Auchinleck, and Dalmellington, being the Parishes attached to the Polling-place of Old Cumnock, humbly sheweth,—*That* freedom of Election has been greatly interfered with, as regards the parishes of your Petitioners, by the occurrence of very serious riots at the Town of Cumnock : *That* many of your Petitioners have been seriously impeded in proceeding to the Poll and returning from it at the said Town, and have suffered much violence, insult, and intimidation on the part of Non-Electors and others there, not only on the occasion of the recent election in October last, but of former Elections, and your Petitioners have reason to apprehend that the like may again occur under similar circumstances : *That* it is absolutely necessary for the due protection of your Petitioners and others in the exercise of their franchise, that the Poll should be transferred from Cumnock to some other place, as many of your Petitioners have resolved that on no account will they again subject themselves to a repetition of similar indignities and injuries by resorting thither to vote : *That*, while your Petitioners disclaim any wish to dictate to your Lordship as to what place should be substituted for Cumnock for taking the Poll for their parishes, it appears to them, after full consideration, that it will be preferable to substitute Ayr : *That*, as regards Old and New Cumnock, the Electors are, many of them, frequently in the habit of resorting to Ayr on their ordinary business by the road, while the railway affords ready and easy communication from all the five parishes enumerated, and as to Dalmellington, Ayr would be much more accessible than Cumnock : *That* no other place but Ayr appears to your Petitioners to combine the necessary accommodation required and the means of security to the Electors in the exercise of their privileges. May it therefore please your Lordship to take the foregoing into your favourable consideration, and to ordain that the Polling-place for the said parishes of Old Cumnock, New Cumnock, Auchinleck, Muirkirk, and Dalmellington, shall be at Ayr instead of Old Cumnock, or to fix such other Polling-place or places for the said parishes, instead of Cumnock, as to your Lordship may seem most proper.—And your Petitioners will ever pray.”

By the above Statute, sec. 2, it is enacted “That no such increase or alteration, as aforesaid, shall be made, until notice thereof shall have been publicly given by Advertisement, for six weeks successively, in the *North British Advertiser* and the *Edinburgh Gazette*, and in the several Newspapers published within the County in which the said increase or alteration is proposed to be made ; and in case any of the inhabitants, not less than ten in number, being registered voters for such County, shall be desirous of opposing such increase or alteration, as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for them at any time *not later* than one week from the publication of the last Advertisement, to lodge with the Sheriff-Clerk of

the County a written notice, signed by such inhabitants as aforesaid, being not less than ten in number, stating their objections to such increase or alteration, or any suggestions they may wish to offer for the purpose of obtaining a different arrangement of Polling-places or Districts from that proposed in such Advertisement as aforesaid.”

By Order of the Sheriff, with consent of the Lord Advocate of Scotland.

THOMAS KERR, S.C.D.

Sheriff-Clerk's Office,
Ayr, 24th February 1860.

AYRSHIRE.

ALTERATION OF POLLING-PLACES AT ELECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the following PETITION, subscribed by 171 Electors of the District, polling at STEWARTON, has been presented to the Sheriff, praying for a Transfer of the Polling-Place for the District, from STEWARTON to KILMARNOCK, under the provisions of the Act 16 Vic., cap. 28, sec. 2 & 3 :—

“Unto the Honourable the Sheriff of Ayrshire : the Petition of the undersigned Electors of the Parishes of Stewarton, Kilmaurs, and Fenwick, being the Parishes attached to Stewarton as a Polling-place, humbly sheweth,—*That* your Petitioners have, many of them, been subjected to much inconvenience, insult, and personal abuse, on occasion of voting at Elections for the County at Stewarton, and they are aware that many of their brother Electors have been subjected to great indignity and ill usage from the ill-disposed of the inhabitants of that place, in going to and from the Poll, both at the recent Election in the present year, and on several former occasions : *That* these outrages have been long matter of complaint, and have now come to such a height that freedom of Election is most seriously interfered with, and many Electors will not consent to record their votes at future Elections unless a change in the place of Polling is conceded : *That*, on other accounts, it would be much more convenient for many of your Petitioners to record their votes at Kilmarnock than at Stewarton, both on account of the diminution of distance they would have to travel, and because they are much more frequently in the habit of resorting to Kilmarnock on their ordinary business than to Stewarton : *That* Kilmarnock affords far greater facility for obtaining accommodation, and also for securing protection to voters, from its being the seat of one of your Lordship's Substitutes.”

By the above Statute, sec. 2, it is enacted “That no such increase or alteration, as aforesaid, shall be made, until notice thereof shall have been publicly given by Advertisement, for six weeks successively, in the *North British Advertiser* and the *Edinburgh Gazette*, and in the several Newspapers published within the County in which the said increase or alteration is proposed to be made ; and, in case any of the inhabitants, not less than ten in number, being registered voters for such County, shall be desirous of opposing such increase or alteration, as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for them at any time *not later* than one week from the publication of the last Advertisement, to lodge with the Sheriff-Clerk of the County a written notice, signed by such inhabitants, as aforesaid, being not less than ten in number, stating their objections to such increase or