

Tuesday, the fifth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, have presented a Petition to Her Majesty, setting forth that there exists within the West Riding of the county of York a Liberty called the Liberty of Cawood, Wistow, and Otley, consisting of fifteen townships or places, namely, Cawood, Wistow, Baildon, Burley, Denton, Esholt, Farnley, Guiseley, Hawkesworth, Lindley, Menston, Newall-with-Clifton, Otley, Poole, and Timble Little, which Liberty, by virtue of the Statute passed in the session of Parliament held in the sixth and seventh years of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, chapter eighty-seven, intituled "An Act for extinguishing the Secular Jurisdiction of the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Ely in certain Liberties in the Counties of York, Nottingham, and Cambridge," is now vested in Her Majesty, Her heirs, and successors; that such Liberty has a separate Commission of the Peace, but is not an incorporated borough; that it was resolved by the Justices of the Peace for the said riding, assembled at the Quarter Sessions of the Peace, held at Leeds, in and for the said riding, on Tuesday, the twentieth day of October last, that it seemed expedient to the Justices of the Peace of the said riding, that the union of the said Liberty of Cawood, Wistow, and Otley with the said West Riding, in which riding the same liberty is situated, should be effected, under the said Act of the thirteenth and fourteenth years of the reign of Her Majesty, chapter one hundred and five; and it was also further resolved and ordered, that a Petition should be presented to Her Majesty, praying that such union should take place, and that the further consideration of such Petition should be adjourned until this Quarter Sessions, and that in the meantime notice should be given of the intention to take such Petition into consideration by the Justices of the said riding at this Sessions, at Wakefield aforesaid, as required by the said Act of the thirteenth and fourteenth years of the reign of Her Majesty, chapter one hundred and five, section two; that, in pursuance of the said resolution and order, and in conformity with the said Act of the thirteenth and fourteenth years of the reign of Her Majesty, chapter one hundred and five, notice by the Clerk of the Peace of the said West Riding has been duly advertised in the London "Times" newspaper, and also in the "Leeds Mercury," and "Leeds Intelligencer," being respectively newspapers circulating in the said West Riding, for three successive weeks previously to the holding of this Quarter Sessions; and notice has also been duly given by the said Clerk of the Peace of the said West Riding to the Clerk of the Peace of the said liberty, that the said resolution and order would be taken into consideration at this Sessions, being the time and place mentioned in the said resolution and order, and to which the further consideration of the said Petition was adjourned; that the reasons upon which the Petition was founded, and the terms and conditions upon or under which it is desired that the union of the said Liberty with the said West Riding shall take place, are the following:—

1. That there is no gaol or other property of the said Liberty, and no debt charged on the rates of such Liberty to be dealt with;
2. That the said townships or places of Cawood and Wistow, part of the said Liberty, are situated at a distance of about thirty miles from Otley and the other parts of the said Liberty, and have been for some time and are now, in fact and in practice, separated from

- and independent of the said Liberty; That no business arising within the townships or places of Cawood or Wistow is ever transacted in Petty Session or in Quarter Sessions of Justices of the Peace for the said Liberty;
3. That the said townships or places of Cawood and Wistow form, in fact, a part of the said West Riding, as being parcel of the Lower Division of Barkstonash, in the said riding, and that the inhabitants of the said two townships or places always transact their Petty Sessional business in the said Lower Division of Barkstonash, and their Quarter Sessions business at the Quarter or intermediate Sessions held for the said riding;
4. That the thirteen other townships or places above mentioned are all within and form part of the Petty Sessional Division of Otley, one of the Petty Sessional Divisions of the said riding, which said Petty Sessional Division of Otley consists of twenty-nine townships;
5. That all the fifteen townships or places constituting the said Liberty are rated, and contribute to the rates of the said riding in the nature of county rates;
6. That Sessions of the Peace, for the trial of persons charged with felony or misdemeanour, are held every six weeks for and within the said riding;
7. That the Sessions of the Peace for the said Liberty being only held once in each quarter, (and then on the same day as the Quarter Sessions of the said riding), the persons committed for trial on such charges by the Justices of the Peace of the said Liberty, have frequently to remain in prison before trial for a much longer period than when committed for trial at the sessions of the Peace for the said riding, and on their trial are unable to obtain, without great expense and inconvenience, the assistance of members of the bar, whose duties require their attendance at the riding sessions;
8. That very few appeals can by law be tried at the Liberty Sessions, and, in fact, for a long period none have been tried there, and that the business of the Quarter Sessions for the said Liberty is so small as not to justify the summoning and attendance of jurors and other officers and persons at such Quarter Sessions, or the expenses of holding such Quarter Sessions separate and apart from the Quarter Sessions of the said riding;
9. That at the last seventeen Quarter Sessions for the said Liberty an aggregate of only eleven prisoners has been tried;
10. That all persons remanded for examination by the Justices of the Peace for the said Liberty are confined, during such remand, in the lock-up at Otley, belonging to the said Riding, and that all persons committed for trial by such Justices on charges of felony or misdemeanour are confined until trial in the house of correction at Wakefield, in and for the said Riding;
11. That although there is a separate Commission of the Peace for the said Liberty, the Justices of the Peace for the said West Riding have and exercise concurrent jurisdiction with the Justices of the Peace for the said Liberty, but all Justices of the Riding acting for the Otley Petty Sessional Division not being Liberty Justices when Liberty cases are being heard, they can take no part in the proceedings, and that all or nearly all the acting Justices of the Peace for the said Liberty are also Justices of the Peace for the said Riding;