

As Supplied

AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

ORIGIN OF, AND PROCEEDINGS

IN THE

CONTENTED ELECTION

OF

REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF WIGAN,

K

IN THE MONTH OF JULY,

1830 ;

Preparatory to obtaining a decision of a Committee of the
House of Commons, as to the Right of the Inhabitants
to the Elective Franchise of the Borough.

W I G A N :

PRINTED BY J. HILTON, MARKET-PLACE.



AN ACCOUNT, &c.

A number of gentlemen of this borough, having taken into consideration the propriety of ascertaining the right of the inhabitants to the Elective Franchise, which has been considered hitherto exclusively vested in a select number, arrogating to themselves solely the appellation of burgesses, (whose proceedings, generally, have been preeminently distinguished by a most earnest and praiseworthy attention to their own several individual interests, and a profound disregard to those of the community,) assembled on Saturday Evening, the 17th, day of July, 1830, with a view of adopting some measures calculated to effect the object they had had in contemplation.

In consequence of that object not being generally known, and the number then assembled being inconsiderable, it was judged advisable to adjourn till the Monday following, the 19th, in order that, in the mean time, other gentlemen, who were well known to be decidedly in favour of the measure, might be made acquainted with the course proposed to be adopted.

On the Monday Evening there was a full meeting of respectable gentlemen and tradesmen, and the object of the meeting having been stated from the chair, a provisional committee was formed, and full power was granted to it to take such steps as should be deemed prudent and advisable.

On the following day the committee issued out an advertisement, addressed to the inhabitants at large, of which the following is a copy:—

To the Inhabitants at large of the Borough of Wigan.



It is most respectfully intimated to the inhabitants of this borough, that measures have been taken, and are now in progress for throwing open the Elective Franchise of the borough, and that at the ensuing general election **TWO GENTLEMEN** of independent principles will offer themselves as candidates for the representation in parliament of the inhabitants at large.

The inhabitants are therefore most earnestly requested to reserve their votes and interest for the present, as in the course of a few days, the proposed candidates will commence an active canvass.

July 20th, 1830.



In the mean time Richard Potter, of Manchester, Esq. and James Hardcastle, of Bolton, Esq. were solicited to offer themselves as candidates to represent the borough.

Having obtained the consent of these gentlemen, a requisition, signed by the whole committee, and by several other respectable inhabitants of the town, was presented to Henry Bullock, Esq. the Mayor, requesting him to call a public meeting of the inhabitants, to take into consideration the best means of throwing open the "Elective Franchise." The Mayor refusing to comply, the requisitionists therefore determined to call a meeting themselves, to be held on the Monday following.



The following is a copy of the requisition, with the names of the requisitionists, to the Mayor, and the advertisement calling the meeting.

To the Worshipful HENRY BULLOCK, Esq. Mayor of the Borough of Wigan, in the county of Lancaster:—

WE, the undersigned inhabitants of the borough, do hereby request that you will convene a **Public Meeting** of the inhabitants, to be held on **Monday next, the 26th instant**, for the purpose of deciding upon the steps to be taken for throwing open the **Elective Franchise**: dated this 21st day of July, 1830.

John Lord
R. Greenough
Francis Dutton
Charles Potter
Thomas Cook
Israel Taylor
William Potter
Joseph Acton
Thomas Newsbam
Caleb Hilton
R. Waddington
Richard Fegan
Ralph Leigh
R. Hammersley
James Hilton
Richard Tennant
Thomas Latbam
Law. Marsden
E. Dowson
R. Bailey
Thomas Moss
W. Burgoyne

James Battersby
W. A. Greenough
Richard Shaw
John Aspinall
William Shaw
T. G. Bennett
J. R. Grimshaw
George Tennant
Wm. Burdekin
Samuel Hiley
Joseph Varley
John Fisher
Richard Smith
William Hamer
George Rice
George Peck
George Marsh
Thomas Clare
Thomas Coats
Reece Bevan
John Rigby
J. C. Leach

Thomas Almond
Thomas Scott
William Brown
Thomas Byrom
J. Stewart, M. D.
J. F. Taylor
Samuel Holt
Thomas Wigan
W. Croudson
M. Middlehurst
M. Brown
Thomas Morris
James Scolson
Robert Acton
Henry Woods
T. Jenkinson
John Ranson
James Hampson
Samuel Hill
T. Pendlebury
J. Middlehurst
William Hall.

The Mayor having declined to convene a public meeting for the above purpose, the requisitionists, therefore, hereby invite the inhabitants at large to attend and form a **Public Meeting**, within the area of the **Commercial Hall**, on **Monday the 26th July, 1830**, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose mentioned in the above requisition.

Wigan, July 23rd, 1830.



On Saturday, the civil authorities apprehensive that riotous proceedings might occur, caused a bill, in the Mayor's name, to be printed and posted, summoning several constables to be in attendance at the place of meeting to preserve the peace and good order in the

town. This notice was considered calculated more to excite than suppress a breach of the peace, and gave rise immediately to the following advertisement to be very numerously circulated.

To the Inhabitants of the Borough of Wigan.



An order and command have been posted by the Mayor for certain individuals therein named to attend at the New Town Hall, on Monday next, "*in order to be in readiness to prevent and suppress all riotous proceedings, if any such may arise.*" Could not the individuals have been quietly summoned by personal service? Would not constables so summoned have been quite as effective as when publicly ordered and commanded? if so, *why publicly ordered and commanded?* Is it intended to proclaim on the Sunday to the persons flocking into the town, to their respective places of worship, that it is the opinion of the Mayor of the borough that riotous proceedings may on Monday be expected? If so, might not such a proclamation be a sufficient cause of a riotous multitude assembling? or can it possibly be that the bullying system is to be attempted, is to be dared against the inhabitants at large of the borough of Wigan assembling to claim their just rights? Has the Mayor issued this order and command of his own accord, or has some one recommended him to do it? if the latter be the case what are the motives of the parties? Do they wish to raise a riot, and thereby give a certain complexion to the proceedings of Monday? Let them be disappointed. Let every man be peaceable and conduct himself orderly and rationally, but let no man allow himself to be bullied or tricked out of the most valuable privilege a Briton can enjoy, viz. that of electing his representatives in the Commons' House of Parliament.

Wigan, July 24th, 1830.

In the course of the week was also issued a circular from the late members to their constituents, of which the following is a copy :—

TO THE
WORTHY AND INDEPENDENT BURGESSES
Of the Borough of Wigan.

Gentlemen,

The death of his late Majesty having rendered a dissolution of the present parliament indispensable, and it being evident, from the recent proceedings of the ministers of the crown, that such dissolution will take place at an early period, we lose no time in announcing our intention of again offering ourselves for the honour of representing you.

We have now had the honour of being your representatives in two parliaments, and hope that the manner in which we have discharged our duty, will entitle us again to your support.

Should we be so fortunate as to attain, through your suffrages, the distinguished honour to which we aspire, we hope, by unremitting attention to our duties, and to the local interests of the borough and town of Wigan, to prove to you that your confidence has not been misplaced.

We have the honour to remain,
 With great respect,
 Gentlemen,
 Your obliged and faithful Servants,

JAS. LINDSAY.
JAS. ALEX. HODSON.

Wigan, July 20th, 1830.



On Monday Morning, July 26th, at half-past ten o'clock, J. HOLT, Esq. of Bispham Hall, a magistrate of the county, accompanied by the gentlemen of the committee formed for carrying into effect the object of the requisition, entered the Commercial Hall, in the area of which were assembled to meet them about 3000 of the inhabitants.

Mr. HOLT having been unanimously called to the chair, and some other preliminary matters arranged, the requisition calling the meeting was read by Mr. R. Leigh, after which the chairman addressed the multitude as follows:—Gentlemen and fellow-townsmen, unaccustomed as I am to take part in proceedings of this description, I must necessarily crave your indulgence, for without that I must confess that I cannot see my way clearly. It will, however, be unnecessary for me to detain you long, as the respective gentlemen who have to propose and second the resolutions to be submitted to you, will fully explain the purposes for which you are called together. Still, I may venture to affirm, that the principle object of our assembling is, to endeavour to recover those rights and privileges which have been so long and so unjustly withheld from us (*cheers*); and to gain a full and fair representation in the Commons' House of Parliament (*cheering renewed.*) I cannot express what I feel as I could wish, but you must take my observations, crude as they are, as the full meaning of my heart. I hope, gentlemen, we shall not permit any matters of small moment to distract us from the great object we have in view, for I am morally certain that if we continue unanimous and fight the battle manfully, we shall ultimately gain all that we require, and all that is our right (*Loud Cheers.*) I have little more to say, but I hope and trust that every gentleman will receive a candid and fair hearing. The eyes of all the manufacturing population are upon us, and knowing this, it is my sincere wish that no offence may be given to any one, in short that not a single sentence may be uttered this day, but which every good and honest man will respect. The chairman sat down amidst *thunders of applause.*

MR. ALSTON, in moving the first resolution, said he was happy in addressing his friends and fellow-townsmen, on an occasion which was of the highest importance, not only in a political point of view, but as it respected the prosperity of the town. Before he submitted the resolution which had been placed in his hand, he should

consider it to be his duty to offer a few preliminary observations ; and in so doing he would beg to state, that he should offer no personal disrespect to any individual who might hear him. It would be his duty, in the first place, to allude to the constitution of things in this town, as respected the representatives sent to parliament, which had existed for some scores—he knew not how many—of years ; and in mentioning this matter, it would be necessary to allude to a body of individuals, many of whom, however, he considered it to be a honour to call friends, and who, actuated by the most honourable feelings, would hail with rejoicing the emancipation from that deep and degrading state of thralldom, under which the borough of Wigan had laboured for so long a time. (*Loud cheers.*) It was well known that the principle, that might should prevail over right, was neither just nor equitable. If mere power were allowed to lord it over the weak, and the weak should be oppressed merely because they were weak, then in his opinion, society could not be in a worse or more debased and miserable condition. We pitied the weakest part of the brute creation when torn to pieces by the stronger ; and if our pity was so extended, ought it not to be shewn to that branch of the creation which was endowed with intellect and intelligence, but who were exposed to the attacks of the great and the powerful, who pounced upon them and were glad to make a prey of them ? He need not say that such a state of things was truly disgusting to every reflecting mind. The nation had been called to a consideration as to the choice of representatives by the official announcement that parliament had been dissolved ; and the people were informed that they ought to elect fit and proper persons to serve them in parliament. But did those parties who enjoyed rank and power, and who were placed at the head of affairs, really mean what they pretended, namely, that the people ought to take part in the elections of their representatives, and in the affairs of the great councils of the nation ? The fact was, they meant no such thing. Their meaning was that a favoured few, scattered here and there in the chartered bo-

roughs of the kingdom, should be compelled to speak the voice of the great men whose influence in the parliamentary representation of the country acted as an incubus on the energies and exertions of the people. (*Great applause.*) Englishmen were fond of boasting of their liberties—they prided themselves upon being a free people because part of the people were. But were the people of England really free? No such thing; as he would prove by a brief illustration. Two members were sent to parliament from the town of Wigan, and were supposed to represent the inhabitants of the place. But was this really the case? Was it not well known that the borough of Wigan contained a population of 20,000 individuals, most of whom were entitled by charter to vote in the choice of representatives, but that the members who were sent from it to parliament, were chosen by no more than one hundred of the inhabitants. These were the political wheat, and all the rest were chaff. (*Great laughter.*) How this self-created body acquired the power which they have ventured to exercise, he was at a loss to find out; he was sure they had not obtained it from the charters which had been granted by the sovereigns of England to the borough of Wigan; for in those charters it was expressly stated, *that every inhabitant householder was a burgess*, and had a full right and privilege to exercise and enjoy all immunities, advantages and power which were enjoyed by a select few. (*Great Applause.*) But he trusted that the time had at length arrived when they would no longer be cajoled out of their liberties, nor made the devoted instruments of a select few. Two independent gentlemen had pledged themselves to come forward in support of the freedom of the Borough; and it would be for the inhabitants to bestow upon them their suffrages as granted to them under the royal charter. They meant to receive the vote of every inhabitant householder in the town, and on the result of their election they purposed to enter the House of Commons and demand the right of taking their seats there. If the opponents of the popular candidates should contest the matter, then it would be for the inhabitants of the town

to support the course they will have taken. Both gentlemen were well known in this commercial district: they had acquired their property by industry, intelligence and ability, and were known to be intimately acquainted with, and to have a true interest in its prosperity. (*Cheers.*) As he had before stated the population of the town amounted in number to 20,000 human beings; and about one hundred took upon themselves to think for the rest.—to speak for them, and lastly to act for them. (*Cheers.*) The inhabitants of Wigan were animated beings, but as to being sentient ones, why that was out of the question—they had been converted into automaton, and were moved about at the will of those who exercised a power which did not belong to them. The commercial advantages that would result to the town from its being represented by two mercantile characters, were obvious; by men who earnestly desired to advance the commercial interests of the nation, and who, if returned to parliament, would use every exertion in their power to put down monopolies and restraints upon foreign and domestic manufactures; These monopolies being put down, the energies of commerce would no longer be cramped, an impulse would be given, and an active demand made for our manufactures, and the working classes in the kingdom would be able to obtain a remunerating price for their labour. In two years the charter of the East India Company expired, and it was most desirable that the influence of that wealthy body in returning members should be counteracted. When it was considered that we had *one hundred of millions of fellow subjects in India, with whom we had no freedom of commercial intercourse, and that there are two hundred millions of people in China with whom we were not permitted to trade* it would be seen that the subject was one of no slight importance. If trade were opened to these vast countries, the advantages would be incalculable. But would their present members pledge themselves to oppose that mischievous monopoly? Would they not on the contrary, impose upon the country for twenty years more the galling chains

it now wears? He trusted that the inhabitants of the borough would take high ground on this occasion. Let them start up and say, "we are free" and he would assure them that they would, in the elevation of mind that would follow, feel taller and stronger than they did now. (*Laughter and applause.*)—Mr. Alston concluded by calling on the meeting in animated and animating language, to prove themselves, by their conduct, worthy of the high and valuable privileges to which they aspired. He then proposed the following resolution:—

"That it is the opinion of this Meeting, that if the Elective Franchise of the Borough of Wigan were open to the inhabitants at large, instead of being exercised by a select body, few in number, it would tend in the highest degree to the advancement of the Interests of the Borough."

Mr. DUTTON seconded the resolution. He had no doubt if each exerted himself, the great and glorious object they had in view would be accomplished, and that an important and permanent benefit would be conferred, not only on the borough, but on the country at large.—(*Loud cheers.*)

Mr. LORD proposed the second resolution, in which the right of each inhabitant to a vote is asserted, and proceeded to state the legal arguments in its support. At common law it was decided that the inhabitant householders of a borough had a right vote in sending members to parliament; how that right had been taken from the people of Wigan it was not for him then to say. The first charter granted to the inhabitants of Wigan was that of Henry the Third, by which the privilege of a guild was granted to the inhabitants, who were declared to be burghesses as well as their heirs. The first representative sent to parliament from Wigan was in the year 1295. The privilege was afterwards suspended for 240 years. It was then restored, and it appeared that the practice was for constituents to pay the expenses of the representatives of that borough, *and those expenses were borne by the inhabitants at large, and not by a select body.* It might therefore be presumed that all who paid had a

right to vote. The same privilege appeared to have been granted to Preston at the same time, from which place members were returned to parliament, and by the inhabitants of which place their expenses were paid. After several struggles as to the right claimed by Preston, the privilege of returning members to parliament by the inhabitants generally was recognised by law, and had ever since been acted upon. It was argued by those who were friendly to the disfranchisement of the inhabitants, that it was a borough by prescription, and not by charter. But it was known that in various instances charters granted by various monarchs were acted upon by the corporation. The charter of Edward the Third distinctly asserted that all inhabitant householders were burgesses, and a note written by the late Mr. Clayton, Town Clerk of Wigan, which was appended to a copy of that charter, went decidedly to show that the claim of the inhabitants to the right of voting was a just one. Mr. Lord read the note alluded to; and proceeded to observe that if the inhabitants had not possessed the right of voting, Mr. Clayton would not have recorded such an opinion, as, being Town Clerk of the town, he was likely to support what might be considered to be the privileges of the corporation. There was another important point in the charter of Edward the Third, to prove that it had been accepted, and was acted upon by the borough, the inhabitants having always claimed under it an exemption from serving as jurors of the county. Here there was a privilege enjoyed by the inhabitants to this day, granted to them by this charter. So much then for the prescriptive rights of the borough.—The corporation and their friends also denied that they acted under the charter of Charles the Second. The sword which was carried before them when going to divine worship, was carried by the right granted to them in that charter. The charter granted by James the Second was also acted upon by them. They asserted that it, as well as the other charters, was annulled; but he would contend that such was not the case. If the present electors claimed their privilege merely because they were burgesses, the

inhabitants had a concomitant right with them to exercise the privilege of voting in the return of representatives to parliament, because *they also were burgesses*. It was well known that on Sundays and other solemn days a mace was carried before the mayor and corporation, and this had been the practice ever since this very charter had been granted by James the Second. Indeed the mace bore the arms of James, and other insignia of that reign. So much then for this charter being annulled. From the observations he had made it would be seen that the inhabitants had a right to elect their own representatives and that the corporation acted under charters. It was no argument against the charter that the inhabitants had not acted up to their original rights. Any doubt that might be entertained on this subject would be removed by referring to a case decided in favour of Rye, by a Committee of the House of Commons, from which it appeared that although the inhabitants of the town, on whom had been conferred the privilege of returning members to parliament, had not availed themselves for a considerable period of that right, yet the non-exercise of the privilege did not abrogate their original right. He called upon the meeting to come forward with heart and hand, and money, and try the question of their rights.—(Cheers.)

Mr. Lord then proposed the third resolution.

“That it is the opinion of this Meeting, that every Inhabitant of the Borough has a Right to vote in the Election of Members to represent its Interests in the Commons’ House of Parliament, and that all legal and constitutional means be used for the attainment of the Exercise of such Right.”

Mr. JOSEPH ACTON said there was a *prima-facie* ground for proceeding, and he had great pleasure in seconding a resolution which pledged the meeting to adopt all legal means to accomplish their great object.

Mr. WIGAN, in moving the third resolution said, the occasion upon which they had met was one of great and undoubted importance, as they had been convened toge-

ther to assert their undoubted rights, which had long been exercised for them by a small portion of the inhabitants of Wigan. He was convinced, that by union and perseverance, the inhabitants would accomplish the object which they had in view, namely, the emancipation of the borough from the select few; and although their enemies might fancy themselves secure behind the ramparts of monopoly and corruption, they would, to a certainty, dislodge them. They would march upon them in a close column of union and strength, and would rout the enemy at all points. He trusted that no petty bickerings would be displayed by the friends of independence, nor that any thing would happen to muddle the bright stream of patriotism, which had that day begun to flow so purely. Let union be their motto, and victory would be their own. He should therefore briefly move that two *really* independent gentlemen be invited to represent the borough of Wigan in parliament, and not two——but he would say no more. (*Great laughter and applause.*)

Mr. Wigan then moved the third resolution.

“That two Independent Gentlemen be invited to offer themselves at the ensuing Election as candidates for the Representation of this Borough.”

MR. TENNANT seconded the resolution. He should offer a few remarks on the conduct of their late representatives, as he considered that he had a perfect right to do so. He should first allude to the conduct of the noble individual by whose influence a certain gentleman, an entire stranger, had been invested with the privilege of representing the borough in parliament—a person who had been entrusted with the privilege which his money and not his talents had commanded. (*Cheers.*) The friends of Mr. Hodson had not done their duty to him; they had deserted him in his utmost need, and allowed him to be dictated to by a noble individual and his nominee. Why should he have been compelled to rank second, to have been dictated to by a noble individual, and to comply with any order that might have

been issued from the office of the noble lord's professional adviser? He trusted that the meeting would set an example to the burgesses elect.

Mr. FEGAN then proposed the fourth resolution, and said that in nominating Richard Potter, Esq. as a fit and proper person to represent the borough of Wigan in parliament, he should advert to the public and private conduct of that gentleman. He observed that he was a merchant of the first respectability, and his public and private character was unexceptionable, and he possessed talents and courage sufficient to carry him through the arduous situation in which it was to be hoped he would be placed. The numerous and respectable individuals who had honoured the meeting with their attendance, had shown the way to victory, and it would be for the inhabitants to follow the course of duty which had been marked out. They had also, he trusted, taken the field with a determination to conquer, as they had truth and justice on their side. If Mr. Potter were asked in what way he would vote with reference to the East India Company's charter, he would not answer, as certain representatives had done, with a *hem* and a *ha*, but he would distinctly and boldly declare, that he would not only vote against that monopoly, but every other monopoly. He would vote against the corn bill, the worst of all monopolies. (*Cheering.*) He would vote so that the working man might obtain cheap bread, (*loud cheering*) and by his exertions be placed in comfortable circumstances, and contribute all in his power to bring about that happy state of things to render the poor contented; for when the poor were in good circumstances, the rich could not be otherwise.

Mr. Fegan then proposed the fourth resolution.

"That RICHARD POTTER, Esq., of Broughton, is a fit and proper Person to represent the Interests of this Borough in the Commons' House of Parliament, and that a most respectful and earnest invitation be immediately forwarded from this Meeting to him to offer himself as a candidate for the Representation of the Borough."

Mr. Cook seconded the motion. It was of the utmost importance that commercial men should be sent to parliament, for it was well known that the landed interest was sufficiently represented there already. In addition, the naval and military interests of the kingdom were represented by men who had little stake in the country. The commercial interests alone was inadequately represented; but he hoped that Wigan would contribute its share to the increase of commercial men in the House of Commons, and set a bright example to other towns, in sending representatives by whose exertions all monopolies would soon be destroyed, and a different state of things would speedily be brought about.

Mr. GREENOUGH next rose, and craved the attention of the chairman, and his fellow-townsmen, whilst he announced to them another gentleman, who, he was certain, would be found an honourable colleague to Mr. Potter. He could but acknowledge that he felt his inability to do justice to the task which had been assigned to him, as he had never before addressed a public assembly; but when he considered that the very numerous and respectable meeting he had then the honour of appearing before, was composed of his native fellow-townsmen, assembled for the purpose of destroying the odious *borough monopoly*, which had (he believed to the serious disadvantage of the town and its interests) too long existed. He was encouraged to proceed in the hope that he should at least receive their kind indulgence. (*Cheers.*) Mr. Greenough then moved

“That JAMES HARDCASTLE, Esq. of Bradshaw Hall, near Bolton, is a fit and proper Person to represent the Interests of this Borough in the Commons’ House of Parliament, and that a most respectful and earnest invitation be immediately forwarded from this Meeting to him to offer himself as a Candidate for the Representation of this Borough.”

Mr. Greenough then said, “in proposing this gentleman as a proper person to represent you in parliament, and recommending him as a suitable person to you, I feel no ordinary degree of pleasure, because I have the

satisfaction of knowing, I am not only serving most efficiently my native town, but I am also conferring a benefit on the country at large, combining, as he does, *talent, industry, public spirit, and wealth.* (*Cheers.*) Brought up in the midst of commercial pursuits, and possessing a large stake in the mercantile interests of the country, he will both from interest and conviction, most cordially lend his aid, to the destruction of all monopolies in trade, to the advancement of every object that would be likely to enrich the merchant, and increase the comforts of the labourer, and use his most strenuous exertions towards elevating the country to that proud pre-eminence it had so long enjoyed." (*Great Applause.*)

Mr. LORD seconded the motion, and begged to say a few words of Mr. Hardcastle, who, he was proud to say, was his personal friend. "I know him" continued Mr. Lord, "to be an upright, honest man, and that he will spare no sacrifice to relieve the distresses of the country, and uphold her constitution." (*Loud cheering.*)

Mr. W. POTTER moved, and Mr. T. LATHAM seconded,

"That the Chairman, Mr. Lord, Mr. Greenough, Mr. Joseph Acton, Mr. Fegan, Mr. R. Bevan, and Mr. Shaw, be deputed to wait upon Mr. POTTER and Mr. HARDCASTLE, with the invitation."

It was then moved by Mr. SHAW, and seconded by Mr. ALSTON,

"That this Meeting do pledge itself to use every exertion to secure the return of Mr. POTTER and Mr. HARDCASTLE."

Mr. J. TAYLOR moved, and Mr. R. LEIGH seconded,

"That a Committee be formed for the purpose of taking such steps as they may deem necessary to carry the above Resolutions into effect; and that the following Gentlemen form such committee, with power to add to their number, any five of whom to have power to act:—John Holt, Esq. Mr. Lord, Mr. Joseph Acton, Mr. Greenough, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Tennant, Mr. Cook, Mr. Dutton, Mr. Fegan, Mr. Reece Bevan, Mr. Croudson, and Mr. Battersby."

The resolutions having been severally put by the Chairman were received with enthusiasm, and unanimously carried.

The CHAIRMAN again rose and said -- I cannot but admire the orderly manner in which you have conducted yourselves throughout the whole of these proceedings, but at the same time I wish to impress upon your minds that it is the bounden duty of every one to use his utmost exertion to forward the great cause to which we all stand pledged. (*Loud cheering.*) A considerable sum of money has already been subscribed, but as the actual amount which may be required in this struggle, cannot be ascertained, it is always better to be prepared for the worst. I trust that each of you will do all in your power to assist us, according to your discretion, and at the same time I wish it distinctly to be understood, that the mite of the poor and honest man will be as acceptable, and be considered as patriotic an offering, as the most splendid donation of his wealthier neighbour. (*Cheers.*) I exhort you to conduct yourselves as Englishmen ought to do; to leave no stone unturned, to acquire by every lawful and constitutional means, the important rights from which we are at present excluded. I desire you to have no disputes with any of your opponents, nor to act differently to day, than you would on any other day, but to retire to your work, to your wives and families, and continue to demean yourselves in a peaceable and orderly manner until the contest is ended. (*Cheers for several minutes.*)

MR. TENNANT again rose, and in a humorous speech, compared the hirelings of the most noble the earl of Balcarras, to a team of horses, trained in a break, and which he could drive as easily; he then for a short time turns them out to grass, until the next occasion on which he might want their services. After a late canvass, when the noble patron found, from his nominee, that several had refused him their votes, he sneeringly remarked, "That the canvass was a mere compliment, for he could

do very well without them." (*Loud cheering.*) When the day of election arrived his well trained "*household troops,*" who were honourable burgesses, chiefly imported a short time before, from the scottish metropolis, came to the hustings "*en masse,*" and supported his nominee, the gallant colonel; they are turned into the hall, the doors are closed, and in a few minutes, out comes "*a limb of the law,*" and declares the gallant colonel to be legally and duly elected, and that the burgesses had done their duty. (*Shame.*) He, however, would advise the meeting to follow the example of the King, who had lately dismissed his parliament, and dismiss the gallant colonel, in one short sentence, which he, as a military man, must be very familiar with, "*to the right about face, quick march.*" (*Loud laughter mixed with cheers.*)

Thanks were then voted to the Chairman, and three cheers given for the independence of the borough; the meeting then separated, and in a short time the streets assumed their usual quiet appearance.

Soon after the meeting had separated, it was ascertained that the precept from the Sheriff had arrived to proclaim the election. As the election might take place within four days of such notice, it was deemed advisable to lose no time in conveying the invitation to the two gentlemen who had been named as fit and proper representatives of the borough. Accordingly the deputation started (with the invitation, which had been signed by upwards of a thousand persons in the short space of an hour) for Mr. Hardcastle's house. Here they had a cordial reception, and the following answer was returned to their requisition :—

To the Electors of the ancient and loyal Borough of Wigan.



Gentlemen,

After the very flattering manner in which I have been solicited to offer myself for the honourable distinction of becoming

one of your representatives in parliament, I should be unworthy of the confidence reposed in me did I hesitate one moment to obey the call.

Beyond the mere practical knowledge which in common with many others I may possess of the trade and manufactures of this County, with which the prosperity of Wigan is so intimately connected, I confess I am not conscious of any merit of my own that should render me deserving of the honourable station to which I am invited. In an ardent zeal for the prosperity of that trade, and of those manufactures, I yield to none, and the deep stake I hold in the commerce of this county is my pledge that I shall never neglect its interests.

At present I can only add that in the event of my being chosen one of your representatives my best energies shall be exerted for your welfare.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
With sincere respect,
Your obliged and devoted Servant,

JAMES HARDCASTLE.

Bradshaw Hall, Monday Evening, July 26th, 1830.

The deputation then proceeded to Mr. Potter's house, at Broughton, where they were hospitably received. Mr. Potter's reply was as follows :—

*To the truly Independent Electors of the Borough
of Wigan.*



Gentlemen,

The noble resolution which you have taken, the spirit which you have followed that resolution up, a spirit worthy of Englishmen who know their RIGHTS and are determined to maintain them, and the distinguished honour which you have conferred upon me in inviting me to assist in the vindication of your privileges, have filled my breast with emotions to which I have no language to give adequate expression.

The serious and important charge of representing your spirited town in parliament is one which I should not have had the presumption to seek, but which thus tendered I cannot for a moment think of shrinking from.

I shall very soon have the honour of addressing you in person; for the present, therefore, I will only add that I accept with all my heart, your animating call, and that in so noble a struggle, my best exertions are at your command.

I have the honor to remain,
Gentlemen,
Your faithful humble Servant,

RICHARD POTTER.

Broughton Hall, Monday Evening, July 26th, 1830.



**PUBLIC ENTRY OF MR. POTTER AND MR. HARDCASTLE
INTO WIGAN.**

It having been arranged by the committee for conducting the election, that Mr. Potter and Mr. Hardcastle should make their public entry into Wigan, preparatory to making a canvass, a public notice was issued out to the inhabitants, the following being a copy :—

THE Friends of Mr. POTTER, and Mr. HARDCASTLE, are respectfully informed, that those Gentlemen will enter the Town at Eleven o'clock, this day, Tuesday, for the purpose of paying their respects to the inhabitants of the borough of Wigan, and the committee beg to suggest the propriety of their friends meeting them at Rose-bridge, previously to their entry.

WIGAN, Tuesday Morning, July 27th, 1830.

Accordingly, before eleven o'clock, the high road leading from Wigan to Ince toll-bar, was crowded by spectators. At the time appointed, Mr. Potter arrived in an open landeau, accompanied by his brother and a few friends, from Manchester. A considerable number of persons had gone forward to Hindley, and, anxious

to show their zeal, were proceeding to unharness the horses, and draw the carriage themselves. To this the gentlemen strongly objected, but with little effect, until Mr. Thomas Potter said that his brother came to emancipate the borough, not to see Englishmen doing the work of horses. This elicited a shout of applause, and the men good humouredly permitted the barouche to proceed. The crowd increased gradually, and by the time the carriage reached Rose bridge, a mile and a half from Wigan, some thousands of persons were assembled. Here the party halted, and were received by the multitude with the most deafening cheers. Very soon afterwards Mr. Hardcastle made his appearance, in a similar equipage, accompanied by James Cross, Esq., of Mortfield, and Stephen Blair, Esq., of Mill Hill, and met with an equally enthusiastic reception. Both gentlemen alighted, and were introduced to the different members of the committee, and several other gentlemen, by whom they were welcomed with the greatest cordiality. Whilst this was passing, the populace had taken the horses from both carriages, and yoked themselves for the purpose of drawing Mr. Potter and Mr. Hardcastle into the town—for it was found impossible to prevent this expression of heartiness in the cause. After some little delay in arranging the order of the procession, it proceeded as follows ;—

Band of Music, playing “ See the Conquering
Hero comes.”

Gentlemen of the town.

Open carriage, containing the two Candidates, and
Some of the Members of the Committee.

Open carriage, containing the personal friends of the
Candidates.

Gentlemen of the public press.

Gentlemen on horseback.

The procession moved along at a very slow pace, the populace increasing at every step, and the cheering one continued strain of enthusiastic applause. Almost every house displayed banners, composed of the colours of the two candidates, white for Mr. Potter, and green for Mr.

Hardcastle, and the windows were filled with females, who, if possible, testified their approbation and welcome more energetically than the persons composing the procession.

On entering the "Scholes," the scene was of that animated nature which sets all power of graphic delineation at defiance. The main street was one broad and extended sheet of human heads, all appearing to be moved for one common object; yet not the slightest act of violence or appearance of an intention to commit a breach of the peace was visible; but it seemed as if the "march of intellect" had entirely supplanted all idea of such a gigantic power as was this day displayed, resorting to that ready mode of warfare, namely, brute force. On entering the town, the number of gentlemen and principal inhabitants to welcome the candidates, increased, and the whole now formed an imposing appearance. It proceeded slowly up Millgate and into the Market place, and on arriving near to the Eagle Hotel, which belongs to one of the late members Mr. Hodson, and which was now occupied by the committee and friends of Col. Lindsay his colleague, the nominee of Lord Balcarras, the populace rent the air with their cheers. The procession halted in the centre of the Market place, and after silence had been restored, which was accomplished with some difficulty, the new candidates proceeded to address them.

MR. POTTER stood up in the carriage, and was received with renewed cheering. He spoke as follows:—Fellow countrymen,—It is with feelings of no small gratification to myself, that I stand up and address you as a candidate to represent you in the commons' house of parliament. It is no ordinary honour that you seek to confer upon me, and which I now solicit at your hands, and as it necessarily will have a tendency to create in my bosom emotions of the most intense nature, I must claim your indulgence for any imperfections in my speech or manner, which may be occasioned by the consequent excitement. I appear among you, in consequence of the

requisition which I now hold in my hand, a requisition give me leave to say, gentlemen, which does you the greatest credit, as evincing a firm determination to emancipate yourselves from the state of servitude and injustice in which you have so long been placed, and which confers upon me, the individual of your choice, a long and lasting honour, the remembrance of which I shall with pride carry with me to the grave. (*Cheers.*) I shall preserve this document as precious property, and when it shall please God to remove me from this life, it will descend to my only son as a memorial of the honour done to me by a noble minded people, in thus voluntarily calling upon me to take a part in the vindication of their long lost but inalienable rights. The noble resolution you have come to, to throw open this borough,—to claim, and not to pause until you have obtained the full possession of your rights and privileges, shews that you are worthy the name of Britons. But allow me to say that you will indeed need a great deal of perseverance to prosecute this struggle with success. You will have to encounter difficulties without end; such, perhaps, as you can scarcely have contemplated. But as long as you perform your duty, so long will I do mine; so long as you stick to me, so long will I stick to you. (*Loud cheering for several minutes.*) Gentlemen, I have however to say to you, that if you send me to parliament, you shall send me as a perfectly independent man, or I will not go at all. I will be your representative only on the condition that I shall be totally unshackled, and left at liberty to do my duty as a citizen of the whole community, without the slightest reference to private or personal interests. (*Cries of "you shall," and "Potter for ever."*) It appears that parliaments were first summoned in their present form in the reign of Edward the First, (as we understood Mr. Potter to say,) and that Preston and Wigan returned members on similar terms, but we find that Preston now enjoys the privilege of sending its members, by the agency of the popular voice, and I can see no reason why Wigan should not do the same.—Gentlemen, we will try if we cannot place it upon the

same footing ; and if beaten this time, an event of which I have not the most distant contemplation, recollecting that Preston was four times before the House of Commons before it accomplished its independence, we will persevere until we bring it to a successful issue. (*Loud cheers.*) You have a right to ask me what are my political principles, and those which I shall make my rule of action, if returned as your representative. I shall vote against all profligacy in the public expenditure, and for every possible reduction of the taxation. (*Cheers.*) I shall vote for all measures affording a reasonable prospect of insuring to every man a full reward in earnings for his labour. (*Cheers.*) I shall vote against the continuance of all monopolies, of whatever description, against the corn law monopoly, and against the East India monopoly. (*Cheers.*) Gentlemen, I shall vote for every measure, the object of which is to increase the comforts and happiness of the people of this country and its dependencies, and vote against every measure, having an opposite tendency. (*Loud cheers.*) In conclusion, allow me to add, that if you wish to increase the gratification I have already experienced this day, in the enthusiastic manner of my reception among you, let me tell you, it will be effected by your returning peaceably, orderly, quietly to your homes, as you have hitherto conducted yourselves, and give not your opponents the slightest cause to impeach the purity of your motives in the step you have this day taken, or to attribute to you factious or turbulent conduct. Our triumph must be achieved by other materials than force, and it gives me pleasure to see by your conduct, that you are fully aware of it, it must be the result of reason and argument. (*Cheers.*) Then, gentlemen, after my worthy and much respected colleague has addressed you, we will proceed in our canvass, in that quiet, unassuming manner, which will stamp upon our proceedings, the impress of sober and fixed determination. (*Mr. Potter resumed his seat amid loud and reiterated cheering.*)

MR. **HARDCASTLE** then rose, and was also cheered in the most enthusiastic manner. He spoke as follows :—

Gentlemen, you will doubtless give me credit for possessing, at this moment, feelings of no ordinary description. I appear among you under the deepest emotion, created by the very flattering, the very complimentary, and allow me to say, the very independent, manly, and noble requisition, which I received from you, last night, soliciting me to allow myself to be put in nomination as a candidate, to represent you in the ensuing parliament, and which I agree to, with the greatest gratitude. (*Cheers.*) Gentlemen, I have come into this struggle—I have embarked in this, our common cause, with a determination to carry it through. (*Cheers*) I am not one that is over hasty in coming to conclusions, but when I have come to them, neither am I hasty in abandoning them; and it is under this feeling that I am among you this day, as a candidate for your suffrages; but, gentlemen, I have long come to one conclusion, and that is, that the commercial and manufacturing interests of this country, are not adequately represented in the Commons' House of Parliament. (*Cheering for several minutes.*) And I call upon each and every one of you, to show by your votes at this election, whether you think the same or not;—whether you think that a borough, in the heart of a commercial district, will be more fitly represented by commercial gentlemen, or by individuals totally unconnected with its interests. (*Loud cheers, and cries of "we will."*) Then, gentlemen, give me liberty to impress upon you the necessity of proceeding in this matter with a solid quiet determination to bring it to a successful issue. For my own part, my mind is made up, to remain at my post so long as I have life, liberty, or hope. It is my duty to give you a brief but succinct exposition of my principles, and you have a right to demand it of me. Gentlemen, I belong to no party in politics—I never did; and it is probable that I never shall. I am, in the course of my political conduct, and in the expression of my political opinions, free and independent. (*Cheers.*) I am a friend to order and good government, and should I be honoured by being returned your representative, I shall direct my

feeble powers, with my utmost energy, towards their establishment and perpetuation. (*Cheers.*) I am the declared enemy of all monopolies—of that which places a heavy tax upon the poor man's bread; and more particularly that which debars the produce of the industry of this country—your industry and mine, gentlemen—from finding its way to one-fourth of the inhabitants of the world. I allude to the East India monopoly. (*Loud cheers.*) I will be strenuous in enforcing upon the legislative body, the injustice, the impolicy, and the cruelty of continuing it; and my security, my bond for fulfilling this pledge, in common with my colleague, is, the great stake that I have in the commerce of this country. (*Cheers.*) Should I, therefore, obtain the distinguished honour of representing you in parliament, and to me it will be an honour, that will never be effaced from my remembrance, even by the paralyzing hand of time—I will do my duty as an independent man;—as one who has the good of his country at heart, and I will devote my time and attention to the furthering of the interests of this great commercial community:—interests, in the prosperity of which I conceive the whole of the country is nearly and immediately concerned. (*Cheers.*) Neither favour nor fear shall bias me in the performance of my duty: but the rule of my conduct shall be reason, right, liberty, and justice. (*Immense cheering.*) Gentlemen, I pin my faith to no man's sleeve; I have no favours to ask, nor will I accept any. I reiterate, I am a free and independent man, and on no other terms will I solicit and accept your suffrages. (*Cheers.*) I seek the honour on the faith of the requisition, and I will remain with you on these terms to the end of the contest. (*Cheers.*) Let me, gentlemen, second the excellent advice of my respectable and highly intelligent colleague, with whom I am proud to be this day associated, that after this peaceful ebullition of your feelings, you will retire to your respective homes, and allow us to persevere in our canvass with quietness, as it will aid much that dispatch which at present is so necessary. We shall wait upon as many of you as the shortness of the time

will permit—on all of you, if possible ; and allow me to conclude with a perfect reliance on your support, in this truly honourable cause, and that it will be rendered in that peaceful, orderly manner, that has hitherto characterised your proceedings, and which will convince your opponents that you have well considered this matter, and that you are determined to achieve your independence.

Here Mr. Hardcastle resumed his seat in the carriage, amidst the most enthusiastic and continued cheering. The procession then moved onward to the Buck i' th' Vine Inn, where apartments had been provided for the candidates, and where they were again welcomed by their friends, and an additional body of influential inhabitants, who were in constant communication with the main body of the committee, which sat at Mr. Burgoyne's, the Commercial Inn. Mr. Holt, the magistrate who had presided so effectually at Monday's meeting, addressed the crowd on the propriety of observing order and decorum, which, added to the injunctions of the decidedly popular and favourite candidates, Mr. Potter and Mr. Hardcastle, caused it instantly to disperse, and the streets relapsed into their usual stillness. There appeared to be but one feeling on the subject, and its infection seemed to be spreading even among the burgesses, that they were pursuing a just right, which had too long been usurped from them. The intelligent and respectable inhabitants of the borough filled the places of public resort, and in calm and dispassionate language on the subject, seemed fully agreed as to the necessity of conducting the contest with peace, order, sobriety, and good temper. A few *stray* burgesses found their way among them, who, as soon as their *fears* were calmed, appeared to listen to the voice of reason, and some of them made positive declarations, that if the inhabitants were entitled to the right they sought to obtain, they ought to have it, and that Mr. Potter and Mr. Hardcastle were fit and proper persons to represent the borough in the commons' house of parliament.

The following notice was on Tuesday Evening given to the Mayor:—

To the Worshipful Henry Bullock, Esquire, Mayor of the Borough of Wigan, in the County of Lancaster.



I the undersigned, Richard Potter, a candidate for the representation of the borough at the ensuing election of members of parliament, do hereby request you, as returning officer, to divide the place of polling for the election of members of parliament for this borough, into compartments, according to the number of voters, which are estimated at four thousand, and to erect booths, and provide accommodation for pollclerks, agents and voters, in accordance with the provision of an act of parliament passed in the ninth year of the reign of his late majesty King George the fourth, intituled "an act to regulate the mode of taking the Poll at the election of members to serve in Parliament for Cities, Boroughs, and Ports in England and Wales." And to appoint a clerk to each compartment as directed by the same act of parliament. Dated the 27th day of July, 1830.

RICHARD POTTER.

Mr. Potter had not the satisfaction to receive any reply from the Mayor to his request.



On Wednesday Mr. Potter issued the following address:—

To the Worthy and Independent Burgesses of Wigan.



Gentlemen,

The gratifying, the most flattering reception which Mr. Hardcastle and myself yesterday experienced from you, has given you a claim upon my gratitude which cannot be weakened by the result of the struggle in which we are engaged, be that result what it may.

But it has also, gentlemen, inspired me with a new confidence that the result must be what we wish—that it must secure for ever, the freedom and independence of the borough of Wigan.

The cause in which we are engaged is a JUST CAUSE—the right which we demand is a LEGAL RIGHT; and with justice and law upon our side, what obstacle can stand in the way of men actuated by the spirit by which I have had the happiness to see you actuated.

To be invited to participate in such a contest is an honour which cannot be too highly prized—to be chosen the representative of such men is an object well worth ambition; and on my part no exertion shall be spared to show that I estimate at their true price the high honour you have already done me, and the still higher honour which you design for me.

I have already, in company with my future colleague, paid my respects to many of you in person, to solicit you individually for the favour of your suffrages; I shall continue to discharge a duty, which the reception which we met with, renders so truly grateful. But, if the limited notice of the approaching election which has been given to us, should render it impracticable for us to see every burgess at his own home, I trust that the unavoidable omission will be attributed to its true cause, and not to intentional disrespect.

Gentlemen, the period at which you have chosen to assert your privileges, will make yours a tenfold triumph. Never were discussed questions more momentous than those which occupy the attention of the next parliament; never did a parliament meet in England, in which it was more vitally important that the commercial interests of this great commercial country should be fairly represented and fully understood. One of the first of these questions will be the renewal of the East India Company's charter. Need I call your attention to the importance of this question; need I remind a community of merchants and manufacturers how deeply commerce and manufactures have suffered from the existence, how deeply they are sure to suffer from the continuance of the odious and unjust monopoly: need I remind you how essential it is that your representatives should give you distinct pledges to oppose its continuance? Need I ask you if such pledges are declined by myself, or by

the gentleman whom, as well as myself, you have done the honour to invite to receive your suffrages? Gentlemen, you have from both the best pledges that men can give you of their determination to oppose this monopoly—the knowledge of your sufferings from this cause, gained by the experience of their own community of feeling, and community of interest.

These, gentlemen, are our pledges that we will be zealous advocates of free trade to the East.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your faithful humble servant,

RICHARD POTTER.

Wednesday, July 27th, 1830.



The following copy of a letter, sent to the Mayor and the Burgesses Elect, from Mr. Harcastle, was also issued on Wednesday.

Copy of a Circular by James Harcastle, Esquire, to the Mayor and the Burgesses Elect, of the Borough of Wigan.

Sir,

In seeking to open the Elective Franchise of the borough of Wigan to the inhabitants at large, I am not aware that I invade any right you individually possess, and calculating upon the sympathy and good feeling you cannot but entertain towards your fellow townsmen, I have presumed to solicit that you will record those sentiments by your vote upon the hustings.

I hope for the pleasing reflection that I have not been the cause of dissention to any inhabitant of this borough, and I do anxiously and humbly press upon your consideration, how very desirable it is that your cordial and friendly sentiments towards your neighbours should now (whilst the opportunity remain) be unhesitatingly manifested.

You are well acquainted with the public grounds upon which I have been induced to offer myself, but I will further say, that in loyalty to my King, and in a resolute determination to be ever found amongst the friends of order and good government, no man can exceed me.

With unfeigned and sincere respect,
Believe me,

Sir,
Your most faithful and humble Servant,

JAMES HARDCASTLE.

INCE HALL, WIGAN,
Wednesday Morning, July 28th, 1830.



On Wednesday and Thursday Mr. Potter and Mr. Hardcastle made a very active canvass, among the members of the corporation and others, and were received by the inhabitants generally with the greatest civility. It was supposed at one time that the late members, Colonel Lindsay and Mr. Hodson would resign, in consequence of a memorial from a considerable part of their constituents requiring a pledge from them that they would vote against the renewal of the East India Company's Charter, but to the surprise of the town, which knows how much the Lindsay family is connected with the company, they have expressed their willingness so to vote.

The following are copies of the Mayor's letter, with the replies of Mr. Hodson and Colonel Lindsay to the memorial sent to them by the Burgesses Elect.

Sir,

I beg to send you Copies of the Letters received by me from Mr. Hodson and Col. Lindsay, relative to the Trade to India and China.

I am,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servt.

HENRY BULLOCK.

Queen-Street, 28th July, 1830.

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(COPY)

Wigan, July 28th, 1830.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter just received, respecting the wishes of a number of the Aldermen and Burgesses of the borough of Wigan, concerning the opening of the trade to India and China,—I beg leave to assure you, that I have no hesitation whatever in promising my support in Parliament, should I be so fortunate as to arrive there, to the accomplishment of that object, or any other that may tend to promote the commerce and manufactures of this town and of the country at large.

I have the honor to be,
Mr. Mayor,
Your most obedient Servt.

(Signed) JAMES A. HODSON.

His Worship the Mayor,
&c. &c. &c.

(COPY.)

Haigh, July 28th, 1830.

Sir,

I have the honor of receiving your letter with its inclosure. To uphold Monopoly has ever been inconsistent with the principles I have avowed. With respect to any pledge upon the opening of trade to India, I much regret that my friends should think this necessary, but as they require the declaration of my opinions upon the subject, and as I see the names of so respectable a body of Burgesses attached to the paper you have sent me, I do not hesitate to say I will comply with their wishes.

I do so the more readily never having given any opinion or pledge to the contrary.

I have the honor to be,
Your very obedient humble Servt.

(Signed) JAMES LINDSAY.

To Henry Bullock, Esq.
Mayor.

The reply of Mr. Hodson appeared to give the satisfaction that was required, but that of Colonel Lindsay was considered very evasive, and excited still stronger suspicions of the purity of his intention.—His supporters, as had been, were equally severe with his opponents in their animadversions of his conduct. The following address was immediately circulated :—

To the Inhabitants of Wigan.

Gentlemen,

You require a declaration of his opinions. he *Promises* to comply, and should he comply, what confidence can you place in his declaration? It is not quite two years since he did pledge himself, in the cause of the Catholic question, and how *did* he redeem his pledge? Did he act like Mr. Peel? Did he, when he could not sit with honour, avail himself of the only alternative in his power, and, by resigning his seat, put it in the power of his constituents to relieve him from his engagements, or appoint another? Or did he act like another honourable member, (the nominee of the Duke of Newcastle)? Did he act like Major General Clinton who, finding he could not, conscientiously, obey the orders of his Patron, restored the power intrusted to him, by resigning his seat to his constituents?

Any Man in Wigan can supply the Answers !!!

In the evenings Mr. Potter and Mr. Hardcastle, with their friends, attended the room where the committee sat, and gave very flattering accounts of their successful canvassing. Elated with such encouragement, the ardent zeal of these gentlemen to try the question of our rights was still more manifest; and their repeated pledges were convincing proofs, to satisfy the doubts of the most captious, of the purity of their intentions. At

these meetings; other gentlemen, the friends of Mr. Potter and Mr. Hardcastle, also took occasion to address the company in very animating language.

During the week, the committee, having the assistance of several gentlemen of the legal profession, were actively engaged in making all the necessary arrangements preparatory to the day of Election. Great obligations are due to those gentlemen for their valuable and efficient services. The regularity and promptness in their proceedings reflect the greatest credit upon their judgment.



The following is one of the squibs which have appeared on this occasion, and we give it here as illustrative of the state of the borough. The extraordinary note copied into it was really sent, at last election, to the burghesses :—

THE SEAT-WARMER FOR EVER!



To the worthy Electors of the Borough of Wigan.



GENTLEMEN,

The following is the copy of a circular, which was addressed to you on the 28th of March, 1825, signed on behalf of the Noble Family of LINDSAY, by Mr. HENRY GASKELL.

“The Death of your attached and Noble Friend, the late Earl of Balcarres producing a Vacancy in the Representation of the Borough, and the Family feeling the strongest wish still to continue the connection with the Corporation, till LORD LINDSAY shall be of age to offer himself to your choice, it is hoped, during the minority, and during that period only, that it may not be unacceptable to you, to receive the tender of the Political Services of Colonel Lindsay (the next in Blood and degree now in England) who will immediately present himself as a Candidate for your favour, when he learns the melancholy event which occasions the present address to you.”

Now, Gentlemen, in accordance with the request contained in the above letter, (for it was a request, not a command,) you elected Colonel Lindsay, to be your Representative "during the minority, and during that period only" of Lord Lindsay. It was then clearly understood that the Colonel should *keep the Borough Seat warm* till the Infant became of age, and you are, consequently, bound in honour to adhere to the arrangement. It may be, that factious and designing Persons may represent to you, that it is an infringement of the Constitution to permit Peers to influence the return of Members in the Commons' House of Parliament, and that it is the highest insult that could be offered to the Borough, to ask it to put in a Member merely to hold a Seat till A SCHOOL-BOY ripen into A SENATOR; but it is hoped that you will disregard such representations, and humbly and dutifully do as the Noble Family of Lindsay bid you. Two new candidates have offered themselves: but, Gentlemen, who are they?—why *mere Tradesmen*. Listen not to their artful talk.—POTTER may tell you a cunning tale about a cheap Loaf—and HARDCASTLE may tell you about the advantage of having cheap Tea:—but what are cheap Bread and cheap Tea, and ready sale for your Calicoes, compared to the HONOUR—the high—the DISTINGUISHED HONOUR, of having a collateral Branch of a NOBLE FAMILY, sitting as the *Seat-Warmer* for the one next "IN BLOOD AND DEGREE" to the direct NOBLE line?

Gentlemen, turn out these 'Commercial Men,' as they call themselves! What have you to do with Commercial Men?—and what have they to do with you? Why should they come amongst you to throw open the Franchise, when you must be aware that the Corporation has ALWAYS DONE RIGHT? Do you not see that it is much better that three or four score Persons should take upon themselves all the trouble of electing Members, and leave you at liberty to attend to your warehouses, your shops, and your looms, undisturbed by matters which are far beyond your comprehension?

Take advice, then, Gentlemen! Return Colonel Lindsay to be Seat-warmer, till Lord Lindsay be of age, and let the Noble Family of Balcarres nominate the other candidate also. Let your cry be

*"The Seat-warmer and his Friend for ever!" and
"Down with Potter and Independence—down with
Hardcastle and Free Trade."*

About the same time the following addresses, &c., made their appearance.

To the Independent Electors of the Borough of Wigan.

Gentlemen,

You are now engaged in the most momentous struggle that ever called forth the feelings or the energies of mankind, and the consequences of which will be felt to the remotest period of time. You have undertaken to decide the question whether yourselves and your children's children shall remain the passive slaves of a faction, as contemptible as it is odious and corrupt, or enjoy the privileges of free men. Your proceedings have, hitherto, been characterised by a display of temperance and good sense, highly creditable to yourselves, and to the cause in which you are embarked; and there can be little doubt of your ultimate triumph, provided the enthusiastic excitement of the moment do not lead you into error. Your opponents are (some of them at least) deeply versed in the arts of *chicane* and *corruption*; and most assuredly they will not fail to take advantage of any mistake into which you may be hurried. There is even a something ominous in the silence and mystery that attend their proceedings.

Under these circumstances, permit one, who is himself an *old Ley-payer*, and who claims the honour of yielding to no man in his wishes for the prosperity of his native town, to propose a few questions for your serious consideration.

In your intended election of two independent representatives for this borough, *who is the person to declare them duly elected?*

Can they, without such a formal declaration, signed by some one in authority, claim a seat, as your representatives, in the Commons' House of Parliament?

If they be declared duly elected by the Mayor, will they not take their seats as though they had been elected by burgesses as heretofore—notwithstanding others may have been permitted to enact the farce of voting at their election—and, thereby, prevent the great question of your absolute right to the enjoyment of the Elective Franchise from being legally decided?

Will the persons you intend to elect for your representatives refuse to take their seats on those terms—are you quite certain, that they would prefer a long, harrassing litigation—the result of which is perhaps doubtful—to a comfortable seat on the ministerial benches?

Have you well considered the possibility of an attempt being made, amid the hurry of the election, to cajole you into a sanction of a coalition of interests, that will render the generous efforts you are making of no avail?

These questions well considered can do no harm—they may be productive of some good—they are the production of a man who has lived long enough to estimate the value of an electioneering speech.

Wigan, July 29th, 1830.



“ THE DAYS OF VASSALAGE ARE GONE!!! And those of HONOUR and INTEGRITY HAVE SUCCEEDED THEM !!! ”

NOTE.—Found in Mr. Banks' Manuscript.

July 29th, 1830.

To the Inhabitants of Wigan.



Men of Wigan, remember that the eyes of the whole nation are at this moment upon you !

“ Arise now, or be for ever fallen ! ”

Yes, fellow-townsmen, now is the acceptable time, now is the Day of **FREEDOM ARRIVED!** Be firm, then, and you will conquer! Flinch, and you are for ever lost! Already have your enemies, who have so long kept you under the yoke of servile bondage, begun to tremble! Yes, gentlemen; at this very moment may you hear the sound of the hammer, which is unrieving your chains! Proceed, then, and be free!—Return, and you are slaves! And may that voice of freedom and liberty, which has been raised these two days, be re-echoed for ages yet to come! Yes; let it be the boast of your children, and your children's children, that on the 26th of July, in the first year of the Reign of William the Fourth, their forefathers first stood forward to claim their native rights !!!

Potter and Purity of Election.

July 29th, 1830.



Mr. Potter and Mr. Hardcastle having been requested to address the public again before the day of Election, and their consent having been obtained, the following notice was publicly issued:—

To the Electors of Wigan.



Mr. Potter and Mr. Hardcastle intend to address their Friends from the Buck i' th' Vine Inn, at Six o'clock this evening.

Friday Morning, July 30th.

This notice excited considerable interest in the town, so great was become the popularity of these gentlemen. At the hour appointed the rain was falling in torrents; a great concourse of people had, notwithstanding, assembled, when

MR. POTTER presented himself at the window, and addressed the assembly with great animation. He stated, that he was sure the committee would not have appointed that hour had they had the least idea such a change would have taken place in the weather; he should therefore detain them a very short time. The circumstance of their attendance on such an evening was to him a convincing proof of the ardour with which they were animated in the glorious cause. On Tuesday when Mr. Hardcastle and he entered the town, it was under a burning sun, but this had no effect upon their zeal, and now, though they were exposed to the "pelting of the pitiless storm," that had as little effect. This convinced him that like good old English oak, they could withstand either heat or cold. (*Cheers and laughter.*) The reception they gave to him and to his colleague on Tuesday, had made an impression on him, which no time or circumstance would ever remove, be the result of this struggle what it might. Yes, Gentlemen, on every succeeding 27th. of July, whilst providence permits me to exist, I will call together my children, and impress upon their minds the cordial, the affectionate, and the heartfelt welcome which, on that day, I received at your hands. (*Cheers.*) And when it shall please the great disposer of events to remove me to my fathers, I trust that my latest thoughts will be directed to a recollection of your kindness towards me. (*Cheers.*) I have a high regard for your character, because I am aware that the eyes of the whole country are upon you, and I need not tell you how much our cause will be depreciated in the eyes of all virtuous men, if, during this election there is on your parts, the slightest breach of the peace. Let the 31st of July produce a similar line of conduct to that which you have hitherto evinced, and you will not only

secure the approbation of a self-approving conscience, but likewise merit the approbation of the fairest portion of creation—the females of Britain, whom I am delighted to see ranged under our banners. I should be ashamed of my feelings as a man, if I did not acknowledge this. (*Cheers.*) The ladies can, and will serve us, and I repeat it, I am transported to see them in our favour, for it is a signal proof that our object is virtuous, and our claims just. I particularly desire that every single lady will influence her brother, for I conceive they are the exclusive patrons, if I may be allowed the comparison, of their sweethearts, and will, as a matter of course, order them to vote, as they may think proper. (*Loud cheers and laughter.*) If I should attain to the high honour of becoming your representative in parliament, I will make the only return in my power; and that is to endeavour to serve you faithfully; I will do all I can to relieve you from taxation; I will do all I can to relieve you from the additional taxation occasioned by monopolies, particularly that in tea, which is a most grievous and oppressive one. In passing through one of your streets, to day, I saw in the shop of a respectable grocer, a ticket with this inscription, “Good black tea, 5s. a lb.” I examined the tea, and found that it was of excellent quality, but I naturally asked myself why an article of almost unlimited production should be sold at such an extravagant price? It is, Gentlemen, because it is subject to the King’s duty, and imported by the Leadenhall monopolists. That tea has paid a 100 per cent. I mention this to show that it is in consequence of the unjust exactions of those monopolists, perpetrated, I am sorry to say, under the sanction of law, that the comforts of the poor of this country are so shamefully abridged.— Now I put it to you to say whether your members have not hitherto supported this monopoly? and if so, whether they have not sacrificed public duty at the shrine of private avarice. (*Loud cheers.*) If there was a free trade, this tea could be imported at 15d. to 18d. a pound. and the King’s duty would be about as much; it might therefore be retailed at 3s. a pound instead of 5s. (*Hear*

and cheers.) And would not that be a relief, particularly to poor old Women, who almost live on tea? (*Cries of "It would, it would," and cheers.*) King William has ascended the throne of these realms, and is, I believe justly popular; I hope he will continue to deserve it, and let him remember that the wisest of Kings, (Solomon,) said "that he who helpeth the poor is a good man." In the present state of the weather, I feel I ought not to detain you longer than to express my best wishes for your health and happiness. Mr. Potter withdrew amidst loud cheering.

Mr. **HARDCASTLE** then addressed the populace from the window.

Gentlemen,—I have not been accustomed to address crowds in open space, and it is with difficulty, perhaps, that I can make myself heard. If there be any gentleman, however, with those nice ears, that he cannot understand my imperfect intonation, I beg he will excuse me. (*Cheers.*) I have been accustomed to mingle with workmen, and I naturally love their phrases, and above all things as a Lancashire man, I must say that I admire Tim Bobbin! Should I, therefore, be vulgar in my expressions, I hope you will give me your indulgence, if others less enlightened than you, do not concede it. Mr. Potter last night said "that nothing was so tedious as a twice told tale." Gentlemen, I told you mine on Tuesday, I will therefore not trouble you with a repetition of it. It is a source of pride to me, that I have the unbought approbation of the men of Wigan, and, what doubly enhances my success, the gracious smiles of the ladies. (*Cheers.*) I came here pledged to open the borough, and to assist in opening the East India Trade, that is, if my humble efforts joined with others can accomplish them. (*Cheers.*) Confide in me, and gentlemen, I will never break the pledge I give you. (*Cheers.*) Our opponents have pledged themselves too, on certain subjects, as I learn from a printed placard in my hand, and why they have done so I will

enquire. But of Mr. Hodson, whose name is the first on the list, I say nothing, except that I regret, that he did not come before you unshackled, and as an independent Englishman. My worthy colleague and I, have come here certainly connected, but not coupled. We are the friends (and I am proud of the appellation) of our country. (*Cheers.*) With respect to Col. Lindsay, I say nothing of him except that he is a soldier; and it remains with you to say, whether he ought to represent a commercial borough; Mr. Hodson I know to be a civilian, and he ought not to be coupled with the gallant Colonel.—Gentlemen, I will examine the sentiments of the gallant Colonel expressed in this hand-bill. He says, “to uphold monopoly has ever been inconsistent with what he has avowed.” I hope, gentlemen, it has also been inconsistent with what he has felt; I hope he does not seek a monopoly in votes. (*Cheers.*) He also regrets that he has heard from the burgesses of a pledge about any thing, on any subject; but, gentlemen, I rather think he has heard something about *pledges on voting*, or he would not stand a contest to-morrow, against so much popular feeling. (*Cheers.*) Allow me, gentlemen, on votes and voters, to say something, lest it be thought that I am insensible to what we owe to them. I believe to one vote, we owe that invaluable blessing to every English subject—the *Haveus Corpus Act*;—and to a majority of five votes, do we owe, that this country is honoured with the sovereignty of the house of Brunswick. In the bustle of an election, a candidate has but little time to manage his thoughts, but to economise your time, in the present inclement weather, I will do my best to keep to the point; recollecting that “brevity is the soul of eloquence.” Gentlemen, I now feel that I should ill fulfil my pledges to you, if I did not tell you, that by a course of active industry, I have, (and I assert it with a pride that cannot be felt by those that are born to fortune,) erected my own qualification to become your representative. But I should ill do my duty to my honoured father, if I did not state to you, that I have had the benefit of his experience,

and he deserves every credit that you can possibly suppose I merit. His example has constantly animated me, and I feel proud that I have attained a station in society which will not only be an ample gratification to him, but also to myself. He, in his youth, was personally acquainted with poverty, and he knows what it is to be poor. Gentlemen, he as well as myself, feel constantly for the poor ; and on this contest I stand as much on the personal character of my honoured parents as my own ; therefore I will not contradict an absurd report about our keeping a *tommy shop*, except only to say that we pay 80,000*l.* in *money wages* annually, without biasing our workmen in any way. Gentlemen, I will not talk to you of gratitude, because the time will come when deeds will be deemed equal, if not superior to expressions of gratitude ; but you must persevere in a quiet determination ; and God bless you all. (*Cheers.*)

Mr. G. HADFIELD afterwards addressed the meeting. He commenced by saying that he had heard it said of Wigan that it was a place of violent party politics, for there was all the town on one side, and one man on the other : to what this old story of Wigan politics might refer, he could not say, but at present it was very intelligible, for it seemed that my Lord Balcarras was on one side, and all the town on the other ; it was against the domineering interference of this peer that his friend Mr. Potter and the other worthy gentleman Mr. Hardcastle had come amongst them ; if the town did its duty, and persevered, there was great reason to hope that the inhabitants would achieve a great victory. Since he had come to Wigan he had inquired what Lord Balcarras had done for them, but he could not learn that they owed him any thing. He (Mr. Hadfield) knew that the late Lord Balcarras was a long time governor of Jamaica ; and that he never took one step to abolish or lessen the horrors of that most iniquitous and odious stain upon human nature, colonial slavery. (*Cheers.*) He (Mr. Hadfield) said it was clear to every man, that practical commercial men were wanted in the House of Commons,

and such as would act for the true benefit of the country, by opposing monopolies of all kinds. The prevalence of monopolies was, in his opinion, a great cause of the evils under which the country laboured. The East India monopoly had the double effect of raising the price of tea, which had now become one of the prime necessities of life, and of preventing British manufactures being freely exported to the vast regions of the East, particularly the great empire of China, inhabited by 250 millions of souls. (*Hear, and cheers.*) The corn monopoly was a tax on the trading and labouring part of the community, for the sole benefit of the rich landholders. That monopoly operated most injuriously, cutting like a two-edged sword, by raising the price of the poor man's food, and preventing the free exportation of our manufactures, by which means the price of labour was reduced. (*Cheers.*) The unequal pressure of taxation was another great evil: the estates and property of the aristocracy were exempt from many taxes to which those of commercial men are subject. When a great man dies, his estates pass to his successors free from duty; but those of the bulk of the community are subject to a heavy taxation on the transfer. (*Hear.*) The estates of the aristocracy are not liable to simple contract debts like those of other people, by which great frauds are frequently committed upon tradesmen. The late lamented Sir Samuel Romilly once got a bill carried through the House of Commons to remedy this crying evil; but when it came to the Lords, they refused to entertain it, saying, in effect, that it was very proper for tradesmen and other inferior sort of folks to pay their debts, but noble lords must not be compelled to do so—they were too high-minded to be obliged to pay their debts like shopkeepers and merchants. (*Loud cries of "shame," mingled with laughter and applause.*) This, said Mr. Hadfield, is an unjust distinction, and ought to be abolished. The pressure of taxation was far too great, and ought to be reduced: the noble Queen Elizabeth, on one occasion, on being pressed to lay on new taxes, refused, and exclaimed "My best exchequer

is the pockets of my people." We want more money to be left in our pockets ; and, if you send the gentlemen who solicit your suffrages to parliament, they will, I am sure, do their best to effect so desirable a consummation. Mr. Hadfield retired amidst great cheering.

Mr. ALSTON next appeared at the window, and was received with loud cheers, which lasted for several minutes : he spoke as follows.—FELLOW TOWNSMEN, in addressing you on this interesting occasion, I feel myself a little embarrassed, when I behold such a numerous assemblage before me, and also on the right hand, and on the left. If a feeling bordering on exultation may be permitted, I perceive its approach whilst I make the attempt to address myself to many who are not only intelligent, but whose bosoms burn with the best feelings of our nature ; feelings, when called into action, do honour to man. The crisis is now arrived, when we may emancipate ourselves from the trammels with which we, as inhabitants of a considerable commercial town, have long been fettered. It gives me pleasure when I see myself standing in the same room with two enlightened, and patriotic Gentlemen, who have come forward to offer their powerful aid, for the purpose of delivering us from the confined, and contracted system of *Rule*, by which we have been held down for many years past : a system that has palsied our commercial energies ; that has held us almost stationary, whilst the neighbouring towns have seized the trading advantages, which our local situation ought to have secured to us, and which we were entitled to possess. (*Cheers.*) The Gentlemen who now offer themselves to represent us in the great council of this trading nation, are well acquainted with the nature of *Free Trade*. They have made their way to the summit of opulence by their industry, and the prudent management of their own affairs. They know how to take advantage of every favourable event that may present itself in the course of commercial transactions. These, then, my fellow townsmen, are the men, fit to be entrusted with what concerns us in the house of commons ;

[*cheers.*] I believe they will not be found sleeping at their post, they will let no opportunity slip, to secure our prosperity. [*Renewed cheers.*]

May we not then hope, monopolies, that only benefit a few, may, by the joint labours of such as these, be driven from our land, and that the poor and industrious man may be justly and properly paid for his labour. Tell me not that we are not to avail ourselves of these advantages, when within our reach.—Let our motto, then, be

“ *Union of effort, and emancipation.* ”

Some fond hopes have been cherished that the burgesses (so called) will come to our help.—Let no one delude himself by this vain expectation. Most of the burgesses consider themselves bound together—in fact, they are a plighted body, and will not separate; the spell may be broken by a few individuals; but fire would as soon unite with water, as the burgesses and inhabitants of Wigan, in the work which now engages our attention. I bear testimony, however, that many of the burgesses are not only liberal minded characters, but honourable members of society. In this business, I feel sorry we cannot act together.

We live in the year 1830, not in the 12th, 13th, or 14th centuries, when a man astonished his neighbours by the profoundness of his learning, if he were capable of writing his own name. This is an age of improvement; all things, with few exceptions, are in motion; and we, I hope, feel inclined to move onward. Let those who would keep us where we are, or draw us back to the dark ages, halt in the mud. [*Loud laughter and cheering.*] If it so please them, we will press forward. We owe these patriotic gentlemen, who now offer themselves as candidates to represent us in parliament, a debt of gratitude which I am afraid we shall not easily pay. By such efforts as theirs, an impulse is given to

the noblest feelings of the human mind.—An impulse which, if improved, may confer happiness on ages yet unborn. (*Cheers.*) If we succeed posterity may hold the remembrance of the now passing events in their fond memories, and whilst they are eating their bread to the full, and enjoying the privileges which the present struggle is intended to secure for them, they may recount with pleasure the history of these days. Mr. Alston retired amidst loud cheering; and the populace who had assembled, it is thought to the number of five thousand, very orderly and peaceably dispersed.



SATURDAY.—The town was early in motion on this interesting day, and during the morning a band of music attended by a considerable body of the people, paraded the town, playing popular airs. At ten o'clock the mayor took his seat in the court-house where the contest was to be decided, for the usual term of "holding the poll" does not apply to the *unique* proceedings of the "Mayor of Wigan." Mr. Hodson, who arrived in his company, took his seat on the right hand of the chair, Colonel Lindsay on the left, Sir Robert Holt Leigh, Bart. John Hodson Kearsley, Esq. and several other magistrates and gentlemen filled the justice seat.

A few minutes afterwards, Mr. Potter arrived at the head of a long procession of the excluded burgesses, who had fallen into marching order, and followed him from the Buck i'th' Vine, whence he had proceeded on foot, the band preceding, and the crowd attending with reiterated cheers. Mr. Hardcastle arrived about the same time, attended by Mr. Lord and several other gentlemen. The new candidates took their places at the green table. The mayor invited them to take seats beside him, but as they could not do so without displacing gentlemen already seated, they declined this civility. Mr. Hardcastle sat opposite the mayor; Mr. Potter was at his right hand, with Mr. Hadfield, of Manchester, who

had assisted him with his advice in the course of the election; on the left of Mr. Hardcastle sat Messrs. Raincock and Hall, the counsel engaged on the occasion, and with them Mr. Lord and Mr. Bancks.

Before the oaths were administered to the officers of the court, Mr. Hardcastle rose and said that he had a favour to seek of the court, and it was the only one he would request. A gentleman, now in ill health, and, in fact, lying on his death bed, had done him the honour to promise him his vote. But he (Mr. H.) was afraid of the consequences if he should be obliged to come up into that court to give his vote. Mr. H., therefore, requested that, when he should arrive, the proper officers might be allowed to go out of the court, and take his vote below. The gentleman to whom he alluded was Mr. Baron, who was known and respected by every one in that court.

The Mayor seemed to hesitate as if he knew not how to deal with the case; but on Mr. Raincock's observing that it was a matter to be conceded of course, and always conceded on such occasions, he signified his assent.

The oaths were then duly administered to the different officers of the court. When this form was gone through, Colonel JAMES LINDSAY and JAMES ALEXANDER HODSON, Esq. were proposed by Mr. Barton, and seconded by Mr. Haliburton without observation.

RICHARD POTTER, Esq. was then proposed by Mr. John Acton, and seconded by Mr. John Croudson.

Mr. Croudson in seconding the nomination of Mr. Potter said:—Mr. Mayor, Gentlemen and Fellow-burgesses,—I stand forward to second the nomination of my worthy friend Mr. Acton; and, in so doing, I feel a conviction in my own mind, that I shall be rendering a public service, not only to this ancient and loyal bo-

rough, but also to the country at large.—Gentlemen, there has of late been too much monopoly amongst us.—For my own part, I like freedom and independence; and I now tell you that the time is arrived when you have an opportunity of unfettering those shackles with which you have been so long bound. If you are friends to freedom, come forth and shew yourselves independent, and let us return men who will fairly represent us in parliament, and who will attend to the general good of all. I have no unfriendly feeling towards our late Representatives; but I have a desire that the elective franchise should be extended to every respectable inhabitant residing within this borough.

JOHN HODSON KEARSLEY, Esq. then rose and said that he was not an enemy to freedom, but he was an enemy to irregularity and disorder; and in that character he was opposed to the claims of the inhabitants to be considered burgesses, being convinced that their demand was wholly irregular and illegal. [The speaker was here interrupted by Mr. Hardcastle and Mr. Bancks, who conceived, that as there was no question before the court, these observations were irregular.]

Mr. Kearsley replied that the interruption was irregular, as the gentlemen who gave it seemed not to be aware that he had risen for the purpose of proposing a candidate, and this he would do before he concluded. Though he was opposed to the manner in which the inhabitants wished to effect the object, he still thought that some change was wanting in the representation of the borough; and when he rose to propose a candidate himself, he was not actuated by any feelings of personal hostility either towards the gentlemen who had been invited to offer themselves for the town, or their former representatives; he would go farther and say, that the man was not breathing against whom he entertained an unkind feeling. (*Cheers.*) There was no gentleman in the world for whom he entertained a more kindly feeling than for Colouel Lindsay; he was a man of most

gentleman-like manners and very pleasing exterior. But these qualities were not essential, though others were, for a member of parliament: and that they were not essential was obvious enough, if he might judge from what many members of the last parliament had been. (*Cheers, and a laugh.*) They all knew that there were other qualities more desirable—they all knew the value of good and faithful servants; and if such were occasionally negligent they ought to be excused; but there was no excuse for studied and continued neglect; no gentleman would excuse this in his household domestic; and the public ought not to excuse it in their servants. Now this neglect, on the part of one of their representatives, they had experienced. Against Mr. Hodson he had nothing to allege; but Colonel Lindsay had neglected his duty to the borough; and he would beg to propose one who would pay more attention to that duty. He did not know a better, or he would recommend him; he spoke of their humble servant, John Hodson Kearsley, Esq. Now was the time for redressing themselves; now was the time for giving their votes to those who would attend to their wishes. He had been told, last week, that he had run away from the election; but he was at his post. He did not care whether he got a vote or not, but they would not find an honest man.

Mr. BANCKS after apologising for his former interruption, on the ground that he had no idea of Mr. Kearsley's proposing a candidate, said he himself also rose to propose a candidate, and on this occasion he would not be content to give a silent vote; for he never would give a vote unless he were prepared to justify it. Two gentlemen had come forward, not knowing that any candidates were to be proposed, except the last members.—(*Cheers.*) They had come forward not to oppose those members. By no means; but they had come for the purpose of assisting the town in recovering, what of right belonged to it, the elective franchise. (*Cheers.*) With the same views he came forward to nominate one of those gentlemen. He was firmly of opinion, that to

open the borough would be for the good of the town, and therefore, he acted on that opinion. It was unfortunate for any town that the suffrage should be confined to fifty or sixty persons, particularly where its inhabitants amounted to 20,000 or 30,000. There was no such borough in the Kingdom, where the members were returned from any considerations of their public conduct; nor where the municipal interests were not sacrificed to private views. (*Cheers.*) The attempts to open the borough had already been attended with good, and had produced an unusual occurrence in that town, a demand on the part of the old burgesses for a declaration of sentiment, on a public question, from their former representatives. A requisition had been sent to those gentlemen, signed by many of the old burgesses, calling for a pledge that they would oppose the East India monopoly. He, as a burgess, and having signed the requisition, had received from the mayor, a circular, containing the answers of those gentlemen, in which they state that they will oppose the East India monopoly. But if these gentlemen had expressed a contrary intention, can you for one moment suppose, that it would, under the present state of borough influence, have hindered their return. It would not, because they are elected without the slightest reference to their public opinions and conduct.— (*Cheers.*) But, there is another monopoly, which I should like them also to oppose, and that is the monopoly of the elective franchise, (*cheers.*) and I do hope that now as they are so far advanced in liberality, and if they have been actuated so far by public spirit, that they will not stop short of this, but pledge themselves to it also, (*cheers.*) I do hope now, that the time is come, when monopoly in this borough will be put an end to, and when every inhabitant, paying scot and lot, shall have full power to exercise the elective franchise. I wish not to be personal to any individual, I address you on public grounds; but I must say that the very manner in which the body of burgesses is at present constituted, necessarily precludes the members from being elected on public principles, or on any other grounds

than exclusively private considerations. Mr. Hodson has twenty relatives amongst that body, the gallant Colonel probably the same, and under these circumstances, I ask you if it is at all probable that whatever may be their public conduct, that they will not support them? It is on these considerations, therefore, that I am deeply impressed with the necessity of throwing the borough open. The candidate, whom I propose on this occasion, and with this view, is not particularly remarkable for any thing, but success in trade,—that trade which is our support, and who has always shown the greatest attention to every thing he has undertaken; and we may reasonably infer that if elected, he will bestow the same attention to your interests, and be alike successful. I therefore respectfully nominate James Hardcastle, Esq. and call upon you to return him. (*Loud cheers.*)

Mr. FISHER seconded the nomination of Mr. Hardcastle.

COLONEL LINDSAY rose, and observed that he must, in the first instance, refer to the observations of a gentleman whom he had been in the habit of considering as a friend, and whom he must still consider such. (*From the crowd, name him, name him.*) A gentleman whom it was not necessary he should name, but to whose observations it was necessary he should give some reply. That gentleman had said much of his (Colonel Lindsay's) unfitness for the office of their representative; but in endeavouring to investigate the grounds of that gentleman's objection, he could find none—none whatever, except, indeed, that pleasing exterior, and those gentlemanly manners, which that gentleman had been so obliging to allow him. Till there were some objection pointed out, he could not possibly reply to it. He suspected, however, that what was meant was the vote he had given on the Catholic question. (*Here Mr. Kearsley stated that it was not.*) He protested then, that he could not understand what it was in his conduct that was objected to by that gentleman, and he must there-

fore now address himself to them (the burgesses.) He had gone to parliament to support the interests of the borough, and to maintain the institutions of his country. His vote on the Catholic question, though given conscientiously, might have given offence to some of his former friends, but that it seemed was not the cause of offence, and he fearlessly asked in what respect his parliamentary conduct was liable to exception, on what occasion he had neglected the cause of his country, the cause of the constitution, or the interest of the borough? (*Loud laughter.*) He had supported his Majesty's ministers, because they appeared to the best of their power and ability to have forwarded the interests of their country. They had done more in the reduction of taxation than any administration that had for a long time preceded them. They had reduced the estimates of 1,908,000*l.* they had taken off three millions of taxes, and reduction was still going on. They had not courted the aristocracy, as was alleged against them, but had conciliated the people, and had rendered them a substantial benefit in the repeal of the beer duty, which weighed particularly and almost exclusively on the lower classes. He regretted that in some respects that bill did injustice, and he had supported clauses for removing that injustice, which he regretted were not carried. Still, however, the people were relieved; and while the ministers had done their utmost in the way of retrenchment, their views had not been confined to that object. The secretary for the home department had done much in the reform of the law, and in conferring on the public the important advantage of law at a cheap rate. He might now be allowed to look prospectively, and to declare what were his views and intentions as to the future. This was a commercial country; and that every advantage and facility should be given to commerce and manufactures, they, as commercial men, would naturally require with relation to their private interests, and as British subjects, for the interests of their country. It was by means of her commerce that England had attained the eminence on which she now stood. It was by means of her commerce that she had pro-

duced that capital which had given her power and energy to which her mere physical capabilities were inadequate, had enabled her to subsidize other powers to carry her through a conflict to which she was singly unequal; and he would indeed be unworthy of representing them, if he did not strenuously uphold the commerce of the country. He denied that he was a favourer of monopoly; he was a friend of free trade, so far as free trade was favourable to the encouragement of domestic industry. It was easy to declaim in general terms in favour of free trade; but before he assented to general and indefinite propositions, he wished to ask gentlemen what they meant by them, and he could seldom obtain a satisfactory reply. He understood by free trade, laws to give every encouragement to the free and profitable exercise of labour, laws to give employment to the industrious, to give bread to the poor, to give wealth to the manufacturing classes. The advocates for free trade, however loud, had generally some reservation. If you asked the silk manufacturer for his views of free trade, he would tell you that he meant the absence of all restriction on the importation of the raw material; but if you asked him to extend his principles to the equally free importation of the manufactured article, he would cry out that they would be his ruin. The same was the case precisely with the woollen manufacturer. He wished to keep out foreign cloth, and to have a free importation of foreign wool. To this the producer of native wool, the agriculturists, object, that it would throw thousands of acres, now productive, out of cultivation. The shipping interests wish to have freedom in the employment of foreign ships, because they can hire them at lower freights, and of foreign seamen, because they can procure them at lower wages; but what should we, what should Englishmen say, to this application of the principles of free trade? Should we be prepared thus to throw our mercantile marine and seamen out of employment; should we thus cut off our right arm? It was the duty of a ministry to take large and extended views, to provide by harmonious laws, for the benefit of the whole, and not to consult for

partial interests by partial measures, or hope to raise one interest by depressing another ; he might as well be told to feed his limb and starve his body, as to provide for the interests of the whole by the sacrifice of particular classes. As far as it lay in his power, he was the advocate of free trade, but they must, in applying its principles, recollect the peculiarity of their situation, they must recollect the existence of the debt from the obligations of which they could not be relieved.

He would now revert to the position in which he stood with relation to the opposing candidates. Let it not be imagined that he viewed their opposition in the light of an unjust attack upon himself and his colleague. Those gentlemen had been induced by the inhabitants to come forward to assist them in the vindication of a right to which they conceived themselves entitled. He had no objection, and he believed the burgesses had none, to see that cause fairly tried, and equitably determined. He sought to maintain no monopoly ; and if the inhabitants had a right to vote, he did not wish to deprive them of it. But when they said they had that right, he must be allowed to say that they (the burgesses, and he spoke as a burgess) had an exclusive right, which they had enjoyed for centuries. The right they claimed they possessed by charter. Ever since the reign of Henry the Third, the burgesses had exercised the right which they now claimed to exercise ; they had good reason to believe it was a right ; and their opponents ought not to deny them the credit of that good faith and sincerity, which they claimed for themselves. As a burgess, he could not help feeling some indignation at the language of Mr. Bancks, and he would take upon himself to reply to him. He denied his imputation that they sought personal aggrandisement, and he would tell him that there was not a more independent borough represented in parliament. (*Loud laughter and hisses.*) He advocated the cause of the burgesses, (*hisses,*) and he must say that he thought Mr. Bancks had treated them in the most unjustifiable manner. (*Hisses.*) The burgesses

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of Wigan were as free as free could be. Had they not had recent proof of it? Had not the burgesses, being hostile to the monopoly of the East India Company, addressed a requisition to his colleague and himself, to pledge themselves to their (the burgesses) wishes to see that monopoly done away, or else their suffrages would be withdrawn from them? Did this show any power or influence, did it show any controul exercised by himself or the family with which he was connected? (*General hisses.*) He did not, however, wish to oppose himself to the right of the inhabitants; if they possessed that right, let it be sought and given and maintained. (*A voice from the crowd, "It is the birthright of every free-born Englishman."*) But for the burgesses to throw open the borough, and vitiate their charter in the manner in which they had been called upon to do, was a most unjustifiable measure. He had little more to say. If they honoured him with their choice, he had always attended to the interests of the borough, to the interests of the constitution, and the country, and he would still continue to do so. He would listen with attention and respect to any suggestions that might be offered by his constituents; but farther than he had already done, it would not become him to pledge himself to follow their instructions; because he considered that pledges had a tendency to destroy independence, and he was and would be perfectly independent. (*Laughter, and a voice was heard to exclaim "Look into the red book."*) His votes must be decided by the merits of the question brought before him. There was no gentleman there who would consent to give a pledge as to his decision on entering a jury-box, and no such pledge should be extorted from him. For this reason he declined giving more particular pledges, but his conduct should always be guided by the interests of the nation, and should be directed to the maintenance of the institutions of his country.

Mr. Bancks rose again merely to ask the Colonel if he considered himself pledged to oppose the East India and China monopoly, by the letter he had sent to the Mayor.

Colonel Lindsay read his reply, which stated that he was willing to comply with the wishes of the requisitionists.

Mr. Bancks said he did not understand the pledge as binding the Colonel to vote for the opening of the trade to China.

Colonel Lindsay, with great warmth, said it was not likely that he should depart from the spirit of that letter.

Mr. Bancks said, then he understood the Colonel to be positively pledged on the subject.

The Colonel said he should begin to think soon, that Mr. Bancks did not understand the meaning of the word pledge.

This altercation was conducted with admirable temper on the part of Mr. Bancks, and with considerable petulance by Colonel Lindsay.

Mr. KEARSLEY said an explanation was demanded, he would give it. The gallant colonel in enumerating his services, had overlooked the most essential of his duties, an attention to the interests of his constituents. He would supply the omission, and he felt obliged by being called on to do so. He complained that the gallant colonel was the representative of Lord Balcarras, and not of the burgesses of Wigan. That gentleman was an officer, and as such had a duty to perform, and he performed it well. He knew, if he did not, that there was a certain Duke who would order him to the right about. Those were sure to make inefficient servants who never communicated with their masters. The colonel never came near them. Once a year, indeed, he came down to Haigh, and admitted a few of the select in his honorable presence, but he hardly saw the burgesses, or allowed them to see him; he was too old a soldier to be caught in that way. From the 1st of January to the 31st of

December, he had his regimental duties to perform, and how was it to be expected that his constituents should ever see him. He, (Mr. K.) had occasion three times to visit town in the last Winter on public business, and though he had called again and again on the colonel, he had in his three visits only seen him twice. Once as he was getting on horseback at his own door; and again, as he was making his escape from the House of Commons. (*Cheers.*) He had too much to do; it was to be expected then, when he threw off his regimentals, after his hard day's service, he should retire to domestic indulgence, and not to the consideration of the interests of his constituents. His neglect although was more to you than to me. You now have a right to exercise, and if you are independent electors, as you are called, you will give your vote to a better representative.

Colonel Lindsay rose amid much confusion, and endeavoured to obtain a hearing, but for some time without success. He begged to say a few words in reply; he was wholly unprepared to meet so strange an accusation; he feared not to assert that he had never been wanting in proper attention to Mr. Kearsley; he had paid him the requisite attention, when in town, and he was at a loss to conceive what was the meaning of a charge which that gentleman, while he made it, must know to be unfounded.

Mr. Kearsley reiterated that he had called several times, and never got any attention.

Colonel Lindsay, quite passionately, exclaimed again, Mr. Kearsley in saying so, states that which he knows to be incorrect. Both parties got very warm, and considerable excitement prevailed in the court in consequence, during which, the mayor attempted to restore good feeling, and requested they would proceed *soberly*.

Mr. Kearsley still supported his charge; the colonel had again and again been denied to him; and he would

not submit to have any man in England contradict his assertion.

JAMES ALEX. HODSON, Esq. disclaimed any feeling of personal hostility towards his antagonists, and promised that, if elected, he would never swerve from the duty of an honest man, and a faithful representative.— If he failed in his duty, his relations who were burgesses would be the first to inform him of it.

Mr. POTTER then rose to address the meeting, and his rising was the signal for deafening cheers. When they had subsided he spoke to the following effect:—

Mr. Mayor, and Electors of the borough of Wigan, it is to me a great satisfaction to be proposed by my excellent and valued old friend, **Mr. John Acton.** He is well known to you all. Him I have known thirty years, and for the most of that time have, in conjunction with my brother had extensive dealings in the purchase of the manufactures of this town, and in all that period have known him as an honourable man. The worthy gentleman who has seconded the nomination, **Mr. Croudson,** is also well known to you, having resided all his life in Wigan. The characters of these gentlemen will be to you, I hope, a sufficient guarantee that I am a fit and proper person to represent your borough; and perhaps the wisest course for me to take would be to rest my claim on their recommendation; but as it is customary on occasions like this for a candidate to state the line of conduct he intends to pursue, I hope for the indulgence of the court for a short time. (*Applause.*) Ten days ago I had no idea of offering myself to your notice, nor should I have presumed to do so had I not been invited by one of the most numerous and respectable town's meetings that ever took place in Wigan. That invitation I hold in my hand; it must be my apology for appearing here, and will, I hope, be a passport to your favour and support. Gentlemen, it appears from the record of history, that the first charter which was

granted to Wigan was during the reign of Henry the third, and he was also the first King who called burgesses to parliament—"in consequence of their becoming rich from *commerce*." Henry the Third's object was to secure his crown and people against the overbearing tyranny of the barons. Gentlemen, I wish, in this stage of my address to you, to avoid, particularly after what has passed, saying any thing to hurt the feelings of the gallant colonel, but I stand before you to endeavour to rescue the borough from the bondage under which it labours, and I must do my duty. (*Hear, hear, and cheers.*) [Colonel Lindsay here bowed to Mr. Potter.]—Lord Balcarras had been created a peer in Parliament, with the title of BARON WIGAN; and it was against the overbearing power and interference of this Baron of Wigan that the inhabitants of Wigan are now struggling, and I am here to assist them. (*Loud and long applause.*) That such interference does exist is notorious; but if any one doubts it, I hold in my hand a document that does indeed fully and entirely prove it, and which I will now proceed to read. [Here Mr. P. read the letter which was sent to the burgesses after the death of the late Earl of Balcarres, and which will be found already inserted in page 36 of this report.]

This letter was sent previous to the last election by the person who was agent to Colonel Lindsay and Mr. Hodson, at that election, and who is agent to them at present. On a reference to the court calendar, it appears that Alexander William Lord Lindsay, son of the Earl Balcarras, was born October 16, 1812; he will consequently be eighteen years of age in October next, and on the 16th of October, 1833, he will be twenty-one, when you will lose the "political services" of the gallant colonel. (*Laughter.*) Why, the colonel was fixed upon before his consent could be obtained, and I am surprised he should allow so great a liberty to be taken with him. As I said before, I do not wish to offend him; he belongs to an honourable profession, and I wonder his spirit does not revolt at the idea of being

made a tool of; for he is publicly pledged by his agent to resign his seat in little more than three years. He must vacate his seat on the 19th of October, 1833.—Gentlemen, if you will elect me, I will not leave you on the 16th of October, 1833, (*laughter*) but will serve you faithfully so long as I am able, and so long as you choose to accept of my services. (*Loud cheers, and cries of "No colonel."*) What right has Lord Balcarras to interfere with you in the choice of your representatives? He is a peer of parliament, and I have ever been taught, and I believe the law of England declares that it is a high crime and misdemeanor for a peer to interfere in the election of a member for the Commons' House of parliament! With your permission, I will now return to the origin of parliament and its connexion with this borough. (*Hear.*) The first time that burgesses were returned to parliament was in the reign of Edward the First; and mark the terms the burgesses made with him.

“As a great part of the property of the kingdom was, by the introduction of **COMMERCE**, the improvement of **AGRICULTURE**, transferred from the barons to the lower classes of the people, so their consent was now thought necessary for the raising of any considerable supplies. For this reason, he issued writs to the sheriffs, enjoining them to send to parliament, along with two knights of the shire, (as in the former reign,) two deputies from each borough within their county; and these provided with sufficient power from their constituents to grant such demands as they should think reasonable for the safety of the state.

“ One of the first efforts, therefore, was to oblige the king's council to sign the **MAGNA CHARTA**, and to add a clause to secure the nation for **EVER** against all **IMPOSITIONS** and **TAXES**, without the consent of parliament. This the king's council (for Edward was at that time in Flanders) readily agreed to sign; and the king himself, when it was sent over to him, after some hesitation, thought proper to do the same.

“ These concessions he again continued after his return; and though it is probable he was averse to granting them, yet he was at last brought to give plenary consent to all the articles

that were demanded of him. Thus, after the contest of an age, the Magna Charta was finally established ; nor was it the least circumstance in its favour, that its confirmation was procured from one of the greatest and boldest princes that ever swayed the English sceptre."

Gentlemen, Electors of Wigan,—If you elect me one of your members, I shall consider it the highest honour you can confer on me, and in return I shall consider it an imperious duty to devote my time and bring all the energies of my mind to your services, in discharge of the serious and important duties which will devolve on me. (*Loud cheers.*) I have reason to believe that my sentiments are known to many of you. I have been brought as an independent candidate ; as an independent man I will go into parliament, (or I will not go at all,) prepared on all occasions to vote for the good of my country!—(*Great cheers.*) I understand the inhabitants of Wigan are friendly to the trade to India and the vast regions of China ; so am I ; but not for the purpose of getting my election, as two printed letters I have before me assert. I should not have touched upon the subject but for such printed letters which have been sent to the jury burgesses. Need I inform you that I have within the last two or three years twice attended public meetings, in Manchester, and voted for the opening of the trade. Need I inform you, that when Mr. Buckingham, the celebrated advocate of the measures, came to Manchester, he brought letters of introduction to me from London and Liverpool. Who, then, can say that my opposition to the monopoly is new and assumed for electioneering purposes. Electors of Wigan, when I see this assembled court, and the purpose for which it is assembled, I feel proud that I am an Englishman ! Yes, I do feel proud when I know the desperate attempt now making in France, to destroy such courts in that country. I feel proud to reflect that King William the Fourth will not, nay, dare not make such an attempt here. (*Cheers.*)

Mr. **HARDCASTLE** next presented himself.—Mr. **MAYOR**,—Since I came to Wigan, I have had so little time to arrange every thing, that you must excuse any irregularities in my address; I am now placed in a situation, such as I never was before in my life, and certainly such an one as I never contemplated.—[Here some symptoms of applause being manifested from the gallery, Mr. H. turned round, and begged that his friends would not distress his nerves by their plaudits; and his enemies, if he had any, would hear him patiently.] He resumed, I am here, a candidate for the representation of this ancient, loyal, and I hope I may soon add, independent borough; and this requisition which I hold in my hand, is the apology for my presence; and I can also add, that I have the sanction of your worthy rector, who has done me the honour to say, that although he has declined any interference in politics, he wishes me success; and if the question of election was to be decided by the inhabitants, my colleague and myself would be returned by a majority of 1000 to 1, and the gallant colonel would be drummed to his regiment. (*Cheers.*) I have this day referred for a definition of the word “inhabitant,” and I am borne out, in asserting that the inhabitants have a right to vote, according to the spirit of your charters.—He then declared himself an enemy to universal suffrage, on the grounds that the working classes were not capable, for want of education, of exercising discreetly the power it would place in their hands. He then continued, if I am elected, I will go into the house an independent man. I will take no man’s word on any question, but will think for myself, which has not been the case with your late representatives; for colonel Lindsay has tacitly admitted that he has regularly voted under the shield of ministers. (*Cheers.*) I conceive, I am pledged to the committee, and I will fulfil that pledge. [Mr. Hardcastle spoke at some length after this, but appeared to be in such an excited state, that he was obliged to sit down.]

SIR ROBERT HOLT LEIGH said, sorry as he was to occupy the time of the court, he felt himself called upon by the assertion that he had shewn himself hostile to the extension of the right of suffrage. How the gentleman should have so much misconceived him he was at a loss to understand; but he could not bear the imputation; the love of free election he had suckled in with his mother's milk; and he had always been for the extension of the right of suffrage to the inhabitants at large. He did not, however, understand, and no lawyer understood, by the word inhabitant, every person who might be found within the walls of the town: he meant such persons as had a stake in the hedge, as paid rates, as were responsible. To these he wished to see the right of suffrage extended; and he had been for thirty years of his life engaged in the effort to extend it to them; but unluckily he had not found the practicability of doing it. There was only one charter, and that was the charter of James I.—which recognized the right of the inhabitants at large to vote. If this law were in force, then, indeed, the inhabitants and the burgesses were but one body, and the former had the strict right of voting. But the charter itself was abolished soon after it was given, and abolished by the same authority by which it was granted. That they might not, however, fall into the mistake of imagining that this charter was an act of liberality, he would quote from the charter itself the terms on which this extended right of suffrage was granted. The power of voting was given to all the inhabitants: they were all made burgesses; but it was provided always that the king retain full power and authority, by the indefeasible right which inheres to him, to remove, by an order in council, any mayor, bailiff, or other officer of the borough. It was in consequence of acts of this sort infringing upon the charters throughout the Kingdom, and by invasions in other ways, on the rights and liberties of his subjects, revolting to the liberties and to the feelings of the people, that they were compelled to resist; and in consequence of that resistance, the Archbishop of Canterbury presented ten articles of grievances:—the following was the sixth:—

“ To supersede all further persecutions of **QUO WARRANTO**’s against corporations ; and to restore to them their antient charters and privileges ; as they heard God had put into his heart for the city of **LONDON**, which they intended otherwise to have made one of their principal requests.”

The result was, that this charter, and others of a similar character, were annulled, and that directions were issued to the Lords lieutenants of counties for restoring corporations to their ancient charters, liberties, and franchises. Although, therefore, he wished to extend the franchise, and although he was as sanguine a friend as any to such an object, he could not persuade himself that the present effort would succeed, or that it was supported by the charters. His first appearance in public was in an effort to open the representation of the borough and he succeeded in extending the suffrage to one hundred and forty electors on whom the privilege was conferred without reference to any consideration than that of their respectability.

The **MAYOR** then read the names of the different candidates, but seemed somewhat at a loss how to ask the meeting to make their choice. **Mr. Raincock** then rose and said,—“ **Mr. Mayor**, you appear to me not to know your duty.” **Mr. Mayor** looked amazed, and **Mr. Raincock** asked why he (the mayor) did not call for a shew of hands.

The **MAYOR** then called for a shew of hands on **Colonel Lindsay**’s nomination, and about half a dozen were held up. About the same number were held up for **Mr. Hodson**, and rather more for **Mr. Kearsley**. When **Mr. Potter** and **Mr. Hardcastle** were proposed, all the hands in court appeared to be held up, and the accompanying shout was tremendous. **Mr. Raincock** then asked the mayor who were the members chosen. The Mayor, of course, named **Mr. Potter** and **Mr. Hardcastle**, for whom he thought there was a majority of five hundred. The other candidates then demanded a poll.

Mr. GASKELL rose and proceeded to argue that the mode of taking the election in that borough was to call over the names from the roll of the court leet, the burgesses being all jurymen of the court leet, and that of course the poll would be taken in the usual manner—that is from the jury list.

The MAYOR was proceeding on this suggestion, when

Mr. RAINCOCK interrupted—"The poll will not be taken in the usual way. We protest against your usage. You, Mr. Mayor, know your duty too well to be dictated to by an attorney. You will take the poll as it is taken in other places."

Mr. RAINCOCK then proceeded to state that he was not quite aware on what documents or evidence Mr. Gaskell relied, nor what support he might derive from mutilated charters and histories of England. But if their charter were such as it was stated to be, it was a most peculiar one. In all boroughs of which he had ever heard, the right of suffrage depended on some known, acknowledged, and easily recognised claim; either birth, or servitude, or the payment of toll or tax; but if their borough had no such principle, if the electors were elected by persons elected, nobody could say by whom, then he must say that their borough differed most remarkably from all other boroughs whatever. The charter spoke very differently, however, from the honourable baronet, under the instructions of Mr. Gaskell. The very charter now to be resorted to—the charter of Charles the Second, says, in its preamble, that it sufficiently appears that the antient borough of Wigan had heretofore sent representatives, and that the inhabitants and burgesses are and have been one corporation. Now, if burgesses were admitted from birth and servitude, it followed that there was a class below the burgesses, and these were the inhabitants mentioned in this charter. He agreed that in considering the force of the word inhabitant, they were not to apply it to every person living

within the circuit of the town. He must be liable to taxes—he must have something whereby to fix his residence and his identity—he must be a *legalis homo*—he must be a *bona fide* inhabitant—he must be an adult—he must be a male—he must not be tinged by any disgrace. These are the people included in the term, inhabitant; these were the people authorised by the charter to vote, and did any man tell him that they were not to tender their votes till others called them? There was no law from hindering any man from tendering his vote; if the vote were inadmissible, when he tendered it, then was the time for enquiring into that; and if the mayor ventured to refuse such votes as he had described he would be a bold man.

COLONEL LINDSAY suggested that it would be sufficient for the purpose of his opponents to have a number of the inhabitants polled, exceeding that of the burgesses; they might be allowed to come up and poll, and thus the great object of preventing confusion, hostility, and disorder, would be accomplished.

Mr. RAINCOCK and Mr. HALL consented to the proposition of Colonel Lindsay, but Mr. Gaskell again interposed, and insisted on the old course of calling the burgesses being adhered to. The attempt which was now made, had been made before, in 1640. In that year an election was held, and the only burgesses polled were polled from the court leet list of jury burgesses. There had been several elections within the recollection of the mayor himself, and the same course of polling the electors, by calling the roll of jury burgesses, he must himself know, had uniformly been adhered to. With regard to the election of 1640, he would show this by a comparison of that jury list, and a certificate of the return, in both of which the names of the burgesses appeared in the same order. The certificate expressly stated that the burgesses polled from the jury list. But this was not all. In the election of 1640, the inhabitants, as now, had tendered their votes, and they were

rejected. The inhabitants on this account created great disturbances, and the consequence was that a petition of peace was presented to parliament, and that the burgesses were supported in their rejection of the votes of the inhabitants; that decision had since been confirmed by 200 years usage.

The court roll of 30th of October, 1640, was then read; as well as the poll book of the same year, and their authenticity being admitted, it appeared that they did present the names of the burgesses in corresponding order. The certificate of the return was then read, it bore the date of 26th of October, of the same year, and set forth that the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses, of Wigan were a corporation by prescription, and that such were received for burgesses as were so made by election of the burgesses for the time being, and had their names entered on the roll of the same year, kept for that purpose. That these were burgesses, and not such as were only free to pursue trade and handicraft within the town, and that the corporation having received the warrant of the sheriff, had by due and public notice fixed the election for the 26th day of the present month. That on that day, there being a great assembly of baronets, knights, and gentlemen of quality, all enrolled burgesses, a poll was taken, and Orlando Bridgeman and Alexander Rigby, Esquires, were chosen members; which being done, it happened, at the very end, that divers inferior persons, labourers, and handicrafts-men, not being burgesses, did require that their voices should be received in that election; and being desired by us to make appear that formerly they ever had any voices in the election of burgesses for parliament, they failed so to do, all which the mayor made bold to certify.

The petition of peace was then read. It was dated 17th November, 1640, and signed John Bullock, mayor.

Mr. RAINCOCK inquired if it were their present worthy mayor who who was then in that office. (*Laughter.*)

The petition, being that of the mayor and burgesses of Wigan, set forth, that their town for four hundred years last past was a corporation, in which the mayor, or other chief officer and governor, the bailiffs, serjeant, and others his assistants, with other officers, were yearly chosen by the greater number of the burgesses present at that corporation; which are, and have ever been received for burgesses on election of burgesses then being, and enrolled in the jury list; and that the said mayor, &c., have held and hold court leets, and other courts, fairs, markets, and liberties, by reason whereof they were enabled to pay to his majesty subsidies, fifteenths, and other duties; all which they had exercised during the time aforesaid, as by ancient charter of Henry III., authorised to do. But that now divers inferior persons, whose votes had not been before received, and who were not enrolled burgesses, had, by instigation of others of uncivil minds and disorderly government, conspired to break, disannul, and annihilate the election held in the foregoing month; though that election had been duly made and certified, according to ancient usage, and recent practice, as by other evidence and the testimony of divers persons of eighty years and upwards, if it should be fit, should appear; that such persons do also give out in their speeches that they would have a new election: and although often required, could not make it appear that they or any of their capacities have, or ever had a voice in the election. They therefore prostrate themselves, their lives, liberties, and lands, before the fountain of all justice, (to wit, the House of Commons), so they be pleased that the election may stand, and that they (the mayor, &c.) may enjoy peace, and then, according to bounden duty, &c.

Mr. GRIMSHAW examined.—Was town clerk, served with his brother, who was town clerk before him, Mr. Clayton was town clerk before him. Within his experience, there were six or seven elections, at none of which had any votes been taken except those of the jury burgesses.

Cross-examined—never knew the inhabitants to tender their votes.

Mr. RAINCOCK said,—that **Mr. Gaskell**, after his parade of evidence had produced nothing in the way of documentary proof, except an old jury list, and the certificate of a return, which proved nothing but that elections had before been held in **Wigan**, in ignorance of the law of election. Every voter had a right to tender his vote, and to have it accepted, or a reason for its rejection assigned; it was unnecessary to call a voter into court to exercise his privilege, and if the mode of calling him, were resorted to, to bar these of their right when the court might not choose to call, it was illegal. It was not yet established that it was the uniform practice in **Wigan**, to call the burgesses by roll, and if it were, no prescription could overrule a right or deprive the subject of it. And the right of every voter to tender his vote was a right of which no returning officer had power to obstruct the exercise. As to the other point, what had he produced but an unauthenticated copy of a petition which he stated to have been got up in 1640, in the time of the civil war, a petition on which no proceedings had ever been founded, a petition which they did not know had been received or presented, and which determined nothing as to the propriety of rejecting the votes which it stated to have been rejected. But what were these votes? They were persons of mean condition, and handicraftsmen; this petition so styled and described them. But there was no shadow of evidence of the rejection of the votes of the class of persons now claiming, the legal inhabitants, the householders, and tax payers of the town. The meeting at which the election was held was a numerous meeting, consisting probably of this very class. This alleged copy of a petition was worth nothing as evidence, and if it were, it went to prove his case, and not **Mr. Gaskell's**. In despair of earlier evidence, he, **Mr. G.** calls on this young gentleman to give testimony as to his own experience. He proved that the votes of the inhabitants had not been accepted,

because they had never been tendered. They did not come there to learn that the right had been denied to the inhabitants; but there was no proof that they had been determined to have no right. The question of that right had never been raised within that gentleman's experience, but it was not lost on that account. He might suppose, for instance, the case of one vacancy on the representation of the borough, and Mr. Hodson and colonel Lindsay contending for it. Neither of them would raise this question of course. No other votes than those of the jury burgesses would be tendered, and the question as to the right of the inhabitants would remain undecided of course. If the mayor undertook rashly to decide against it, he would perhaps put himself in a very dangerous predicament, as the mayor of Chester had done.

Mr. HALL rose:—The argument of his learned friend had not been successfully met by the documentary evidence. That evidence proved merely that a certain low description of persons, certainly not persons paying scot and lot, had been on one occasion rejected as voters; leaving wholly untouched the question of the right of the inhabitant householders. Even this evidence, which made not at all against their case, rested on proof not admissible, and of no value. There was no evidence where the original was, or that there had ever been an original. They were not aware if such a petition ever existed, that it had ever been presented, far less that any determination had been come to upon it. It was nothing more than a paper found in a chest, purporting to be a copy of something else, of which there was no other trace. No attempt had been made to inform the court of the practice previous to the reign of Charles II. and it seemed the fair interpretation of all the charters that the inhabitants were included in the corporation; and though the mayor had prematurely come to a different conclusion, he hoped that on reconsideration he would be induced to abandon it.

The **MAYOR** said, that from all the information he could gather, as to the usage of the borough, it appeared to him that the burgesses elected at the court leet, and the honorary burgesses duly elected and sworn, were the electors of the town. He knew of his own knowledge, that for forty years and upwards, no others had been tendered. No evidence to the contrary was tendered; he was bound to decide accordingly; and if he were wrong, the opposing party knew how to raise the question, and the House of Commons would set him right. He would adhere to the old practice.

The names of the burgesses were then called from the roll.

Mr. RAINCOCK disputed one as not being a resident.

Mr. GASKELL contended that the votes of the non-resident burgesses were admissible. And it was decided that they were so by the opinion of very eminent counsel. Till within the last two years it had always been the custom for the mayor on retiring from office to nominate two honorary burgesses. These were generally non-residents; and it was always considered that they had a right to vote.

Mr. SCOTT followed on the same side, contending that the honorary burgesses were hardly ever residents, and that their right to vote was undisputed. It was equally apparent from what was said in the petition of 190 years ago, that the same was the practise then, for that the election was held in a great assembly of baronets, knights, and gentlemen.

Mr. RAINCOCK admired the ingenuity of the gentleman, but thought it a strange compliment to the town of Wigan to take it for granted that because there were knights, baronets, and gentlemen, at a former election, they could not be inhabitants of the town. The presumption was, that they lived in the town, at least, paid rates and

taxes in it. If the mayor of Wigan had taken upon himself the right of electing out-burgesses, the presumption was against that right. There was not one word of it in the charters, not one word in the documents produced.

The votes of the out-burgesses were rejected; and the town clerk continued to call the names of the burgesses from the roll, till the Duke of Glos'ter, and the Earl of Balcarras were called.

Mr. RAINCOCK rose with great animation and asked what either of them had to do there, where their presence would vitiate the election. What had they, peers of the realm, to do with the return of members to the commons' house of parliament? Did not this distinctly shew the absurdity of the course which was pursued?

After the jury list was gone through, the vote of John Holt, Esq. was tendered: he was not a burgess, but paid rates. The vote was objected to: and

Mr. RAINCOCK claimed the right of being heard.

Mr. GASKELL thought that the argument had been gone into before.

Mr. RAINCOCK had certainly addressed his argument merely to the point of the legality of calling the roll. He was aware that the mayor had already declared his intention not to take these votes; but his opinion had been prematurely formed, and pronounced, extra judicially, and he hoped it would be reconsidered. He would now say that there was nothing in any one of the charters to deprive the inhabitants of their common law right:—he would say more; that the charters expressly recognised the inhabitants as burgesses. [Here he quoted from them.] These charters made no mention of select or picked burgesses. They spoke of the inhabitants as burgesses. If abuse had grown into a seeming right, it con-

ferred none in reality ; and if the question never had been raised, the house could not have decided on it, and he hoped the mayor would re-consider his hasty judgment.

The Mayor would not unsay what he had said.

Mr. HALL rose to argue on the same side, when he was interrupted by the mayor, who exclaimed.—“Sir, I must first reply to Mr. Raincock.” Mr. Hall observed that it was not his province to answer Mr. Raincock, nor to decide upon what Mr. Raincock had said, till he had also heard the argument which he had to urge on the same side.

The MAYOR : “ Sir, I must be heard. Sit down.”

Mr. HALL : “ I will not sit down.”

The mayor, while Mr. Hall continued on his legs, addressed himself to Mr. Raincock, and asked if he thought that after he had made up his mind, he would be so fickle as to change it, for any thing he could say.

Mr. HALL continued :—All that his learned friend had said was justified. The mayor avowed that he had formed a judgment on the case before he had heard the argument. And that judgment was formed in contempt of the express words of two charters. Was he now prepared to state on what ground he had come to that decision, in defiance of the charters of Charles II, and James II, which were expressly directed to the inhabitants at large? That word was liable to a twofold construction. It might mean all who lived within the town ; or in its more general and strictly legal definition, all paying scot and lot, and actually residing. He had no objection to draw his pen wholly through that word. The charter of Charles again spoke of the community, which was invariably interpreted as meaning those paying scot and lot. The charter of James spoke to the

same effect precisely, it spoke of the inhabitants, styling them also the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses. On what right then was this exclusive right founded. It was built on no prescriptive right, for all the charters which made Wigan a borough, were within the legal memory of man. If it were pretended that there were a by-law, to this effect, he insisted that no by-law could be of any force against the common-law right of the inhabitants. Were they to consider these charters of any force? Were they to adopt one part and reject another? If not, and if these charters of Charles and James had any force, their meaning was unequivocal. Corporations were the mere creatures of the crown, and never could affect to set up a constitution in opposition to the charter, to which they owed their existence. The people even by the direct acquiescence of a public meeting, could not divest themselves of the power to exercise this right. The case of Dover shewed that no usage of by-law could prevail over the decision of the charter. At Dover, eighty persons, at a public meeting, had agreed to delegate to thirty-seven the choice of a representative, and after the usage of sixty years, it was decided that the right still resided in the community at large. This shewed how scrupulous the house was to prevent a departure from the charter, and the mayor in doing it, was doing a most unwarrantable thing. It did not appear from the evidence tendered as to recent elections, that any one paying scot and lot had in that ground tendered a vote; and in the document which proposed to give an account of an election in 1640, there was no intimation that any such vote had been rejected. To reject them now would be an instance of gross partiality, and he begged to remind the mayor of the painful predicament in which the mayor of Chester had placed himself. He (Mr. Hall) hoped he would divest his mind of any prejudice that had fallen on it, and pause before he decided that they had not the right which they claimed.

Mr. GASKELL replied that where the charters were silent, they were driven to consider the usages. The

usages here were immemorial, and the charter of Charles confirmed all the usages and prescriptions of the borough.

Mr. HALL suggested to the mayor the expediency of making a double return.

The MAYOR. "If I put one sort into the pot, and t'other sort into the pot, what sort of a scum do you think will come off it? My mind's made up, and I will reject all such votes as are tendered."

After a little further discussion, the learned counsel sat down, and votes were tendered and registered as tendered, and rejected, till a sufficient number of votes to exceed the whole of the jury burgesses were tendered. When upwards of a hundred such votes had been entered, and there seeming to be a probability that thousands would be offered, Mr. Potter rose and said, that as there had been already a sufficient number entered to raise the question in the house, and to ensure his election if the votes were declared good, it was unnecessary longer to protract the business. The mayor then stated the number of votes for each candidate.



The following are the numbers:—

HARDCASTLE—Inhabitants.....	109
Corporation Votes.....	7
	Total.. 116
<hr/>	
POTTER—Inhabitants.....	109
Corporation Votes.....	3
	Total.. 112
<hr/>	

HODSON —Corporation Votes.	45
Mayor and Bailiffs.....	3
Objected to.....	6
	Total.. 54
LINDSAY —Corporation Votes.....	38
Mayor and Bailiffs.....	3
Objected to.....	4
	Total.. 45
KEARSLEY —Inhabitants.....	2
Corporation Votes.....	7
Objected to	3
	Total.. 12

On the poll clerk's handing up the return to the mayor, and proclamation being made, he declared Mr. Hodson and Colonel Lindsay duly elected. Mr. POTTER immediately arose and protested against the return as unjust and illegal, and contrary to the sense of the town. He reminded the audience that when he addressed the thousands who surrounded him on Tuesday he told them this struggle would probably not end on the day of election. He exhorted those who were so nobly struggling for their rights, during the interval before parliament assembled, calmly to consider the subject in all its bearings, and obtain the best legal advice. He thought nothing had transpired that day which at all weakened the claim of the inhabitants, and he begged most solemnly to assure them, that if the result of the best information which could possibly be got induced them to go on with the struggle, he should be ready to assist them.—(*Cheers.*) But he begged to remind his friends that they must prepare for an arduous, and, probably, a long struggle. Preston, after having been four times brought under the notice of parliament, obtained its freedom at

last. The spirit of the times was favourable to the undertaking. If the borough was thrown open a blow would be given to the boroughmongering system, and the baneful influence of the aristocracy shook to its foundation. It had been proved that 154 peers and other rich men return a majority of the members of the commons' house of parliament. What an odious, what an unjust and disgraceful system this was; and he was astonished that it should have the support of any honest man. He thanked those who had proved themselves his friends by honouring him with their support, and, notwithstanding the undue partiality which had disgraced the proceedings of this day, still he had the most lively hope of finally conquering.

Colonel LINDSAY rose to return thanks:—he congratulated the court on the peaceable manner in which this election had been conducted; he thought his honourable opponent, Mr. Potter, had conducted himself with great propriety, and had shown great ability:—he should much wish to see him in parliament, where the talent which had that day been displayed would be brought into action. The colonel expressed his best acknowledgements to the burgesses for the high honor they had done him, and declared he would do all in his power to serve them. He would vote for economy and retrenchment so far as they were consistent with the honour and security of the state.

Mr. Hodson thanked the electors for the honour they had done him, and assured them he would at all times attend to his duty.

Mr. HARDCASTLE had previously left the court from indisposition.

The mayor then declared the business of the day terminated. An immense crowd had congregated in front of the Hall, and all of them followed the popular candidate, Mr. Potter, to his inn, rending the heavens with their acclamations.

The crowd, to the number probably of five or six thousand, were addressed at great length by Mr. Prentice, of Manchester, on the India monopoly, the more oppressive and more iniquitous corn monopoly, and last not least, the odious borough monopoly, the source of all the sufferings which the people endured. He afterwards congratulated them on that day's proceedings inasmuch as he considered their chance of succeeding doubly apparent, and concluded, by hoping the crowd would peaceably retire.

Mr. Hodson, and Colonel Lindsay were attended from the Hall to the Eagle and Child by their small retinue of burgesses, but without a single cheer of congratulation from the people as they passed along the street. It had been customary at former elections to chair the members elected, but these gentlemen, on this occasion, had very wisely adopted the expediency of walking. In order to secure a little popular favour, it has also been the custom at elections here for the members to throw money to the populace:—for this purpose Mr. Hodson and Colonel Lindsay, from a window at the inn distributed a quantity of silver, but so few were present that it appeared almost a difficulty to find persons willing to pick up their gratuitous offerings. In what the moral of such a practice consists, it would be difficult to define.

In the evening Mr. Potter and his friends returned to Manchester; previously to their departure an immense crowd had assembled to accompany them out of town:—they took their leave amidst most vehement cheering.



On the Monday Mr. Potter issued the following address from Manchester:—

To the Independent Electors of the town of Wigan.

Gentlemen,

The lateness of the hour at which the poll closed on Saturday, and the fatigue produced by the crowded state of the court, deprived me of the opportunity and power of thanking you, as I should have wished to do, in person, for your uniform kindness and your warm support during the preceding week.

When I arrived amongst you, on Tuesday, I publicly stated my conviction that the conclusion of the election would be the commencement of our struggle; it was with this understanding, that I consented to be nominated, and that you honoured me with your suffrages. The return of our opponents cannot, therefore, have surprised or disappointed you; and it would ill become me to address you in the language of condolence on your being now summoned to that conflict, which you have anxiously and honourably sought.

All that occurred on Saturday affords, indeed, new ground for confidence, and demands the language of triumph. We have seen the weakness of the enemy's case; we have seen them unable to meet the strength of our's; and we have thus derived additional assurance of the legality of your claim to choose those Members of Parliament who style themselves the Representatives of Wigan.

We have also seen, however, that justice is not the rule of power; we have learned that whatever we acquire, must be acquired by zeal, by activity, by perseverance; and, that to ensure our ultimate triumph, the spirit, which you have so nobly exhibited, must not, for one moment, be relaxed. That it will not be relaxed, I am well convinced, and throughout the struggle, however protracted, I shall be found at my post by your side.

I trust, at no distant day, it will be my pleasing duty to congratulate you on your *completed Triumph*, and to share with you the honours of your well-earned

Victory; but I cannot now omit my grateful acknowledgments for the warm reception, the uniform kindness, the generous support, which my Colleague and myself have experienced from all ranks, from the wealthiest Merchant and Manufacturer, to the humblest Weaver and Spinner; and which have excited in my heart, feelings of the deepest gratitude, and, I will add, affection for the Inhabitants of Wigan.

The numerous gentlemen of the Legal Profession, who came forward and rendered you and I their gratuitous assistance, are, in the consciousness of public desert, entitled to a higher meed of praise than I know how to render them.

Electors of Wigan! let their example animate, as their experience and knowledge will guide you in the maintenance of a struggle so well begun, and we shall—we must succeed.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your faithful and humble servant,

RICHARD POTTER.

Broughton, Aug. 2, 1830.

On the same day it was also publicly announced that the committee would meet to arrange upon further proceedings. The following is a copy of the notice:

OPENING OF THE BOROUGH.

THE Members of the Committee for extending the Elective Franchise of the Borough, are requested to meet at Mr. Lewis Rowe's, the Dog Inn, on Wednesday Evening next, the 4th instant, at seven o'clock, for the furtherance of this desirable object.

Aug. 2, 1830.

The following letter was circulated amongst the burgesses:—

H——h H——l, 2nd Aug. 1830.

My Dear Sir,

I cannot allow the present opportunity to pass, without tendering to you my *heartfelt thanks* for the high and distinguished honour you have done my relative, COLONEL LINDSAY, by returning him as one of your representatives for your *truly independent* borough.

Sir, in so doing, I trust the *motives* by which I am actuated will be duly appreciated by the *independent* Electors of your ancient and loyal borough. In standing forward as the *unsolicited advocate* of those Rights and Privileges, which you and your predecessors have so long exercised, with so much benefit to the interests of your town, and your country at large, I am doing no more than fulfilling a duty which I owe, not only to you individually, but to the inhabitants in general of this populous district.

It was my intention to have waited personally upon those gentlemen through whose favour my respected relative has been so *triumphantly* returned, and therefore, Sir, it is my duty to explain to you, the grounds which caused me to change that intention.

Late on Saturday Evening, the *Gentleman* who superintends my Collieries, &c. informed me, that on paying the wages of my labourers, there was a very unanimous feeling manifested by them, to assist *you* and *myself*, in resisting a claim, raised by certain Demagogues against a certain Right which we have so long exercised for our own *private advantage*.

Sir, an appeal coming from *so numerous* and *respectable a body*, I could not resist, I therefore consented to their proposition of stopping one shilling a week out of their wages, towards defraying the expenses of protecting that Right. Sir, so noble, so generous, so patriotic an example, I am sure you will duly estimate; therefore, Sir, in suggesting to you the propriety of rendering our cause all the *pecuniary aid* in your power, I

think it would advance the *end* we have in view, namely, our own *individual interest*, if you suggest to your workmen, and to any individual over whom you possess any influence, the necessity of paying into your hands *one penny* per week, as a fund for defraying any expenses we may incur in protecting our Rights, and when received to be paid into the hands of *John Hodson Kearsley, Esq.*, he having given us a sufficient *pledge* of sincerity in our cause. Sir, the last subject to which I have alluded must be my apology for not having waited personally upon you. The subject is a *delicate one*, but pecuniary aid we *must have*.

My own, and my late *Father's political steward*, and *adviser*, taking such great interest in our *just cause*, and having pledged his services without any *charge*, will have the pleasure of waiting upon you for the purpose of aggrandising (I beg pardon, I mean organising) each individual voter in the district in which his services may be required.

I am, Dear Sir,
With ~~unfeigned~~ respect,
Your devoted servant,

THE BANE OF WIGAN.

On Wednesday Mr. Hodson and Colonel Lindsay gave a Dinner to their friends, but the attendance was not so numerous as on former occasions.

Previously to the hour of dining, the following squibs were published.

WANTED, immediately, 60 or 80 Gentlemen of Wigan, to attend at the Eagle and Child, at three o'clock, to eat and drink in honour of the Colonel's last election. Those who attend will be pleased to shout well on hearing the words Independent, Noble Spirited, Magnanimous Electors of this Borough!!!—Respectable Tradesmen need not apply, as they won't do.

THE POOR (BURGESSES) OF WIGAN.



Several notorious gentlemen taking into consideration the distressed state of the **POOR (Burgesses) OF WIGAN**, have charitably undertaken to give them **A DINNER** on Wednesday next.

As it is so long since the "Poor Burgesses" had a Dinner, it is thought that they will be more voracious than usual, and that an extra quantity of "**L———Y SOUP and PIE**" will be required. The Benefactors and Managers of the "Poor Burgesses" having so many claims upon their generosity in the building of Town Halls, &c. the Public are respectfully informed that Donations towards defraying the Expenses of the Charity will be thankfully received.

Speeches to be recited by the Managers upon the Independence of the "Poor Burgesses," and upon the East India Monopoly, if ready cut and dried, will be useful and acceptable.—Donations will be received at **H——h Hall**; or at the Office of the gratuitous Attorney, Wigan.



The following address was issued by Mr. Hardcastle :

*To the Worthy, Loyal and Independent Electors of
the Ancient Borough of Wigan.*



Gentlemen,

I now again calmly and dispassionately revert to the consideration of that question, in which we have been so enthusiastically engaged. The impression upon my mind remains the same : it is a thorough conviction of the legal, as well as moral, justice of your claim. Let us undeviatingly continue to pursue the strict line of law, and I feel no anxiety as to the result.

Gentlemen, I am not over fond of indulging in professions. I would prefer leaving my deeds to speak for me ; but upon the sentiments, your kind conduct has inspired, may I be permitted to remark, that the tie of

gratitude, with which I feel bound, is strong as the tie of brotherhood.

My respected colleague, as well as myself, will steadily pursue the great object we have before us; we will never relax our exertions; and let us hope, that by constantly regarding your welfare, and unceasingly devoting ourselves to the interests of the community at large, we may ever merit a continuance of your esteem.

Gentlemen, for the present permit me to bid you adieu, and along with the gratitude to yourselves, suffer me to unite the thanks I owe to the numerous friends, who from public spirit or private regard, have honored us with their energetic aid; and believe me, Gentlemen, to be ever

Your most humble and faithful Servant,

JAMES HARDCASTLE.

Blackpool, 9th August, 1830.

To the Independent Electors of Wigan.

Gentlemen,

A FORTNIGHT having now elapsed since we made the ever glorious and memorable struggle to recover our just and legal rights, and though the committee of management have not suffered their proceedings to transpire, and our opponents are using all their exertions to damp our enthusiasm, let us not be dismayed; our cause is in good hands; the gentlemen, to whose care we have entrusted the sacred charge, have not been idle; after much labour and pains, they have ascertained that the cobweb and moth-eaten papers, exhibited at the election by the *gratuitous* and *unpaid* advocate, are valueless, except as a weapon against our opponents.

Let us bear our prosperity with becoming moderation; let us not suffer our passions to gain the ascendancy over our reason; but as our chief magistrate lately observed, conduct ourselves soberly. Let us convince our adversaries, by our behaviour, that we have no wish

to deprive them of their legal rights, but, that we are anxious and determined to participate with them in those privileges, which, as inhabitants of this ancient borough, we conceive ourselves justly entitled to, and fully competent to exercise.

We must be aware, that notwithstanding much has been done in our favour, there still remains much to do; and though we have achieved a triumph, still our victory is not complete. We must not relax in our exertions, but, rather renew them with redoubled vigour. We must strengthen our out-posts, double our guards, procure plenty of ammunition; let every ball bear the impress of his late Majesty, either in gold or silver, and the wadding consist of the representatives of the Bank of England; let our scouts be constantly on the alert; but be particularly cautious of treachery in the camp. Finally, let us use all our endeavours, individually and collectively, to persuade our friends, the friends of freedom, not to be backward in sending in supplies to the treasury; for these are the sinews of war, the weapons with which the outer walls of St. Stephen's must be bombarded, if we wish to place our favourite candidates firmly and comfortably in their seats within.

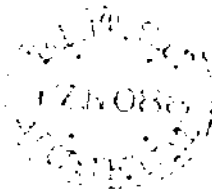
*"'Tis not in mortals to command success, but
We'll do more! we'll deserve it."*

PRO ARIS ET FOCIS.

Wigan, Aug. 16, 1880.

The committee continue to hold their meetings, and have daily communication with their Manchester and Bolton friends. The necessary arrangements are in progress for the furtherance of this most desirable object.

Folio 67 was printed by mistake, instead of 65.



THE POLL

FOR THE ELECTION OF

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT,

FOR THE

BOROUGH AND CORPORATION

OF

W I G A N,

TAKEN BETWEEN

JAMES ALEXANDER HODSON, Esq.

COLONEL JAMES LINDSAY.

RICHARD POTTER, Esq.

JAMES HARDCASTLE, Esq.

AND

JOHN HODSON KEARSLEY, Esq.

Begun and held

IN THE MOOT HALL,

IN THE BOROUGH AFORESAID,

On Saturday the Thirty-first Day of July, 1830.

BEFORE

The Worshipful HENRY BULLOCK, Esq. Mayor.

WILLIAM ASHTON and WILLIAM BLACKBURN, Gents. Bailiffs.



WIGAN :

PRINTED BY J. HILTON, MARKET-PLACE.

1830.

A LIST OF ELECTORS

WHO POLLED AT THE

Election for Members of Parliament,

IN WIGAN,

On the 31st. JULY, 1830.



Candidates.

Jas. Alex. HODSON, Esq. * } Nominated by Mr. BARTON, +
Colonel Jas. LINDSAY, } Secoded by Mr. HALIBURTON, +
Richd. POTTER, Esq. } Nominated by Mr. ACTON, +
 } Secoded by Mr. J. CROUDSON.
Jas. HARDCASTLE, Esq. } Nominated by Mr. BANCKS, +
 } Secoded by Mr. J. FISHER. +
 JOHN HODSON KEARSLEY, Esq. himself. +



Very soon after the Poll commenced, a Protest was made against the receiving of any Votes from those Jury Burgesses who were Out-Burgesses, or, not paying Scot and bearing Lot in the Borough.

☞ First Column, HODSON, second do. LINDSAY, third do. POTTER, fourth do. HARDCASTLE, fifth do. KEARSLEY. Those marked ob. were objected to, and those marked r. were rejected.

Names of Voters.	Residence,	Profession.	Ho.	L.	P.	Ha.	K.
Thomas Hardman,	Wigan,	cotton spinner,	1	1			
William Eccles, -	do.	cotton spinner,					1
Thomas Barton, -	Pemberton,	Esquire,					r
Thomas Woodcock,	Wigan,	banker.	1	1			
Joseph Bevan, -	do.	Esquire,	1	1			
Henry Gaskell	do.	gentleman,	1	1			
John Hodson Kearsley,-	do.	Esquire,	1				1
Thomas Darwell,	Standish,	cotton spinner,	1	1			

<i>Names of Voters.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Profession.</i>	<i>Ho.</i>	<i>L.</i>	<i>P.</i>	<i>Ha.</i>	<i>K.</i>
Alexander Haliburton,	Wigan,	esquire,	x	1	1		
Samuel Newsham,	do.	solicitor,		1		1	
John Croudson,	do.	solicitor,			1	1	
Richard Topping,	do.	labourer,		1			1
Sir Robert Holt Leigh,	do.	baronet,	x	1	1		
✓ Christopher Irving,	do.	timber merchant,		1	1		
✓ Thomas Green,	do.	yeoman,		1	1		
John Acton,	do.	cotton merchant,				1	1
✓ William Rogerson,	do.	farmer,		1	1		
John Bullock.	do.	gentleman,		1	1		
x James Bancks,	do.	cordwainer,		1			1
x Thomas Moorfield,	do.	gentleman,		1	1		
James Brown,	do.	gentleman.		1	1		
John Rylance,	Warrington,	manufacturer,					r
John Thompson,	Wigan,	iron merchant,		1	1		
x Samuel Singleton,	do.	gentleman,		1	1		
x Hugh Gaskell,	do.	gentleman,		1	1		
William Bancks,	do.	warper,		1	1		
x John Cooper,	do.	tax gatherer,		1	1		ob
x Thomas Moore,	do.	ironmonger		1	1		
x John Fisher,	do.	liquor merchant,		1		1	
x Ralph Lowe,	do.	linen manufact.		1	1		
x Thomas Lowe,	do.	dyer,		1	1		
x Robert Morris,	do.	solicitor,		1		1	
x John Hopwood,	do.	gentleman,		1	1		
John Willgoose,	do.	farmer,		1		1	
Richard Ashton,	do.	book-keeper,		1	1		
Thomas Roby,	do.	cotton spinner,		1			1
William Woods,	do.	cotton spinner,		1	1		
x James Donaldson,	do.	linen merchant,		1	1		
x John Brown,	do.	stationer,		1	1		
✓ Nicholas Cowell, jun.	do.	innkeeper,		1	1		
John Woodcock,	Pemberton,	banker,					re
✓ James Ashton,	Wigan	serjeant at mace,					re
✓ James Thompson,	do.	iron merchant,			1		
✓ John Whittle,	do.	saddler,		1	1		
✓ Luke Smalley,	do.	tallow chandler,		1	1		
John Atherton,	do.	painter,		1	1		



<i>Names of Voters.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Profession.</i>	Ho.	L.	P.	Ha.	K.
✓ Ralph Knight,	Wigan,	butcher,	1	1			
✓ John Cartwright,	do.	cotton spinner,	1				1
✓ Luke Ashton,	do.	manufacturer,	1	1			
✓ James Knight,	do.	butcher,	1	1			
✓ John Ranson,	do.	manufacturer,		1			1
James Lowe,	do.	manufacturer,	1	1			
✓ John Thacker,	do.	malt dealer,	1	1			
✓ Henry Robinson,	do.	common brewer,	1	1			
✓ James Bancks,	do.	solicitor,			1	1	
✓ Roger Holt Leigh,	Leeds,	esquire,	1	1			<i>ob</i>
✓ James Kearsley,	Hulton,	esquire,	1				1
✓ Jas. Alexander Hodson,	Upholland,	esquire,		1			1
Edward Kearsley	Hindley,	esquire,	1	1			
Thomas Stopforth,	Upholland,	esquire,	1	1			
✓ James Lindsay,	London,	esquire,	1				
Thomas Kearsley,	Tyldesley,	esquire,	1				1
✓ John Holt,	Wigan,	esquire,			1	1	<i>r</i>
Reece Bevan,	do.	cotton spinner,			1	1	<i>r</i>
Edmund Alston,	do.	cheese factor,			1	1	<i>r</i>
Ralph Greenough,	do.	gentleman,			1	1	<i>r</i>
John Acton, jun.	do.	cotton spinner,			1	1	<i>r</i>
George Daglish,	do.	surgeon,			1	1	<i>r</i>
✓ John Critchley,	do.	tailor,			1	1	<i>r</i>
✓ Thomas Sherrington,	do.	innkeeper,			1	1	<i>r</i>
Thomas Smith,	do.	joiner,			1	1	<i>r</i>
James Catterall Leech,	do.	hosier,			1	1	<i>r</i>
William Waddington,	do.	tailor,			1	1	<i>r</i>
Roger Bolton,	do.	tin-plate worker,			1	1	<i>r</i>
Robert Bolton,	do.	gun-maker,			1	1	<i>r</i>
William Ranicar,	do.	druggist,			1	1	<i>r</i>
James Moyle,	do.	grocer and draper,			1	1	<i>r</i>
John Rigby,	do.	grocer,			1	1	<i>r</i>
Timothy Leadbetter,	do.	watch-maker,			1	1	<i>r</i>
Lawrence Marsden,	do.	hatter,			1	1	<i>r</i>
Jonathan Hallam,	do.	shoe-maker,			1	1	<i>r</i>
Lewis Rowe,	do.	innkeeper,			1	1	<i>r</i>
John Heyes,	do.	pewterer,			1	1	<i>r</i>
William Sleddon,	do.	auctioneer,			1	1	<i>r</i>

<i>Names of Voters.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Profession.</i>	<i>Ho.</i>	<i>L.</i>	<i>P.</i>	<i>Ha.</i>	<i>K.</i>
David Brown,	Wigan,	grocer,			1	1	r
Richard Kearsley,	do	victualler,			1	1	r
Charles Yates,	do	warehouseman,			1	1	r
Thomas Peers,	do	manufacturer,			1	1	r
Thomas Woods,	do	blacksmith,			1	1	r
Adam Jackson,	do	painter,			1	1	r
Thomas Hawett,	do	surgeon,			1	1	r
William Tidmarsh,	do	corn dealer,			1	1	r
Peter Aspinall,	do	innkeeper,			1	1	r
James Willgoose,	do	currier,			1	1	r
William Ainsworth,	do	currier,			1	1	r
Richard Tennant,	do	corn merchant,			1	1	r
John Clough,	do	flour dealer,			1	1	r
Thomas Cook,	do	draper,			1	1	r
Charles Potter,	do	flour dealer,			1	1	r
Thomas Latham,	do	manufacturer,			1	1	r
Ebenezer Little,	do	draper,			1	1	r
Thomas Clare,	do	gentleman,			1	1	r
James Andrew Bolton	do	gentleman,			1	1	r
George Rice, sen.	do	gentleman,			1	1	r
Thomas Danson,	do	butcher,			1	1	r
Edward Glassbrook,	do	victualler,			1	1	r
Thomas Rigby,	do	shopkeeper,			1	1	r
Thomas Rigby,	do	butcher,			1	1	r
Samuel M'Clure,	do	draper,			1	1	r
Robert Waddington,	do	victualler,			1	1	r
Caleb Hilton, sen.	do	victualler,			1	1	r
James Wilkinson,	do	carter,			1	1	r
Henry Leadbetter,	do	victualler,			1	1	r
Thomas Tickle,	do	surgeon,			1	1	r
John Alker, sen.	do	watch-maker,			1	1	r
William Milligan,	do	draper,			1	1	r
Francis Heath,	do	victualler,			1	1	r
Thomas Pendlebury,	do	publican,			1	1	r
Henry Swift,	do	surgeon,			1	1	r
Ralph Fairbrother,	do	victualler,			1	1	r
John Longworth,	do	shopkeeper,			1	1	r
James Austin, sen.	do	cowkeeper,			1	1	r

<i>Names of Voters.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Profession.</i>	<i>Ho.</i>	<i>L.</i>	<i>P.</i>	<i>Ha.</i>	<i>K.</i>
Robert Tootell,	Wigan,	victualler			1	1	r
Richard Fegan	do	manufacturer,			1	1	r
John Leyland,	do	shopkeeper,			1	1	r
John Heaton,	do	shopkeeper,			1	1	r
James Allen,	do	shopkeeper,			1	1	r
John Wood,	do	gardener,			1	1	r
Richard Procter,	do	currier,			1	1	r
John Kirby,	do	shopkeeper,			1	1	r
Robert Swift,	do	yeoman,			1	1	r
Brice Dean,	do	painter,			1	1	r
William Clarke,	do	tailor,			1	1	r
Edward Kelly,	do	cordwainer,			1	1	r
William Worsley,	do	painter,			1	1	r
Richard Atherton,	do	clogger,			1	1	r
George Marsh,	do	shopkeeper,			1	1	r
William Hall,	do	cordwainer,			1	1	r
Edward Dowson	do	tea dealer			1	1	r
James Rowe	do	manufacturer,			1	1	r
John Milnes	do	grocer			1	1	r
John Rothwell	do	victualler				1	1 r
Ralph Hammersley	do	draper			1	1	r
George Smith	do	tailor			1	1	r
James Richard Grimshaw,	do	draper			1	1	r
Thomas Wood	do	joiner			1	1	r
William Bullock	do	gentleman			1	1	r
Ralph Winstanley	do	shopkeeper			1	1	r
Samuel Holt	do	ironmonger			1	1	r
Thomas Newsham	do	brush-maker			1	1	r
Thomas Newsham	do	manufacturer			1	1	r
Michael Brown	do	victualler			1	1	r
George Peck	do	sail-maker			1	1	r
Thomas Ball	do	victualler			1	1	r
Thomas Shaw	do	victualler			1	1	r
Thomas Coates	do	dyer			1	1	r
Thomas Jenkinson	do	grocer			1	1	r
William Shaw, jun.	do	cotton merchant			1	1	r
Richard Shaw	do	cotton merchant			1	1	r
Israel Taylor	do	manufacturer			1	1	r

<i>Names of Voters.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Profession.</i>	<i>Ho.</i>	<i>L.</i>	<i>P.</i>	<i>Ha.</i>	<i>K.</i>
William Byrom	Wigan	grocer			1	1	r
James Rothwell	do	victualler			1	1	r
Thomas Moss	do	book-keeper			1	1	r
Edward Fisher	do	draper			1	1	r
William Norris	do	victualler			1	1	r
Henry Bullock	do	mayor	1	1			
William Blackburn	do	gentleman	1	1			
William Ashton	do	solicitor	1	1			
Robert Acton	do	whitesmith			1		1 r
James Scotson	do	druggist			1	1	r
William Burdekin	do	writer			1	1	r
William Moss	do	tailor			1	1	r
John Danson	do	hair-dresser			1	1	r
Lawrence Isherwood	do	cotton spinner			1	1	r
Richard Marsden	do	tailor			1	1	r



TOTAL NUMBERS POLLED.



HODSON	54
LINDSAY	45
POTTER	112
HARDCASTLE	116
KEARSLEY	12



J. HILTON, PRINTER, WIGAN.