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*Full transcript*

TO THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORS OF THE BOROUGH OF HORSHAM

GENTLEMEN,

On the occasion of my offering myself as a Candidate to represent you in Parliament, you are entitled to demand a clear exposition of my political principles.

Believing that the present Election has been rendered necessary by a Coalition in the House of Commons of men of the most opposite opinions, for the common purpose of depriving the country of Lord Palmerston's services, I beg to say, that, if elected, I shall give to his Government my best independent support. I consider the country largely indebted to the present Administration for successful and honourable extrication from a war which had assumed a disastrous aspect; and I believe the same vigorous and manly policy will very shortly restore to us a permanent peace. It is more than probable that if Lord Palmerston had been earlier in power, the Russian war would never have taken place; and the present difficulties with China might have been altogether prevented by a timely enforcement of the treaty of 1842 by his predecessors.

I avow myself anxious to reform and remove every defect and decay which time, or altered circumstances, may have induced in our Constitution, and to adapt it to the growing wealth, intelligence, and population of the country. At the same time I am Conservative of whatever is great, and good, and useful, and am opposed to violent democratic changes.

To the Reformed Protestant Church, and its pure faith, I yield to no man in attachment, combined with perfect toleration to all my fellow country men to worship God according to the dictates of their consciences. With respect to the vexed question of Church Rates, I trust the earliest attention of the New Parliament will be given to providing some reasonable substitute, which shall relieve entirely the conscientious objections of Dissenters without injuring the Church.

The diffusion of sound Education amongst all classes I deem of the first importance in a national point of view, and I am especially desirous to secure it to the Agricultural Population, who have, generally speaking, hitherto enjoyed the smallest portion of its blessings.

Administrative Reform and Economy are yet imperfectly developed; and I should advocate every possible retrenchment consistent with the safety of the State, and the greatness of the country.

I have been a Member of the Committee of the Metropolitan Association, formed for procuring the removal of the War Income Tax, and whose labours have contributed greatly to the large and immediate reduction so lately proposed by Lord Palmerston's Government.

Whatever will tend to alleviate the taxation now pressing heavily on the middle classes, and to render the necessaries of life cheaper to the working man, shall have my cordial support and hearty co-operation.

With regard to your local interest, I shall enjoy, as Deputy Chairman of the Brighton Railway Company (so intimately connected with Horsham and its neighbourhood), many opportunities of intercourse with you, and it is my intention, if honoured with your confidence, to spend a considerable portion of the year in the immediate vicinity of the Town, and to promote by my personal exertions, and liberal support all the Charitable and Educational Institutions in the neighbourhood.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,  
Your faithfully Servant,

JAMES SCOTT.

65, Cadogan Place, Belgravia,  
9 March 1857.

RICHARD BAKER, PRINTER AND BOOKBINDER, MIDDLE STREET, HORSHAM