

ELECTORS OF HORSHAM

“An Elector” had chosen to accuse me of having asserted that Mr. Blount is unfit to represent you because he is a Catholic. I have made no such assertion; I should have been ashamed so to have expressed myself. I have cast no imputations on Mr. Blount because of his religion. Opposed on principle to a system of nomination now attempted to be continued by the Duke of Norfolk, I have a right to make every possible objection to his Candidate. As a Catholic, I asserted he was not *the most proper* person to represent a Protestant constituency, - an objection which many besides myself entertain, and in my opinion, it is a fair and reasonable objection. There is hardly a Session of Parliament in which the management of the Church is not the subject of discussion. From what we now hear and see, it is evident it will be made a prominent one in the next Session. Is it not therefore *more proper* we should have a Protestant than a Catholic representative? The word Catholic, I know, is like gall as in connection with the situation held by Mr. Blount under the Duke. It makes the attempt at nomination so evident that it is useless to deny it. “An Elector” tells us Mr. Blount has been selected because he has been tried; - certainly not by the electors of Horsham. In fact I cannot find among my acquaintance (it may perhaps owing to its not being of “the most respectable,” although I can assure “An Elector” it is a pretty numerous party), any person who can give me any information as to his qualifications. I do not deny that he may possess all that is asserted by “An Elector”, but I wish to be informed by what means the electors of Horsham are to know it. They will hardly be satisfied with the assertion of an anonymous writer; neither am I inclined to think that they will place any great confidence in the recommendation of an Individual whose only claim to vote is derived from what is usually called a Duke’s FAGGOT, and of course cannot be exercised independently but only agreeably to the direction of the real OWNER.

Has Mr Blount’s conduct since we have heard of him been such as to entitle him to our confidence? Can we place any dependence in a man whose conduct has been so contradictory? Having made his boast of obtaining for the Inhabitants of Horsham the Elective Franchise, he directs his agents to adopt every possible means to prevent that franchise from being obtained by those for whose use it was professed to be granted, - and this, too, by conduct so inquisitorial as to disgust men of his own party. That non-residents were frequently nominated under the old system for Cities and Boroughs, I well know; and there can be little doubt that it has been one of the many causes of the present distressed state of the country. The non-resident, having no community of interests with the constituency, has made use of his seat only for the purpose of his own personal advantage. We hope better things under the new Bill. “An Elector” can hardly be sincere when he expressed his hopes that the voice of the constituency may not be stifled, - or he would not advocate the cause of a party whose attempts at dictation, intimidation, and undue influence, are not to be surpassed by the Duke of Newcastle or the Marquis of Exeter.

The Borough of Horsham is open to Mr. Blount or to any other Gentleman, and he would have a right to exercise any interest he might possess in a fair and honourable manner; but,

when agents resort to such conduct as Mr. Blount's agents have done, he cannot expect to receive support from an Independent Elector.

Electors! Be on the watch! Men who can tempt their neighbours to break their promises will not be very particular as to the method they may use to obtain their object.

A SINCERE RECORMER

Horsham, Nov. 24th 1832

(Cohen, printer, Brighton)