

holding upwards of one hundred persons. On the nomination day the candidates, their proposers and seconders, and principal adherents arranged themselves in their party divisions on the hustings. The official proclamation having been read the business of the day commenced, perhaps as many as three thousand persons being assembled in front, nine-tenths of them being non-electors, for the franchise had not then descended lower than the ten pound renters. The total number of electors in the old Borough did not exceed 400 at this period. These non-electors were fully privileged and permitted to create all the noise, uproar, and confusion that their strength and power of lung could command; cheers, groans, hisses, yells, and every kind of hubbub. However high and commendable the proposers may have placed the merits of their favourites before the public, this, and even the great eloquence and power of the candidates themselves, was lost to the ears of the crowd. This noisy discord having continued for two or three hours, a gentleman on the platform proposed that a show of hands be taken for the candidates. This having been done midst much confusion, the Mayor announced that the show of hands was largely in favour of the light blue candidate, whereon the energetic agent demanded that a poll should be taken on behalf of his honourable and learned friend the candidate for the purple and yellow party. It was proclaimed that the poll would open at nine o'clock on the following morning. The large crowd soon dispersed, and the rest of the day was given up to renewed canvassing, band playing and processions. The public houses did a roaring trade. Early on the morning of the polling day the polling booth was being got ready under the hustings. A hoarding was erected not more than four feet high, so that the public could see all over the polling station. A small, low platform, not more than a foot high, on which the elector had to stand when giving his vote was arranged outside so that the voter could be seen by all the polling clerks inside and the public outside the station. A large number of Special Constables to assist in keeping the peace and maintaining order was sworn in for the day. Their wand of office and authority was a stout broom handle about five feet long. In selecting these men as specials the authorities did not scrutinize in every case the character of the men for sobriety and civility; in fact it was considered a grand policy to make roughs specials and prevent them making any disturbance during the time they were on duty, or they would forfeit their pay of 5s. for the day. These constables were stationed round the polling booth to keep the crowd from pressing too near the booth. Shortly before nine o'clock the bands went to the Committee rooms and the candidates, accompanied by a large number of their supporters, walked