

to the polling station. Party colours were most lavishly displayed in these days. At the general election in July, 1847, for more than a month before polling day several bands of music paraded the streets daily accompanied by large gangs of pugilists and other rowdy characters, engaged by both sides. There were few houses in the town but what showed flags or some party colours. This was known as the Tancred and Macgregor election. At nine o'clock the elector appeared before the chief polling clerk, who asked him his name. "Who do you vote for?" "Brown," replied the elector. "Mr. Robinson votes for Brown!" The name is hooted loud enough to be heard by every one inside and by hundreds outside the booth. "Thank you, thank you, Mr. Robinson," is repeated again and again. This is followed by loud cheers and hisses. Another elector comes up to vote. "Your name, sir." "Dick Pullinger." "Who do you vote for, Mr. Pullinger?" "I shall vote for the gent with the white hat, blue coat and gold buttons," replied Mr. Pullinger. Mr. Pullinger having been told that he must give the name of the gentleman he wished to vote for, either Mr. Brown or Mr. Blue. Mr. Pullinger loudly cries out, "Now I know I shall vote for Mr. Blue." Mr. Pullinger having left the booth he was roughly jostled by a rowdy crowd outside. It was customary to announce the state of the poll every half hour, and paste it on the four corners of the booth. This was eagerly copied and with great haste carried to the Committee rooms. As the day wore on the noise and excitement grew with much intensity all over the borough. Scouts and canvassers were hard at work, seeking out the unpolled electors with vigorous energy, free fights taking place in several parts of the town. Doubtful electors who had not fully decided which party to espouse could have been seen in the hands of different political parties pulling him and leading him along the streets towards the polling station, all more or less advanced towards a state of inebriation. Towards four o'clock the Market Place was densely crowded, and at four o'clock the returning Officer declared the poll closed and that Mr. Brown had been duly elected the member for Banbury. The honourable member having briefly addressed the electors, thanking them for the proud position they had placed him in that day, the Special Constables formed a line by carrying their broom handles horizontally in their hands to form a barrier against the crowd. Within the interior of the barrier an avenue was formed. An arm chair had been lavishly and richly decorated with ribbons, the colours of the new member. Bearers were placed under the seat of the chair, eight men placed the bearers on their shoulders, the new member was lifted into the chair of honour, and accompanied by many of his leading sup-