

Election of first Chartists to Leeds Corporation

The Northern Star for the 4 November 1843 carried the following report

West Ward – Here the Chartists had a man out Mr. Jackson the corn miller. His colleague was Mr. Carbutt a Whig.

Jackson 480, Carbutt 488, P L Atkinson 439, D Atkinson 441

Holbeck Ward – Here was the main fight. There was more interest excited and more wagers pending as to the result in this ward, than all the others put together. The very violent means resorted to by both sections of sham reformers, the Whig's and Goosey's tribe, had directed all attention to the contest. Mr. Hobson was the Chartist candidate having been nominated by an "overwhelming majority" of a large public meeting of the burgesses and inhabitants. Mr. Ingham was the other candidate nominated with him. The Whigs brought out a Mr. Pape to oppose Mr. Hobson. From the first Mr. Hobson took the lead and maintained it to the last; the numbers polled being –

Hobson 571; Ingham 490; Pape 396 Hobson's majority over Ingham 81; over pape 175!

The defeat of the Whigs and shams was "Complete"! A regular flooring!

It will be seen by an examination of the above accounts, that Mr. Hobson was not only far away at the head of the Poll in Holbeck but that he polled more votes than any other candidate in the Borough! And that, too, after every means, dirty and infamous had been resorted to, to damage his election. His Anti-Free Tradeism was much played off and dwelt upon by the enemy. Yet he polled more votes than any other man, the whole Borough through! And two thirds of his votes were plumpers too: so that he had an equal to just upon 1,000 votes! Who will now say Chartism is down.

The lying scribe of the "liberal" Journal here, who has furnished the Morning Chronicle with his account says that it is "by treating and influence of the Tories that Mr. Hobson has been returned."

How lame! There never yet was an election on earth so pure as the Holbeck one. We believe that neither party resorted to treating; at all events Mr. Hobson's friends would not have given one single pint of ale to have gained the election. The voters had to walk to the polling booth; in some instances two miles. And as for the influence of the Tories, Mr. Ripley the greatest Tory in the Ward, voted for both Ingham and Pape the two Whigs. There was treating in some parts of the Borough; but not at Holbeck.

About sixty of Mr. Hobson's friends celebrated their glorious victory on the evening of the day at the Woodman Inn, Sweet Street, by a substantial supper. Mr. Hobson and Mr. Ross were present and addressed the assembly. A committee was appointed to look after the Registry; for the working men propose to carry two men next year. We understand that the Chartists of Leeds intend to celebrate their signal triumph in the Holbeck and West Wards by either a soiree or a Public Dinner in the new and LARGE room. It is not a bad idea. The Chartists are triumphant when they enter upon it; a good omen of future success while in it.

JOHN CLAPHAM AND THE BLUE TAILED REFORMER

A great yell is made by the Whigs and shams about Bluetailism which they attribute to the Chartists. What will they say to the following! Mr. Jackson was brought out in the West Ward along with Mr. Carbutt, a Whig; the understanding being that both should receive the support of all "Reformers". The Chartists to a man voted for the Whig.

John Clapham a Whig made magistrate; a violent "Reformer" a consistent tear away Corn Law Repealer split his vote between Mr. Carbutt, the Whig and Mr D. Atkinson, THE TORY! His object being to keep out Mr. Jackson, the Chartist. Will the Mercury

dub John Clapham a blue tailed Whig? Will Mother Goose have any of her religious ire to spare for the consistent! Whig voting Tory or does she reserve it all for the Chartists! We shall see.