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Sandwich	9 17
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BIRD, MAYOR.

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APPEALS will be first heard, and notice of every Appeal intended to be tried must be given to the Clerk of the Peace Two clear days at least before the Session.

THO. C. HALL,
Clerk of the Peace.

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2nd October, 1880.

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BY THE CELEBRATED

PICKWICK HISTRIONIC CLUB.

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W. FELLS, Hon. Secretary and Manager.

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All letters or communications intended for insertion MUST *be accompanied by the* REAL NAME AND ADDRESS *of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. Communications will not be inserted unless this rule is strictly complied with.*

We deem it only right to state that we do not, by giving insertion in our columns, necessarily endorse the opinions of our correspondents.

TIDE TABLE FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.
HIGH WATER AT DEAL.

	a.m.	p.m
SATURDAY	2 6	2 29
SUNDAY	2 54	3 22
MONDAY	3 52	4 25
TUESDAY	5 5	5 47
WEDNESDAY	6 34	7 17
THURSDAY	7 56	8 33
FRIDAY	9 3	9 29

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The LATEST ADVERTISEMENTS *must, therefore, reach the Office* EARLY *on* FRIDAY MORNING, *to ensure insertion.*

☞ *The Circulation of the* MERCURY *is guaranteed to exceed that of any other Newspaper printed in Deal.*

Letters and communications to be addressed To THE EDITOR. Advertisements, Money Orders, &c., to ROBERT NEWBY, 4½, Queen Street, Deal.

The Mercury.
CONSERVATIVE IN POLITICS.

FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 9TH, 1880.

LIBERAL ILLIBERALISM.

Hot-blooded young Tories, somewhat ignorantly and foolishly, to our mind, expressed at the general election exceeding surprise—we might almost say astonishment—at the great support which the people of Scotland gave Mr. Gladstone and his followers. Such support, however, was not not all out of accordance with what might have been expected from the history of that country, and certainly the great grand fathers of these aforesaid fiery politicians would have taken such an exhibition as a matter of course. They would have minded a case at Greenock where illiberal fanaticism was carried so far by the Presbyterian managers of a school as to cause them to extort from a young schoolmaster a formal promise in writing that during his term of office he would objure "*the profane and unprofitable art of poem-making.*" That young man was Wilson, who, near about the year 1770, published a poem called *Clyde*, which has since gone through several editions.

Who does not now look back with some sort of pride upon the career of Montrose, the gallant chieftain of a noble house? The ballad which tells of his death is still extant, and in every verse breathes reverence for his family.

To wear the blue I think it best,
Of all the colours that I see;
And I'll wear it for the gallant Grahams,
That are banished from their countrie.

And then when he comes back how affectionately the ballad-maker sings—

Montrose again, that chieftain bold,
Back unto Scotland fair he came
For to redeem fair Scotland's land,
The pleasant, gallant, worthy Graham.

Yet his countrymen, the illiberal fanatics of his own time, classed him among "the troublers of Israel, the firebrands of hell, the Corahs, the Balaams, the Doegs, the Rabshakehs, the Hamans, the Tobiahs, and Sanballats of the time."

This is, then, one of the peculiarities of Mr. Gladstone's constituents: the hated "Rabshakeh" of yesterday is the hero of today. The idolized William of the general election will probably be the rejected of today or to-morrow. *Sic transit gloria mundi!*

DEAL AND WALMER CARTER INSTITUTE.—We beg to direct attention to our advertisement of the celebrated Pickwick Histrionic Club, who will open the season of the Institute next Tuesday evening, also to the programme for the present season, which has been very freely issued during the past week; but if any one has not been fortunate enough to receive one, they had better apply to the Secretary at once, and procure a season ticket before next Tuesday, so as to secure the whole of the entertainments. There can be but one opinion as to the full and generous programme made up for the season. Several of the parties having appeared before and given the utmost satisfaction, affords a safer guarantee than relying upon written testimonials. We congratulate the Committee and give them credit for their venture, when we consider the good programme of last year, and that their efforts were not liberally responded to, for we happen to know that every arrangement was carried out most faithfully to the letter; not a single hitch occurred, in spite of rain or weather, which probably might have prevented some from turning out, but did not prevent parties from coming some hundreds of miles to fulfil their engagements, and did not prevent other expenses from running on, consequently there was a great loss; but what we have to do with now, is not the past, but the present season, and we do most heartily wish them success, for we think that if any persons have a claim upon our consideration it is the Secretary and Committee of the Institute for their gratuitous services for the recreation of their fellow townsfolk for many years.

The Sandwich Commission.

The Sandwich Election Commission began its sittings at the Town Hall, Deal, on Tuesday. The Commissioners were W. H. Holl, Esq., Q.C. (President), Francis H. Jeune, Esq., Richard E. Turner, Esq., Ernest Baggallay, Esq. (Secretary).

The President, in opening the inquiry, said it was their intention to make a stringent inquiry into the circumstances and details of all the alleged corrupt practices which had existed in the borough of Sandwich, whether such practices were of the nature of direct bribery, of undue payments for houses, or for persons not legitimately required. They should endeavour to ascertain the real truth of every transaction, and invited and hoped they should have the cooperation and assistance of every inhabitant. It was of the utmost importance that persons, whether voters or not, should give as soon as possible to the Commissioners all the information in their power which might lead to a speedy and correct conclusion. The Commission was held at the expense of the borough, and the length of time it would occupy would depend upon the readiness with which people came forward. The Commissioners were vested with very wide and stringent powers, and all persons who refused to answer or who withheld information it was in their power to deal severely with on the other hand, those who disclosed all they knew, it was in their power to extend a protection to those persons from any penalty they might be liable to.

Thomas Lydden Surrage was examined by the President. He was the Town Clerk of Sandwich. The constituency numbered 2,116. The new register would show 100 in excess. That would include perhaps persons who were entered twice. Perhaps 2,000 would be a fair estimate of the actual constituency. Sandwich voters were 571, Deal 1,223, Walmer 311. The voters are divided into freemen, occupiers, and lodgers. The freemen 143, Sandwich householders 442, and 1 lodger. Deal 1,217, and 3 lodgers. Walmer 309, all occupiers. The number of the constituency in 1869 was 1,986; number polled for Hugessen was 933, Brassey 922. The Conservatives polled 710 in that year. We began under the Reform Act with Walmer 69 only. Now it was 309. The expenses in 1880, unopposed election, were—Deal and Walmer, £199 17s. 3d. Sandwich, £364 2s. 5d. The industries of Sandwich comprised considerable imports of corn and coal, and timber. There were no manufactories. With regard to Deal he knew nothing only as a casual observer. The actual leading Conservatives in Sandwich he did not know; he took no interest in politics. Mr. Frank Baker might be one. A Mr. Hughes, a grocer in Sandwich, might be another. There was no Liberal Association. The leading Liberals he could hardly name. Perhaps Mr. Harrisson, a cornfactor, might be one, and a nephew of his had come forward lately, Mr. Richard Collard. There were no illegal or corrupt practices in Sandwich during the last election to his knowledge. There was a rumour of a great deal of money spent, which was evident to the eye in the shape of flags flying and other decorations. Very handsome flags they were, and must have cost a deal of money. This was much more evident in Deal than in Sandwich. Indeed, he saw nothing like it during 20 years. He knew nothing about persons employed, and should not think there was an excessive number in Sandwich. He was much surprised at the result of the last election, and could not believe the numbers at first.

The return for the May election on behalf of Mr. Roberts was called for and handed in by the witness. The total amount was £3,153 5s. 3d. The account was received by the Returning Officer 2nd August, 1880. He first received a return on behalf of the Liberal candidate 20th September. The vouchers he handed in to the President were those which were called for by the Judges at the recent petition, and impounded by them. The Liberal abstract of expenses was read, and the total amount reached £445 for Deal and Walmer. For Sandwich £443 5s. 11d.

The President asked for a return of the expenses for 1874.

In reply to Mr. Jeune the witness did not know whether any treating went on at Sandwich. He noticed no drunkenness. It was a very quiet election rather than otherwise as regarded riot and drink. The act prohibiting flags came out in 1854, and he did not think the custom had grown much since. Did not think there was more employment of cabs for voters at the last than in any previous elections.

Mr. Samuel Spofforth, Mr. Roberts' private solicitor, was next examined.—Mr. Roberts consulted him with regard to the late election, and he put Mr. Hughes and Mr. Roberts into communication with each other. He had nothing whatever to do with the money used over the election. He acted for Mr. Roberts during the petition inquiry as his solicitor. [When requested to hand in the brief the witness pleaded privilege, but bowed to the decision of the Commissioners, who took whatever responsibility there was in the matter.] He could give nothing which could suggest corrupt practices, on the part of Sir Julian Goldsmid beyond rumour. He did not follow any inquiry in that direction, as he did not pray the seat. He made inquiries from one or two gentlemen relative to a case of subornation against a man named Elliott. Lewis and Lewis, it appears, got hold of this man, a canvasser for the Conservatives, who was offered £30 if he would split. He said he would consider about it, and subsequently was taken to London and underwent an examination in Lewis and Lewis's office, where he was paid £5 and given a promissory note. He did not, as he had stated, follow up the inquiry, as Sir Julian did not claim the seat.

Mr. George Mercer, town clerk of Deal and clerk to the magistrates, said that at the last census the population of Deal was 8,000. The trade of Deal was not very extensive, and it consisted of boat building, in supplying ships. There was a factory for preserving vegetables and fish, milling trade, and brick making. The municipal elections were not contested on political grounds. Their local authority was the mayor, six aldermen, and 18 councillors. In Deal there were 74 fully-licensed houses. 14 beerhouses, and 16 grocers and wine merchants' licenses. He saw a large number of flags and rosettes at the election in May; it was an unusually large number. Deal and Walmer were peculiarly situated in respect to flags on account of the large number of flagstaffs which were erected permanently there. Flags were hoisted on the smallest excuse. There were many boys going about with boards. There were many carriages going about on the day of the election. The utmost distance of a polling station from any part of the town was about a mile.

Can you account at all for the difference in the majority at the last election?—I think it is only a matter of opinion, but in many respects our late members well represented us and were highly respected. This election was independent of those gentlemen altogether. I believe that many Conservatives voted for Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen because he was very highly respected.

Witness, continuing, said that there was not a single case of drunkenness arising on the day of the election. It was particularly quiet in that respect. He was not surprised at the number of the majority.

Mr. R. J. Emmerson, clerk to the magistrates at Sandwich, and agent for Sir Julian Goldsmid, detailed the circumstances under which Sir Julian was introduced to the constituency and stated that Lieutenant-General Adye was at first a candidate, but on being told that £2,000 would be required to return him he declined to stand. Witness thought it was necessary to have £2,000 to fight an election for Sandwich on account of the large sums required for irregular expenses, such as expenditure for flags and employment of large numbers of persons. Witness told Sir Julian Goldsmid that he could not conduct it for less than £3,000. Sir Julian said he would not pay any other claim than legal expenses. Before the petition was presented witness had received £410 from Sir Julian, and afterwards £250 from Lewis and Lewis. There was no regular Liberal organisation at Sandwich, and only one man was paid for professional services. After the election they had public-house bills sent in to the amount of £89, which had not been paid. The sum of £410 appeared in the account, part of which was expended in paying bills which had been incurred daily in public-houses and part for rosettes. He thought the score of £89 had been run up by political friends who treated their friends in turn, and expected his party to pay. Small sums were paid daily in order to keep down expenditure. He was sorry to have taken the position, as he knew these payments of voters' scores at public-houses were illegal but he came to make a clean breast of it. To some extent these bills were paid daily in order to prevent the accumulation of bills in the election expenses. Seven publicans at Sandwich were paid £4 each for committee rooms and for canvassing voters. He also, in addition to the sum of £40 paid to Mr. Coleman, gave that gentleman £50. It was given to him to spend and apply in the best way he could to secure voters who had promised to support the Liberals. Coleman stated that voters on the other side could get any money they liked, and that £50 was necessary to secure votes already promised. He had reason to believe other sums were promised, but they were not paid. A Mr. Ford, a friend of Sir Julian Goldsmid, left witness £200 in gold, and on same day gave Mr. Edwards, of Deal, £1,300. Nothing was said about the expenditure, except that it was to be for the purposes of the election. This was the day before the election. He received a cheque from Sir Julian for £200 a day or so afterwards, and had now a balance due to Sir Julian after receiving the cheque from Lewis and Lewis, as the £89 had not been paid for drinks.

The witness was examined as to various items of accounts, after which the commissioners adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER, 6TH.

The Commissioners resumed the inquiry on Wednesday morning.

Mr. Spofforth, re-examined, said: Mr. Crompton Roberts thought of standing at the General Election, but it was concluded that Mr. Hugessen and Mr. Brassey were too firmly established. He was promised that if a vacancy occurred he should be communicated with, and on the 27th March he received a letter from Mr. Usher. My clerk, and Mr. Roberts came down and met some of the leading Conservatives, but it was not decided that he should stand until the 4th May, when he came to Deal and issued his address. I was engaged immediately after the petition was presented.

What day were the particulars served by Messrs. Lewis?—It would be about the 23rd July. After that I was down here looking after the particulars. I proceeded to find out how far the charges were likely to be made out. The brief was drawn up by me.

In the particulars I see this—"There is no doubt that bribery did extensively prevail, but not with the consent of the candidate." You knew that bribery did prevail?—I did.

I see this—that those who have red ticks against their names are those to whom money is believed to have been paid?—Yes, sir.

And I find this—It must be admitted that those names with red marks against their name are men that were paid money by James Ralph in the presence of Elliott?—I see nothing in the brief that enables me to point out the men who received money from Ralph. There is no other copy of the particulars to which this refers.

There is this—Where no money is paid "no" will be found against their names?—Yes.

I find that some have "no," and some "Liberal." I suppose the "Liberal" means that the man was a Liberal, and could not be bribed?—Yes.

Then I find colourable against some names, what does that mean?—Colourable employment.

Mr. Spofforth was here examined at length regarding the different marks in the particulars he drew up.

Examination continued—I find this, "All the men who bribed are staunch and they believe their men are, but some are afraid that Elliott will turn up. He is now believed to have started for America?"—I believed he had started for America, and the men believed those who had been bribed were staunch.

The ticks were the result of information given by a third party?—Yes.

Who was it?—I would rather not answer.

I must have it.—May I write it?

Yes. Name supplied.

Then it was upon his information you put "no," "bribed," or "dead"?—Yes sir.

Did you see any of the alleged bribers personally?—I don't think I did, with the exception of Ralph.

He told you what sum of money he had had?—He did not, nor to whom he gave money.

Names were named from which you concluded the charges could be proved?—I did, but I don't remember that he told me that any of the charges could be proved. I had an interview with William Frost Spears, Valentine Myhill, G. Philpott, Ralph, Elliott, J. L. Adams, Jack Adams, Thomas Philps. These names I am giving because you asked me if I had seen bribers, (continued reading). S. Hooper and W. Lock. I think those are all the persons I saw. There is one name of Betts but I don't think I saw him.

There is this, "that all the bribers were entrusted with money, but only in three cases where their names had been coupled with the particulars." What does that mean?—I cannot say. I saw the men I have named and they gave me to understand that they had been entrusted with money.

Who entrusted them with the money?—I don't know; I never inquired.

Did you see any of the persons bribed?—I did not. I never inquired for them.

I suppose that what you mean by Elliott turning up was that he would split?—Yes, that he would give some information that would compromise the party.

And it was through Elliott that Mr. Lewis and the petitioner got on the track that bribery had been going on?—I concluded so from the information I received.

I see opposite the name of James ... "received £5 to vote for Sir Julian; the money was put into his wife's lap, she gave it to him, and she can prove it."—Where did you get that information?—I cannot say. I did not see any of the persons who were bribed.

There is this note, "To show how ... the case has been got up there are two men named Adams, father and son, who ... and have never been paid a penny ... but they will swear, if requisite, that they ... received the names of those they have paid." That is information I received.

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