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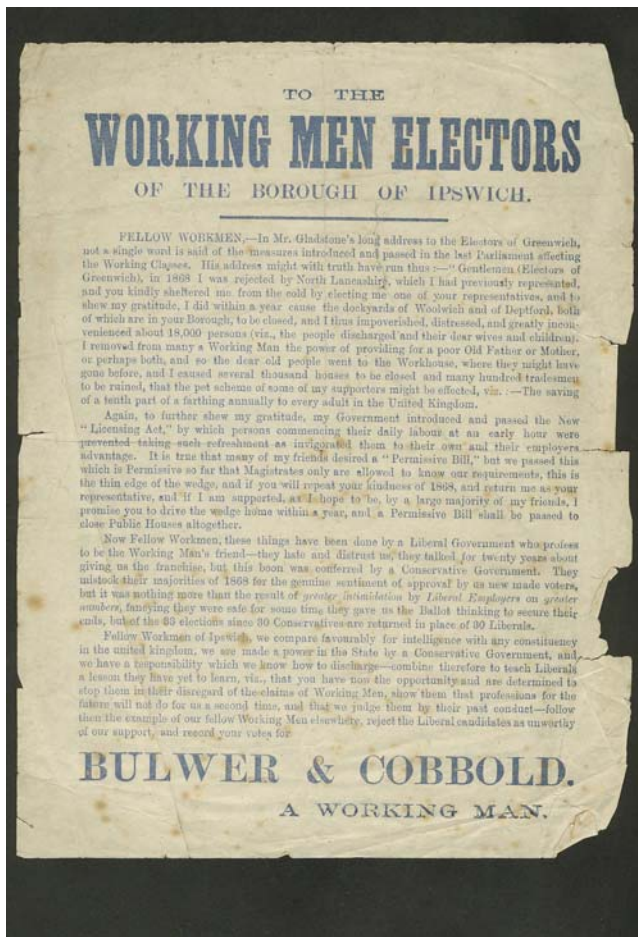
FEATURE: A THREAT TO THE BREWERY JUN 08

Jun 2008

John Patteson Cobbold JP MP (1831-1875) was our 6th generation brewer, a lawyer, an Alderman and a former Mayor of Ipswich who stood as a Conservative for the Borough of Ipswich in 1874.

The Trust recently received a copy of his electoral handbill which suggests that there is nothing new in seeking election by running down the opposition and protecting special interests.

The handbill is reproduced in full below. For a more readable copy please scroll down.



TO THE
WORKING MEN ELECTORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF IPSWICH.

FELLOW WORKMEN,—In Mr. Gladstone's long address to the Electors of Greenwich, not a single word is said of the measures introduced and passed in the last Parliament affecting the Working Classes. His address might with truth have run thus:—"Gentlemen (Electors of Greenwich), in 1868 I was rejected by North Lancashire, which I had previously represented, and you kindly sheltered me from the cold by electing me one of your representatives, and to shew my gratitude, I did within a year cause the dockyards of Woolwich and of Deptford, both of which are in your Borough, to be closed, and I thus impoverished, distressed, and greatly inconvenienced about 18,000 persons (viz., the people discharged and their dear wives and children). I removed from many a Working Man the power of providing for a poor Old Father or Mother, or perhaps both, and so the dear old people went to the Workhouse, where they might have gone before, and I caused several thousand houses to be closed and many hundred tradesmen to be ruined, that the pet scheme of some of my supporters might be effected, viz.:—The saving of a tenth part of a farthing annually to every adult in the United Kingdom.

Again, to further shew my gratitude, my Government introduced and passed the New "Licensing Act," by which persons commencing their daily labour at an early hour were prevented taking such refreshment as invigorated them to their own and their employers advantage. It is true that many of my friends desired a "Permissive Bill," but we passed this which is Permissive so far that Magistrates only are allowed to know our requirements, this is the thin edge of the wedge, and if you will repeat your kindness of 1868, and return me as your representative, and if I am supported, as I hope to be, by a large majority of my friends, I promise you to drive the wedge home within a year, and a Permissive Bill shall be passed to close Public Houses altogether.

Now Fellow Workmen, these things have been done by a Liberal Government who profess to be the Working Man's friend—they hate and distrust us, they talked for twenty years about giving us the franchise, but this boon was conferred by a Conservative Government. They mistook their majorities of 1868 for the genuine sentiment of approval by us new made voters, but it was nothing more than the result of *greater intimidation by Liberal Employers on greater numbers*, fancying they were safe for some time they gave us the Ballot thinking to secure their ends, but of the 33 elections since 30 Conservatives are returned in place of 30 Liberals.

Fellow Workmen of Ipswich, we compare favourably for intelligence with any constituency in the united kingdom, we are made a power in the State by a Conservative Government, and we have a responsibility which we know how to discharge—combine therefore to teach Liberals a lesson they have yet to learn, viz., that you have now the opportunity and are determined to stop them in their disregard of the claims of Working Men, show them that professions for the future will not do for us a second time, and that we judge them by their past conduct—follow then the example of our fellow Working Men elsewhere, reject the Liberal candidates as unworthy of our support, and record your votes for

BULWER & COBBOLD.
A WORKING MAN.