

TO THE

Electors of West Aberdeenshire.

GENTLEMEN,—Having received a requisition, signed by a great number of the constituency, requesting me to allow myself to be nominated as a Candidate to represent you in Parliament, I now consent to do so, and respectfully solicit your support.

My political opinions are well known. I respect the Church and State, and will not be led by any man of whatever party.

I take a profound interest in the Poor Law—more especially as I have had many occasions to bless such a law—whereby I have had the pleasure of allowing the parochial authorities and ratepayers to provide for the performance of my *paternal* duties.

I *hate* the Forbes Mackenzie Act, and will cheerfully vote for its abolition, as it interferes with the liberty of the subject.

I need not refer to the Permissive Bill. I am against it. It is all bosh. What would it come to if we could not get our glass on the quiet? True, at Lousieville, I can entertain my friends, with the consent of my housekeeper, Margaret, with nice sweet or butter milk; but, of course, I always prefer a cinder amongst it myself. If taken otherwise, it sours on the stomach, at least it does on mine, and water I cannot bear, except when taken hot to mix my toddy.

I will vote for a grant from the Public Funds towards the completion of the “Wallace” Monument; and will also move that the Dog Tax be abolished. In fact, I am prepared to vote any way that my constituents may direct me in matters generally.

I have the greatest personal respect for my esteemed opponent, Mr. M'Combie; but, in matters of this kind, private feeling must give way to a great public duty. Mr. M'Combie can only represent his friends, the “Nowt,” in Parliament; but I have a higher object to serve. I deal in everything, and expect from my great mercantile knowledge to serve on many a lucrative committee, whereby not only my *own* interests but yours also might be promoted.

As to Education and the Parochial School System, I must say that I am profoundly indifferent, and am quite at sea. But if we might judge from the continued howls for increase of pay, made periodically by the schoolmasters to reward them for their endeavours to learn “the young idea how to shoot,” their interests are in very good keeping notwithstanding the Revised Code.

In religion I am no bigot. “Live and let live,” is my motto. Personally, I stick to the “good auld Kirk of Scotland,” as it costs the least. I have in my youthful days been at a Sabbath School, and have even been a Teacher therein. I may also state that I combine religion with my business, as I do everything else to earn an honest penny. I have been the means of circulating the Scriptures to a great extent among the be ghted natives of the Shetland and Orkney Islands, in the following primitive manner, viz. :

Full-grown Cod, Ling, or Saith (dried)	1 Bible (old and new) with Psalms, &c., complete.
Middle sized do. do.	1 New Testament, with Psalms, &c., do.
Smallest sized do. do.	1 Psalm Book, &c., do.

They not, in these regions, having the ordinary circulating medium, I adopt this currency so that my Bibles might circulate, and I can again barter with my customers for my paper and books. This example will suffice to prove my business habits, and that I have an eye thereto.

The Law of Hypothec might be abolished, provided the Landlord got good security for his rent, but I could not consent to its abolition if *I*, at least, was not protected. Others might do as they liked.

X he certainly did barter, for I have seen his back shop full of dried cod fish