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Mr. Dixon of Finchurch Street having business in Cornwall, requested Mr. Longueville Clarke of Holborn Court Grays Inn to accompany him, that he might have the benefit of his legal assistance should it prove necessary. On Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, while they were at Launceston, a letter was shewn to them from Mr. Richard Peter, a freeholder in the neighbouring borough of Callington, imploring any two gentlemen would come over and oppose the Clinton interest, and offering in the name of a large body of Electors to return them without expence or any reference to their political principles; but stating at the same time that if they were supporters of the present Govern-ment it would be more acceptable. Mr. Clarke then inquired who were the present Candidates; he was told they were Sir Frederick Robertson, and Col. Lygon, that they were unknown in the County, but from the circumstance of Lord Clinton being in opposition, and <sup>of</sup> Mr. Tucker who was their agent and canvassing for them being a supporter of Annual Parliaments & universal suffrage, no doubt could be entertained that their politics were hostile to Government. The auspices under which Lord Clinton's Candidates appeared induced Mr. Dixon and Mr. Clarke to adopt the same opinion, while the mistake in the name of Sir Christopher Robinson prevented their being undeceived. Impressed with the idea that the Candidates for Callington were in opposition, Mr. Clarke perceived the service he should be rendering to Government if he succeeded in turning them out, and bringing in two firm supporters of Administration. He therefore urged Mr. Dixon to join him and offer themselves for the representation of the Borough.

Mr. Dixon was unwilling to stand himself, and proposed to nominate a gentleman whom he knew to be anxious to come into Parliament. Mr. Dixon and Mr. Clarke arrived at Cal-  
-lington about Five o'clock on Thursday evening, <sup>the 18 of June,</sup> and were drawn into the town, with every demonstration of joy, and promises of support. But the Electors were dissatisfied when they found Mr. Dixon was not going to stand himself, and refused to vote for an absent Candidate, Mr. Clarke having urged him to comply with their wishes, to this he at last consented. The evening was now far advanced; but the short canvass they were able to make

had

had met every prospect of success. The next morning, which was Friday morning, Mr Clarke was obliged to go over to Launceston at five o'clock to prepare an annuity deed which might qualify him. At Launceston he discovered the error into which he had been led respecting the names of the candidates at Ballington.

On arriving at Ballington about two o'clock on Friday, he found that a Mr Bruce was in the town for the purpose of offering himself as a candidate, and shortly after that Mr Richard Wellesley, the son of ~~the~~ Marquis Wellesley arrived on the same business. Mr Wellesley waited on Mr Dixon and Mr Clarke and urged strongly that one of them should resign in his favor. But Mr Clarke considered that by retiring now he would consign that interest, which in the persons of Mr Dixon and himself was secured to the Government, to Mr Wellesley & Mr Bruce who would oppose it, and that it was most fortunate for Administration, that Mr Dixon and himself had pre-engaged the support of the Electors before the arrival of Mr Wellesley and Mr Bruce. On Saturday morning the Poll commenced, and at the close the numbers were for

Col Lygon	35
Sir C Robinson	33
Mr Clarke	28
Mr Dixon	26

Mr Dixon and Mr Clarke were assisted at the Poll by their legal advisers, Mr Gullet Barrister at Law of Plymouth - Mr Charles Carpenter Attorney of Moditonham Saltash Deputy Receiver of the Duchy of Cornwall and one of the Deputy Stewards of that County - Mr Par Hockin Attorney of Launceston - Mr Samuel Amory Attorney, of 52 Lothbury London, and had likewise the advice of Mr John Martin Attorney of Ballington who officiated as Poll Clerk. All these gentlemen except Mr Amory of Lothbury were intimately acquainted with the Borough of Ballington, its customs, &c, &c. These gentlemen have given their opinion that Mr Dixon and Mr Clarke are the present legal Representatives of the borough of Ballington, on the following grounds.

1. Six (or seven) Votes were admitted by the Portreeve, for Sir C. Robinson & Colonel Lygon, of Freeholders who were non-Resident.

But

But the right of voting is vested in "Freeholders and beneficial Leaseholders being Resident and Rated". They therefore conceive that Non resident freeholders are not entitled to vote.

1<sup>st</sup>. Because it is allowed that the fact of being rated is necessary for both freeholders and leaseholders, and they therefore contend that the other part of the sentence being Resident is equally applicable to both.

2<sup>nd</sup> That this a maiden Borough on which there has been no decision of the House, and its oldest inhabitants assert that Residence has been ever necessary for the right of voting.

3<sup>rdly</sup> Five votes were rejected by the Portreeve for Mr Dixon and Mr Clarke, because they did not appear on any old rate, and the new rate was not to be published until Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, whereas the election was held on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>: and it was admitted that had the election been held on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> instead of Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>, the votes would have been good. But the legal advisers of Mr Clarke consider these votes perfectly admissible, because the Rate had been allowed and signed some time before, by the Magistrates (or proper officers); and as the persons offering their vote, whose names appeared on that rate, were liable to be sued for whatever sums they were assessed at by that rate, from the date on which it was signed, so they were entitled from the same date to any elective franchise or privilege which that bestowed on them: besides, the <sup>signing and</sup> publication of the rate was requested and urged by these Voters before the Election, but as if to deprive them of their Elective franchise, the officer delayed & did not do his duty.

3<sup>rdly</sup> The Portreeve (the returning officer) and the Taxgatherer were admitted to poll for Sir C. Robinson and Col. Lygon, and the Borough Constable (who was Marshall of the Court) for Col. Lygon and Mr Clarke. To these votes the legal advisers of Mr Dixon & Mr Clarke object.

4<sup>thly</sup> The Payers of Scot and Lot though offered by both parties were objected to by the Portreeve. The numbers <sup>offered</sup> by Mr Dixon and

Mr

Mr Clarke would have given them an immense majority, and a mass of evidence can be produced to establish the legality of their votes.

<sup>thly</sup>  
5. Since the Election, Mr Charles Carpenter has written to Mr Amory, informing him that he has discovered two of the votes admitted by the Portreeve for Sir C Robinson and Col. Lygon to be decidedly bad, and a letter has likewise been received by Mr Dixon & Mr Clarke signed by eight of the Electors containing information which clearly invalidates six more votes for Sir C Robinson & Col. Lygon.

Setting aside therefore the Scot and Lot votes the numbers should be

Mr Clarke	32
Mr Dixon	31
Col. Lygon	18
Sir C Robinson	17

Through the activity of Mr Dixon's and Mr Clarke's supporters in the Borough, who are warmly pressing them to petition, they have reason to believe that many more voters may yet be struck off the Poll of Col. Lygon and Sir C. Robinson.

Under these circumstances the friends of Mr Clarke consider

1. That Mr Dixon and Mr Clarke are the legal Representatives of the Borough of Ballington, and
2. <sup>ndly</sup> by foiling the efforts of Mr Bruce and Mr Wellesley they have preserved for the Administration two votes in the House of Commons

Paper relative to  
the Election for  
the Borough of  
Ballington