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TO THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORS OF THE BOROUGH OF LEWES.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING received an invitation from several influential Electors to become a Candidate for your Borough, after mature deliberation, I have come to the determination of soliciting your suffrages at the approaching Election, and with the view of obtaining the honourable position to which I aspire, to give a brief outline of my political creed.

The principal questions which now agitate the public mind, are the further endowments of the Roman Catholic Church, by an annual and permanent grant from the public purse for its priesthood and the Government scheme of Education.

As a Protestant and an attached member of the Established Church, although conceding every liberty of conscience to those who differ from me, I am decidedly opposed to any concessions whatever to a Church and Priesthood who make the removal of every supposititious grievance the foundation of some new claim totally unconnected with religious freedom, and only contemplating political aggrandizement, and the full restoration and recognition of Popery.

With respect to the Government scheme of Education, I am prepared to advocate such modification of its details, as may obviate the conscientious objections entertained by its opponents; but under no circumstances can I tolerate a system of centralization, which will place an enormous irresponsible patronage in the hands of the Ministers of the Crown, and deprive every Town and Borough in the Kingdom of their legitimate influence.

On the question of Free Trade, it having now become a law, I would allow it a fair trial, when, should it be found to militate against the public interests, I will be the first man to advocate its repeal, and a return to a sounder system of policy, but whilst it is in operation I think the principle should be extended to a tax, which now presses most heavily on the agriculturists and labouring classes—I mean the malt tax; the repeal of which, as well as of the Hop duty, I conceive to be in every way desirable and politic, removing at once a heavy taxation from the shoulders of the Farmer, and enabling the sturdy peasant to enjoy a wholesome and invigorating (if unadulterated) draught, at a comparatively trifling expense.

The existing new Poor Law has many clauses which are unnecessarily cruel and severe; not calculated to make the labourer an industrious and useful member of society, but a discontented man and a disaffected subject. I desire to see the law, in its operation so framed, as to secure a comfortable shelter for the infirm, the aged, and the sick, the refuge in time of need of the destitute, and those, who cannot obtain that employment which would secure food; but severely stringent on those who manifest an idle and insubordinate spirit.

Should I have the honor of being elected your representative, I pledge myself to devote my undivided attention to every measure which may involve the general welfare of the community; whilst, in regard to local affairs, no means shall be left untried on my part to promote your immediate interests, and place Lewes in the position, which, from its situation and local resources, it is entitled to occupy.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient humble Servant,

Godfrey Hudson.

Temple, London, July 20, 1847.