

Far from you, Gentlemen, be credulity so foolish !
 Far from you, disgrace so deep, infamy so indelible !
 Far from you, so flagrant a violation of the law, so daring
 a defiance of the justice and the power and the wrath
 of God ! But, were it otherwise, and did I find in Honiton
 but as many righteous men as were found in Sodom and
 Gomorrah, I would tender them my hand to lead them
 from the rest. Very different, however, are my hopes ;
 these hopes forbid me to believe it possible that there
 should be, collected upon one spot, four hundred English-
 men, having the eyes of all England upon them, who
 will not, by their votes, freely and cordially given, sanction
 the right principle upon which I now stand ; and, in
 these hopes, I will, if I have life, do myself the honour
 to meet you on the day of election. In the meanwhile
 I am, with great respect, Gentlemen, your most humble
 and most obedient servant, WM. COBBETT.

June 1, 1806.

At the last moment Lord Cochrane was nominated and Cobbett withdrew. Bradshaw was, of course, returned, and all that Cobbett obtained in return for his exertions was the knowledge at first hand that the electorate was as rotten as the men sent to Parliament. "The electors tell you there is no bribery," Cobbett said, and he pointed out that while perhaps this was true in the letter, it was most disgracefully false in the spirit. "They take a certain sum of money each according to their consequence, their degree of influence, and their services to their candidates respectively ; 'but this,' they say, 'comes in the shape of a *reward* after the election, and therefore the oath may be safely taken.' " Those electors whom Cobbett asked to support him told him plainly that they depended for their means of subsistence upon the price paid for their votes ; and, as a commentary