

# WESTBURY ELECTION.

## TO THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT OF WESTBURY.

GENTLEMEN,—

*Independent* Electors of the District (for to those only who are independent do I address myself), I come before you as a Candidate for your suffrages, at the request of many of your most influential and respectable Residents and Proprietors, whose recommendation of me to your notice, and whose advocacy of my cause ought to weigh—and, no doubt, will weigh with you far more than could any declarations or professions of my own.

It could not be expected that I should be known personally to you all; and my past unwillingness to take part in public affairs should furnish to you a proof that I am not influenced in this matter by mere ambition or vanity, but that I properly value and prize the possession of your good opinion, and that I am prepared to sacrifice much domestic comfort and many pecuniary advantages for the sake of representing and advocating your interests in the new Legislative Council—for the purpose of contributing my humble exertions (now that I am called upon to do so) in behalf of this most important and prospering District.

It is a source of sorrow to me that circumstances (over which I have no control) should prevent my addressing you by word of mouth upon this occasion; but the schemes which have been planned by the opposite party, and the many misrepresentations (through which we have at last waded thus far), render it absolutely necessary that I should visit, upon this my first opportunity, that portion of the Electoral District of Westbury which includes Circular Head and Emu Bay, and that I should place before the Electors there the unwarping and distinct record of my political views. Rest assured that, if you should place me in the high and important position of YOUR MEMBER, I shall consider it my duty, as it will be my privilege, to go among you,—to ascertain your wants,—to hear your opinions,—and to work together with you for the acquisition of all our common rights, and the advancement of our common welfare.

**ELECTORS**,—Do not suffer interested and party-spirited individuals to persuade you that my interests and yours are not in common, and that I wish to force upon you measures which will not injure me while they will ruin you. Such a statement, I tell you before Him who knows the secrets of all hearts, is a broad, glaring, and slanderous falsehood. If you suffer,—if the Farmers suffer,—if Tradesmen suffer,—I must suffer with them; and the more populous this colony and our district becomes, the more flourishing especially are our agricultural interests—the more valuable will be my sources of income—and the greater my means of usefulness among you.

I have been condemned for not dividing my pro-

perty into small farms, and planting a tenantry upon my estate. Now, I am most anxious to do so; and I hope and believe that I shall be enabled, before two years expire, to introduce from ten to twenty tenants from the Mother-country, and to settle them comfortably upon my land—not at such rents as will compel them to work the soil to destruction, but so that they shall rather woo, with kindly and judicious industry, the teeming bosom of our mother earth to yield her riches abundantly, and to yield them without becoming poor.

Never trust those men, my good friends, who tell you that they work their estates and manage their affairs *for the good of the district*. Believe me that such an idea is sheer and unqualified humbug. How absurd to think that a man should lease a cow at more than the usual rent *for the good of the district*—or, for the good of the district, should consent to receive *ten or fifteen* shillings for each acre that, under another system, would only yield *three or four*! But you will not allow yourselves to be gulled by such monstrous nonsense, I feel sure! That man is short-sighted indeed who adopts a system of management which throws for a time into his own purse those profits which would have kept his fellow-colonists from ruin;—that man is a true and practical patriot who acts as *one of a community*, and who, looking to the future, sees (as every enlightened man will see) that if the whole body suffers, he as a part or member must suffer with it—that if the leg mortify and die, the body must be in imminent danger also.

I have much to say to you that I cannot bring within the compass of a mere letter, such as this—and, if all be well, I will yet say it; but do not think that I wish to thrust myself upon your support, that I desire unfairly to influence you. *I do not*; but I say to you, show that you inherit that proud high spirit of independence which has made our ancestors so great and so invincible;—act thoughtfully, and deliberately, and conscientiously, with your duty to God and man before your eyes, and do not suffer yourselves to be tricked into the commission of an act, which afterwards you may see reason to repent of.

With regard to my **POLITICAL OPINIONS**, I have endeavored to make them known to you; but while I hold them upon the information which I at present possess, I would not bind myself to retain them unchanged in the face of unanswerable arguments, or undoubted facts. Thus, if it could be proved distinctly to me that greater evils would arise from a sudden discontinuance of transportation than from gradual cessation, I would not advocate its sudden discontinuance; but the fact is, that abolition cannot be sudden: in spite of Pledges and Leagues, Petitions and Remonstrances, transportation will cease so gradually, and be so immediately replaced

by immigration, that there will be no shock, no distress, no inconvenience at all felt on that account. At the same time, if we could place ourselves upon our knees instantly before the British Government to pray for the continuance of transportation, we could not add one to the laborers in the coming harvest, nor one to the ploughmen of the coming year. There is a mighty fact now afloat in the world which will determine the question of transportation without reference to us at all, and which will lead these colonies, through perhaps a somewhat thorny and difficult path, to an important and influential position among the kingdoms of the world. The discovery of gold *must* prevent the introduction of British criminals into its neighborhood, and *will surely* give rise to an immense increase to our free population.

As to other political matters, I am distinctly of opinion that no one Church or Religious Denomination should have authority over another, or be supported by the revenues of another; and that the Colonial Government ought to give every encouragement to the diffusion of education without respect to creeds,—helping those who help themselves, and providing for those who cannot.

The Council ought to have the full management of the **LAND FUND** for the good of the Colony at large, and upon this point I wish to bring under your notice a proposition which emanated from the foremost supporters of my opponent. The Governor was asked to give a right of purchase to all the present Lessees of Crown Lands. Now, the effect of this would be to lock up all the available land in the Colony in the hands of a small number of individuals; it would do away with those inducements which would tend to bring Capitalists among us; and it would defraud—it would rob the Colonial Treasury of a large amount which should be available for the benefit of the whole Colony. This is the way they would assist the small farmers! This is their method of rendering the Colony prosperous! I need not say that I shall decidedly set my face against such a nefarious transaction, which would injure the Colony more than any other project which could be brought forward.

I will write no more than to tell you clearly, and without the slightest reserve, that if you should determine to elect me as your Member, I shall endeavor, by the aid of Him who alone can give wisdom, to advance energetically and perseveringly your best interests;—that I shall be anxious to know your feelings upon all matters connected with the beautiful and flourishing District in which we live;—and that I shall feel bound to return into your hands, whenever you may require it, the sacred trust and responsibility which will devolve upon me if you should send me to the Council as your Representative.

**WILLIAM ARCHER, JUN.**