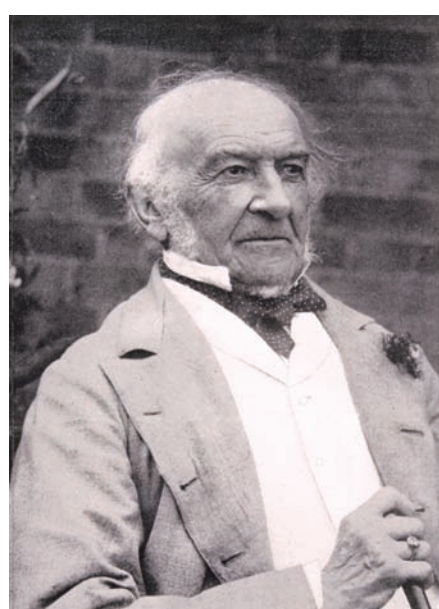


W.E. Gladstone

The Grand Old Man in Nottinghamshire

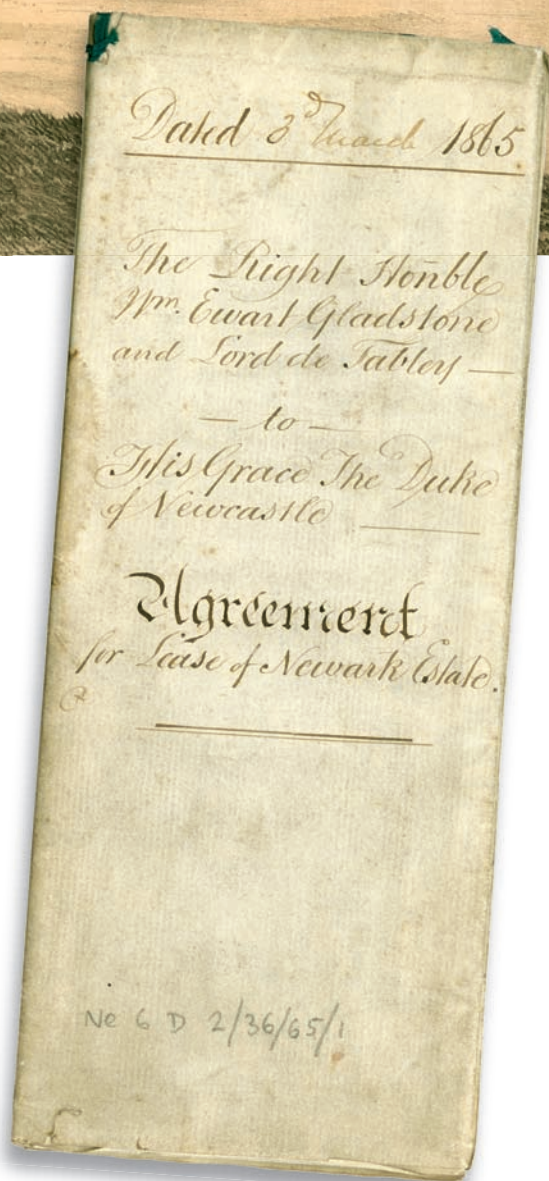


William Ewart Gladstone (1809-98) was probably the most famous political figure of the nineteenth century. Initially a Conservative, he became a committed Liberal and served as Prime Minister of Britain and Ireland four times between 1868 and 1894. He was popularly known as ‘The People’s William’, and, in later life, as the ‘Grand Old Man’, or more simply as ‘G.O.M.’

Born in Liverpool of Scottish ancestry, Gladstone died at his wife's family home in Hawarden, Wales, but Nottinghamshire was the location of his earliest political success and retained a special interest for him throughout his life. This exhibition commemorates the bicentenary of Gladstone's birth on 29 December 1809. It demonstrates the diversity of Gladstone's links with the county and the city of Nottingham, and uses local material to illustrate a few of the themes that engaged Gladstone in his political career.



Gladstone held the seat of Newark-on-Trent as Conservative M.P. from 1832 to 1846. This brought close involvement with the estate and family affairs of the Dukes of Newcastle and their neighbours, including the Portland and Denison families. As a trustee of the Newcastle Estate, after 1864, Gladstone was personally involved in the development of Nottingham Castle and Park.

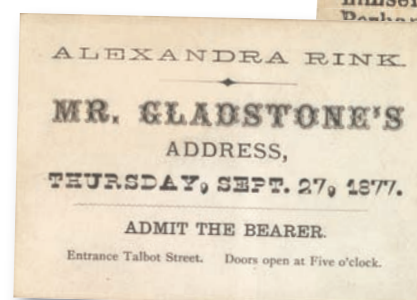


UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, NOTTINGHAM.

The speeches of Mr. Gladstone and Lord Carnarvon at Nottingham on Thursday were the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the new buildings for the new University of Nottingham. The following were reported in the daily papers. We give an illustration of the scene at the performance of this important duty. The stone was laid by the Mayor of Horse-Fair, Mr. J. Warren Bowers. Among those present were the Duke of St. Albans, Earl Manvers, Lord Belvoir, Lord Lancelot Russell, High Sheriff of St. Albans, Lady Belper, Morley, and other ladies, besides the members of the municipality and the local clergy. There was a luncheon afterwards in the Town Hall, at which Mr. Gladstone's agents, agents, and he made a speech to the evening to the Liberal Association at the Alexandra Rink.

Description of the laying of the foundation stone of University College, from *Illustrated London News*, vol. 71, 6 October 1877.

Ticket of admission to hear Gladstone speak at Alexandra Rink (University East Midlands Special Collection Not 3.F19 NOT O/S X).

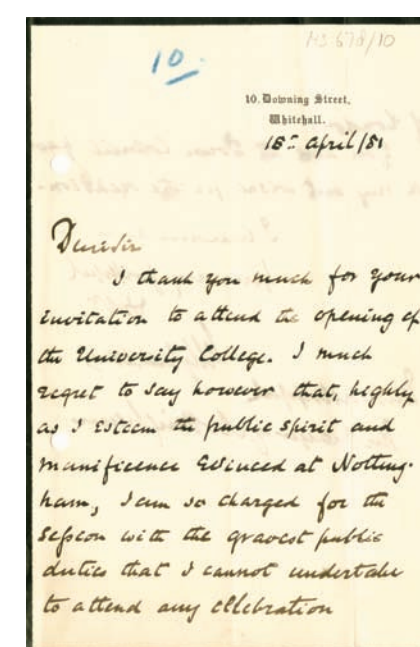


I may however presume to say that I am a stranger who made my first acquaintance with this county in a practical capacity about—1860—exactly for I believe it was in this very month—45 years ago (Cheers). Permit me as I have also a connection of some character which gives me a great interest in all that concerns the County of Nottingham, and as it has been my part on behalf of the Park Estate in this authority, I naturally feel a portion of that interest which belongs properly to you, the people of the town, and an earnest desire to see the Park Estate, and its part in any great event, such, so far as I can, to bear a witness to, and to do good, such, as that of which the record will be associated with the operations of to-day. (Cheers.) Lord Carnarvon said the operations of to-day were of a most important nature, and he himself audible to whether he would be able to make his presence felt at the meeting of the friends on the other side, or not? He meant, indeed, to be present, and he meant me, as one of the friends on the other side. (Cheers.) I likewise feel a similar doubt, but, though I cannot say so, I think I shall venture to do so, and with this reflection, that to-day we have no more purpose than to do good, and to do good, we are all here with one mind and one purpose are two things of one opinion, and that

I thank you.

Extract from Gladstone's speech,
from Nottingham Daily Journal, 28
September 1877.

A ceremony of special significance for Nottingham and the University took place in September 1877, when the foundation stone of University College, Nottingham was laid. Gladstone gave public speeches at the ceremony and at the Alexandra Rink later the same day. The event was given extensive media coverage, both locally and nationally. Unfortunately, Gladstone's political commitments meant that he had to send his apologies when University College was formally opened in 1881.

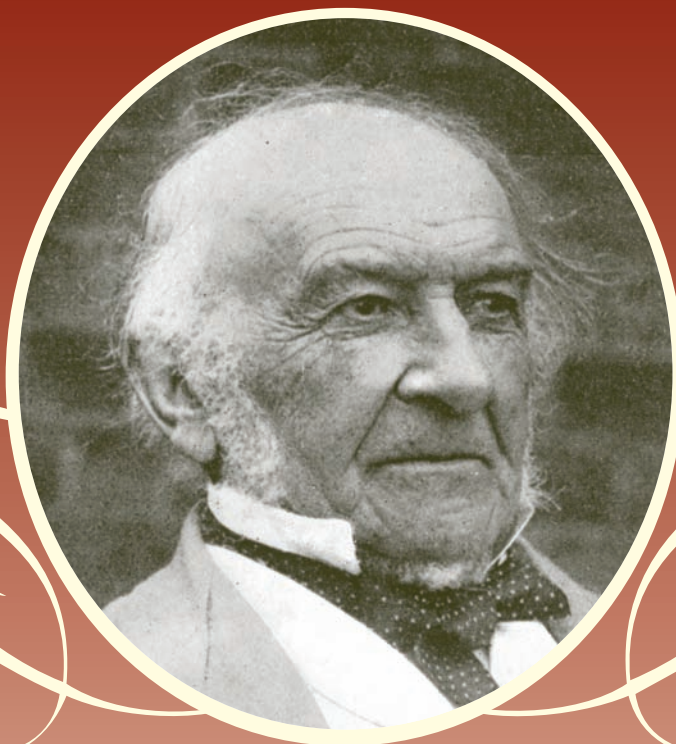


The exhibition has been curated by Dr Richard Gaunt, of the School of History at the University of Nottingham, in association with staff in the University's Manuscripts and Special Collections and Nottinghamshire Archives. It draws on material from the University's collections and from Nottinghamshire Archives and other local sources.



The University of
Nottingham

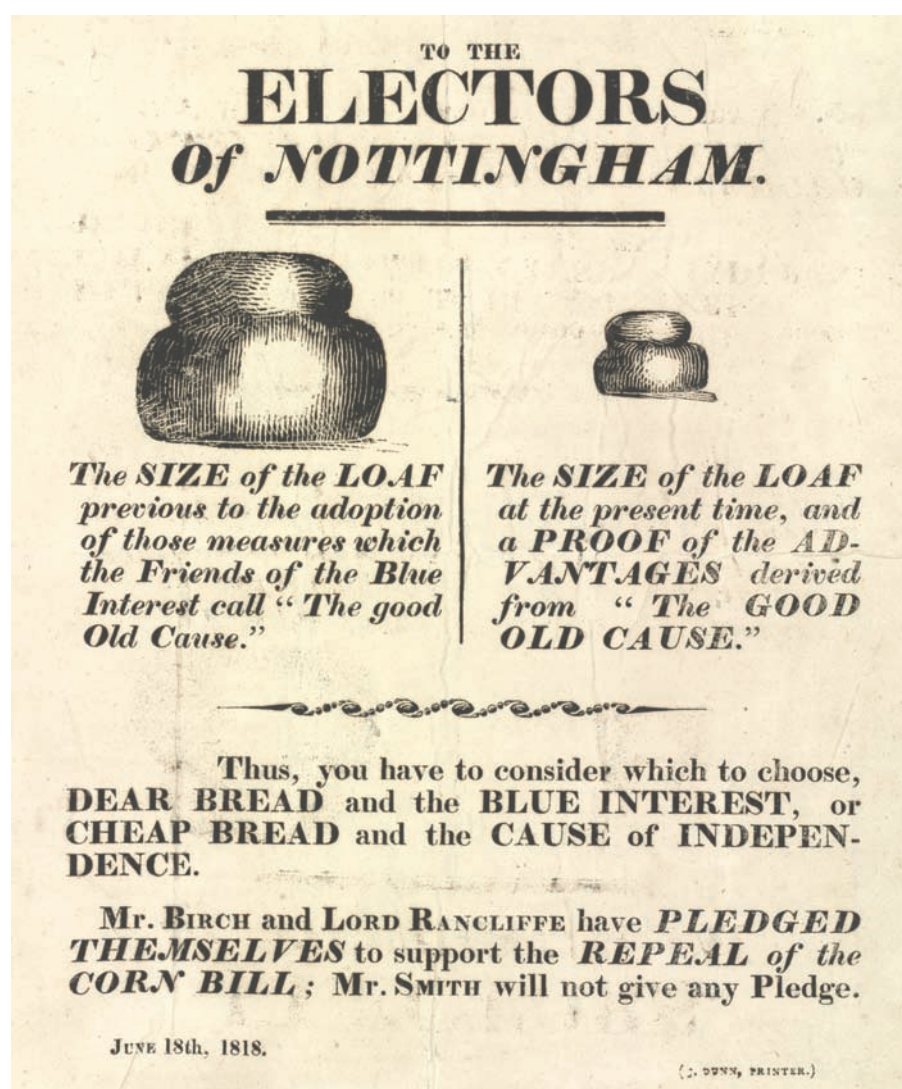
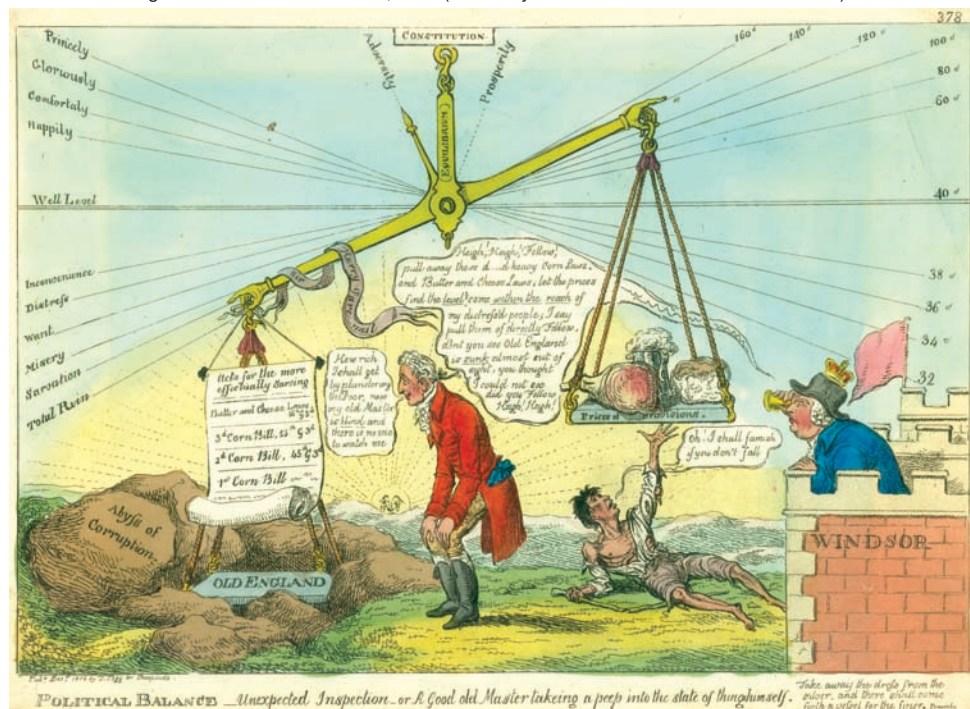




Gladstone and the Corn Laws

One of many reform issues that Gladstone became associated with was the corn laws. The price of corn was a key question in nineteenth century Britain because it had a direct impact on the price of bread. At times of economic hardship, crowds would take to the streets in support of lower prices. On several occasions there were riots in Nottingham.

Cartoon reflecting the issue of the Corn Laws, 1816 (University Political Portraits Collection Pol P 25).



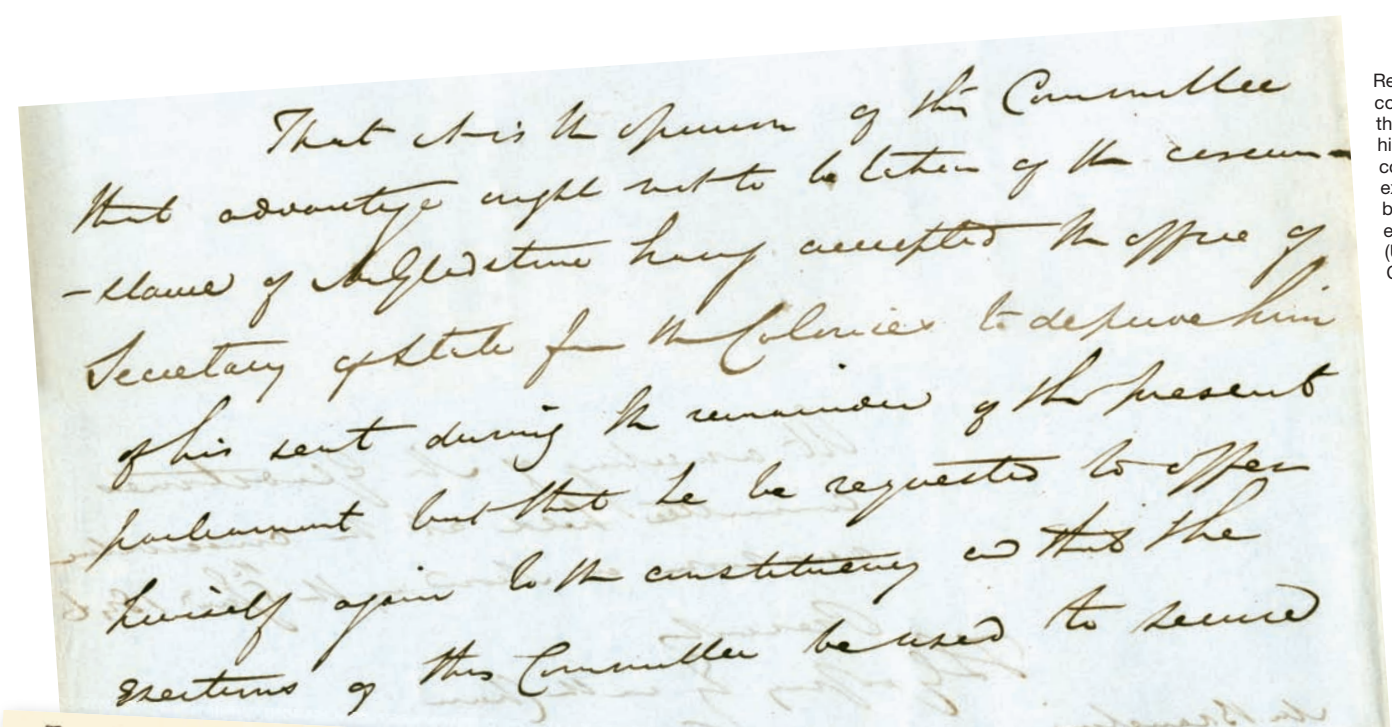
Broadsheet about the Corn Laws, Nottingham, 1818 (University East Midlands Special Collection Not1.F19.NOT O/S, p.86).

In the 1840s, while Gladstone was M.P. at Newark, the Anti-Corn Law League escalated the campaign against the Corn Law, using innovative techniques such as ‘free trade’ stickers on envelopes to spread their message.



Anti-Corn Law League sticker on letter from Priscilla McLaren, sister of John Bright, 22 August 1842 (University Bright McLaren Collection N Mc 1/11).

Gladstone was a supporter of the Corn Law but the Irish Potato Famine of November 1845 forced him and others to re-consider their views. He supported the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Peel, in his decision to repeal the Corn Law. This cost Gladstone the electoral support of the 4th Duke of Newcastle, who was a keen protectionist. Gladstone gave up his Newark seat rather than cause deeper divisions, although the local election committee had resolved to support him. He remained outside Parliament for the next eighteen months.



Resolutions of Gladstone's committee, recommending that "he be requested to offer himself again to the constituency and that the exertions of this Committee be used to secure his election", 5 January 1846 (University Newcastle Collection Ne C 7894/2).

I myself had invariably, during Peel's government, spoken of protection not as a thing good in principle, but to be dealt with as tenderly and cautiously as might be according to circumstances, always moving in the direction of free trade. It then appeared to me that the case was materially altered by events; it was no longer open to me to pursue that cautious course. A great struggle really find place, on the one side for repeal, on the other side for permanent maintenance of a corn law and a protective system generally and on principle.

Extract recording Gladstone's views on protection and free trade, from John Morley, *Life of William Ewart Gladstone*, vol. 1, 284 (London, 1903) (University Library DA563.4.M6).

Lord George Bentinck, the son of the 4th Duke of Portland, became the leader of the Protectionist M.P.s in Parliament. With Benjamin Disraeli, Bentinck became Peel's fiercest critic during the repeal campaign. Gladstone never forgot this. In many respects, it marked the beginning of the political feud between Gladstone and Disraeli.



Lord George Bentinck from *Cassell's Illustrated History of England* (London, 1863), Revised edition, VII, 589 (University East Midlands Special Collection Not 1.W8 HOW).

Gladstone and Slavery

James Gillray's satirical cartoon 'Barbarities in the West Indies' (1791) supports the early anti-slavery campaigners with a savage depiction of the treatment of slaves by their owners (University Political Cartoons MS 482/7).

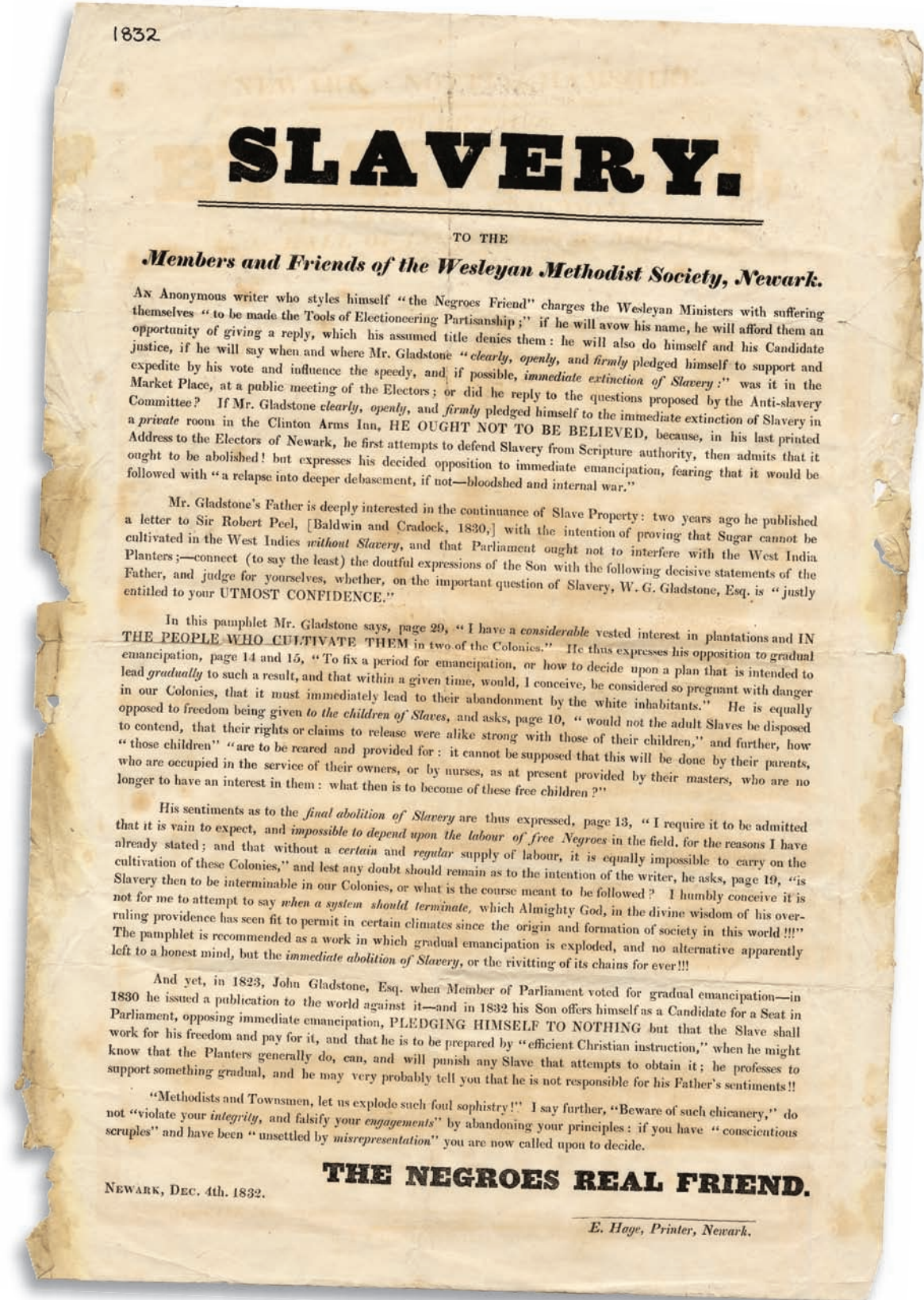


issue alive, but there were many different political opinions on the best way forward. Public interest made the question a key issue in the General Election of 1832.



Sir John Gladstone (1764-1851), from John Morley, *The Life of William Ewart Gladstone*, vol.1 (London, 1903) (University Library DA563.4.M6).

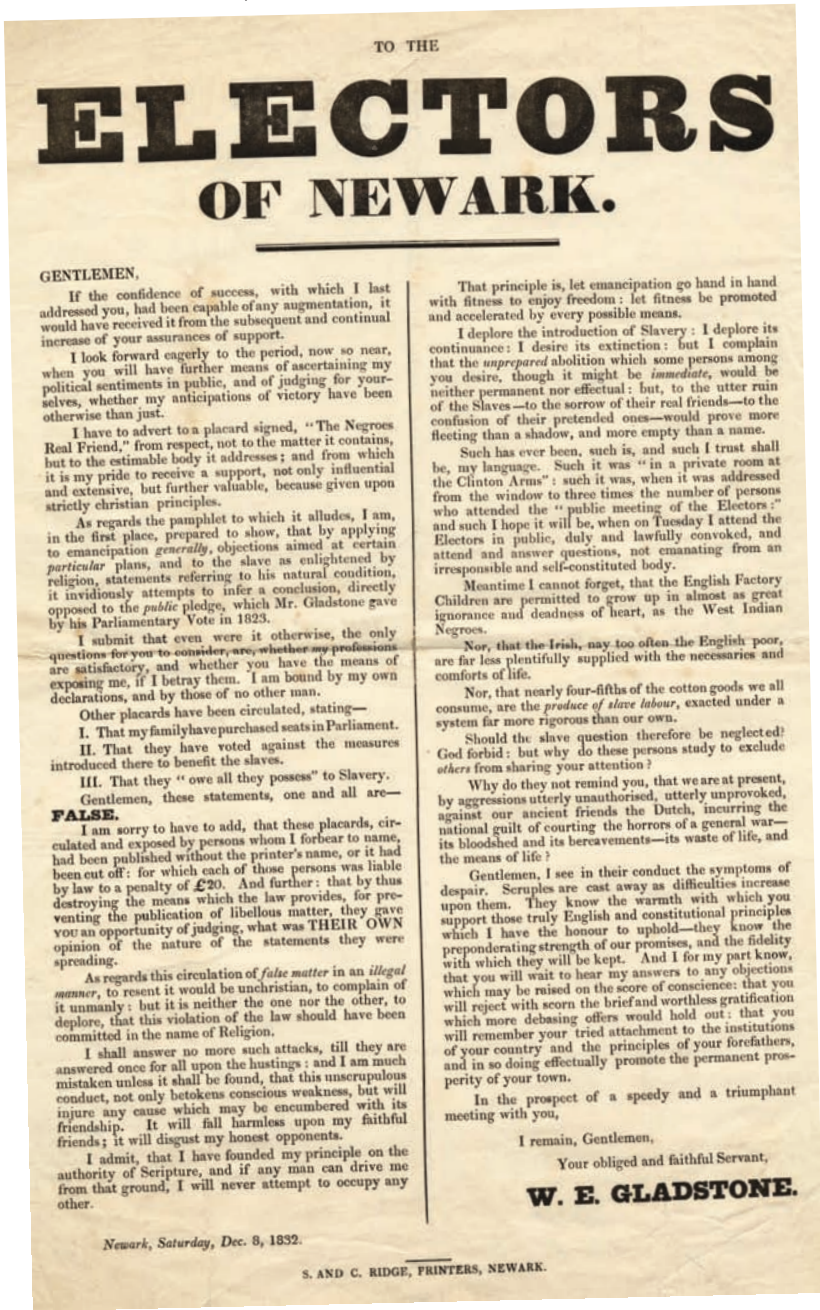
Slavery was a particularly difficult question for Gladstone. His father, John, a wealthy Liverpool merchant with extensive interests in the West Indies, had publicly defended slavery in print as recently as 1830. Election handbills were issued in which charges were made against Gladstone because of his father's views.



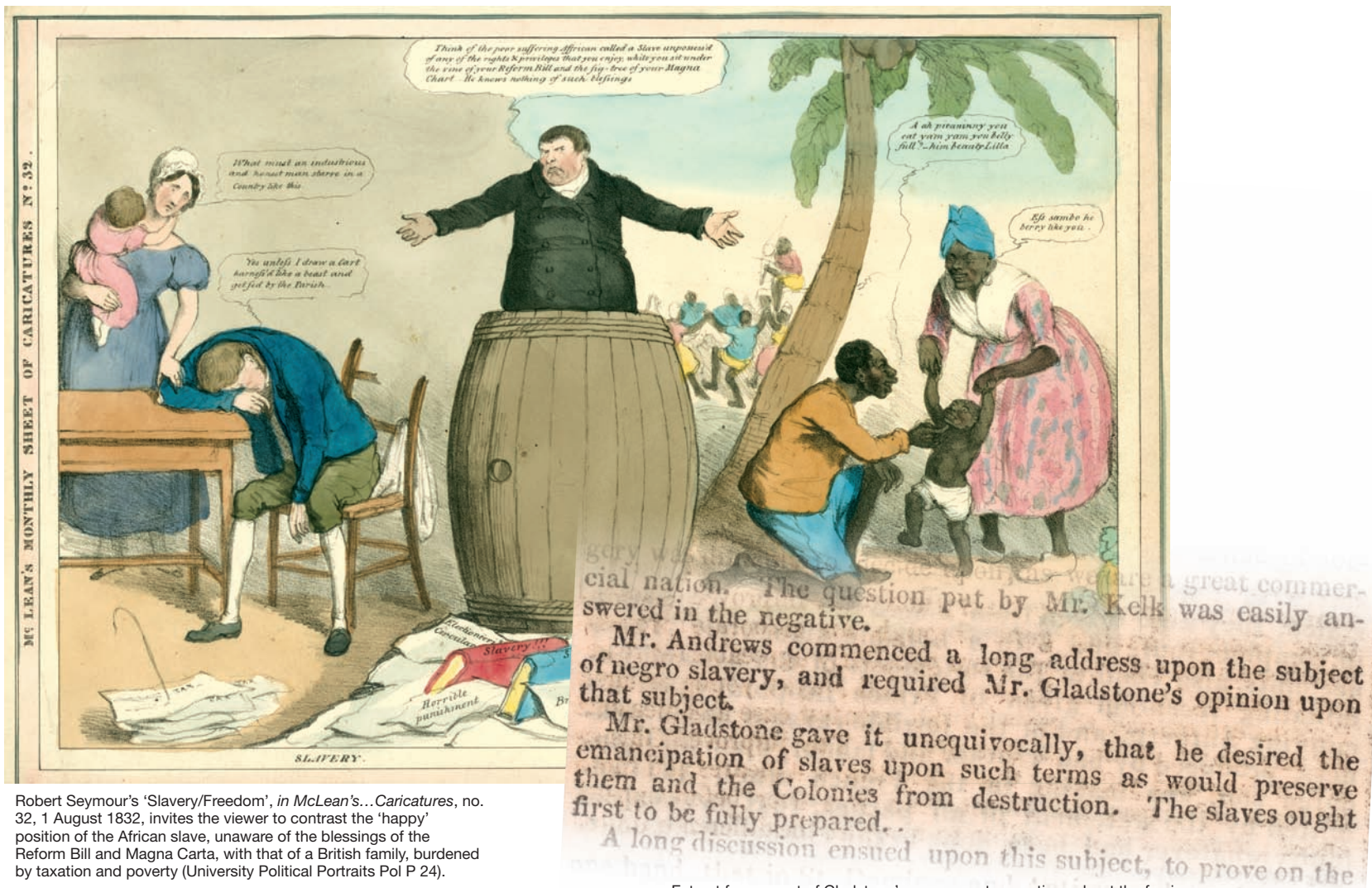
Anti-Gladstone Election Poster, 1832 (from Newark Museum Collection at Nottinghamshire Archives, DD/NM/2/1/74).

Britain had finally abolished the slave trade in 1807, after a hard fought campaign. But the condition of slavery continued to exist in the British Empire until 1833. The plight of the slaves employed on plantations in the West Indies kept the

Gladstone notice to electors of Newark, 1832 (From Newark Museum Collection at Nottinghamshire Archives, DD/NM/2/1/75).



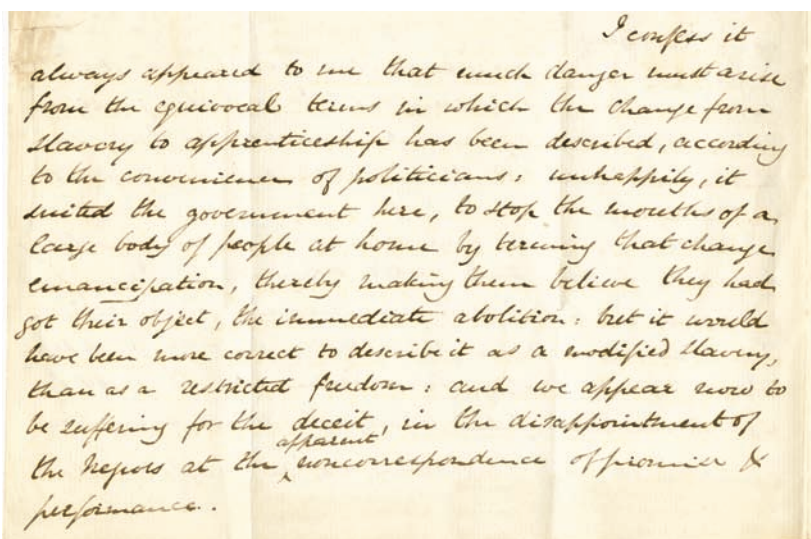
Gladstone responded with a handbill of his own in which he based his opposition to the immediate emancipation of the slaves upon passages in the Bible. Gladstone argued that slaves should not be given their freedom immediately but first had to prove their fitness to use that freedom responsibly. He supported schemes of education and apprenticeship in order to prepare slaves for a future state of independence. He also suggested that the living conditions of factory workers in England and the Irish poor were as deserving of attention as the plantation slaves in the West Indies.



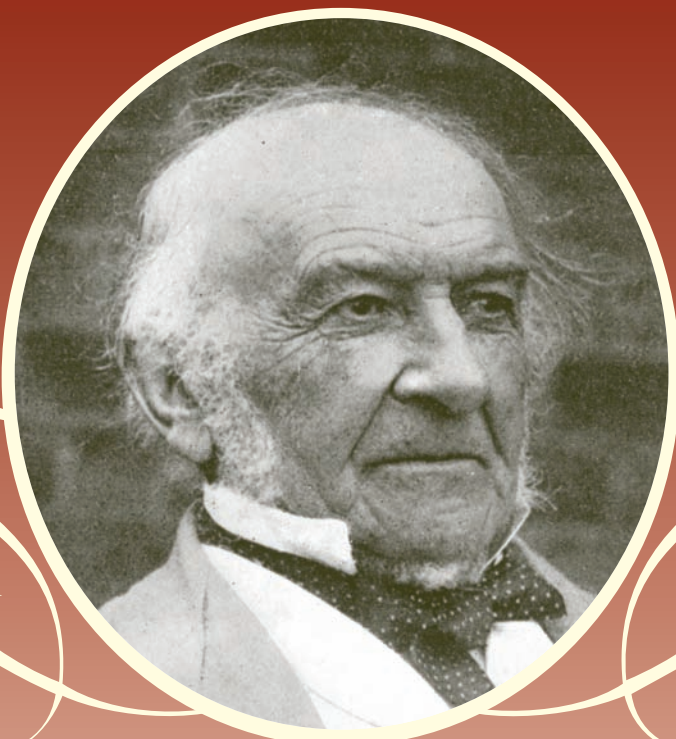
Robert Seymour's 'Slavery/Freedom', in McLean's...Caricatures, no. 32, 1 August 1832, invites the viewer to contrast the 'happy' position of the African slave, unaware of the blessings of the Reform Bill and Magna Carta, with that of a British family, burdened by taxation and poverty (University Political Portraits Pol P-24).

Gladstone was closely questioned on the issue at the election, especially by members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society who were keen supporters of abolition. His maiden speech in the House of Commons was delivered during the debates on the abolition bill in 1833. Later in the following

year, after reports of riots in the West Indies reached England, Gladstone commented that the government had introduced a form of 'modified slavery' rather than full emancipation.



Extract of letter from Gladstone to the Earl of Lincoln, 27 September 1834 refers to the 'disappointment of the Negroes at the apparent noncorrespondence of promise & performance' (University Newcastle Collection Ne C 11774).



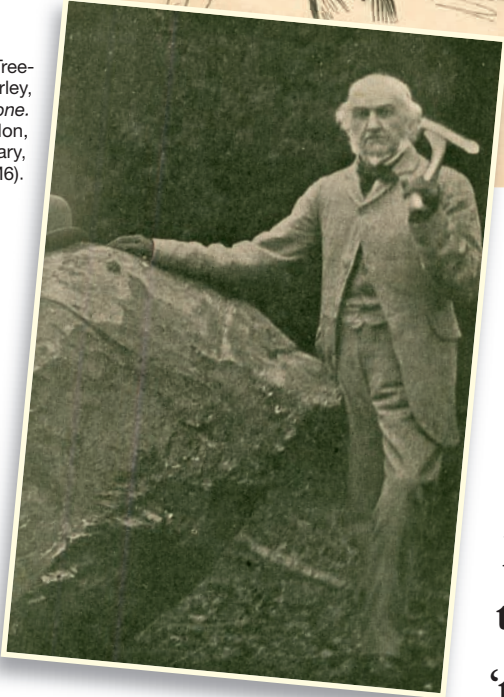
The People's William

The cult of celebrity is now encouraged by a continuous stream of digital images and stories about well-known public figures — from political leaders to footballers. In Gladstone's lifetime, a revolution in mass communications was made possible by photography, the telegraph and daily newspapers. The public had new ways of hearing about their politicians. Growing literacy and an expanding political electorate extended the appetite for news.



Gladstone's celebratory 'chaining' by his electors is illustrated in 'The Triumph of Greenwich' from Judy, or the serio-comic journal, 1 November 1871.

'Mr. Gladstone, 1886: Tree-Felling', from John Morley, The Life of Gladstone. Popular edition ... (London, 1927) (University Library, DA563.4.M6).



When he entered parliament, few members of the public would have recognized Gladstone. They learned his appearance from newspaper sketches and political cartoons. As Chancellor of the Exchequer in the 1850s and 1860s, Gladstone became known as 'the People's William' and the demand for images grew. Photographers responded with pictures of him in both official and informal settings. He was often shown with trees and axes, because people knew that tree felling was one of his favourite pastimes.

By the 1860s, Gladstone's public speeches, characterized by their passionate delivery, attracted large crowds wherever he went. Full copies of his addresses were sought. Newspapers met the challenge by using teams of journalists who reported on Gladstone's speeches in relay, enabling very rapid publication.

Advertisement from the Illustrated London News, 10 April 1886, exploits popular familiarity of Gladstone's image and reputation.



The Gladstone bag — a product still familiar today — was apparently named after him by an admirer, J.G. Beard, a leather manufacturer.

By the end of his lifetime, Gladstone was a 'celebrity' politician who not only kissed babies on the election hustings but even had them named after him, as a local record bears witness!

NAMES OF MEMBERS.				
No.	Name.	Date of Admission.	Removal or Death.	
4014	Nelson, Henry	" "	6th Nov 1894	Transferred to London Road St. Peter's
4015	Beeler, William	" "	" "	"
4016	Drummond, Charles	" "	" "	Transferred to St. Peter's
4017	Gordon, Charles	" "	1st Nov 1905	Transferred to St. Peter's
4018	Hobinson, Samuel	" "	" "	"

Membership register for Castle Gate Congregational Church 1790-1912 includes an admission in 1904 of 'William Ewart Gladstone Dexter' (University Castle Gate Congregational Church Archive, CU/R2/1).

HOW MR. GLADSTONE'S SPEECHES WERE REPORTED.

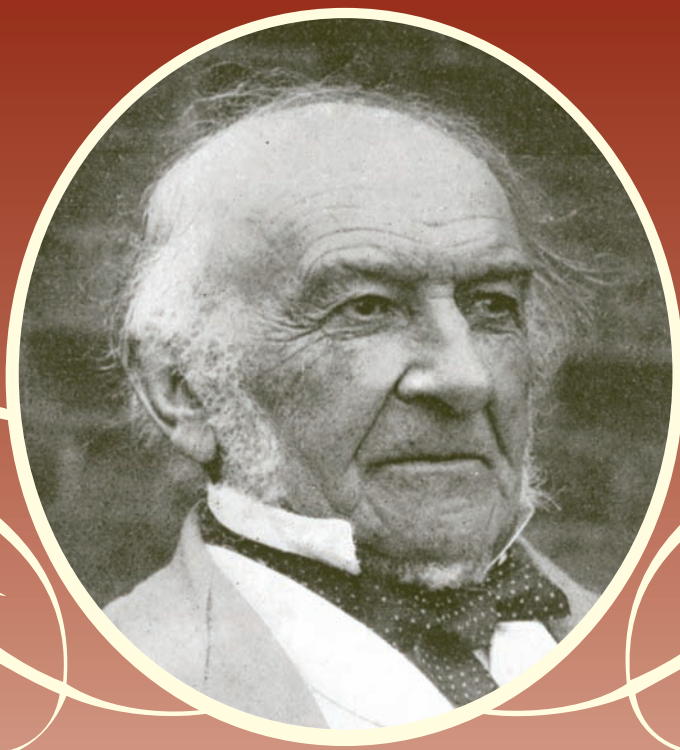
Few people who have read the reports of the speeches delivered by Mr. Gladstone and Earl Carnarvon on Thursday have any idea of the means by which they were produced in the newspapers. Various ideas are thrown out by the public. Some persons go so far as to suppose that a single reporter for each paper is quite sufficient, as the scribe has merely to hand over his notes to the compositor. Others who do not so readily explain the process, arrive at very erroneous conclusions, while the public, as a body, take no interest in the means at all, but simply accept the reports as they appear before them. As the result is effected by human agency only, it is obvious that to catch the words as they fall from the speaker's lips and produce about fourteen columns of such in the newspapers in a few hours afterwards, the very perfection of mental and mechanical skill has to be displayed. The system adopted by ourselves, and which no doubt was carried out by our contemporaries, was as follows:—Nine reporters constituted what we termed our corps having at their head a captain whose duty was to so arrange them that they should transcribe into long-hand the whole of the speeches almost immediately after the speakers had resumed their seats. Our corps were arranged as nearly together as possible so that the captain could look after them. As soon as the speaking commenced the first reporter took notes for five minutes, the captain being at his back to note the time. When that term was completed the first man was stopped and the second set in motion for five minutes and so on through the length of the staff. When each man had taken five minutes' turn of notes he began at once to transcribe them into long-hand, so that by the time the speaker came back to the platform he had already written out his notes.

Extract from account of the arrangements made by the press to report on Gladstone's speeches, from Nottingham Journal, 29 September 1877.

Manufacturers exploited the instant recognition of Gladstone's image by associating it with their commercial products, illustrating the convergence of politics, celebrity and marketing. An advertisement in 1886 for an 'Electropathic Belt' used an unmistakable image of Gladstone and his axe.



By the time of his death, the Gladstone Bag was being marketed by a number of companies; from The Graphic, 28 May 1896.



Gladstone Commemorated

Magazines such as *The Graphic*, 4 June 1898, illustrated the progress of Gladstone's coffin, from his home in Hawarden, Wales, by special train to London.



By the time of his death, in May 1898, Gladstone had become a national figure with a public recognition which went beyond politics. Although he had retired from official life in 1894, his death was treated as a moment of national significance, comparable to the passing of the Duke of Wellington in 1852. Gladstone was accorded a public funeral and newspapers rushed out souvenir editions to mark the event. Columns of print were devoted to memorializing Gladstone and assessing his contribution to public life.

Over a century later, evidence of his public commemoration can still be seen in the streets of cities across Britain, including Nottingham. The name 'Gladstone Street' has an obvious connection, but 'Ewart Road' also pays homage, referring to Gladstone's middle name.



Street names around Nottingham commemorating Gladstone. Photographs by M. Quinn, University of Nottingham Manuscripts & Special Collections, 2009.

The Gladstone public house, Loscoe Road, Carrington. Photograph by M. Quinn, University of Nottingham Manuscripts & Special Collections, 2009.



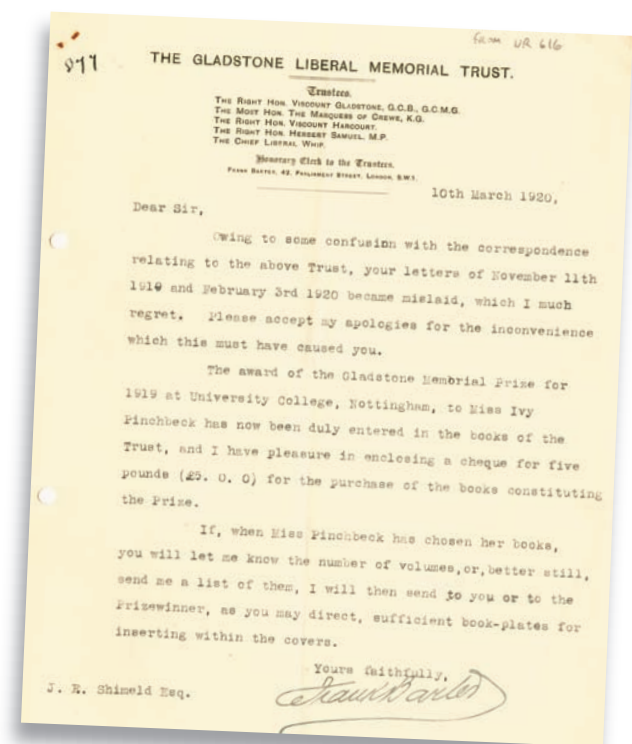
The survival of a public house, 'The Gladstone', in Carrington has more than an element of irony about it. Gladstone had begun his political life deeply opposed to the policy of opening public houses during election time in order to provide free beer to political supporters. As Prime Minister, Gladstone's licensing laws were also believed to be less generous than those later introduced by Disraeli.



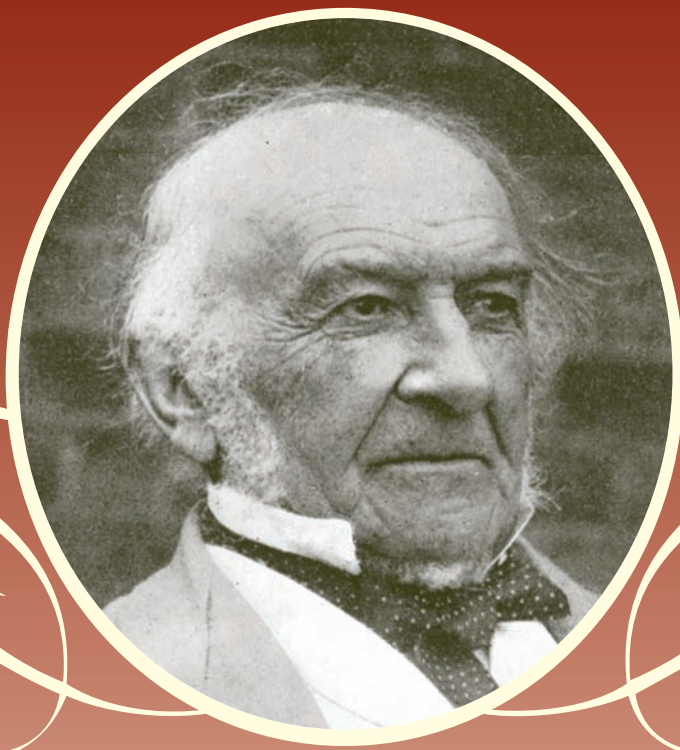
Cobden, Gladstone and Bright, on the Nottingham Daily Express Building. Photograph by M. Quinn, University of Nottingham Manuscripts & Special Collections, 2009.

Some memorials date from Gladstone's lifetime. The nineteenth-century taste for images of political figures in public buildings ensured a lasting Gladstone presence in the heart of Nottingham. In 1876 Watson Fothergill's new building for the *Nottingham Daily Express* on Upper Parliament Street included the head of Gladstone alongside Richard Cobden and John Bright. With their prominence as leaders of the Anti-Corn Law League (1838-46) these were suitable subjects for the Liberal newspaper to commemorate.

Within Nottingham University Collection, a different kind of memorial was maintained. For some decades after his death a Gladstone Memorial Prize was awarded for performance in History or Political Economy. Recipients of the essay prize included Ivy Pinchbeck and J.D. Chambers, both of whom went on to become historians of note.



Letter from the Gladstone Liberal Memorial Trust informs the Registrar of University College that Ivy Pinchbeck has won the 1919 award (University archives UR 616).



Gladstone and Political Cartoons

C.J. Grant, 'School of Reform', 1831 (University Political Portraits Pol P 36).



Visual political satire, expressed through black and white or coloured caricatures, had become an influential medium by the time of the 1830s, when agitation for reform provided plenty of material for the cartoonists. Initially such prints were circulated largely as single sheets for the politically informed and educated classes. They both reflected and shaped public opinion.

Gladstone served his political apprenticeship in the 1830s-1850s, when the long series of *Political Sketches* by 'H.B.' recorded many events and personalities on the British political stage. The Irish artist John Doyle was known under this pseudonym for his topicality and his gentle, mocking humour, in contrast with the severe or grotesque caricature favoured by James Gillray and George Cruikshank.



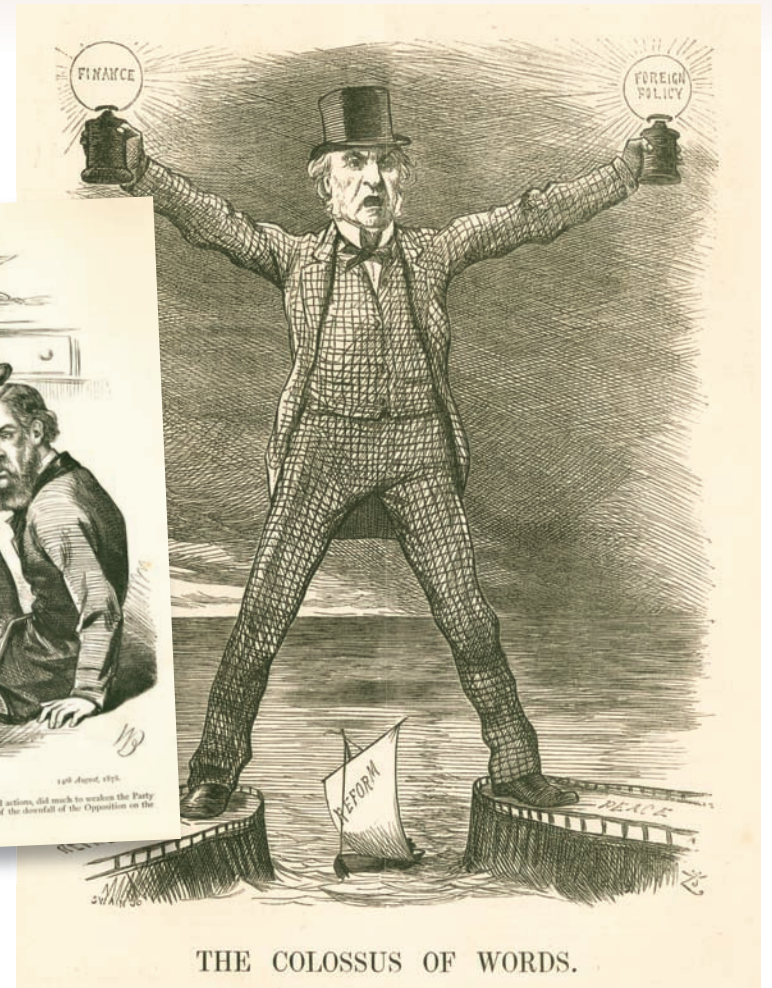
Sir Robert Peel and W.E. Gladstone appear in 'The Flight of Daedalus and Icarus', 1844 from *Political Sketches* of H.B., no. 809 (University Special Collection DA532.D6 O/S X).

The sheer volume of prints produced by Doyle enables us to see how particular images of leading figures were introduced and gradually developed. There is a marked difference in his early treatment of Gladstone and his rival Benjamin Disraeli. Doyle showed Gladstone in profile, but Disraeli's exotic features and distinctive black curls became the details giving him instant recognition.



John Bull is shown at the feet of Disraeli in 'The Ultimate or Crowning Triumph of the New Christo-Judean Creed' from *Political Sketches* of H.B., no. 808 (University Special Collection DA532.D6 O/S X).

Gladstone is represented as 'The colossus of words' in *Punch or the London Charivari*, 13 December 1879.

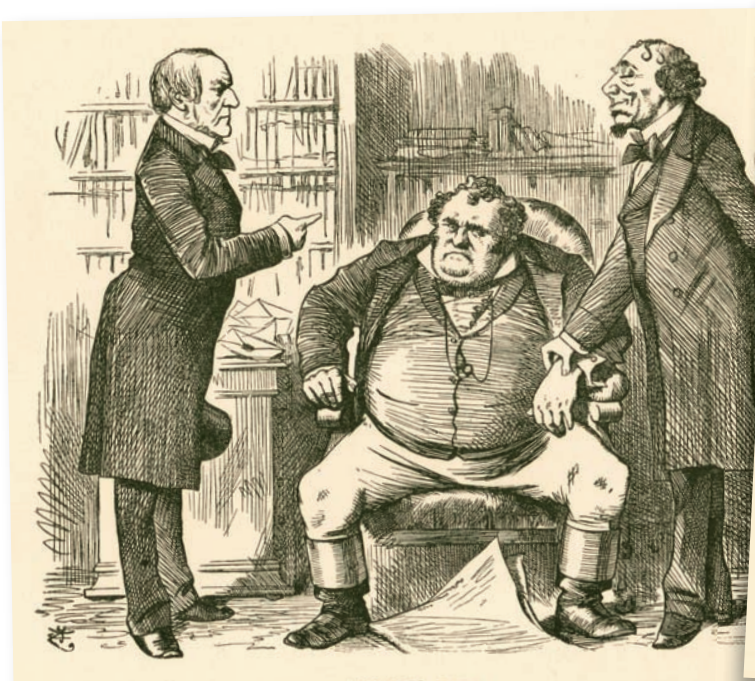


'A break down: Cause and effect', 14 August 1878, taken from *The Right Hon. William Ewart Gladstone from Judy's Point of View* (London, 1878) (University Library DA563.35.J8 O/S).

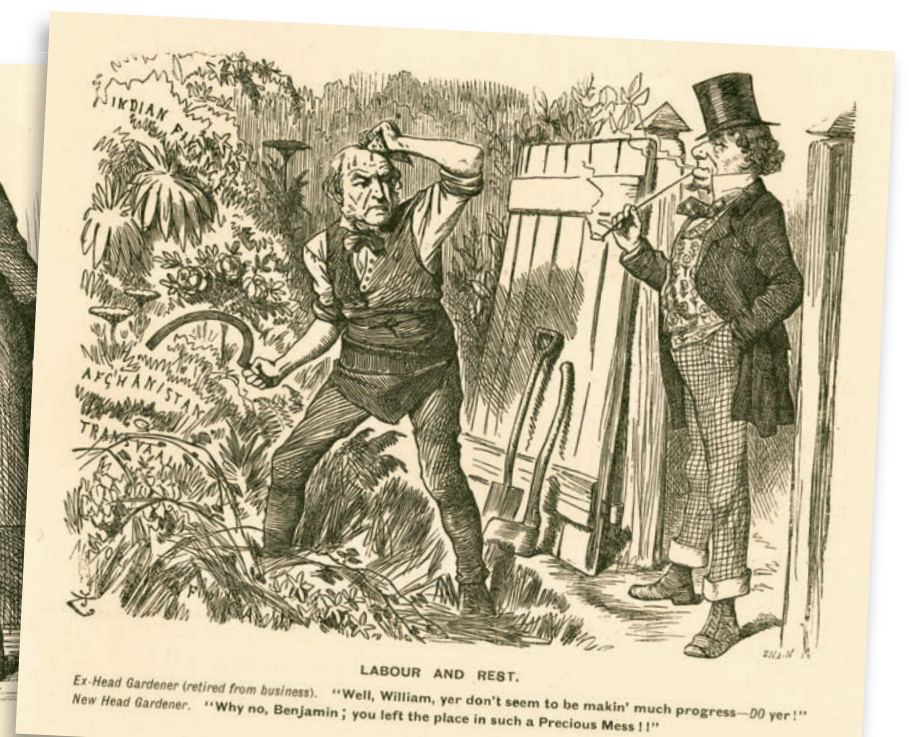


As the nineteenth century progressed, and the rapid mass production of high quality illustrations became possible, caricatures were increasingly placed within newspapers, periodicals and magazines. The establishment of *Punch* in 1841, followed by the issue of the first 'cartoon' within its pages, was a watershed in the history of political satire in Britain.

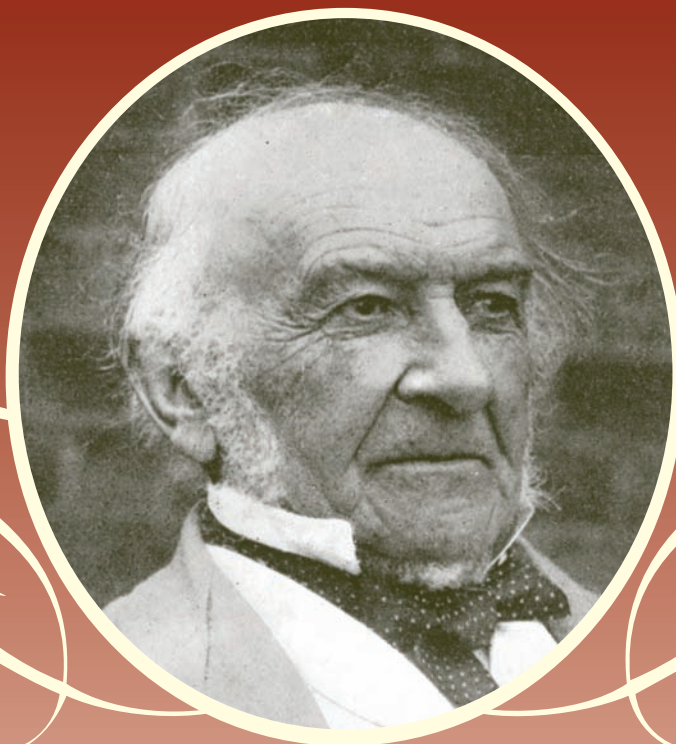
The parliamentary confrontation between Gladstone and Disraeli was played out in satirical magazines, such as the Liberal-leaning *Punch* and Conservative-leaning *Judy*. Cartoonists placed the two men in contrasting situations, using visual puns, catchphrases, double-entendres and allegories to poke fun at their policies and personalities. This satirical treatment increased the popular recognition of the two men and gave the general public a sense of broad understanding of complex political issues.



The health of John Bull is under discussion by Gladstone and Disraeli in 'Doctors differ!' from *Punch or the London Charivari*, 1 June 1878; reproduced in *The political life of the Right Hon. W.E. Gladstone...* (London, 1898-1899) (University Library DA563.35.P6).



The change of government from Disraeli to Gladstone is interpreted as a gardening challenge in 'Labour and rest', from *Punch or the London Charivari*, 19 June 1880; taken from *The political life of the Right Hon. W.E. Gladstone...* (London, 1898-1899) (University Library DA563.35.P6).



Gladstone and Newark

Extract from Yorkshire Post, Gladstone obituary supplement 20 May 1898; Gladstone making first speech as M.P. for Newark (University Middleton Collection from MI LP 87).



William Ewart Gladstone (1809-98) was Prime Minister of Britain and Ireland four times between 1868 and 1894 and was probably the most famous political figure of the nineteenth century. Gladstone introduced many important reforms and his support for Irish Home Rule opened a debate which dominated twentieth century politics. This exhibition is being held to commemorate the bicentenary of Gladstone's birth on 29 December 1809 using material from the University of Nottingham's Manuscripts and Special Collections, Nottinghamshire Archives and Newark Library.

Traditional electioneering practices were still being followed in Newark at the time of the 1832 contest. Gladstone's supporters were organised in a 'Red Club', red being the Conservative colour in Newark. The club met at 'The Clinton Arms'. They paraded with flags, sang songs composed for the occasion and distributed free ale to political supporters.



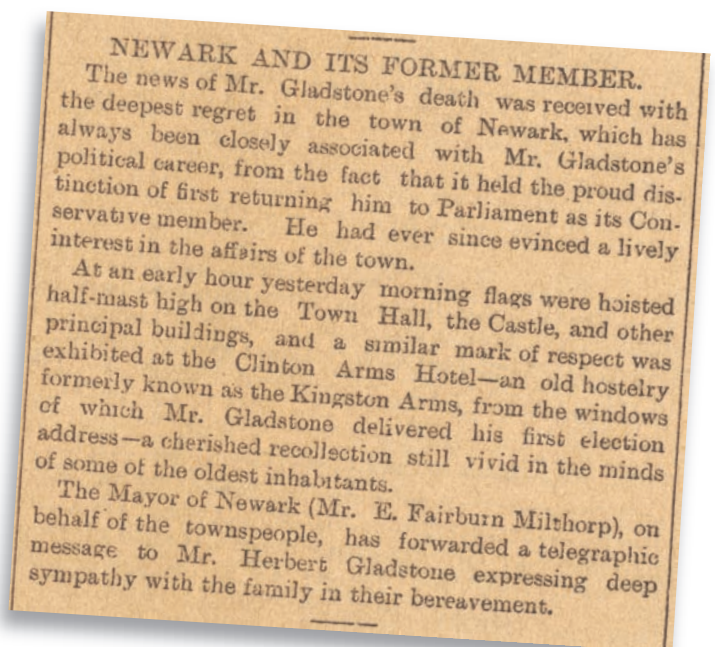
Extract from the Newark Red Club Song Book (From Mechanics Institute Collection at Nottinghamshire Archives DD/MI/107).

After a hard-fought election, Gladstone was returned at the head of the poll in December 1832. He was 'chaired' (i.e. paraded) around the streets of Newark for his constituents to see. It was the start of a connection with the town which lasted throughout his life.



The chairing of Gladstone in Newark, 1832; John Morley, *The Life of Gladstone*, Popular edition... (London, 1927) (University Library, DA563.4.M6).

News of Gladstone's death, in May 1898, was received with appropriate respect in the town where his political career had begun.

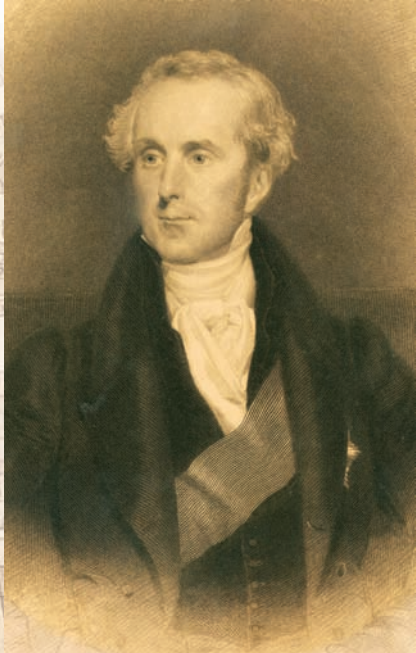


Extract from Yorkshire Post, 20 May 1898 (University Middleton Collection from MI LP 87).



Section of map of Newark, showing the area around market place, 1790 (University Newcastle Collection Ne 5 P 27).

Engraving of the 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyme (University Newcastle Collection Ne 4 1/31).



Gladstone began his political career as the Conservative M.P. for Newark-on-Trent (1832-46) in the period when it returned two M.P.s. Gladstone's

close friendship with Lord Lincoln brought him to the attention of Lincoln's father, the 4th Duke of Newcastle. The Duke owned extensive property in Newark and claimed the right to influence the outcome of elections in the constituency.

The Duke of Newcastle supported Gladstone as his preferred member and expected his tenants to vote for him without hesitation. Voting was still conducted in public and Poll Books of the period would have recorded exactly how each elector cast their votes.

26	G. M. H.	27	G. M. H.
Marshall James, Barnbygate		Stephenson John, Millgate, <i>unpollt</i>	
Marlow John, King street		Sutton Rev. John, Lombard street	
Matthew Thomas, Middlegate		Skelley Samuel, Middlegate, <i>unpollt</i>	
Moss Edward, Regent street		Smith Henry Richard, Stodman street	
Mussey Robert, Market lane		Shaw George, Kirkgate	
Miller James, Stodman street		Salmon William, Eldon street	
Mosley John, Kirkgate		Sally Robert, Stodman street	
Newstead William, Appletongate		Squires James, Gull hall street	
Neave William, Saint Mark's lane		Tillies Geoffrey, Cartlegate	
Noddall William Thomas, Middlegate		Tinsley John, Cartlegate	
Nicholson William, Newark, Market place		Thacker Robert, Barnby road, <i>unpollt</i>	
Neale Robert, Lombard street		Tinsley Samuel, Barnbygate	
Oliver William, Cartlegate		Woodhouse Robert, Millgate	
Oliver John, jun., Market place		Winnor Joseph, Lombard street, <i>unpollt</i>	
Ogilby Thomas, Market place		West John, Beacon hill road, <i>unpollt</i>	
Packington George, Lombard street		Wright Henry, Lombard street	
Pattinson John, Barnbygate		Watworth Rev. James, Millgate	
Pest Robert, Baderington		Watts Richard, Stodman street	
Poole John, Bridge street		Wells John, Barnbygate	
Plecker Benjamin, Saint Mark's lane		Ward Robert, Barnbygate	
Parker Charles, Millgate, <i>unpollt</i>		Watson William Mitten, Stodman street, <i>unpollt</i>	
Precell Thomas, Cartlegate		Watson William, Stodman street	
Pridgen Matthew, Chain lane, <i>unpollt</i>		Wilson James, Barnbygate, <i>unpollt</i>	
Primrose William, Stodman street		Willy John, Hill end	
Pullen Joseph, Cartlegate		Whithead Thomas, Millgate	
Pott John Manger, Cartlegate		Waddington Richard, Baderington	
Preece Edward, Baderington		Warner Robert, Portman street	
Pinder William, Regent street		Walker John, Cartlegate	
Pinnington John, Baderington road		Weightman William, jun., Wilson street, <i>unpollt</i>	
Ragdale William, Millgate		Warwick Richard, Northgate	
Rabson James, Barnbygate		Wainwright William, Cliff road	
Risley William, Market place		Wansley Rev. William, Chapel yard, <i>unpollt</i>	
Rowbottom Edmund, Bowbridge lane		Wakely Thomas Alfred, Hill end	
Reed James, Kirkgate		Yallop James, Farnon road	
Reid John, Saint Mark's lane			
Ridge John, Market place			
Robinson William, Baderington			
Smith John, Kirkgate			
Scates Joseph, Millgate			
Scudeman Joseph Freeman, Stodman street			
Shaw Samuel, Saracen's head yard			
Simpson Rev. Robert, Cartlegate			

Extract from the Newark Poll Book of 1841 identifying votes cast by individual electors (Newark Library).