

VII.—THE ELECTION CAMPAIGNS OF SIR CHARLES MILES LAMBERT MONCK.

BY ELIZABETH M. HALCROW.

Electioneering meant public houses rather than public meetings when Sir Charles Miles Lambert Monck of Belsay stood for parliament in 1812 and 1818. In 1812, for example, following the good old custom of regaling the freeholders liberally with drink, he paid an allowance of £10 to each of the thirty-four public houses of Alnwick. Each of them served dinner to supporters on election day, 13th April, feeding in all 936 people at the candidate's expense. The White Swan rendered a separate account for the dinner—£22 11s. for port and £11 8s. for sherry, whereas the meal cost only £13 and an additional £6 2s. 6d. for salmon and lamb. The total cost of £69 19s. 6d. included the modest sum of 8s. 6d. for broken glasses. Extra charges which mention £1 1s. 6d. for breakages as compared with £1 1s. for beds and £1 10s. for punch increased the total to £76 18s. 8d.

It was at the White Swan too that Sir Charles gave a dinner and a ball for county society. His agent, Thomas Kerr, in a letter of the 1st April, assured him that this was *de rigueur*:

“I find that a Dinner and Ball have always been given with the single exception of Lord Grey's re-election when he vacated his seat, by quitting the Admiralty and accepting the Secretaryship for the Foreign Department on the death of W. Fox, which was considered to be a mere matter of Form. On all other occasions it appears that the Member gave a Dinner and a Ball and Ten Pounds to each of the Public Houses in Alnwick to regale the Freeholders. . . . The whole expense must amount to several

Hundred pounds, but I fear it cannot well be avoided, as I think it would not be advisable for you, particularly on this your first Election, to deviate in any material degree from the practice of your Predecessors."

Another election custom designed to excite the crowds and whip up party feeling was the chairing ceremony in which the candidate was publicly carried through Alnwick. Thomas Kerr wrote of this:

"There is also an expense attending the Chairing. Ten or twelve Freeholders are appointed to carry the Chair and to clear the way, who are paid one Guinea each, besides the expense of fitting up the Chair with the appropriate Colours of the Member, and cockades of the same Colours for the Carriers etc. . . . What are your Livery Colours for the Chair and Cockades.—A sword you know is a requisite appendage on your Election—will you bring one with you, or shall I borrow you one from a Friend?"

Detailed expenses of this ceremony appear in Sir Charles' account for the election of 3rd October, 1812—two Alnwick musicians for the chairing and ball at 1½ gns. each, a musician from Felton for the Ball at 1 gn., eleven bailiffs at ½ gn. each, two Sheriff's trumpeters at 1 gn. each, bell ringers 1 gn., gunners, who fired a double salute, breaking several panes of glass worth 3s. 9d., 1 gn., 12 chair carriers at 1 gn. each and chair trimmings and cockades £17 11s. 4d. Total expenditure, as the accounts for the elections of 1812 and 1818 show,¹ amounted to about £500. In addition, donations were expected. For example, in 1818 Mr. Smith of Belford, in a letter promising his support, mentioned that the town had cause to be grateful to Sir Charles for his handsome donation towards the festival race.

But donations and entertainments alone did not win an election campaign. A great deal of hard work was entailed. Sir Charles wrote a personal letter in his own hand to every voter and in many cases wrote again to

¹ Printed as an appendix to this article.

acknowledge replies received and queries raised. He employed a number of agents to help him, the principal being Thomas Kerr, Colonel Bigge and Armorer Donkin. Many others gave advice and information, such as Mr. R. W. Grey who wrote from Tynemouth with sound common sense, describing the situation in the borough and suggesting the best way to win votes there in 1818:

“The inhabitants of Shields are a particular description of man—a low, purse-proud, jealous people, who require nothing but attention (and nothing else will have any effect upon them) to bind them to you for life. . . . Should I have left the country before you visit this place do not, I charge you, forget to enquire most particularly after a Mr. Ratcliffe a *butcher*. He possesses a great influence over a large portion of the lower Freeholders, and is in many respects an extraordinary character. Though, as you may suppose, very *unclassical*, he possesses more useful sense, and understands better the management of his own species, than almost any man I ever encountered, who ever possessed (as Ralph Carr says) ‘the benefit of a *University Education*’.”

In addition to canvassing, these agents offered retainers to prospective supporters and they drew up lists of freeholders connected with individual landlords. For it was most important that in cases where Sir Charles was assured of the landlord's personal support his “interest” should be enlisted too, this being the votes of his dependants and tenants whom he could command or influence to vote according to his directions.

The “interest” of the Duke of Northumberland, for instance, was quite frequently the determining factor in an election, so that candidates always hoped to discover his intentions. He, on the other hand, was determined not to divulge his real views. Little reliance could be placed on his professions of neutrality or indifference, for his usual tactics were to enter the field late, taking his opponents by surprise. In 1807, it had been the Duke's sudden and unexpected intervention which cost Grey the seat. In 1806, when a dissolution was imminent, the latter wrote to suggest

that Lord Percy should seek election. Eight months later, when the election was in progress, the Duke—without any warning or announcement of political differences with Grey—put up his son and Thomas Wentworth Beaumont. Grey, who could ill afford a contested election and had no time to raise money for his campaign, retired before the poll.² And so Sir Charles Monck and his agents kept a very close watch on the Duke and all his movements, carefully noting the comings and goings of visitors and speculating on their business. Correspondents refer unflatteringly to the Duke's political methods and describe him as "The Leviathan of the Castle", "Old Fox", "Old Rogue" and "Jesuiticall".

But, though correspondents disapproved of the Duke's tactics, they accepted "interest" as a customary and essential factor in political life. Mr. Francis Cusswell, who had been asked to vote for Sir Charles, refers in his reply to the principle "that His Grace the Duke of Northumberland's Interest should return only one Member, the other to be the choice of the independent Freeholders" and adds, "I candidly confess it is my opinion, His Grace's weight in the County should (*sic*) give him the choice of one member." Mr. James Fenwick advised:

"I think you should not delay a moment in applying to the Duke Lords Grey Tankerville & all the principal great interests. If you can secure the Duke I apprehend the business will go on smoothly. It is interest which at present decides everything, at least unbounded expence and exertion would be required to counteract it."

And Mr. Walter Scott wrote from Stamfordham Cottage on 25th March, 1812:

"If my patron & friend, Sr. Jno. Swinburne does not come in person to serve you, with his permission, I am very certain I could procure you one hundred votes, but without his Interest, order, & command I would not *interfere*."

On March 30th, 1812, on the other hand, Mr. John

² G. M. Trevelyan, *Lord Grey of the Reform Bill* (1920), pp. 160-1.

Trevelyan wrote that he had given "the very little interest I possess in the County of North^d to the Percy family, & the present representative". Mr. George Lisle junior of Newcastle promised, "My foreman in the Cabinet business has a vote which I shall reserve for you." Such "interest", as recent research has shown, persisted and still shaped election results in the mid-nineteenth century, for the *Leeds Mercury*, in the edition of 10th September, 1841, asserted, "It was known that when any man attempted to estimate the probable result of a county election in England it was ascertained by calculating the number of great landed proprietors in the county and weighing the number of occupiers under them."³

Even Roman Catholics who were debarred from voting by the terms of the penal legislation on religion inherited from every reign since the Reformation retained their "interest" and used it at elections. Several wrote to say that they were convinced of Sir Charles' personal fitness for election to the office of M.P. and wished him success. They gave their support purely out of regard to his character and integrity and not because he was an advocate of Catholic Emancipation. Indeed, as a staunch Anglican he was distinctly anti-Catholic in his views and opinions on religious observances, for instance, refusing to allow the vicar of the parish church at Bolam to introduce candles and other practices which, in his view, aped Romish observances. For the Middletons were originally Non-Conformist and though in the eighteenth century they transferred their allegiance to the Church of England—largely with a view to advancement in political life—in many respects Sir Charles' outlook and beliefs had a strong Non-Conformist bias. A typical Roman Catholic promise of support came from George Gibson of Stagshaw House, who wrote on 24th March, 1812:

³ For a detailed account of this aspect of nineteenth-century electioneering see G. S. R. Kitson Clark, *The Electorate and the Repeal of the Corn Laws*, *T.R.H.S.* 5th series, vol. 1 (1951), pp. 109-126. See also N. Gash, *Politics in the Age of Peel* (1953).

"I have to regret that the Elective Franchise (the birthright of every Englishman) is not yet conceded to the Catholics of this realm; I have therefore no vote, but the Interest & Influence that I possess shall be most cordially dedicated to your service; And I am happy to say that this sentiment pervades my neighbourhood."

Women, like Roman Catholics, had "interest" at their command though they could not vote in person, so that their good opinion and support was of value to candidates. For example, Alicia Aynsley of Littleharle, in a letter of 25th March, 1812, wrote:

"I have this moment received your letter and with honest zeal congratulate my native County on the promised blessing of an able active and upright representative of their rights and privileges in my long cherished friend and neighbour, Sir Charles Monck, an event which must diffuse joy and satisfaction to all who have the honor and pleasure of your acquaintance. I will immediately engage in your service my steward and dependents who have votes for the County, my father & a few friends who have written to me to know how they can serve me."

Whereas "interest" played a tremendously important part in shaping elections, party labels had little significance. For, though to-day's electorate votes for a party rather than an individual, the early nineteenth century voter preferred a representative who owed no party allegiance and was indeed opposed to the existence of parties. Great stress, however, was laid on the candidate's personal character and fitness to sit in Parliament. Correspondents wrote to Sir Charles to emphasize this: "I have only to say that I think a member should go into the House free from any shackles", "I must always think it desirable that a County Member should vote *independently of all party*" and "independent members are now much wanted in Parliament". Not a single letter in the entire collection applies a party label to Sir Charles nor declares that the writer proposed to vote for him in view of his known inclination towards the Whig interest or party. Thus, in his assertion that he must follow his own judgement

and conscience rather than a party line, Sir Charles was in accord with the men on whose votes he relied for election. And even within the political parties of the age, personal integrity was valued above ability and party allegiance, for Peel himself declared on more than one occasion that he was not prepared to become the instrument of party in order to maintain himself in office⁴ while Sir Robert Walpole pointed out in his favourite aphorism, "It is the character of party, especially in England, to ask for the assistance of a man of talent, but to follow the guidance of men of character."⁵ The same sentiments guided Sir Charles Loraine when he wrote to Sir Charles Monck on 7th June, 1812, pointing out:

"Your political opinion & mine certainly are at variance though I don't pretend to say that either is always right—there must be a check upon Ministers but I am sorry to find Party Spirit carried to such an extent as I fear to be of injury to the Country by inflaming the minds of the lower orders of Society against the Government & obliging Ministers to act in any way to gain a commanding voice in Parliament for the purpose of carrying such points as are indispensable with the public good which must also empower them to execute any plan of their own & subvert every proposition of their opponents whether right or wrong—No man or set of men can always be right & they must be bad indeed that are always wrong—As a Member of Parliament independent of all powerful controul likely to interfere with the proper representation of this country & closely attending to all subjects in which it is most materially interested."

This opinion of Sir Charles' fitness to serve in Parliament is endorsed by Creevey, who refers to him in his *Diary* as "A free spoken and honest politician".⁶ He also mentions Sir Charles' regular attendance at debates—"Grey is in the most confounded ill humour: Ponsonby goes to the play, and when he comes to the House sits on the 2nd bench, and Opposition muster in general from 20 to 30 persons, amongst

⁴ See N. Gash, *Peel and the Party System*, *T.R.H.S.* 5th series, vol. 1 (1951), pp. 47-69.

⁵ Lord John Russell, *Memoirs of the Affairs of Europe*.

⁶ J. Gore, *Creevey* (1948), p. 66.

whom is your humble servant: no other people make a show: Ridley and Monck never miss.”⁷ Had he spent a lifetime in the House of Commons, his energy, force of will and ability would have won him recognition as one of the more striking personalities in politics though he carried independence of mind and freedom of judgement to lengths which would have prevented him from securing office in any government. But in 1820 it was clear that the election would be contested whereupon Sir Charles decided to retire from public life, fearing the cost of standing for re-election would be ruinous.⁸ And so he failed to make his mark in the history of Parliament, but he left behind political correspondence which gives a vivid impression of electioneering tactics and practices on the eve of the Reform Bill.

APPENDIX.

Dear Sir

I have taken the liberty of sending you inclosed my Bill for the last two Elections, including Retainers to Mr. Lock & myself for the next.

If any of the agents who have been furnished with land tax schedules are not likely to be employed by you in the event of a future contest, it would be well to get the schedules back again—Mr. Cockerill, for instance, would not act against the Duke of North^d, & the copy of the schedules which he has, might do for any other agent whom you might employ at Shields.—If you think proper I will write to him & state that you want a copy of the schedules for your own use, & request him to send his copy direct to you.

My trouble in managing the various schedules & in making lists of the freeholders in this neighbourhood in the order of their place of residence, is included in the general charge for agency.

I am Dear Sir

Your obliged & faithful hble servant

Armorer Donkin.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 129.

⁸ Earl Grey is reputed to have spent £14,000 on fifteen days' polling to win the seat for his son in 1826 when there was a contested election.

Unfortunately the Bill to which Mr. Donkin refers is lost. From a letter of 27th January, 1813, acknowledging the receipt of £140 14s. in discharge of his account the total figure for his expenses, though without any of the details, can be recovered.

An account of the money expended for the two members returned at the General Election for Northumberland 19th July 1802.

	£	s.	d.
To the Undersheriff his fee	31	10	
To three Musicians from Newcastle	6	6	
Their travelling expences	4	14	6
To three Musicians in Alnwick	6	6	
To Eight Bailiffs of the Sheriff	8	8	
Bailiff Errant extra	1	1	
To the Bell Ringers	2	2	
To twenty Carriers at 1gn. each	21		
For firing guns	2	2	
To Mr. Ferguson an allowance besides the £10	2	4	
To John Lee, publican, the like	10		
To Robert Moor his Bill for the Ball	68	11	
To Messrs. Leithead and Russell for fitting up the Ball Room	10	12	
To County Court Clerk	2	2	
To the poor	5	5	
To 27 Public Houses at £10 each	270		
To George Wilson's Bill the White Swan Inn	192	10	
To stamps		12	
To attendants and Hall keeper	2	2	
	£647	7	6
Mr. Grey's half of the above Account	323	13	9
Paid for Mr. Grey solely, vizt.—			
To Mr. Patterson for Ribbons as per acct. & rect.	11	17	
To Mrs. Leithead for cockades for Carriers	1	7	9
To Miss Shields Do. for Drivers to Howick		8	
To Mr. John Forster as per acct. of particulars & rect.	18	6	
To Mr. Leithead for Chair and Attendance	7	15	6
To Thomas Gray for his attendance at the Cellars delivering out the Wine	1	1	
	364	9	

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Public Houses opened in Alnwick on the day of Election 19th July 1802.

		Numbers returned that dined	
1	Dixon — Gold Fleece	40	
2	Lee — King's Arms	90	
3	Forster — Queen's Head	52	The Bill delivered by this House amounted to £70 4s. 0d. the extra part of it paid by Mr. Beaumont the Company being composed of those he brought along with him.
4	Beal — The Buck	40	
5	Thew — Butchers Arms	50	
6	Towns — Old Angel	35	
7	Ford — Crown & Thistle	60	
8	Bolam — House of Jockey	35	
9	Salkeld — Angel Inn	100	said to Dine — Bill deliver'd £61 15s. 0d. besides £30 14s. 0d. for the Mob pulling in Mr. Beaumont—discharged by him for the reason above assigned.
10	Paxton	40	
11	Mrs. Appleby — Nag's Head	94	Bill for £75 5s. 6d. discharged by Mr. Beaumont.
12	Ferguson — Spread Eagle	60	An extra allowance of £2 4s. 0d. made by the Members jointly,
13	Moody — Half Moon	45	but he says 43 people were brought by Mr. Laudles who promised to pay for them.
14	Haig — Stag	40	
15	Shepherd — Crown & Glove	50	
16	Mills — Red Lion	35	
17	Luke — Horse & Hounds	35	
18	Finlay (blank)	28	
19	Moor — Black Swan	30	Bill including Houses £46 3s. 6d. discharged by Mr. Beaumont.
20	Blackbrough — Stallion	35	
21	Jobson — Horse Shoes	36	
22	France — The Sun	38	
23	Appleby — Turk's Head	34	
24	Weatherburn — The Plough	25	
25	Brougham — The Ship	40	
26	Hudson — Blue Bell	36	
27	Dent — Bee Hive	25	
28	Wilson — White Swan	160	An open House £192 10s. 0d. discharged jointly.
		—	
		1388	

An account of the Money expended for Sir Charles Monck Bart. on his Election as a Member for the County of Northumberland on the 13th April 1812.

	£	s.	d.
To the Undersheriff, his Fee	31	10	
To do. for Stamps for Indentures	3	6	
To 2 Musicians	2	2	
To 9 Bailiffs, one guinea each	9	9	
To Bailiff Errand extra	1	1	
To 2 Sheriff's Trumpeters	4	4	
To Bell Ringers	1	1	
To Gunners	1	1	
To 12 Carriers, one Guinea each	12	12	
To County Court Clerk	2	2	
To Hall Keeper	1	1	
To Wm. Leithead for providing Chair and Trimmings, Cockades, etc. etc. and attendance	15		
To 34 Public Houses in Alnwick £10 each	340		
To Mr. Wilson, White Swan Inn, his Bill	76	18	8
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	501	7	8
Mr. Kerr's retaining fee for the present election	5	5	
Ditto's retaining Fee for the next General election	5	5	
Messrs. Kerr & Leithead's charge for their trouble and expences touching the concerns of the present election	21		
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	31	10	
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	532	17	8
By Cash on Account	100		
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	432	17	8

Public Houses opened in Alnwick on the day of Election 13th April 1812.

Names	Signs	Numbers returned that dined
1 Thomas Purvis	Horse & Hounds	36
2 George Coxon	Angel	30
3 Henry Forster	King's Head	16
4 John Purvis	Turk's Head	17
5 John Athey		15
6 Thomas Coward	Blue Bell	20

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Names	Signs	Numbers returned that dined
7 Edward Gair	Crown & Thistle	20
8 Edward Cummings	Nag's Head	22
9 John Coward	Castle Tun	33
10 Peter Ferguson	Red Lion	20
11 Mrs. Jobson	Horse Shoes	19
12 Thomas Dixon	Gray's Arms	23
13 Aaron Smith		19
14 Robert Moor	Black Swan	23
15 Robert Jobling	Half Moon	20
16 James Wilkinson	Spread Eagle	18
17 Thomas Hall	Seven Stars	25
18 William Moody	Northumberland Arms	22
19 John Bucken	Wheat Sheaf	17
20 John Lee	King's Arms	55
21 Thomas Beal	White Hart	17
22 Ann Thew	George & Dragon	35
23 James Paxton	Crown	39
24 John Bannister	Plow	30
25 Henry Dixon	Fleece	34
26 George Finlay		18
27 George Best	Sun	26
28 Margaret Staig	Stag	38
29 Robert Luke	Crown & Glove	20
30 Edward Smith	Butcher's Arms	38
31 Robert Atkinson	Queen's Head	20
32 John Allison	Boot	15
33 William Blagborn	Bee Hive	22
34 Mary Rattray	Three Tuns	49
35 George Wilson	White Swan Inn	65
		— An open House
		936

1812 White Swan Alnwick

Apr. 12 Share of Dinner Bill

	£	s.	d.
Serv. Eat ^s & liq ^r		13	6
13 Man & horse to Belsea Castle	1	1	9
Duty		3	3
Dinner	13		
Paid for salmon and Lamb	6	2	6
Port	22	11	
Sherry	11	8	
Spirits		4	

	£	s.	d.
Malt Liq ^r	1	3	
Fruit	5	10	
Serv ^s . Eat ^s & Liq.	7	12	
Glasses		8	6
	<hr/>		
	69	19	6
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Bro. Forward	69	19	6
Punch	1	10	
Hay & Corn		17	8
Beds	1	1	
Bed room fees		7	
Breakage	1	1	6
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	74	16	8
Waiters	2	2	
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	£76	18	8

65 Gentⁿ

Dined

40 Serv^s. & Boys

An account of the money expended for Sir Chas. Monck Bart. on his Election as a Member for the County of Northumberland on the 23rd of October 1812.

	£	s.	d.
To the two Alnwick Musicians for the chairing and Ball—one guinea and a half each	3	3	
To one Musician from Felton for the Ball	1	1	
To 11 Bailiffs—half a guinea each	5	15	6
To Bailiff errand, extra		10	6
To 2 Sheriff's Trumpeters—one guinea each	2	2	
To Bell Ringers	1	1	
To Gunners	1	1	
To 12 Chair Carriers, one guinea each	12	12	
To County Court Clerk	1	1	
To Hall-keeper	1	1	
To Hindmarsh for pains of glass broken by firing the Guns		3	9
To Wm. Leithead for providing Chairs, Trimmings Cockades and attendance	17	11	4
To ditto for one half of the expence of fitting up the Assembly Rooms	18	18	9
To 35 Public Houses at £7 10s. 0d. each	262	10	
To Geo. Wilson—White Swan Inn—one half of his Bill	112		8

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	£	s.	d.
To Messrs. Kerr & Leithead's fee for conducting the Election on the part of Sir Charles Monck	31	10	
To Carriage of Land Tax Schedules from Mr. Donkin and postage of a letter		1	6

£472 4

	£	s.	d.
Cr. By Cash from Mr. Ferguson the agent of Sir M. W. Ridley & Co.	500		
To the above account	472	4	

Balance paid to Mr. Ferguson to be carried to the Credit of Sir Charles's acc^t with the Bank 27 16
 N.B. The Under-Sheriff's Fee and Lee's Bill for the Ball remain unsettled for the reasons mentioned in Mr. Kerr's letter to Sir Charles.

List of the Public Houses in Alnwick 23rd Oct. 1812

Publicans Names	Signs	No. that dined
1. Mary Rattray	Three Tons	37
2. John Lee	King's Arms	20
3. Eleanor Jobson	Horse Shoes	20
4. Thomas Coward	Blue Bell	30
5. Henry Dixon	Fleece	30
6. John Coward	Half Moon	24
7. Thomas Hall	Seven Stars	30
8. Henry Forster	King's Head	20
9. George Best	Sun	40
10. John Purvis	Turk's Head	24
11. James Wilkinson	Spread Eagle	16
12. John Athey	Joiner's Arms	20
13. George Finley		25
14. John Bannister	Plough	35
15. Aaron Smith		16
16. Robert Jobling	Mason's Arms	20
17. Thomas Dixon	Grey's Arms	33
18. Edward Cumming	Nag's Head	24
19. William Blagborn	Bee Hive	22
20. Ann Thew	George & Dragon	30
21. Robert Moor	Black Swan	25
22. Robert Atkinson	Queen's Head	30
23. James Paxton	Crown	50

24. Thomas Beal	White Hart	45	
25. Thomas Watson	Crown & Thistle	37	
26. William Moody	Northumberland Arms	20	
27. George Coxon	Angel Inn	24	
28. John Buchan	Wheat Sheaf	19	
29. John Allison	Boot	20	
30. Peter Ferguson	Red Lyon	22	
31. Thomas Purvis	Hare & Hounds	28	
32. Margaret Staig	Stag	27	
33. Edward Smith	Butchers Arms	34	
34. Robert Luke	Crown & Glove	40	
35. Ralph Mole	Castle Inn	22	
36. George Wilson	White Swan Inn	150	besides
		<hr/>	Servants
		1109	
		<hr/>	

Individual accounts submitted on this occasion include:—

Coll. Beaumont & Sir C. M. L. Monck Bart. to Russell & Leithead
1812

Oct. 23. To making seats in the Town Hall a Gallery for the
Musick & fitting up Drinking Room with Shelves for Bottles China
& Glasses finds Timber nails lamp hooks tacks etc. & lining the
great Hall Card Room & floor all round & Private Room for the
Ladies' Music Gallery & large Door & back door (stairs—interlined)
windows with Green Cloth for the whole $\frac{1}{2}$ £37 17 6
Sir Cha. Monck's half of the above 18 18 9

White Swan Alnwick

1812

Octo 23 Breakfasts	5		
Servants do.	1	15	
Glasses		10	
Dinners	41	5	
136 bott. She ^y @ 6/6	40	19	
160 do. port @ 6/-	48		
Brandy	1	1	
Fruits, cakes etc.	18		
Lemons 5/- Soda 9/-		14	
Servants eating	10		
Brandy & Rum	7	2	
80 bott. wine	24		
Malt liquor	7	4	
Teas	3	4	6

	£	s.	d.
27yds. of green cloth used for dinner tables and benches	5	4	5½
Breakage	5	18	6
	219	17	5½
Servants	4	4	
	£224	1	5½

Sir Charles Monck Bart. M.P.

To Armorer Donkin

1818

	£	s.	d.
January. Paid Retainer to Mr. Carr for the approach- ing election	5	5	
The like to Mr. Dale	5	5	
Attending at the Clerk of the Peace's Office with a Copy of the Land Tax Schedules made in 1812 and partly examining the same with the Schedules for the present year, found the additions and alterations were so extremely numerous that it would be abso- lutely necessary to have one fair copy of the present schedules for the use of the Committee in the event of a contest which was then thought not improbable. Making a fair copy of the schedules accordingly and also a list of the holders of annuities charged upon Lands in the County which occupied a Clerk 14 days	10	10	
Examining the same with the original which occupied 2 Clerks a whole day	1	11	6
Correcting 2 other copies of the schedules made in 1812 for the use of Agents, which occupied a Clerk 12 days	8	8	
Examining both copies with the Originals which occupied 3 clerks a whole day	2	5	
Repairing indexes to the Schedules (one for each Ward) in which the names of the Freeholders were arranged alphabetically for convenience of reference which occupied a Clerk 18 days	13	13	
Paid gratuity to the Clerk of the Peace's Clerk for attending at the office at extra hours while the schedules were copying and for assisting my clerk in arranging the same	1	1	
Paid for Books for the new Schedules for the indices Clerk's journey to Shields with your letters on the day	2	10	

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	£	s.	d.
you were canvassing there and for Coach hire and expences	2	10	
Paid the Newcastle Bellringers on the occasion of your canvas there	8	8	
Paid Mr. Dale for extracting from the Schedules and arranging in proper order a list of the Freeholders at North Shields preparatory to your calling upon the Freeholders of that place	5	5	
Paid him for attending with you upon the Freeholders and for making previous general arrangements for the event of a Contest	10	10	
Paid Mr. Carr for Agency	5	5	
Paid the printers of the Newcastle and Durham newspapers for advertising your address	11	7	6
Pd. Mr. Losh for attending a meeting at Sir M. W. Ridley's House	5	5	0
Retainer to Mr. Losh and Clerk for the next general election	11	0	6
My own retainer for the next general election	5	5	
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	£112	14	6
For my own agency on this Election	21		
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	£133	14	6.

Account of expences touching the election of Sir Charles Monck Baronet as Member for Northumberland 27th June 1818.

	£	s.	d.
To 33 Public Houses at £7 10 0 each	247	10	
To providing and fitting up Chair, Cockades and attendance	27	10	2
To 12 Chair Carriers, £1 1 0 each	12	12	
To Hall Keeper	1	1	
To Bell Ringers	1	1	
To Gunners	3	3	
To County Court Clerk	1	1	
To the Two Alnwick Musicians for attending the Chairing and Ball—£1 11 6 each	3	3	
To 7 of the Band of the Northumberland Militia for do. 5/3 each	2	2	
To the leader of the said band		10	6
To 2 Sheriff's Trumpeters £1 1 0 each	2	2	
To 16 Bailiffs 10/6 each	8	8	

118 ELECTION CAMPAIGNS OF SIR CHARLES MONCK

	£	s.	d.
To 8 do. for extra attendance at the Ball 5/3d each	2	2	
To Bailiff errand extra		10	6
To half the cost of printing Bills of Invitation to the Ball and of distributing the same		11	3
To half the expences of fitting up the Town Hall for the Ball wax lights, repairs etc.	21	15	8½
To half of Mr. Wilson's Bill for Dinners etc. etc. at the White Swan	129	14	6
To half of Dos. Bill for the Ball	35	18	3
To your private Bill at the White Swan	9	7	2
To Messrs. Kerr & Leithead for all trouble and attendances, before, at and after the election, including retaining fees etc.		42	
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	£552	3	½

White Swan Inn Alwrick
27 June 1818

Sir Chas. Monck Bart. & Tho. W. Beaumont Esq. to Geo. Wilson			
60 Breakfasts		6	
28 Servants do.		2	2
Cold Meat etc. for 26		1	19
Ginger beer & soda water		2	8
104 Dinners		42	7
23 doz. of port		89	14
11½ doz. of sherry		48	6
61 servants dinners		6	2
Malt liquor		10	12
Lemons and sugar		17	6
Brandy and rum		6	
Fruit, cakes etc.		15	3
32 teas		3	4
17 suppers		1	14 0
Breakage		11	18 10
Paid Mr. Leithead for green cloth etc. as per bill		5	16 8
		<hr/>	
		254	4
Servants including waiters at the Ball		5	5
		<hr/>	
	½	£259	9
		<hr/>	
		129	14 6

Ball Account White Swan Inn Alnwick
 27 June 1818
 Sir Cha. Monck Bart. and Tho. W. Beaumont Esq^{re} to Geo. Wilson

3 doz and 2 botts. of sherry	13	6	
3 doz and 8 do of port	14	6	
10 doz. of porter	4	10	
Lemons and sugar		10	
Tea, coffee, fruit cakes etc.	35	4	
Cold meat	2	2	
Supper ordered the Musicians		16	6
Breakage	1	2	
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	½	£71	16 6

White Swan Inn Alnwick

Sir Cha. Monck to Geo. Wilson			
1818			
June 26	Dinner	10/6	Port 6/6
	Teas	6/-	Beds 3/-
	Servants eating etc.		
27	Breakfasts		
	Dinners	10/6	Port 6/6
	Teas	8/-	Beds 3/-
28	Breakfasts		
	Servants do		
	Hay and corn	1	10
	Paid lodgings	3	5
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		£9	7 2

Sir C. M. Monck Bart & T. W. Beaumont Esq. to Russell & Leithead
 1818

June 27th.	Making seats in the Town Hall a Gallery for the Band, fitting up the Tea Room with shelves for bottles china and glasses including Timber and nails and for lining the Great Hall Card Room and private room for the Ladies. Also the sides of back staircase and windows with green cloth and finding the whole	39	16	11
	12 lb. of wax candles for lighting Hall at 5/-	3	0	
	Repairing Town hall door broke by the populace and for new pannell and plates of Iron to strengthen door			7

ELECTION CAMPAIGNS OF SIR CHARLES MONCK 121

	£	s.	d.
Attending Mr. Loraine to receive writ of Election		6	8
Drawing proclamation		5	
Two copies		5	
Drawing notice of day of election		5	
Three copies for printers		7	6
Attending them		6	8
Paid then inserting advertisements	1	16	0
Journey to Alnwick to make proclamation	4	4	0
Chaise hire and expences two days	3	3	0
Writing to the several Bailiffs directing their attendance at the Election	1	11	0
Attending Trumpeters for like purpose		6	8
Drawing Indentures	1	1	0
Ingrossing two parts and seals	1	1	0
Paid parchment and duty	3	15	
Attending election three days	6	6	0
Paid coach hire etc.	4	10	
Writing to agent in London with indentures requesting him to return same		5	
Paid carriage thereof to London		5	6
Paid agent for his attendance		10	6
In consequence of a report that a contest was likely to take place writing several letters to six professional gentlemen requesting their attendance upon the election as Deputy Sheriffs	1	10	0
Paid postage of letters in the course of the business		8	6
Writing to agent to retain Mr. Richardson the Counsel assessor to the sheriff		5	
Agents attending accordingly and afterwards informing me thereof		13	4
Paid retaining fee to Mr. Richardson and clerk	5	15	6
It being reported that the freeholders of Newcastle intended to tender their votes at this election it was thought prudent to take Mr. Richardson's opinion as to the Sheriff's conduct in that case. Searching Mr. Brand's History of Newcastle to enable me to preface the case	1	11	6
Drawing same	1	11	6
Fair copy for counsel		10	6
Writing to agent therewith		5	
Paid agent for his trouble	2	2	0
Paid Mr. Richardson's fee	2	4	6
Paid carriage thereof to and from London with Brand's History of Newcastle		10	4

	£	s.	d.
Five copies of case and opinion for the High Sheriff the candidates and their friends	2	12	6
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	£50	10	8
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Sir Charles

In reply to my offer of 15 guineas to the undersheriff I received the account and letter enclosed.

The former items of the account relate merely to the Sheriff's official duty, for which he has no more *right* to claim remuneration than he has for attending the Assizes and Quarter Sessions to return Juries, keep the peace etc. and the latter items respecting the *rumour* of a Contest and of the Newcastle freeholders claiming to vote, seem altogether uncalled for. In short, the fees of 30 guineas usually paid to the undersheriff by the two Members for the County, and of 20 guineas paid by the two Members for Morpeth, are perfectly gratuitous.

I leave Alnwick on Wednesday morning and shall be absent for a few weeks, but if you wish any further communication to be made by the Undersheriff, it will be duly attended to in my partner W. Leithead.

I am Sir Charles, with much
respect,
Your faithful & obed^t Servant
Tho. Kerr
Alnwick July 20th 1818