



Jacob Pleydell-Bouverie

## Tables Turned on Lord Radnor

On Wednesday, Lord Radnor, presided over a public meeting at Highworth about two miles from the Noble Lord's seat, convened for the purpose of "taking into consideration the distress of the working classes and to discuss the benefits likely to arise if the trade in corn and other provisions were free."

The discussion however took an unexpected turn. The speakers were all of the middle class (the opening speech was made by a dealer in second-hand clothes and bedding), tenants or neighbours of the Noble Chairman.

It may be presumed, therefore, they possessed peculiarly favourable opportunities for becoming acquainted with his character as a landlord and we must say they spoke their minds freely and told his Lordship some rough truths upon the subject of his extortionate rents for allotments. We doubt whether his radical predilections were ever before so properly handled.

As we shall probably return to this meeting (for it was a curiosity in its way), we shall here merely remark that while Lord Radnor told the poor that he would help by free trade, the poor told Lord Radnor that he would help them much more to their satisfaction if he would let them have their patches of land at a fair rent.

**John Bull, 19th October 1844**