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Title Sir Henry Slingsby's Letter concerning the Election of Members for
Knaresborough

Date 1613

Source Atkinson papers

Prime Source Harrogate Library

FN 285: Sir Henry Slingsby's Letter

Sir Henry Slingsby's Letter concerning the Election of Members for Knaresborough in 1613

This is an original letter preserved among the Slingsby Papers along with other papers relating to elections. It is written on an ill-glazed sheet of paper, and the ink has run a good deal, so that the letter is rather difficult to read. The writing is on one side of the sheet, with marginal note as here shown, and the sheet is folded into four, and endorsed at the back.

The letter is the earliest reference to elections which I have found in this collection, and was in fact written just sixty years after the time when Knaresborough was first summoned to send members to Parliament. It is interesting and instructive in many ways.

Transcribed by Mr Atkinson on 10 May 1929

The speeche of the plament (**parliament**) hathe beene soe variable as I can not tell whether it will be a plament (**parliament**) or noo: But if it doe not holde at this tyme it is like it will holde at mychs: I wolde have you thearfore move my neighbors in my name That they will be contented to sende me the Indentures blank to receave whome I thinke good. And I will take care that the places shall be supplied with p(er)sons fitt and with safetie to the towne: Notwithstanding if Mr Chancellor of the Duchie wryghte for a place or anie other p(er)son of qualitie whome they think reason to respecte and gratefie: If they will signifie ese mucche unto me and leave the maner of presentinge it to my selfe I will doe that they shall desire, and, in suche sorte, as they shall have thanks for it: I doe not name my selfe and yet for oughte I knowe my meaninge is to be one, excepte the burthen of other my affaires enforce me to thinke the Chardges of attendance to hevie for me: And soe hoping my

neighbors will have that respecte of me they weare wonte to have and I thinke I deserve at their handes I ende .

From my house in St Markes layne London this ye(ar) 22 of Febr: 1613

Signed – Hen: Slyngisbie

The Balif is to be at the eleccion and to judge & distinguishe of the voices and to appoint the tyme together to geather to which pupose I authorishe you bothe: Butt in mie case be well assured that the writte be sent to the Sheriffe. You Rob Norten knows well whoe have been hearetofore reputed Burrowe men and whose voices have been given at elections.

Endorsed in the same hand, as follows:-

21: Febr: 1613

Coppie to Robt Norten & Frace (**Francis**) Thorpe

For eleccon of Burgesses

Note in margin:

'I would wishe the election shoulde be of a Courte done at the breakinge upp of the Courte @ before they departe'