

# 1832



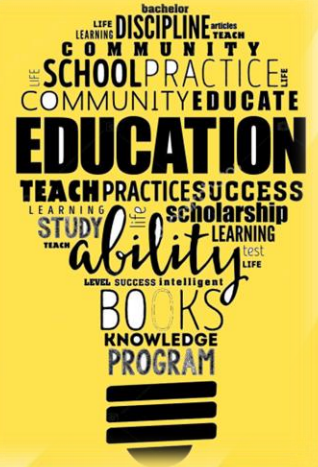
*The Reformers' Attack on the Old Rotten Tree; or, the Foul Nests of the Cormorants in Danger. Paddy E. King Chancery Lane.*





# Words you may need

- Borough
- To ensure
- Rotten
- Jointly
- To settle
- Uninhabited
- Franchise
- Bill
- Apprentice
- Blacken
- Theft
- Rape
- Gallows
- Tenant farmers
- Lodger
- To enfranchise
- Act
- to exempt



# Before the Reform Act 1832

- The King had little power, compared to the other European kings. The Government responded to an elected Parliament

## Since when?

- Have you ever heard of the Glorious Revolution (1689)?
- Well, since William of Orange and his wife Mary were jointly crowned King and Queen of England:
  1. The Crown would not be able to rule the country without Parliament (**Bill of Rights**)
  2. Parliament ensured that only Protestants could be heirs to the throne( **Act of Settlement**)





# Parliament before 1832



## How was Parliament elected?

- Just few could exercise the right to vote, only those who had:
    1. A land
    2. A house
- HENCE** → Aristocracy - Landowners
- The boroughs in which the Mps were elected had been drawn in the Middle Age, but

## REMEMBER

with the Industrial Revolution England had turned from an agricultural into a manufacturing country and a great deal of the population had settled in the North, in the industrial areas.

**A radical change was needed in representation**



# The Rotten Borough System

- Places that were very populated in the Middle Age and continued to elect an Mp even if uninhabited were called **ROTTEN BOROUGH**S.

## HOW DID THE ROTTEN BOROUGH SYSTEM WORK?

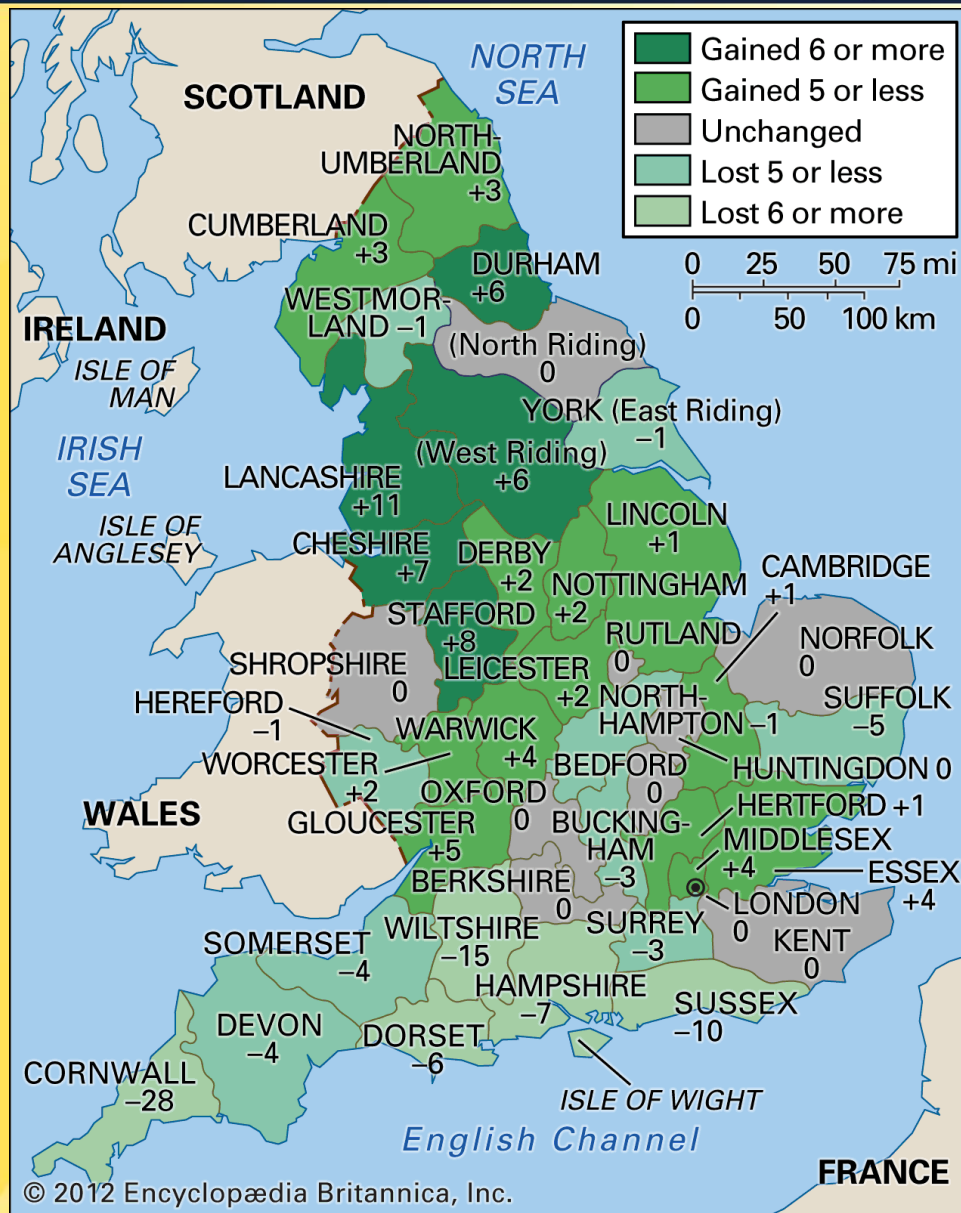
- If nobody lived in a borough, but there were 10 houses to rent, 10 people took up residence before elections, so that they could elect the Mp.

## Hence

- **great landowners** continued to influence the vote. The Duke of Norfolk alone, for example, controlled 11 Mps.
- Very few Mps came from the industrial districts.
- Few Mps meant few or no reforms for the industrial North.
- With the **Reform Act** the rotten boroughs were abolished and the English map reformed.







# Who had the Right to Vote after 1832?

- The Reform Act also extended the franchise. It gave :

1. representation to cities,

2. the vote to:

a. small landowners,

b. tenant farmers,

c. shopkeepers,

d. householders who paid a yearly rental of £10 or more,

e. some lodgers.



That is: **THE MIDDLE CLASS**



# Reforming the Legislative System

- The English legislative system had been thought to defend private property.
- Death penalty for more than 200 types of crimes
- It was possible to end up in gallows if one:
  1. was found robbing in a shop
  2. had been in contact for more than a month with gypsies.
  3. had blacken his face to rob.
  4. if a child between 7 – 14 years was believed to have a bad inclination, which could not be corrected.
- More than 100 people were hung every year.





*"There was a general start. Horror was depicted on every countenance.*

*'For more!' said Mr. Limbkins. 'Compose yourself, Bumble, and answer me distinctly. Do I understand that he asked for more, after he had eaten the supper allotted by the dietary?'*

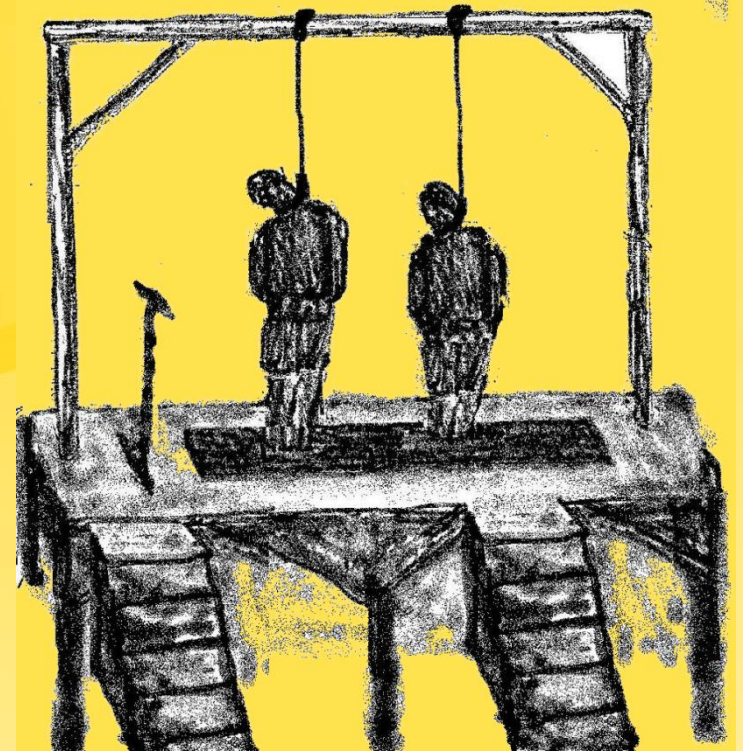
*'He did, sir,' replied Bumble.*

*'That boy will be hung,' said the gentleman in the white waistcoat. 'I know that boy will be hung.'*  
(Oliver Twist, chpt 2)



# First legislative Reforms

- Death penalty is abolished for:
  1. Theft
  2. Rape
- Death penalty for homicide only (with the exception of mutiny).







# First Social Reforms 1833



- According to the **The Factory Act or Children's Charter**:
  1. no children under 9 are to work in factories (silk mills exempted);
  2. children under 13 are to work no more than 9 hours per day and 48 hours per week;
  3. younger children are to attend school for at least two hours on six days a week;
  4. holidays for the children and young persons to be all day on Christmas Day and Good Friday, and eight half days.
- Slavery is abolished in the British Empire.





# First Social Reforms 1834

- With the **Poor Law Amendment Act** parish workhouses are instituted.
- The **Chimney Sweeps Act** forbids:
  1. the apprenticing of any boy under the age of 10 years,
  2. the employment of children under 14 in chimney sweeping unless they are apprenticed or on trial.
  3. the apprentices are not to be 'evil treated' by their employers
  4. any complaints of the children are to be heard by justices of the peace.



# Conclusions

- 1832 Reform Act allowed English Parliament to represent more effectively the country and start that process of legislative reformation, which will give way to the modernization of the nation.





