CHAPTER 68.

An Act to suspend for a limited period, on account of Corrupt Practices, the holding of an Election of a Member or Members to serve in Parliament for certain cities and boroughs. [18th August 1882.]

A.D. 1882.

WHEREAS, in pursuance of addresses to Her Majesty from both Houses of Parliament in relation to election of members to serve in Parliament for the cities and boroughs mentioned in the schedule to this Act, commissioners were appointed by commissions, dated the ninth day of September one thousand eight hundred and eighty, for the purpose of making inquiry into the existence of corrupt practices at the elections of members to serve in Parliament for the said cities and boroughs:

And whereas the said commissioners have respectively reported as regards the existence of corrupt practices to the effect in the second column of the said schedule mentioned:

And whereas it is expedient, with a view to the future consideration of the cases by Parliament, to provide temporarily for the suspension of elections in the said cities and boroughs:

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Corrupt Practices (Suspension of Elections) Act, 1882.

Suspension of elections in certain cities and boroughs.

2. An election of a member or members to serve in Parliament for any of the cities or boroughs mentioned in the schedule to this Act shall not be held until the expiration of seven days after the meeting of Parliament in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three.

A.D. 1882.

SCHEDULE.

CITIES AND BOROUGHS REFERRED TO.

Name of City or Borough.	Report of Commissioners as to prevalence of corrupt practices.
Boston - - -	Corrupt practices prevailed very extensively at the election of 1880. . . . . It was stated as an undoubted fact that all elections, both parliamentary and municipal, have for a long time past been corrupt.
Canterbury - -	Corrupt practices extensively prevailed at the elections of 1879 and 1880.
Chester - - -	Corrupt practices extensively prevailed at the general elections of February 1874 and of April 1880.
Gloucester - - -	Corrupt practices extensively prevailed at the elections in February 1874 and March 1880.
Macclesfield - -	Corrupt practices extensively prevailed at the elections of 1865, 1868, 1874, and 1880.
Oxford - - -	Corrupt practices were committed at the election in February 1874, and corrupt practices extensively prevailed at the elections in March 1874, April 1880, and May 1880, by way of payment of money to voters as therein mentioned.
Sandwich - - -	In the election of May 1880, there was practised throughout the constituency, not only indirect bribery of various kinds, but direct bribery, the most extensive and systematic. . . . . Electoral corruption has long extensively prevailed in the borough.

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