CHAPTER 78.

An Act to suspend, on account of Corrupt Practices, the issue during the prorogation of Parliament of writs for the holding of an Election of a Member or Members to serve in the present Parliament for certain cities and boroughs. [14th August 1884.]

WHEREAS, in pursuance of addresses to Her Majesty from both Houses of Parliament in relation to the elections f members to serve in Parliament for the cities and boroughs mentioned in the First 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 that a writ for the election of a member or members to serve in the present Parliament for any of the said cities and boroughs should not be issued except by order of the House of Commons:

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, 1884.

Suspension of power of Speaker to issue writ for elections in certain cities and boroughs.

2. A writ for the election of a member or members to serve in Parliament for any of the cities or boroughs mentioned in the First Schedule to this Act shall not, until after the expiration of seven days after the first meeting of Parliament in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, be issued in pursuance of the Acts mentioned in the Second Schedule to this Act, or any of them.

FIRST 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.

Name of City or Borough.	Report of Commissioners as to prevalence of Corrupt Practices.
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.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

ACTS REFERRED TO.

Session and Chapter.	Title.
24 Geo. 3. Sess. . c. 26. -	An Act to repeal so much of two Acts made in the tenth and fifteenth years of the reign of His present Majesty as authorises the Speaker of the House of Commons to issue his warrant to the Clerk of the Crown for making out writs for the election of members to serve in Parliament in the manner therein mentioned and for substituting other provisions for the like purposes.
21 & 22 Vict. c. 110. - -	Election of Members during Recess Act, 1858.
26 & 27 Vict. c. 20. - -	An Act to further limit and define the time for proceeding to election during the recess.