HULL TOWN COUNCIL.

THE APPOINTMENT OF SHERIFF.

COLONEL SMITH AND THE NEW RAILWAY AND DOCK.

A meeting of the Town Council was held yesterday at the Town Hall, the Mayor (Alderman Leak) presiding. There were also present Aldermen Thompson, Wells, Woolcome, Dawson, Symons, Waller, Fountain, Lambert, Sealby, and Denison; Councillors Pool, Willows, Sharp, Wilson, Gibson, Clark, Larard, Gillett, Whitehead, Raven, Fletcher, Wilde, Shaw, Toosey, Nelson, Scott, Dawson, Wood, Hodgson, Bompas, Sanders, Witty, Tate, Storry, Jackson, Massey, Gibson, Sumners, Hall, Stirling, Stuart, Thomas, Wheatley, Ansell, Elam, Hall, Stirling, Stuart, Thomas, Wheatley, Ansell, Elam, Hall, Stirling, Stuart, Thomas, Wheatley, Ansell, Fewster, Dyson, Hodgson, Hoyes, Raymont, Hodge, Thompson, Appleby, Wilkinson, Greasley, and Field.

The principal business was the completion of the appointment of Sheriff, in which more than usual interest appeared to be taken. A large number of visitors, including the Mayoress, many other ladies, and most of the principal members of the new Railway and Dock Company, occupied seats in the chamber, and the gallery for the public was crowded.

The appointment of Ex-Sheriff (Colonel Smith) in the Council Chamber, accompanied by Mr Lowe, the Under-Sheriff, was the signal for loud applause, which culminated in the whole assembly cheering him as he took his seat.

The Town Clerk first announced the decision of the Town Council at the last meeting in choosing Mr John Fisher as sheriff for the ensuing year.

The Sheriff-Elect, on coming forward to take the necessary oath, was with a most hearty reception. He appointed Mr Henry Birks (of the firm of Stamp, Jackson, and Birks) the under-Sheriff.

The Mayor then received the chain of office from Colonel Smith, addressed the ex-Sheriff. His Worship said, on behalf of the Corporation, and he might say on behalf of the whole town, he had to thank him that by his spirited, manly, and noble conduct during his year of office he had indelibly engraved his name upon the annals of Hull. He was sure, he might add, that he had handed back the chain of office unsullied and unstained, and that he had added to it a halo which would be immortal, and which would, as his name would also be, in the annals of Hull (applause).

The Mayor then invested the Sheriff Elect with the chain, and addressed him thus: He had been unanimously elected to the office, said that he now had the honour of representing his Gracious Sovereign in this his native town (applause).

The Sheriff on rising to address the Council, was received with loud applause. He said that no words of his could adequately express to them the thanks he felt for the great compliment they had paid him in unanimously electing him to the important office of Sheriff of Kingston-upon-Hull. To them it was a honour which he highly appreciated, and more especially, when he came after gentlemen who had done so much for the interests of Hull during the past year. Many gentlemen of great reputation, of undoubted ability, and he might say of historic fame, had filled the ancient office, but he did think in that long list of names there was one who had done so much for the future prosperity of Hull, and whose name would be cherished in memory with such high esteem as his predecessor, Colonel Smith (applause). He knew many gentlemen, both inside and outside the Council, who had been most active in the work of the new railway and dock movement, men who had spent their time and money towards this great object; but it remained for Colonel Smith to bring the social position, with his business tact and indefatigable perseverance, to overcome every obstacle and carry out the Act of Parliament (applause). He felt that he could not even hope to emulate Col. Smith in what he had done for the interests of Hull. As a merchant of Hull he knew something of what was necessary for the success of the port, and whatever he had done in the past he should be greatly stimulated by the honour the Council had conferred upon him in doing his utmost to carry that victory which Col. Smith had brought to a successful termination. Col. Smith he knew had appreciated the support which the Corporation had given him in the past, and he was confident that he would be ever ready to do his utmost in his colleagues in the future. He knew, notwithstanding certain croaking individuals, that the ratepayers of Hull fully appreciated the action of the Corporation in this matter, and the inhabitants of Hull would show the world what Colonel Smith had done for the town. With in a short time the prospectuses of the new company would be issued, and he was quite sure that his fellow-townsmen would come forward and prove beyond a doubt that the enterprise of the Corporation was appreciated on the terms were of such a character that the humblest individual would be able to take part in it. He was assured that the scheme would be carried to a successful issue, and he would be sorry on his part if his fellow-townsmen should allow strangers and those who had the courage to take the risk, to be the parties to which they ought to take, in this large and important question (hear, hear, and applause). As he had said, he believed the scheme would be a great and successful issue, and he trusted that the inhabitants of Hull would support it to the utmost, and strive for what had been striven for by the Corporation, and by those gentlemen before them, namely, a thorough independent scheme (applause). He was old enough to remember what disastrous failures had occurred in Hull, and other ports on the east coast once were, and, in spite of their having risen into important ports in consequence of the support they received from large railway companies, and in spite of the great competition that was established, he was quite satisfied that Hull would be able to maintain its position and increase her trade when they got the new railway and dock (applause). He was quite convinced that it would have in it the confidence and energy that Hull would continue to be the great centre for trade that it had been, and that the neighbouring districts and other parts would continue to look upon Hull as their principal port, in spite of the competition to which he had alluded (applause). With the support they would get, there would be the return of the prosperity of some of the old days of Hull, and they would show to the country generally that they had stirred and done something to blot out that which was a disgrace to the town, namely, that it was the only port on the east coast to send one-fourth of its tonnage away in ballast to be loaded elsewhere. He hoped during his official year to see the first sod cut of the railway and dock turned (applause). It would be the greatest pleasure in his life to see this. There were other subjects towards which he would endeavour to confine his time. Next year they were to be favoured with a visit of the great Yorkshire Agricultural Society. With the Mayor at the head of the arrangements they would be sure to get an Sir Edmund Beckett said in the House of Commons, He was at all liberal and feels, but they would show those who came to visit them that the people of Hull knew how to entertain, and that they would show those who came to visit them that the people of Hull knew how to entertain, and that they would show those who came to visit them that the people of Hull knew how to entertain, and that