

544. When did you see him?—On the day of the poll.
545. At what time?—On the forenoon of that day.
546. Well, what did Captain Morris say to you; I am speaking of Captain Morris who was a candidate, and who is here to-day?—Yes. He asked me whom I was going to vote for? I told him I did not know. He said he would give me £1 for my vote, and was “on” to give £1 for any votes I could get him.
547. What did he mean by £1 for any votes?—He said he was “on” to give £1 for any votes I could get him.
548. What did you say?—I told him I never took money for my vote.
549. Did you afterwards prosecute Captain Morris for this, or lay an information against him?—When they summoned me, I asked who had done it, but I could not find out till I got into Court.
550. Did you give information against him?—No, I believe.
551. Captain Morris was committed for trial?—Yes.
552. Were you bound over to go to Auckland?—Yes.
553. Did you go?—No.
554. Why?—I went to Napier to catch the mail steamer, but she did not call in. I had paid my passage-money and this was repaid to me, and I went back home.
555. The bill was then thrown out by the grand jury?—Yes.
556. At all events you never went to Auckland?—No, and I was very glad of it. I did not want to go, and I tried to keep out of the way of this. I was going up country on purpose to get away when the summons came.
557. And you had to come?—Yes.
558. Did you overhear any conversation, or did you have any conversation with Captain Read about what he was paying for votes, or was any question on the subject asked him by any elector?—Captain Read came up to the Court House while I and Captain Morris were talking. When he saw Captain Read coming up, Captain Morris went inside the polling booth, and as soon as Captain Read came up, he asked me what Morris was giving me for my vote. I said, “You had better go and ask him.”
559. What did he say about your vote?—No more: he burst out laughing.
560. I suppose he thought there was something on?—Most decidedly, when he saw me talking to Morris; moreover, Morris asked me to go and see what the other candidates were giving. He said, “We give £1; but if the other candidates are giving that, we will give more.” When Read had left me, I went across to Kelly. I told him I had heard he had voted against Irish immigration, and showed him a copy of what he had said. He said he had not done so; but I asked the Irishmen there if they would vote for a man who had gone against Irish immigration.
561. Did you hear any one ask Captain Read for money for a vote?—I heard two men ask him for £1 for each of their votes, but he said he would see them damned before he would give them a sixpence.
562. *Mr. Shaw.*] You have stated that you never brought any charge against Captain Morris. Is that true?—I never laid an information against him before I was summoned, and I should not have given any information on the subject only Morris gibed me, and said I would be rolled in the mud if I gave any information against him.
563. Where did this take place?—At Gisborne.
564. And had it not been for this circumstance, you would not have informed against him?—No.
565. It was done out of revenge, then?—Not revenge at all.
566. You say you would not have taken action had he not threatened you?—Yes.
567. Did you ever say anything like this at Gisborne after he had threatened you, and you had determined to take your revenge?—It is not revenge.
568. Well, did you say anything like this at Gisborne: “If you will drop this case, I will not swear anything against you; but, mind, I must have my expenses”?—False, false! I never said such a thing.
569. *Mr. Stout.*] What brought you into Gisborne when you lived fifty miles away?—I have land at Gisborne. My business took me there.
570. Did you take any money from Captain Morris?—I never saw the colour of his money; neither would I have taken it. We drank together on the polling day.
571. Was it in the forenoon or afternoon that this drinking took place?—It was in the forenoon, just after we had met.
572. When did this conversation about money take place?—In the afternoon. There were two conversations.
573. Did he offer you £1 on both occasions?—Only in the afternoon; not in the morning.
574. What time was it in the afternoon?—I do not know. We were talking together till the time of the close of the poll.
575. When did you vote?—Just before the close of the poll.
576. *Mr. Wason.*] For whom did you vote?—For Captain Read, the man in the proper place, and for whom all the Poverty Bay people voted.
577. *Mr. Stout.*] Were there two informations laid against Captain Morris?—Exactly.
578. You laid one, and Carpenter the other?—Yes.
579. Did the Magistrate dismiss one?—Yes.
580. Were you summoned to give evidence on your own information?—Yes.
581. Your information was the second one?—Yes.
582. Were you the only witness examined?—I only know I was examined.
583. Was there a polling place where you lived?—No; I had to vote at Gisborne.
584. I see your name appears on the roll, and you are put down as a householder?—Yes; I had a house at Gisborne.
585. You did not vote till near 4 o'clock?—A few minutes before that. They sang out they were going to close the poll, and I went in.