

MR. SHAW'S SPEECH

ON THE HUSTINGS

T-O-D-A-Y.

GENTLEMEN,

Notwithstanding all the calumnies which have been circulated regarding my being connected with this Party or that Party—with this Club or that Club—I stand before you an Independent, Moderate man. And in the choice which you have to make betwixt Mr. Farley Leith and myself, I would simply ask you to consider three points.

The first is—How can Mr. Farley Leith claim to be the representative of a Working-man's Burgh like Aberdeen? Mr. Leith is a respectable Whig: he is an Indian lawyer, knowing practically absolutely nothing of Working-men, of Working-men's wants, or Working-men's habits.

Gentlemen, I was told when I came to Aberdeen that the Working-men would send their own Working-man's Candidate to the Poll—not Sir John Clark, not any representative of an arbitrary Whig Clique, but Mr. Barclay.

If you wish to be true to yourselves, Gentlemen, as Working-men, then, if it is a question between two merely Party men, elect Mr. Barclay, who really is the Working-man's Candidate so far at least as concerns a local knowledge of your wants.

But, Gentlemen, as betwixt Mr. Farley Leith and myself, it is surely not difficult for Working-men to judge which is the better Candidate.

I was born, as I have said before, a Working-boy.

I commenced life as a Working-lad; and my connexion throughout life has been entirely among the Working-classes.

I know their wants, and the great necessities which press upon us for the amelioration of their condition; and, if you send me to Parliament, it is no boast on my part, but the simple God's truth, for me to affirm that, having sprung from yourselves, I shall not yield to any man there, be he who he may, in knowledge and in my earnest endeavours for your wellbeing.

Gentlemen, I repeat that I am an independent man, not going to Parliament as a placehunter, or as a pensionseeker, but thoroughly independent, and thoroughly determined to make use of my position, if returned as your representative, for purposes of real, practical legislation.

Working-men, if you are to have a choice, surely that choice is between me and Mr. Barclay; and were I a working-man in your shoes, apart from the great differences of opinion which exist between Mr. Barclay and myself, I would far rather that Mr. Barclay had my vote than Mr. Farley Leith.

Mr. Farley Leith has been brought here, not by the working-men of Aberdeen, but by an antiquated and would-be despotic Whig clique in this Burgh; and he is not, in any sense, the working-men's candidate.

Gentlemen, I leave you to ponder these remarks.

Weigh them well, and think for yourselves.

Vote early, and give your native townsman the high honour he seeks at your hands.