

value, or rather efface the patriotism of Aberdeen, was most ungracious. The statement of the noble Lord has had an unfortunate effect as concerns himself, while this day's meeting completely covers it with confusion. Sir, I will yield to no one in profound respect for the House of Peers; when I speak of that House I mean only the *Lay Peers*, for as to the *Lords Spiritual* as they are called, I will speak by and by. I say I will yield to no one in profound respect for the House of Peers, and would surely deprecate any unconstitutional meddling with their privileges as a branch of the Legislature, when these privileges are constitutionally exercised in accordance with the fiat of the other branches of the Legislature, the King and Commons, and in unison with the expressed will of the country; but, Sir, the House of Peers has a boundary, and that boundary it has overpassed on the Question of Reform. Sir, they have refused to allow the House of Commons to reform itself, when that House has had the virtue to declare openly and avowedly that it needs reform. Sir, if the House of Commons had not defined the reform which they needed, the House of Peers might have thrown out any general Bill of Reform, perhaps, only in the abstract declaring the need of Reform, if such a Bill could have been presented to their Lordships; but no such airy phantom of a Bill—no such relic of another world, if I may so speak, was exhibited to them. No, a Bill not only palpable, but defined, distinct, and constitutional, was that which was brought to their illustrious bar,—a Bill, on which the eyes of the country have been fixed for months with painful anxiety,—and a Bill carried by an overwhelming majority of the Lower House of Parliament, who by thus carrying it, declared that its provisions were indispensable to their future existence as a British House of Commons. This, Sir, is the Bill which has been thrown out by their Lordships,—thrown out, without being permitted to reach a second reading,—and thrown out in such a way as to affront the House of Commons, and insult the King and the country. Sir, by throwing out the Bill as they have