

“ Full many a gem of purest ray serene,  
 The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear ;  
 Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,  
 and waste its sweetness on the desert air.”

While I thus speak, Sir, I am proud to be a resident in a country in the upper branch of the Legislature of which such splendid eloquence was exhibited, as was displayed on the Question of Reform in the House of Peers. Sir, I believe that no assembly on earth could have equalled the display. Sir, the spirits of Chatham, Pitt, Fox, Grattan, Burke, Flood, Seville, and Canning, must have hovered near, while Demosthenes and Tully must have bent down with benignant complacency, especially when Grey stood forth in the purity of Seneca and the wisdom of Solon, and while that inimitable orator on the woolsack, Brougham, spoke the mightiest oration which, as Lyndhurst said, this country has heard for 50 years. Sir, before I conclude, let me speak to this Meeting as my countrymen. There is, you know, not only a Bill for amending the representation of England, but there is one now in progress for amending the representation of our beloved country, Scotland ;—and needs it not amendment? Why, we have not for our country altogether a larger constituency than 5000 or rather 4500, and this too vitiated by paper votes, and bloated by close borough mockery.—Countrymen, remember that in this land it was that Knox and his fellows, emphatically styled “ Reformers,” snapt asunder the bands of spiritual thralldom ;—that in this land it was that Bruce led on the marshalled squadrons of Caledonia’s sons to glory and to victory ;—that in this land it was that Wallace’ nervous arm brandished high his sword of chivalry in freedom’s cause, with this inscription on its hilt—“ *Veni vidi vici* ;”—finally, that in this land it was that our forefathers of covenanting memory (peace be to their shades) struggled, and sighed, and bled, and groaned, and died, for liberty, civil and religious.—Prove yourselves then the worthy descendants of such noble ancestors, by supporting the House of Commons in their late most constitutional Vote, of confidence in the most patriotic Ministry that ever was