

they should beware. When bishops became statesmen, the Presbyterians taught the people that religion could flourish without bishops, and the hierarchy was dispensed with. Some others may perhaps teach the people that religion may flourish without an establishment. "Yea," quoth Obadiah, "and without clergy, too, canst thou not read thy bible and pray thyself?" Fortunately, the tenantry seem to understand the meaning of the legislature in conferring the elective franchise upon them, and they will have too much spirit to be dictated to by lairds, factors, or clergy. Let them recollect the poor forty-shilling freeholders in Ireland, who were driven to the poll like sheep, to vote at the bidding of their master, by whom they were, as is ever the case in such circumstances, the more oppressed the more abjectly they obeyed. Let them beware of the first step, for if they submit to dictation on the present occasion, it will be a precedent of which they will have cause to repent. Let them vindicate their rights manfully and honourably, and prove that they dare exercise their privilege without the cowardly shield of a ballot box.

Intriguers in politics as well as intriguers in love affairs, endeavour to manage matters with much delicacy, and the greatest possible secrecy, by which means they hope to escape the notice of all who may have any interest in defeating their schemes. They are, however, often narrowly watched, and sometimes detected long before their plans are ripe for execution. The Conservative Club, while devising their plans with the most profound secrecy in Carlton Terrace, and corresponding in equal privacy with Union Terrace, no doubt, were convinced that all would be under seal until mature and ready for carrying into sure effect. They were, therefore, no doubt, astonished when they found all their schemes detected before being matured, and vigorous measures commenced in Aberdeen to counteract them. The Club had been informed by its spies, that a gentleman of liberal principles was highly favoured by a great majority of the people of Aberdeen,—of that class which they were pleased to denominate the *rabble*,—but that