

Aberdeen to require illustration. His uniform support of Reform in Parliament when at a very low ebb, is too well known to require praise. In short, his conduct has been open to the animadversions of his fellow-citizens from his youth, and he would take it much amiss, if I were to set down aught in the appearance of panegyric, were I so inclined. The whole assertions that I have observed in the mass of scurrility that has been circulated from the press so worthy of its employers, are false and frivolous.* That he approved of the system of Borough Government, while he was a member of the council, for a brief space, will be found untrue, by inspection of the columns of *The Aberdeen Chronicle* of

* Sir Michael Bruce and Mr. Bannerman, by countenancing meetings of the people for the purpose of publicly expressing their opinion on political subjects, and petitioning for redress of grievances, have afforded their adversaries and the sycophants of the Conservative Club a subject of severe animadversion. What business, say they, have the rabble, as they are pleased to term the working-people, with politics? How should *they* feel any grievances? Let *them* attend to their work, *they* have nothing else to do with law but to obey! Nothing to do with taxation but to pay! It belongs to *us*, *their superiors*, to manage these matters, and he that countenances them, in calling *our* authority in question, is either a fool or a traitor. To declare the true cause of their disapprobation, however, would not suit the purpose of the Conservatives and their partizans,—calumny must be invented and added, to give effect to their animadversions. Accordingly, these gentlemen have been accused of encouraging the display of seditious and revolutionary flags, and other emblems. That some foolish fellows did carry ridiculous devices in the processions is true; but what could these gentlemen know about what was brought out and carried at half a mile's distance behind them? Neither of them ever saw, nor was it possible that they could see, any of the flags or devices bearing a seditious appearance, nor did they ever hear of them until the accusations against them were published in the hireling prints. That they were the invention of some hireling of the Conservative agents is highly probable. However, let us suppose that, at a fancy-ball, some foolish girls were to appear in dresses not altogether modest or becoming virginity, should we condemn the highly respectable chaste matron, the Lady Patroness of the Meeting?

I should not have noticed this circumstance, had it not found its way into the columns of *The Aberdeen Journal*, hitherto so respectable.