

THE ABERDEEN PIRATE,

A WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

[No. 25.

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PRICE 1D.]

CITY ELECTION.

The long and anxiously looked for day has at length arrived, and the City of Aberdeen, has now a Member, chosen by itself, to represent it in the next Parliament. On Tuesday last, at twelve o'clock noon, the nomination took place on the Husings, which had been erected the day previous, on the Plainstones, immediately in front of the Cross. The Tory Candidate, Mr. Hadden, having last week, withdrawn from the contest, and no other having come forward, Mr. BANNERMAN, after a show of hands had been taken, was declared by the Sheriff duly elected.

Thus has fallen that system of corruption, by which Aberdeen was wont to contribute its *fifth*, in sending a Member to Parliament, and the famous *nineteen*, are, in a corporate capacity, placed in schedule A. It has fallen, but its death will be unmonned, and unlamented—unlamented did we say, no verily—for on Tuesday evening, a number of its relations and friends, met in solemn assembly, and having sung its funeral obsequies, amid the fumes of roast mutton and the punch bowl, consigned it to its native dust.

Notwithstanding the opposition of Mr. Hadden, the election of Mr. Bannerman was by no means uncertain, and although the opposition party were unceasingly dunning our ears about Mr. Bannerman's pre-occupying the ground, and having the start in the field; it was evident he was the popular, and would be the successful candidate. Mr. Bannerman having, in his speech from the Hustings, alluded to this, we shall give it in his own words—

My late opponent has the start of me, I believe, by some 30 years or so; and I should not have noticed the advantage which so long an acquaintance with his fellow-citizens must have given him over me, did I not observe that, in retiring from this contest, he thinks I had an unfair start of him in the election. Now how stands the fact:—From the day I received the requisition, until the day I heard of Mr. Hadden being in the field, nearly 12 months afterwards, I never canvassed an individual, I never solicited a single vote; but no sooner was it ascertained that Mr. Hadden was to be my opponent, than most of you seemed as ready to offer me your support, as I was to ask it. Three Hundred of you sent me the Requisition; now there happen to be upwards of 2000 electors, none of whom were pledged to me, except in so far as those who signed the Requisition considered themselves so; it follows, therefore, that my opponent had no less than 1700 electors to choose him, had they been inclined. Let us, then, hear no more of unfair starts or undue advantages.

Mr. Bannerman will take his seat in Parliament, unfettered by particular pledges, yet he has not concealed his sentiments on the various subjects which will likely come before the next Parliament. We shall give an abstract of these in the order in which he noticed them, which we doubt not, will prove acceptable to our readers.

RETRACEMENT.—You will, Gentlemen, naturally expect from such a Parliament, that it will strictly inquire into and abolish all useless sinecures and over-paid pensions;—and your expectations will be realized. Nothing shall be wanting on my part to promote that necessary enquiry; for, considering the amount and pressure of taxation, I consider that not a farthing should be taken from the National Treasury, unless in payment of services performed, or in lieu of a just obligation. One just obligation, Gentlemen, I consider is, to keep faith with the National Creditor: for were such a monstrous proposition ever to be entertained by Parliament as some "Destructives" have hinted at, from that moment the ruin of this country would ensue. I am happy to say, none of those whom I have the honour to call my supporters ever entertained such an idea.

CURRENCY QUESTION.—The ensuing Parliament, I think, must deal with the Currency question. It is an intricate and a delicate one. But, after the exposures which have been lately made, to which, at present, I need not more particularly allude, no Government will be wise which does not provide for such emergencies in future, by putting the Currency on such a footing as will be commensurate with the immense transactions of this great commercial country. I have no doubt that Parliament will deal with this question, with all the prudence and caution which its importance demands.

CORN LAWS.—In regard to the Corn Laws, my opinion is, that our Ports should be open to the importation of Foreign Corn, at a fixed duty. I think, at the same time, that no foreign corn ought to be bonded in this country, but that the duty, whatever it may be, ought to be paid at the ship's side, on importation, and then the Agriculturists would have less reason to complain.

SLAVERY.—I have had a great deal of conversation on this subject with several of the Established Clergy, and also with those connected with the respectable body of Dissenters, and others; and I have felt duly sensible of the kind and considerate manner in which they have urged my attention to this subject. I trust, therefore, it will be sufficient to assure them that I have done so; that I hate slavery of all kinds; and would support any measure to bring about its speediest abolition, consistent with the safety of the Negroes themselves. It is a question, to say the least of it, attended with some difficulties. They will, I hope, be discussed on their own merits, with temper and moderation, on both sides; and if they are so, I anticipate a happy and a speedy settlement of this question—for it is one which cannot remain long in its present state.

BURGH REFORM.—My late opponent pledged himself to "rational" Burgh Reform. So do I; but, I shall add, full and efficient too—and such as will give satisfaction to the burgh community of Scotland. I believe, (but I do not speak from authority,) that the learned and talented Lord Advocate intends to introduce a general measure. It will be my duty to communicate with his Lordship on this subject, and then with you; and it is needless for me, I hope, to add, that I feel confident your expectations on this subject will be fully and speedily realized.

A few words now as to the present Administration. I observe, that by some pamphleteers of this city, I am honoured with the title of "tool of the Ministers." If, Gentlemen, the giving my support to the promotion of such of their measures as I think may tend to contribute to the peace, happiness, and prosperity of the country, shall entitle me to be called their "tool;" be it so, certainly, with all my heart; upon this condition, however, that when I oppose them in measures which, in my humble opinion, may have a contrary tendency, I be honoured with the title of the "tool of the Tories."

It now remains to be seen, how Mr. Bannerman's conduct in Parliament, will accord with these sentiments, but without pretending to the gift of prescience, we will venture to predict, that the same liberal mindedness, and straight forward disinterestedness, which has hitherto characterized him, will still mark his conduct as a Legislator, and that the Electors of Aberdeen will have no cause to repent, that their choice fell on ALEX. BANNERMAN, Esq.

COUNTY ELECTION.

It would give us infinite pleasure, were the result of the County Election as favourable as that of the City. Were the City and County of Aberdeen to return men of such liberal principles as Sir MICHAEL BRUCE and Mr. BANNERMAN, it were a triumph which would say much for the Electors, while it would, at the same time, crush that Tory influence which has too long had the management of our County affairs, and over-ruled them for the interest of an unworthy faction, while the interests of the community were sacrificed, and made subservient to their political views.

Notwithstanding the interest which the Gordon's (liberal men?) are supposed to possess, we entertain sanguine hopes of the success of Sir M. Bruce, and we trust the result of the poll will not disappoint us.