

propose a resolution, and he should do so in a very few words, being desirous that they should hear Mr Bryce as soon as possible. The motion was—

That the Aberdeen Liberal Association expresses its renewed confidence in Mr Gladstone's Government—(applause)—both at home and abroad, and approves of the programme of measures announced in the Queen's Speech. It was very easy to see and understand from their applause that they quite sympathised with the object of the motion—(applause). It was, in point of fact, a vote of confidence in Mr Gladstone's Government. Since they last met nothing had occurred in any respect to shake their faith in the Government. Experience, on the other hand, made them pleased and happy that they were placed under such an Administration. Even in Ireland they were beginning to see the fruits of the good policy of the Government, especially in the diminution of the number of agrarian outrages. He should not weary them with statistics, but should just mention one or two figures which were given by Mr Trevelyan in his speech to his constituents, and they were concisely put. In the first six months of 1881 there were 991 outrages, not including threatening letters. In the second six months of the same year there were 1257. In the first six months of 1882 there were 1010. The gratifying result was to be found in the second half of 1882, when the agrarian outrages fell to 365—(applause). The number was still very high, but they were happy to see it gradually diminishing, and the "modified peace," as it had been called by Mr Chamberlain—the improvement in Ireland—was very distinctly to be seen. It was quite true that they had to deplore the occurrence of many infamous crimes during the last twelve months, but their only hope in this respect must be that the activity of the police and the firm administration of justice would gradually root out these secret societies which had been the authors of the crimes, and that they should have better security for life and property—(applause). It was not pretended that the measures which had been introduced for the benefit of Ireland were perfect. Already improvements and the necessary remedies had been suggested, and had been urged chiefly from Ulster, and amongst the speeches urging these improvements none was more weighty or more powerful than that of their friend Mr Bryce—(applause). He was bound to say that he thought Mr Gladstone gave very good and sufficient grounds for declining to take up the question of the improvement of the Land Act at present. It was well known that the legislation in England and Scotland was in arrear, that little had been done, and that of the measures which had been mentioned in the Queen's Speech