

account for the result of the contest of 1880 was, he believed, this. It was owing to two causes. It was owing, first, to Liberal organisation, and particularly to the system which they call the Birmingham Caucus—(laughter)—and in the second place, to the profusion of unmeasured invective which was poured upon Conservative policy by Liberal speakers, and particularly by Mr Gladstone—(cheers). That was the explanation of the phenomenon—(laughter)—and it naturally followed from that explanation that the Conservative party, desiring to repeat to their own benefit the sudden change of 1880, and to make the next general election as great a victory for them as that of 1880 was for the Liberals, proposed to imitate the tactics which, as they thought, brought about the Liberal success in 1880. They did that by founding wherever they could in England, and he supposed in Scotland also—in fact, he knew that they were doing so there also—Conservative clubs and associations, but they were very careful to explain that these were entirely free from the obnoxious features of the Birmingham Caucus, the only point in which he had been able to discover a difference being that they were less representative and more partook of the nature of what in Scotland they used to call cliques—(cheers). These organisations, however, did not succeed in England, and the meetings which seemed to be largely attended were those held occasionally in the suburbs of London and the neighbourhood of some of the large manufacturing towns, in the park of some Tory squire or nobleman, who was in the habit of offering as much beer as people could drink—(laughter)—and the honest working men of the neighbourhood, who were Conservative working men for the occasion—(renewed laughter)—came down there with their wives and children, and rambled about the park, and looked in for a few hours in the evening, and heard a Conservative lord and his friends make speeches in abuse of Mr Gladstone and his Government. These were the tactics of the Conservative party, and they believed that if they only reviled the Liberal Government sufficiently they would produce upon the political feelings of the country the same effect as that produced at the general election of 1880, and in Mr Gladstone's Midlothian campaign. Sometimes they ascribed the effect to Mr Gladstone's eloquence, and said that, coming to Scotland and finding the people simple-minded, easily touched in their feelings, ready to be carried away by strong emotions, and totally devoid of caution and prudence, they became intoxicated by the brilliant pictures which Mr Gladstone conjured up, and lost their heads, and that the rest of the country followed their example—(laughter and cheers). The Con-