

forward, genuine, hearty leader than he was—(cheers). And then they relied upon the strength of the principles which they had been taught to cherish. They felt that it was their belief in the value of freedom and in the community of interest pervading all parts of this country that warmed the heart and nerved the arm of every soldier of the Liberal army—(cheers). In that Liberal army the Scottish battalion was perhaps the one on which they laid the most confidence—(cheers). Scotland was the only part of the United Kingdom which did not catch the Jingo fever two years ago. When that fever was spreading throughout all England, and threatening to keep the Conservative party in power, it was Scotland that stood out from first to last, and which never wavered for a moment in adhering to the principles of honour and justice—(cheers). It was Scotland which now contributed the largest part of the Liberal majority. If they depended on England alone they should be in an evil plight, because their English and even their Welsh majority would be a small one, but their Scotch majority enabled them to work the House of Commons, whenever they were able to go to a division, with confidence. There was one thing which made the nation of Scotland and the support which it gave to the country of special value. That was that in Scotland there was for them the most perfect combination of a steadfast adherence to advanced Liberal principles—(cheers)—a conviction of what he might call a robust and manly Liberalism, combined with great caution and temperance as to the time and means of carrying out that policy. There was in Scotland what ought to be the maxim, the watchword of the Liberal party—perfect agreement as to aims, and a strict requirement from all leaders that their aims should be the aims which they held right, but a great tolerance as to the time at which, and the way in which, these aims should be attained. It was in Scotland, he believed, that that idea was best realised, the true idea of democratic progress, a progress which was not hasty nor rash, but steady, constant, unwearied—a progress which was to continue until the people of these islands had gained for themselves a larger measure of knowledge and enlightenment, and had added to the freedom which they now enjoyed a far higher extent, a far wider enjoyment of happiness and of comfort—(cheers). That was the aim upon which the eyes of the Liberal party were fixed, the aim of their leaders in the Ministry and those who represented the people in the House of Commons, and that was the result which they asked the people by their support to enable them to achieve—(loud cheers).