

my notes

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WHIG-RADICAL Festival Extraordinary!

(From the *Aberdeen Observer*, of May 8, 1835.)

This demonstration "came off" as absurdly as could have been expected. The party assembled was sufficiently motley. The upper end of the table presented a pretty considerable contrast to what used to be witnessed when the attendance of "a cluster of baronets" gave the Whigs in this quarter that aristocratical appearance which is the delight of their hearts. The price of the tickets was fixed at 10s. 6d., being nearly double the amount charged for the great Conservative dinner some months ago—a circumstance which makes it difficult to decide, on old Conservative rules of reasoning, what will be the result of the late demonstration. An old proverb says, that "it is easier to haud out than to put out." But we have the most "clear, sensible, and judicious" reasons for believing that a 6s. dinner turned out a ministry based on the affections of the people, and it is not easy to see why a 10s. 6d. one should be required to keep them in. We must, however, leave the matter for the decision of such ready reckoners as Mr Joseph Hume, who may be able to lay down the necessary tables for shewing the exactly requisite price of a dinner ticket calculated for turning out or keeping in any given ministry, under any possible circumstances.—So much by way of preamble.

The cloth having been removed, not *quite* in such a cleanly state as when it was laid down, the Chairman proposed "The King," which was drank with loud cheers by a section of the company. The band struck up "Willie brewed a peck of maut," and were called to order by a fiery-faced gentleman, who swore that they were Tories in disguise, watching an opportunity to compliment the Hon. Captain Gordon!

The Chairman then proposed, "The Queen," and slyly parodied the words of Lord Jenkins Vaux, "The Queen has *not* done it all." Roars of laughter and applause prevented us from hearing the music.

The Chairman then rose, and spoke to the following effect. I am happy, my friends, to meet you under such auspicious circumstances. (Applause.) I say, under such auspicious circumstances, seeing that we have turned out the Tories, without allowing them time fairly to propound what they called their measures of Reform to the country. (Loud Approbation.) You are aware that they brought forward a Dis-senters' Marriage Bill—which, by the bye, I see the Town Treasurer