

of Paisley, has designated as a measure, for settling the most important contract "between man and man." (Roars of laughter and applause.) Well, this Bill gave very general satisfaction. (Cries of No! No!) I say, gentlemen, it did give a good deal of satisfaction; and what might have been the consequence? Why, the people might have been blinded by such measures to the tyrannical disposition of the Tories, and the country might have been enslaved without knowing any thing about it. (Huzzaing for ten minutes.) This is my view of the subject. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, a good deal has been said as to why Lord Brougham is not in the Cabinet. My opinion is, that he is better out than in. ("Yes! Yes! no doubt about it.") Don't mistake me. I mean that he will be more useful than formerly, in extending the privileges of the people. He will now do nothing towards turning aside the pressure from without—just like the Breakwater at the Aberdeen Harbour. (Thunders of laughter and applause.) You are aware, gentlemen, that great exertions have been made to prevent members of the present ministry from being returned to Parliament, and among the rest, my friend the Lord Advocate. They have made a great fuss about his having played three games at Back-gammon on a Sunday, but if he had made a voyage to Greenland he could have told them, what every sailor knows, that there is no such thing as a Sunday in fifteen fathoms water. (Roars.) However, perhaps the learned Lord had not been able to ascertain the soundings. (Reiterated bursts.) But this is nothing. When I stated my views to you about the John Bull and the six-shillings dinner, I mentioned that Parliament would likely be dissolved on the 18th December, the very day two years after you returned me as your first representative to Parliament. Gentlemen, this anticipation was not fulfilled. But it is a curious coincidence that that worthy Burgess **Gilbert Harvie**, died on the 18th December, 1656—exactly one hundred and seventy-six years before you did me the honour unanimously to elect me your first representative to the Commons House of Parliament. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, this *is* curious—and you may verify the fact, by examining Burgess Harvie's tomb-stone, near the north-west corner of the West Church. But, Gentlemen, this is rather a *grave* subject. (Tremendous bursts of laughter and applause.) I shall now say a word or two about the present aspect of political affairs. Gentlemen, I have lately been asked my opinions regarding Vote by Ballot, and the Trinity Harbour Bill. I have already told you that I do not think well of the Ballot, but if it is your pleasure, I shall support it cheerfully. I must say, however, that I have doubts whether the Ballot would not benefit the Tories. (Cries of No! No! and yells.) Gentlemen, would you like to forward the cause of the Tories? (No! No!) I am sure you would not—neither would I. (Cheers.) Then I must warn you to beware of the Ballot—I do fear that it would be beneficial to Toryism. (Cries of "No! No! Where's your proof?") Gentlemen, since you push me so hard, I shall answer you. I would not say one word disrespectful to the Magistrates and Town Council—not one word;

and I am sure you would be angry with me if I did. (Cheers and hisses.) Gentlemen, you will recollect the recent appointment of a physician to Gordon's Hospital. (A groan.) I need say no more than that that election was made by ballot, and that a Whig was *not* appointed to the office. (Another groan.) Now, gentlemen, you will recollect of another appointment, that was not long since made in the same Institution. On that occasion, the election was *not* by ballot, and a Whig was appointed, notwithstanding that some of the conservative candidates had higher claims on the favourable consideration of the patrons. (Murmurs.) Gentlemen, I will not say that the independent members of the Town Council were under the influence of Whig intimidation on this last occasion, but this I will say, again and again—Beware of the Ballot. With regard to the Trinity Harbour Bill, it is a most important question, and shall receive my best attention. I am aware that low-water accommodation is much wanted in that quarter, and that it would be a great advantage to our excellent Leith Steam Vessels to get along-side of the Quay at all times of the tide. But, gentlemen, I must not forget that government has a large sum invested in the Leith Docks, and that they are, of course, interested in keeping up the Shore-dues of Leith. ("Who cares for that, if the public are ill served?") Would you wish me, gentlemen, to embarrass the Melbourne Administration? (Cheers and hisses.) I shall only say, in the meantime, that if my friend Colonel Leith Hay continue to support the Trinity Harbour Bill, now that he is again Clerk of the Ordnance—why then so shall I. (Cheers.) I say again, that in that case, I shall certainly support the Bill. (Renewed cheers.) But I am detaining you too long. I shall conclude, by assuring you, that I have the most complete constitutional confidence in the present Government, and by proposing as a toast, the health of Lord Melbourne, and long life and prosperity to his administration. The toast was received with loud cheers. The band perversely struck up "I'm wearin' awa', Jean," and were ejected from the Orchestra,—their place being soon after taken by a hurdy-gurdy player, who was impressed for the service, at the head of the Windmill Brae.

The Chairman then proposed "The People," which the people received with loud cheers. The hurdy-gurdy struck up the revolutionary tune "Ca Ira," which was much applauded by a few gentlemen, who were curious in Jacobinism and French music.

After giving "The Navy," "The Army," and a few more unimportant toasts, the Chairman said that many reflections had been cast on the party who now bore sway in the country, because they were indebted for their elevation to a combination of men who, on some points, held different opinions. He saw nothing in this. He could have no personal partiality for Mr O'Connell, seeing that that gentleman had spoken disrespectfully of him (the Chairman), and called him a raw-boned Scotchman of six feet high. The Chairman concluded a long speech, in course of which he stated his exact height to the twelfth part of an inch, by proposing "The Irish