

didate they had resolved to support and the Committee, Mr. Lessel Stephen, advocate, Aberdeen (Mr. M'Combie's election agent), was appointed secretary; and it was remitted to the Acting Committee to take such steps as they might think best to secure as many adherents as possible, both to Mr. M'Combie and the cause which the Committee seek to promote.

Such is a brief outline of the Committee's proceedings, and in thus freely avowing the objects they seek to attain, the Committee give a proof that they hope to exercise an influence in the election of the Representatives for the County only by acting in conformity with the interests of all classes of the electors, to whose intelligence they appeal in support of the Liberal and enlightened principles avowed, and claim their confidence and co-operation so long as the Committee promote these principles and act as exponents of their wishes.

Mr. M'Combie, a tenant farmer of high position, and who has taken a leading part in agricultural questions, both in the County and as President of the Chamber of Agriculture, being a candidate for the representation of the Western Division of the County, and having in his Address to the Electors expressed convictions in accordance with those of the great body of the constituency, the Committee, believing that his return to Parliament would be a step towards the realisation of their ideas, resolved to give him their support, and now solicit the co-operation of the electors in promoting his candidature, by their influence and votes.

ABERDEEN, July, 1868.

## THE REPRESENTATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL INTEREST IN PARLIAMENT.

It is evident from the growing feeling, not only among those more immediately interested in agriculture, but among all who turn their attention to social politics, that the laws affecting the cultivation of the soil and the tenure of land generally — what for the sake of brevity, we shall call the Land Question — will form, perhaps, the most important subject with which the Reformed Parliament will have to deal.

Lord Stanley, one of the most able and far-seeing statesmen of the day, recognises that the Land Question is, more than any other grievance, the cause of the chronic discontent and sedition in Ireland; and, as the unsatisfactory condition of that country will be the means of urging this subject on the attention of Parliament, Ireland will doubtless form the battle-field on which the question is to be fought.

Palliatives of various sorts, with no better recommendation than expediency, we may expect, but any readjustment of the relations between landlord and tenant calculated to produce peace and contentment, must be based on principles of justice and equity to both; — providing, on the one hand, due payment of a fair rent to the landholder, and, on the other, security of possession to the tenant, with the right to reap the full return for the capital and industry expended by him on the soil.

As regards the holding of land, however, there is nothing peculiar in the case of Ireland, and we may rest assured that, when these principles are applied to cure evils existing in that country, their application cannot long be withheld from the sister kingdoms.

But, however desirable the settlement of this Land Question may be, there is little hope of a true solution of the difficulties surrounding it, until the tenant's side of the question be clearly