

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

FOR

THE CITY OF ABERDEEN.

Mr. Bannerman's Speech.

On Wednesday last, the nomination of the Candidates for the Representation of the City of Aberdeen took place on the hustings erected at the Cross. Mr. Bannerman and Sir Arthur Farquhar, accompanied by their respective friends, came to the ground a few minutes before the time appointed for proceeding with the Election. At twelve o'clock, the Sheriff took his place upon the hustings; and, after reading the Writ and Act against Bribery, requested any gentleman who intended to propose a Candidate to come forward.

Provost BLAIRIE then stood forward, amidst much cheering, and said—Gentlemen, the principles, the character, the Parliamentary conduct of Mr. Bannerman, our late Representative, are here so generally known, that I allude to them only for the purpose of remarking that, in the event of his being again returned to Parliament, they offer, in my opinion, the surest pledge that no man will more zealously and perseveringly exert himself to reform, amend, and correct real abuses and defects, *(cheers)* or more strenuously and anxiously oppose every measure which he considers may tend either to endanger the constitution, or to injure or destroy the venerated institutions of the country—*(cheers)*. On Mr. Bannerman's ability to fill the important and responsible situation, to which he aspires, with credit to himself and his constituents, it is equally unnecessary for me to enlarge. He has passed his life amongst us actively employed in extensive mercantile and manufacturing pursuits, and has acquired a knowledge of the theory and practice of business and of trade, which, conjoined with his experience in the detail of Parliamentary procedure, eminently qualify him to represent any commercial community whatsoever; while his intimate acquaintance with the local interests of Aberdeen, in addition to his other qualifications, peculiarly fit him for being our Representative—*(cheers)*. We have tried him too, and in a Parliament remarkable for the importance and extent of its labours. He showed himself equal to the task he had undertaken; we have not found him unworthy of the confidence we reposed in him. Why, then, Electors, should we now desert him?—*(loud and continued cheering)*. Holding these opinions, gentlemen, I feel that, besides performing a grateful act of courtesy towards an early and intimate friend, I am at the same time discharging a public duty to my fellow-citizens in recommending Mr. Bannerman to your favourable consideration, and in proposing him as a fit and proper person to represent the city of Aberdeen in the ensuing Parliament—which I have now the honour to do—*(cheers)*. Permit me, gentlemen, before retiring, to thank you for the indulgence you have kindly extended towards me, and to request the same patient hearing to every gentleman who may wish to address you; so that the nomination may be conducted in such a quiet, orderly, and impartial manner as must give satisfaction to all parties and reflect credit on us all—*(loud cheers)*.

The nomination was seconded by Principal JACK.

Mr. GAVIN HADDEN then nominated Sir ARTHUR FARQUHAR, and Mr. ALEXANDER FORDYCE seconded the motion.

Mr. BANNERMAN then stood forward amidst enthusiastic cheering and said—Gentlemen, after two years' experience of my Parliamentary conduct, I venture again to appear before you on these hustings. The Lord Provost of Aberdeen has done me the honor to nominate me as a fit and proper person again to represent you in Parliament—*(loud cheers)*. Gentlemen, I imagine the Provost of this large city has a pretty shrewd guess of the feeling of its electors; but, be that as it may, I am confident that every my opponents will admit that Provost Blairie is the last man who would introduce to your notice an individual who would aid in overturning any of the institutions of the country—*(cheers)*—institutions which it has been said were menaced on all sides—and institutions which it has been falsely asserted the late House of Commons had doomed to destruction. I ought to know something of the late Parliament; for I attended it during two Sessions, morning, noon, and night, and as I happened to know personally most of its members, I can assure you that I never sat in an assembly, the members of which, with some few exceptions, were more anxious to preserve the institutions of their country than they were—but to preserve them in the way in which old and beautiful trees are preserved—by lopping off the old useless branches and clearing away from their trunks those excrescences and funguses which indicate corruption and which would be sure to end in decay—*(loud cheers)*. I am opposed on this occasion by a gallant officer, who comes forward, as he says, on Conservative principles—*(laughter)*—a "Conservative in the best sense of the word, but one who will not eschew the pruning-knife"—*(great laughter)*. If such be indeed the case, all I have to say, is, ponder well, ye preservers of the institutions of our country, before you go to the poll upon Friday morning—ponder well, I say, upon this pruning-knife—*(cheers and laughter)*. But before I proceed further, gentlemen, allow me to say a word or two about my gallant opponent, for whom I entertain feelings of the highest respect, and who is a brave and excellent officer. The first time on which I saw Sir Arthur Farquhar was in this roadstead. I happened then to be going out of the harbour in my sailing boat, carrying a greater press of canvas than I have done upon this occasion—*(laughter)*—and as I approached his barge too closely and to windward, I was hailed in passing and told that I should not have done so. I did it inadvertently; but now I meet my gallant friend (as I trust I may call him) on fair and equal terms, only as a political opponent. And I think he and his friends will allow that I have not now attempted to get to the windward of him in any way—

(loud cheers). I wish to give him every fair chance of obtaining the object of his ambition, but, at the same time, I shall do all in my power to prevent him from doing so, by claiming your support upon those principles which I have hitherto advocated, and which I shall hereafter continue to maintain—*(loud cheers)*. My gallant friend has been accustomed to the use of heavy metal, and he has used it to some purpose in the service of his country; but, on this occasion, he will find mortars of no use, thirty-twos, unserviceable, and long twenty-fours and short eights, all reduced to the calibre of the efficient ten-pounders—*(repeated cheering)*. These are the guns to which I trust, and which will be found most effectual in his Majesty's service, for hammering out the dust and clearing away the cobwebs which have so long defiled the vessel of the State. I have been told, gentlemen, that I have hurt the cause of Reform and my own cause by not canvassing—*(cries of "No, no")*. Well, I do not believe it. I may have lost some votes by not canvassing; for there are some men belonging to all large constituencies who have not two ideas in their heads, and who seem to place no value upon their elective franchise. I think, however, in the course of a year or two the system of canvassing will be entirely done away with—*(cheers)*. I have also heard that some old ladies are become frightfully nervous and alarmed about the result of this election, and that one or two of them have been canvassing against me—using this argument, that all respectable people supported my opponent, but at the same time naturally wishing and endeavouring to obtain a few of my non-respectables to swell his numbers—*(great laughter)*. But I am happy to say that a magnificent majority of all that is magnificent among my fair townswomen give me their good wishes. Their good wishes are all I ask; and for these I return them my sincere and grateful thanks—*(loud cheers)*. But it will break my heart should any Lady Canvasser faint upon taking a peep at the poll on Saturday evening; and if any of them be now within my hearing, let me comfort them by reminding them that there are some old ladies who are not such adorers of every thing Conservative; for one in Threadneedle Street, that is very influential and very rich—I mean the Bank of England—has returned to Parliament, by the aid of the good citizens of London, the head of her establishment, a most capital Reformer—*(laughter)*. But, it may be said that, though I myself did not canvass, yet my Committee have done so. To be sure they have; and it was high time for them, when they saw a Committee upon the other side—a Committee which did not appear to me to be a Committee of Supply, nor a Committee of Ways and Means, and if it was intended for a Select Committee, it might, I think, have been better chosen; but it strikes me, if I may be permitted to say so, that it is a Committee of almost the Whole House—*(loud laughter and cheers)*. There is a district in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen where Toryism used to be in disrepute—several of the electors in that district inform me that some of the Committee of the Whole House told them that I have turned a tremendous Tory, and that I was quite indifferent with regard to the result of this election. I was also informed by the same persons that a paper, which is published here upon Friday, had last week been largely circulated through that district—I mean Woodside. This paper—but it is necessary for me here to quote very correctly—*(laughter)*—gives me a very high Conservative character. It says—"He is to support the Church Establishments in these kingdoms—endeavour to leave the Dissenters without a grievance to complain of; and he is to support in Parliament any good measure, by whatever Minister it may be introduced. Now, in most of these opinions every Conservative would almost 'entirely concur,' as they are so just and reasonable; but they are unpopular, which, in our estimation, is a high commendation of them." This might all have been very unsatisfactory to the voters in Woodside; but mark you, electors, what follows—"He seems to have no confidence in Ministers—the public ought to have no confidence in him." This is what I call hitting the nail upon the head; and I have to thank the person who has so dexterously used the hammer. I have, indeed, no confidence in the present Ministry—*(repeated cheering)*. As I said before, I will factiously oppose no Administration. I will support any and all measures, by whomsoever they may be brought forward, which I think will prove conducive to the welfare of the country; but I again repeat *(said Mr. Bannerman, with much energy)*—I again repeat that I place no confidence in the present Ministry—*(loud and long-continued cheering)*. This is strong language; but it is plain, and it is such as, I trust, will be understood. It is also Parliamentary phraseology, and has been used by Sir Robert Peel and the Duke of Wellington, over and over again, in speaking of Lord Grey's and Lord Melbourne's Administrations. It is language which my gallant opponent will perfectly understand. If he has any confidence in the present Ministers, he will say so, and he is bound to support them; but I certainly shall not—*(loud cheers)*. As I shall again have an opportunity of addressing you upon Monday next, I shall not at present trespass longer on your time. It is the King's prerogative to dissolve the Parliament; it is the privilege of the people to return their representatives; and it is your duty to elect the 65th part of that House of Commons in which will be decided questions deeply involving the happiness, the safety, the peace, and the prosperity of the country—*(cheers)*. Allow me to remind you that the poll opens on Friday morning at nine o'clock. Be at your posts; and as I am opposed by a man of war upon this occasion, I leave it to you to return me to Parliament with a first-rate majority—*(loud and long-continued cheering)*.

Sir ARTHUR FARQUHAR then addressed the Electors amidst considerable confusion, and, after a vote of thanks to the Sheriff, proposed by Sir ALEXANDER BANNERMAN, the meeting quietly dispersed.