

# GRAND REFORM MEETING, ON THE BROAD HILL OF THE LINKS.

AT a GENERAL MEETING of the Noblemen, Freeholders, Commissioners of Supply, Justices of the Peace, and other Landowners and Tenants of the County, and of the Burgesses, Proprietors, Heritors, Householders, and Inhabitants of the City of Aberdeen and its vicinity, favourable to Reform, (called by public advertisement,) held on the Broad Hill of the Links of Aberdeen, the 18th day of May, 1832:

On the motion of the Very Reverend WILLIAM JACK, D.D. Principal of King's College and University of Aberdeen, SIR MICHAEL BRUCE of Stenhouse and Scotstown, Bart. was called to the Chair.

On the motion of GENERAL HAY, of Rannes, seconded by ALEXANDER BANNERMAN, Esq. Merchant, it was unanimously resolved,

I.—That the Meeting view with feelings of unmingled sorrow and disappointment the recent vote of the House of Lords, whereby the Measure of Reform, proposed by the late Ministers of the Crown by his Majesty's command, twice signified from the Throne, approved of by the House of Commons, and received with the warmest gratitude by the Nation, has been again defeated—thus the whole fabric of the British Constitution has been placed in jeopardy, the peace of the country endangered, and the just hopes and expectations of the people for the present frustrated and blasted.

On the motion of Sir JOHN FORBES, of Craigievar, Bart. seconded by ALEX. BLACKIE, Esq. Banker, it was unanimously resolved,

II.—That the Meeting justly appreciate the patriotic and unexampled exertions of the Right Honourable EARL GREY and his Colleagues, in support of the great Measure of Reform—and deeply deplore that so zealous, able, and enlightened advisers of the Crown, possessing as they continue to do, the unabated confidence of the nation, should have felt themselves compelled to retire from office, at a time, when their services were so necessary for the salvation of the country.

On the motion of THOMAS BURNETT, Esq. younger of Leys, seconded by JOHN M. GERRARD, Esq. of Midstrath, it was unanimously resolved,

III.—That, as it is the constitutional right of the Commons to withhold thronal supplies, the Meeting earnestly and ardently trust, that that Honourable House may not shrink from the application of so salutary a remedy, until a Bill equally efficient and extensive with the one which has been already passed by the House, shall become the law of the land.

On the motion of ALEX. KILGOUR, Esq. Surgeon, seconded by JAMES FORBES, Esq. of Echt, it was unanimously resolved,

IV.—That a Petition, to the House of Commons, founded on these Resolutions be forthwith prepared; and as the Meeting observe with astonishment, that the name of the present Member for this District of Burghs, who so distinctly pledged himself to the Reform Cause, and to which pledge he exclusively owes his seat in Parliament, is not mentioned in the division in favour of Lord EBRINGTON'S Motion—they do therefore, resolve, that Mr. HUME, the former Member for these Burghs, now Member for Middlesex, be requested to present and support the Petition, and that the Thanks of this Meeting be at the same time conveyed to him for his steady and unflinching support of the Cause of Reform.

On the motion of ALEX. STRONACH, Esq. of Drumallan, seconded by JAMES NICOL, Esq. Advocate, it was unanimously resolved,

V.—That petitions in favour of Reform, from this County with upwards of 15,000 signatures, and from this City with upwards of 8,000 signatures, having been so lately presented to Parliament, the Meeting, anxious to have an early opportunity of conveying their sentiments to the House of Commons, appoint the Petition to be subscribed by the Chairman, in name and on behalf of the Meeting—and that copies of these Resolutions, be transmitted to each of his Majesty's late Ministers, and to the Members of Parliament connected with the County and City of Aberdeen.

On the motion of WILLIAM ALLARDYCE, Esq. Wine Merchant, seconded by HARRY LEITH LUMSDEN, Esq. of Auchindoir, it was unanimously resolved,

VI.—That the thanks of the Meeting are due to Viscount EBRINGTON and the other Patriotic Members of the House of Commons, who supported the Resolutions proposed by his Lordship, on the occasion of the Resignation of Ministers, and that the Chairman be requested to convey the same to his Lordship.

On the motion of WILLIAM MOIR, Esq. of Park, seconded by ALEXANDER FORBES, Esq. of Ainslie, Wine Merchant, it was unanimously resolved,

VII.—That these Resolutions be published in the *Aberdeen Chronicle and Journal*, *Edinburgh Scotsman*, and *London Sun Newspapers*.

MICHAEL BRUCE, Chairman.

Sir MICHAEL BRUCE having left the Chair, it was taken by Sir JOHN FORBES, and, on the motion of PATRICK KILGOUR, Esq. of Woodside, seconded by Baillie MILNE, the thanks of the Meeting were unanimously voted to Sir Michael Bruce, for his conduct in the Chair.

JOHN FORBES, P.

JOHN ANGUS, Secretary.

# GREAT REFORM MEETING, ON THE BROAD HILL OF THE LINKS.

[From the Aberdeen Chronicle, May 19, 1832.]

Yesterday, agreeably to the Resolutions of their respective Committees, the great Reform Meeting of the Inhabitants of this City and County was held on the Broadhill of the Links, and presented the most splendid and imposing spectacle we ever remember to have witnessed. The state of the weather during the early part of the day was rather unfavourable, but was not such as to prevent any of those who were ardent in the cause from coming forward; and by the time the procession reached the Royal Hotel, the day had cleared up, and the sun shone forth with splendour on the varied scene. Early in the morning, the Union Flag was hoisted on the summit of the Broadhill, where it continued flying during the whole day—and the vessels in the Harbour in a line of nearly a mile were splendidly decorated with their various ensigns and colours. The different trades began to muster in Union Street West, about half-past one o'clock, and drew up, with the utmost regularity, in the order of procession previously arranged. They carried some hundreds of appropriate banners and insignia, and were arrayed many of them in showy, all of them in becoming dresses. We forbear making comparisons;—if there were differences in their outward attire, there were none in the sentiments with which they were animated. About half-past two, they moved, accompanied by several bands of music, in the following order:—

Founders, Blacksmiths, and Engineers. Bleachers. Weavers. Paper Makers. Flax Dressers. Thread Lappers. Sawyers. White Fishers. Rope Makers. Tanners. Tobacco Spinners. Residents at Gilcomston. Carriers. Ship Wrights. Rope Makers, &c. The Seven Incorporated Junior Trades marched to the Links in the rear of the Procession.

On reaching the Royal Hotel, they were headed by the Reform Committees, and a number of gentlemen who wished to testify

their zeal in the good cause, by taking part in the procession. Besides these we have mentioned, there were deputations from Fintray Inverury, Kintore, Monymusk, &c. and many of the tenantry of the principal estates in this neighbourhood. The whole assemblage, when thus marshalled, presented a most striking appearance. One unbroken moving mass extended from the further end of Union Street West to Castle Street. The windows were filled with ladies favourable, we presume, to the cause of Reform; and here and there we observed an anti-reformer attempting to laugh. Whilst the whole of this spacious Street was thus completely blocked up, several thousands were scattered through the other streets along which the procession was expected to pass, and many, more anxious to hear the speeches than behold the spectacle, had preoccupied the space on the hills and around the hustings in the links. Altogether, we are convinced we do not over-estimate the number present, when we state that it was from thirty to forty thousand. This calculation we give on the authority of several military gentlemen who were on the ground. The route of procession was from Union Street West—along Union Street to the Royal Hotel, where the several Bands played "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled,"—"Blue Bonnets over the Border," and other national airs, while the Members of the Reform Committee took their places in the procession, which they did amidst loud cheers. It then moved along Union Street—Castle Street—and when passing the head quarters of our self-constituted Tory Magistracy, showed evident marks of indignation and contempt by groans and hisses.—It then proceeded along King Street—Frederick Street—and Constitution Street, to the Links. The scene which appeared to us most imposing, was that which the Links presented as the rear of the procession entered it. The Broadhill covered with spectators, the trades, &c. in their winding line of march, some of them surrounding the hustings, others ascending the hill, their banners streaming in the wind, the cheers of the enthusiastic assemblage, and the frequent discharge of several pieces of ordnance—the various bands of music—and the "pibroch shrill," all contributed to increase the effect. We could not at this time avoid reflecting with how different feelings and intentions the same multitude might have assembled, had their rights been sacrificed to their enemies and deceivers—what gratitude we owe to those who have calmed the raging torrent, and how unlike British wisdom and British generosity is the conduct of those who would have sacrificed the tranquillity of a happy land for the gratification of their own selfish and degrading inclinations.

The following are the principal mottoes and devices exhibited on the occasion. And we may remark, that at no previous time have we seen the Flags and Banners so tastefully got up.

The Patriots Russel, Grey, and Brougham. A Bishop should be blameless. Scotland do your duty, shoulder to shoulder and forward. Reform or Ruin: Britons stand firm, ready aye ready. From Buckingham, Bishops, and Rotten Burghs, good Lord deliver us. Grey resigns, Britain weeps, and Europe mourns. No German Despotism. Scotland and Liberty. Earl Grey and the Ministry. Deceived, but not defeated. Let Kings beware. Burgh Reform. Put not your trust in Princes. May Union of effort be crowned with success. We are in the right, and must triumph. Free Press—Aberdeen Chronicle, the staunch Friend of Reform, Nail our Flag to the Mast, and bravely defend our Rights. The Triumph of the People. A bundle of rods bound together, surmounted by a Battle Axe, with the inscription "We are Firm." St. Andrew's Cross, with the inscription, "A thorough repair to the Constitution, but no patching." A death's head and cross bones in the centre, with the motto, "Liberty or Death" above, and "Reform or no Taxes" below. "The Advocate of the People, Aberdeen Chronicle," on one side, and on the other, "The Tool of the Rotten System, Aberdeen Observer." A Flag—with three Coffins painted on it, and the inscriptions, "Taxes, Wellington, Bishops." In one corner, a half-length figure of the Duke of Wellington sitting in a thoughtful posture, the fore finger of the right hand resting on his forehead, while the other hand is raised to his mouth with a pill between his fingers; a figure of the Devil is seen peeping over the back of the chair, who exclaims "He is all my own," the inscription, "Reform Pills" at the top; in the centre, as if issuing from the figure, "O them radical Grey Pills!!!" and at the bottom, "Never mind, Arthur, swallow, they will work well." The Crown, with a petticoat attached, and two legs peeping from under, well clad in Wellington boots, with the motto, "Reforms Petticoats, altered to the fashion, by Cumberland and Co." A beautiful model of a 74 gun Ship, fully rigged—carried by Carpenters. This vessel was placed near the left of the Chairman on the Hustings, and was much admired. Tri-colour—with "Liberty or Death." The following no doubt alluded to the Member for this District of Burghs, and was exhibited on two large flags, having a figure of a "Rat" painted on each corner: *Horatio*. O day and night, but this is wondrous strange! *Hamlet*. And therefore as a stranger give it welcome. There are more things in heaven and earth. "*HORATIO*," than are dreamt of in your philosophy.—*Hamlet*. There's ne'er a villain dwelling in all Denmark, but he's an arrant knave. *Horatio*. These are but wild and whirling words, my Lord. *Hamlet*. I am sorry they offend you—heartyly; yes, faith, heartily. *Horatio*. There's no offence, my Lord. *Hamlet*. Yes, by St. Patrick—but there is, "*HORATIO*," and much offence too.

We had almost forgot to mention one part of the procession which attracted particular attention. We allude to about a hundred carters mounted on their horses. Had Wellington had recourse to the army to "quiet the country," these heroes, we think, could have stood a charge; we can at least vow for it, they would not have disgraced themselves by a rapid retreat.

The meeting, which was originally intended as a demonstration, in case of accidents, of the power and determination of a united people, was converted by the glorious news of the morning into a triumph. It is quite impossible for any one who was not present to form a conception of the unmingled rejoicing which characterised the scene. Every genuine reformer will, even in the solitude of his closet, feel his heart exult when the joyous intelligence reaches him, but it is only he who has joined in the triumphant shouts of tens of thousands of men, whose principles and feelings are congenial to his own, who can say that he has felt the full ecstasy produced by the triumph of truth, honour, and integrity over falsehood, treachery, and duplicity, by the restoration of a nation from dismay, indignation, and confusion, to confidence, joy, and order, by the defeat of the last base attempt that can be made to overthrow hopes long cherished, often disappointed, but now on the point of being realized.

There was one feature which characterised this procession and meeting, namely the complete union of the highest and lowest classes in one common mass, which may we think be considered a pretty certain index of the feeling which pervades all ranks, and of the fixed and irresistible determination which would have been exhibited had necessity so required. Happily that necessity has disappeared, and, although the resolutions passed, and most of the speeches made at the meeting of yesterday still suppose the possibility of an attempt being made to form a Tory ministry, no official announcement to the contrary having yet been made, the immediate return of our old and well tried friends to that power which they have uniformly shown themselves disposed to exercise for the good of the nation may now be regarded as certain.

When the Procession had reached the Hustings, which we observed were occupied by many of the most respectable and leading families of both County and City, and the various Trades and others had taken their places—the Bands of Music which were stationed

in front, played "God save the King."—the whole multitude uncovered.

Principal JACK, in moving that Sir MICHAEL BRUCE do take the Chair, spoke as follows:—

The present Meeting was called under feelings of disappointment and alarm. Our Sovereign seemed for a moment to have forgotten what was due to himself and to his people! There is but one man in the nation who has had the boldness to say "That no Reform was wanted," and we had reason to fear that he was the person who would become his Majesty's principal adviser! In such circumstances, it became the duty of every one in whose heart dwelt the principle of Christian benevolence, love of his fellow-creatures, or even self-love, to stand firm to the cause of freedom and of justice. I am a private individual, whose advice can have little weight, yet, my conscience would accuse me as wanting in my duty to my country, were I not boldly to proclaim my attachment to its constitution, in the true sense of that term. The great excellence of the British Constitution consists in its capacity of adapting itself to the circumstances of the times. The enemies of Reform would render abuses perpetual, and forbid improvement. They are the true enemies of the constitution, who refuse to the people a just representation. Our late—and happily, now, our present—administration perceived what was wanting, and saw also that now was the moment best fitted for correcting the errors, and rooting out some of the most flagrant abuses, that had crept into its frame. These objects will be accomplished, my friends. By the accounts of to-day, we have reason to think that his Majesty has recalled to his councils the friends of the people; and now, in place of deprecating the evils that we feared, we have the pleasure to congratulate our King, our country, and each other, on the happy prospect of peace, order, justice, and freedom, in our land! I beg leave to propose, that Sir Michael Bruce, Bart. do take the Chair—a gentleman who has openly and uniformly professed the noble principles of freedom and Reform. (Loud cheers.)

SIR MICHAEL BRUCE, having amid loud applause taken the Chair, proposed that Mr John Angus, Advocate, should be Secretary to the Meeting. Mr Angus, then read the Requisition.

SIR MICHAEL BRUCE.—Brother Reformers, you have heard the requisition which has this day called us together. I am happy that the responsibility which we assumed, has been responded to by so numerous and so highly respectable an assemblage. The crisis (to which the country has been brought is indeed an awful one; but I look to your firmness and independency, to extricate us from the danger which threatens us. I know with what zeal our ancestors, true Scotchmen, achieved for themselves religious freedom; and I hope that in a very short time, and by constitutional means—(cheers)—the great measure which we have all so much at heart will be consummated. It was but yesterday that we thought a blight had fallen on the bill, but to-day the cloud has passed away, and the sun has shone on our hopes brighter than before. (Cheers.) Yesterday, we thought the bill was in jeopardy, for a party hostile to its provisions had apparently triumphed over all our wishes; but we learn to-day that that triumph has fallen from their hands—(cheers)—and that the firm, liberal, and constitutional ministry has been restored to the cabinet from which they had been but a moment removed. (Tremendous cheering.) It is time this great question were settled. Trade is in a languishing condition; but, under our now brighter prospects, I am confident that there will be a speedy and final settlement of the measure. I am glad to see before me such a very numerous body of my countrymen, and I hope that the next time I shall have the pleasure of meeting you will be to address you in congratulation upon the achievement of all our hopes. (Cheers.) I need not detain you farther at present, as many honourable gentlemen will explain the business of the day, and the objects of the meeting, much better than I can; but I trust, and indeed I am quite sure, that you will conduct yourselves in a peaceable and orderly manner, and that there will be no tumult, no riot, no disturbance. (Cries of "No, no—never fear.") Such conduct would disgrace us and the cause for which we have assembled. (Cheers.) But that you will behave in a firm and well-disposed manner, as becomes Scotchmen. (Loud and continued cheering.) I now call on an old and staunch reformer, and I am sure you will be happy to hear once more his voice among you—General Hay.

General HAY was received with the most enthusiastic cheers, and, in moving the first resolution, said—Friends and brother Reformers, I have great satisfaction in meeting such a numerous and respectable body in support of the great cause of Reform—a cause which is of such vast importance to yourselves and your families for ever! (Cheers.) Sir Michael Bruce has so well stated the objects of the meeting, and you yourselves are so enlightened, that I have only to advise you to pursue that good conduct which will speedily secure to you your rights. You have all my best wishes for your welfare and prosperity, and as long as I live I shall always be with the people. (Cheers.) I have much pleasure in attending here this day, and in moving the first resolution, which will be read by Mr Angus.

SIR MICHAEL BRUCE.—I now have to introduce to your notice another reformer; and if any one individual be more dear to you than another it is he, is he resides among you, and has your full confidence—Mr AL. BANNERMAN. Mr Bannerman, on making his appearance to address the meeting, was long and loudly cheered.

MR ALEXANDER BANNERMAN.—My Friends, in seconding the resolution which has just been moved by my friend General Hay, it is impossible for me to express myself in stronger terms than the resolution itself. The events which have taken place in London within the last few days, indeed over the whole kingdom, must have opened the eyes of the very few who did not see that the country was on the brink of a volcano. But above all, the news which has reached Aberdeen this morning must shew to the world that the hopes of a great nation are not to be trifled with, by the base intrigue of a few individuals struggling for power. The great Duke of Wellington—(Loud groans)—has been for the first time in his life signally defeated, he has failed in forming a new Administration, and a communication has been sent to Earl Grey which will lead to an arrangement which will ensure the success of the whole measure of reform.—(loud cheers.)—For what purpose do you imagine was the Duke to form a new Administration? Why to go on with Lord Grey's measure, and to carry it in all its leading principles as he did the Catholic question. If he had done so, this country would have been disgraced in the eyes of Europe—and I deeply lament that this great man should have been mad enough to have made the attempt. From the first moment that the reform measure was introduced, I felt convinced that it or a similar one must have become the law of the land, and I will tell you farther, that many who conscientiously differ with me thought the same thing; the opinion of such opponents, I honour and respect, and instead of acting as a majority of the House of Lords have done, they would have honestly and openly stated the length they would go, and left the responsibility of the measure on Lord Grey and his colleagues.—But the factious opposition to reform was merely the struggle of a few individuals for power, and if the curtain could be withdrawn it would only shew, how little principle guides the conduct of some great men, and it would show also that a few unprincipled individuals have deceived the King—and I hope and trust that this meeting will not separate without giving three cheers for our good old Monarch whose eyes are again opened.—(Immense Cheers.)—I know that some of my friends disapprove of such vast assemblages as are here congregated—I regret as much as they can do the necessity for such meetings, but they are constitutional and proper; and