

if they were not held, I happen to know a little of the feelings of that class of the community, which convinces me that the *safety valve* which now surrounds me is as necessary as a safety valve to a steam boiler. I know also that some individuals (who shall be nameless) have invested me with sovereign power in Aberdeen, and have asserted that if I were (base enough) to plan the hanging of any of our opponents you would be bold enough to execute. I have a better opinion of you, and if any individual were to give you such advice, I hope you would hang him who did so, and I would lend you a hand; for be assured I never will give you any advice, or bid you do any thing, but what I am ready to follow and to do myself—(Loud Cheers.)—and your conduct on this occasion will I am sure be what it has been on all occasions—admirable, and entitle you to the gratitude of every well-wisher to his country, and on this occasion in particular to the admiration of those county gentlemen who have come from a distance to join in the proceedings of this day.—(Loud and continued cheers.)

Sir JOHN FORBES was very proud to come forward in the cause which had brought down to that spot such an assembled multitude. The conduct of Earl Grey and his friends—conduct firm and straight-forward—must delight every one present, and they would give their most cheerful approbation to the motion which was now submitted to them. Sir John then moved the resolution.

Sir MICHAEL BRUCE.—He had now another and a very useful reformer to present to them—Mr Blackie, the Banker. He was glad they had such men among them—they had the supplies (laughter), and the supplies were of very great moment.

Mr BLACKIE, Banker.—Sir Michael and Gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding the motion of Sir John Forbes, for, a motion could not have been made, in which the best and noblest feelings of my heart so harmoniously coincide with my political principles, as that to which I now give my feeble voice of support. There never was, Gentlemen, (at least in my recollection) a Ministry in this country, whom I could so unconditionally admire as the late Administration: there never has been a Ministry in this country, the members of which concentrated in themselves more of all those distinguished virtues which lead us, not only to approve the politician, but to love and venerate the man: I therefore, feel convinced that there is not an individual in this vast assembly, who will not cordially join in the praise bestowed upon Earl Grey and his able colleagues, for their unexampled, patriotic exertions, in favour of the people's favourite Bill of Reform; and in deploring the unspeakable loss to the country, at a crisis, like the present, of the valuable services of such enlightened and honest men. Consistency of conduct, Gentlemen, is a virtue, alas, too rare in the intercourse of daily life; and still more seldom is it to be found among those who tread the mazy paths of modern politics: but this rarity only ought to make us join, with the more zeal, in offering it the tribute of our universal admiration, when the heavenly visitor, at length appears—and, surely, gentlemen, if ever a Ministry could lay claim to such an exalted virtue, that Administration to whom we owe the introduction of the great and all important measure of Reform, can make such a claim with the least suspicion of boasting and vain-glory.—(Cheers and hear, hear.) Gentlemen, Earl Grey and his colleagues have retired from office according to their pledge given to the people. They, at the first, declared that they would stand or fall with the Bill; and, at the last, when they found that they could not, in consequence of an unprincipled and place-hunting faction, in the House of Lords, carry the measure of reform through, without mutilation, they, like high-minded, honourable gentlemen, as they were, tendered their resignation to his Majesty, and the country applauded them for their disinterestedness and sincerity, in so doing. (Loud cheers.) But, Gentlemen, who could succeed such men as Earl Grey and Lord Brougham in office? He must, I should think, be a bold Tory indeed who will seize the helm of the state, at a crisis like this, after such men have quitted it! (Cheers.) Will the country be satisfied with the Duke of Wellington and the men he may get to act with him? Can they hope for any satisfactory measure of Reform from men who have declared themselves enemies to all Reform, and who can see nothing but perfection in the present abominably rotten state of our representation? Were such men to make the most ample promises, could the people, or can the people believe them? No! No! No! We must have tried men, and true in the councils of our King:—and, as it is impossible he can find better than Earl Grey and his colleagues, I trust in God, his Majesty will have the good sense to spurn from him those harpies, who would advise to the contrary; and call them back again to his Cabinet. (Cheers.) But, my friends, I have detained you too long; and I crave your pardon. Before concluding, however, I must take leave to warn you that our enemies are on the watch for something to allege against us; and that they would like nothing better than that we should play the fool, and kick up a row. Be you determined to disappoint them,—be firm, as a rock, to your purpose, but, at the same time, be quiet and orderly; and rely upon it that, having God and right aid on our side, we shall ultimately triumph. (Immense Cheers.)

I beg to second the motion of Sir John Forbes.

Mr BURNETT of Leys.—Although we had been told by Mr Bannerman that it was very probable that Earl Grey would be reinstated in office, still there was no certainty of the matter, and it was their duty to let no means escape by which that measure could be accomplished. (We will not.) When the bill was thrown out, as it were, by the resignation of Earl Grey and his colleagues, forced on them by the vote of the Lords on the Monday evening, the reformers had no other course but to look to the people to procure the passing of the bill. On the House of Commons we had our reliance, and Lord Ebrington deserved great honour for the motion which he had brought forward in the house. The people had a strong hold upon the House of Commons by means of their representatives, and the House of Commons had in their turn a strong hold on the Lords, as they kept the purse. (Laughter.) The resolution which he had now the honour to submit was to refuse the supplies until they passed the Reform bill; and he hoped that the House of Commons would attend to the suggestion, coming as it did from such a numerous and respectable body, which would soon bring their Lordships to their senses. (Cheers and laughter.)

Mr GERRARD of Midstrath.—Sir Michael Bruce and Gentlemen, in seconding the motion you have just heard, I am deeply oppressed by a sense of my own inadequacy to do justice to the occasion. Beyond that, Gentlemen, I feel a peculiar pride and pleasure in supporting this resolution, for I consider it as by far the most important that will be submitted to you to-day—that indeed, to which they must all be ultimately referred—the centre as it were, round which they all revolve—imparting heat, and light, and animation to the whole. I like it because it is strong, and goes directly to the point. Here is no dallying with terms or with forms—no bending to unmeaning etiquette—no bush-fighting—but a gallant charge—and it goes home to the root of all our grievances. (Cheers.) It has this peculiar merit, Gentlemen, that if the Commons' House of Parliament do but entertain the prayer it involves, it necessarily ensures success to every thing else that we can reasonably demand—and, Gentlemen, we demand nothing—we wish for nothing—but the triumph of plain dealing, truth, and freedom, over fraud, falsehood, and arbitrary power—(hear, hear)—whether that power be assumed by an individual—or by that still more hateful monster—a Tory Oligarchy.—(Loud cheers.) The success of

this motion (I don't mean here, for here it is safe enough,) but its adoption by the House of Commons, ensures us not only a splendid victory as Reformers, but a noble gratification as honest men, in bringing defeat and disgrace upon the meanest, the dirtiest, the most insolent, lying and indecent faction, that ever insulted a nation by low political chicanery and debauchery—(immense cheering.)—I do not, however, say, that it is for us to refuse an apparently efficient Parliamentary Reform, come from whatever quarter it may—even from the enemies of all reform—but this I do say, that it is impossible we should not distrust its practical efficacy—its fair direction and application, when coming from so polluted a source, and compelled to take its course through channels so impure. Depend upon it, Gentlemen, that mischief is brewing, when the devil goes about doing good works, and I am never so alarmed, as when I hear that he is abroad in his Sunday attire. In that disguise he may cheat you, if not upon your guard—yet the devil has some members peculiar to himself—and I have the high authority of one of his *particulars*, a celebrated ex-Secretary for saying, that if you inspect him narrowly, as it behoves you to do, you'll find that in his nether garment, there is a hole behind for his tail to go through, and the tail once detected, there's an end you know to all doubt about his identity. And, now, Gentlemen, don't you perceive the tail and the cloven feet to boot, in the late proceedings of the Tory Lords? Don't you perceive the implacable hatred to every thing that can conduce to the welfare and improvement of mankind? Look not merely at their conduct with respect to the Reform Bill, but look at their envenomed hostility to the cause of education in Ireland. Look I say at these, and many other acts of an equally Satanic hue, and then tell me if the cloven feet of the enemy are not there apparent—his odious whisking tail—his serpent fangs—his forked, his lying, his hissing tongue—and his pestiferous breath, more fatal to human happiness and freedom, than the stirocco of the desert to the traveller? Yet, my friends, incredible as it may appear, that profligate party is again in power, although the cheering intelligence received this morning justifies the hope, that that power will be strangled almost in its birth. But, Gentlemen, we must still be watchful and at our posts, and sure I am, that honest Reformers will consider the battle but as half won, until truth and justice shall have buried them from their seats. That such would be the effect of stopping the supplies, I think is certain—and for this reason, and for the sake of seeing the Reform Bill rescued from the hands of its enemies, and restored to the management and guardianship of its natural advocates. I have great pleasure in seconding the motion of the Hon. Gentleman. (Mr Gerrard sat down amid the loudest plaudits of the Meeting.)

Mr KILGOUR.—A motion has been put into my hands, which, although I regret its necessity, I feel it my duty to propose to the meeting. Public men are public property, and when they commit errors they must be dragged before the public to receive sentence. (Cheers.) You all recollect of the 23d of May last. It was a glorious day for Aberdeen. We turned out in thousands and tens of thousands to meet one whom we believed to be a sincere and ardent reformer. Ladies waved their handkerchiefs, and men shouted and huzzed at every new pledge in favour of the Bill and the Ministry—(cheers)—that the hero of the day gave, and lest the huzzas might be construed into "empty praise," we added likewise the "solid pudding." (Laughter.) My friends, I have been within a few feet of that man, on every occasion where he addressed the inhabitants of this city. I heard every word he uttered, and I will say, and I am sure the majority of this meeting will bear me out, when I say that if ever there was a man bound solemnly to the Reform Bill and the Ministry, Mr Horatio Ross, our member was the man. He owes his seat entirely to these pledges—he had nothing else to recommend him. (Loud marks of desecration and cries of "No Ross.") He told us in one of his early addresses, that as he was a young man and not acquainted much with politics, he would go to school and study every question before he gave his vote. I wonder where this young gentleman sought wisdom on Lord Ebrington's motion? (Loud laughter and cheers.) Who was his teacher? In this country it was once the practice to send the children to an old woman to learn the alphabet. (Loud laughter.) Our worthy member has been studying the elements of political science under some antiquated female. He has dived into a well of knowledge, over which some aged gentlewoman is the priestess. (Laughter and cheers.) Like our king, whom we will still honour, respect, and reverence, and who will yet be every thing that we could wish him—(immense cheering)—he has knocked under petticoat government. (Laughter and cheers.) My friends, will you send your petition to this man? (Loud cries of "No, no," "Hume, Hume.") We will send it to one who never deceived us, we will send it to one who never deceived his country, we will send it to Mr Hume. (Continued cheers.) He knows you, and he knows that your forefathers, when they drew the sword for conscience and their God, sheathed it not again until they obtained religious freedom. Would you do as much for civil freedom? (Cries of "We will, we will.") My friends, there is no occasion for it, and I knew there would be no occasion for it. You would not draw the sword to smite on the hip of a few boroughmongers, and that ragged regiment, not outnumbering Falstaff's, and like it composed of (I am happy still to say,) discarded serving-men and out-of-place Tory scribes? (Laughter.) No, no, the cry would not have been as in days of old "To your tents, oh Israel," and the "Sword of the Lord and of Gideon," but it would have been a cry common in modern societies, when well-known nimble-fingered gentlemen, like the Boroughmongers, are present, "Take care of your purses, mind your pockets." (Laughter.) We would have fought the boroughmongers with a weapon, which, God knows, they know pretty well about, we would have fought them with the "No Taxes." (Laughter and cheers.) I thank God, my friends, we have no need to enter even on this warfare. The day is again our own. (Cheers.) Let us trust the Ministry, and let us not trust Mr Ross. Let us send our petition to Mr Hume, and let us send along with it our sincere thanks for his exertions and his constant and unflinching support of reform, both when it was in good report, and in evil report. My friends, "Reform," said one who knew the matter well, and suffered in days of old for it, "is a just cause and it must and will prevail." (Cheers.)

Mr FORBES of Echt, in seconding the resolution, deeply deplored the cause of it, for he had hoped for other things, for a different line of conduct. And he felt it the more deeply considering what he had done in supporting his interests and in bringing him in triumph into the city. (groans and hisses.) He considered that it was unnecessary for him to say any thing further on the subject. He much regretted Mr Ross's backsliding; but he hoped he would be able to explain his conduct and motives, to the satisfaction of his real constituents: (laughter) for he was sure that all now assembled there, deplored as much as he did, his ratting from the true cause. (Cheers.)

Sir MICHAEL BRUCE, I can assure the meeting, that I will have great pleasure in signing the petition with my best and most legible pen. (Cheers.)

Mr STRONACH, in proposing the 5th resolution, said, that such a resolution would be unnecessary in ordinary circumstances, because the simple attestation of the Chairman would be considered sufficient to convey the sentiments expressed and recorded at a meeting like the present. But we are to be insultingly told, that the sentiments of the people thus conveyed to Parliament are not

their real sentiments, and that such meetings are mere farces, being chiefly composed of ignorant people, who assemble on such occasions merely to gratify idle curiosity? No: such assertions are only worthy of certain peers, who have already overstepped the bounds of honour and honesty, stooping to artifices the most degrading to forward their own selfish views, and which had only to be exposed to bring upon their authors merited disgrace, consternation, and disappointment. (Cheers.) The spirit in which the resolutions already proposed have been carried by the countless thousands present on this occasion shows, indeed, that they are assembled under no ordinary degree of excitement which can only be removed by immediately passing the Reform Bill. Reform can be no longer withheld with safety to the country, for we will and must have the Bill, the whole Bill, and nothing but the Bill—the birthright of every Briton.—(Loud Cheers.)

Mr NICOL.—Sir Michael Bruce and Gentlemen—Mr Stronach's statement has rendered it unnecessary for me to trouble you at any length. Having had some charge of the petitions alluded to in the resolution, I can with more confidence assert, that the names of a great proportion of the intelligence and wealth both of the town and county were attached to them. I may safely say, that on no previous occasion, nor on any public question ever agitated in this country, were the almost unanimous feelings of the people so decidedly and so enthusiastically displayed; and no one present at this most numerous and respectable meeting will say that that enthusiasm has in the least abated. (Cheers.) No: It has increased, and will daily continue to do so until the just demands of the people are granted—as granted they must, and that speedily, to save the country from anarchy and confusion. (Cheers.) I have, therefore, much pleasure in seconding the motion of my friend, Mr Stronach, more especially that part of it which relates to his Majesty's late Ministers—would that I could with confidence say his present Ministers—whose patriotic conduct has fully justified their previous pledges. (Cheers.) As to the Member for the Town, I shall in the meantime say nothing. I would yet hope that he may be able to explain what in the meantime appears to us all inexplicable. (Groans.) The Member for the County has at least been consistent. I would rather at any time have to contend with an open foe than a false friend. The anxiety with which the citizens await the explanation of Mr Ross, after his solemn and reiterated pledges in this great cause, is intense, as is sufficiently demonstrated by the proceedings of to-day. (Great cheering.)

Mr ALLARDYCE—Gentlemen, we are once more called upon, in consequence of the events of the last fortnight, to turn out *en masse*, and again assert our rights so long promised, but still withheld; and I trust, it is for the last time we meet as we now do on this important subject. Had there not been something of double dealing among certain individuals, near or behind a high personage, (who himself, I am persuaded, is incapable of any such towards his people,) the entire bill would ere this time have become the law of the land.—(Cheers.) As it is, while we cannot but lament the delay that has taken place, let us hold firmly together, feeling well assured, that finally we must prevail. What minister is there that dare come into power, at the present crisis, and fly in the face of the people of Great Britain, agitated as that people is, by the failure of their most sanguine hopes, when on the very eve of being realised. If the Duke of Wellington (groans and hisses) take the reins of Government, does he imagine the people will receive at his hands a bill, against which he has entered his loudest protest—no—the only man that can content the nation, is the noble Earl, who so consistently brought the measure almost to completion, and who deserves, along with his coadjutors, to have all the merit of carrying it into a law. (Great cheering.)

I have much pleasure in proposing the sixth resolution. Mr LEITH LUMSDEN of Auchinloch, in seconding the resolution, observed, that the matter in question had already been discussed with so much propriety and ability, that it was needless for him to detain the meeting with many observations. They knew that the support of every government was the love, the esteem, and the respect of the people. To Lord Ebrington, and the patriotic band which supported him, the country owed much; and he therefore very cordially seconded any motion the object of which was to convey to them the thanks of the community for their public spirited conduct.

Mr MORR of Park was very glad to propose that publicity should be given to the business of the Meeting, as it would prove to their opponents that there was no re-action, in this part of the country at least. No cabals of faction could ever succeed against the united wish of the people.

Mr A. FORBES.—Gentlemen, I have little to say after so many manly and able speeches on the subject of our dearly wished for Reform—so nearly carried by the abilities and truly honourable conduct of Earl Grey, and his ministry—anxious as I have always been for our darling object it would go hard with me to see it carried under any other Leader than the noble Earl, who has maintained his enlightened opinions for so many years, presenting a glorious contrast to the cunning and shameful means by which others would regain power, to rule us with despotism.—(Cheers.)—The news of this day are truly cheering, and I pray they may be confirmed—under any event we must be true to ourselves, firm and orderly—we are resolved for our cause, and fear not the trickery of the Boroughmongers in either House. Too much cannot be said in favour of the majority of the Commons, nor in praise of those Noble Lords, who have stood and will stand by Reform.—(Loud Cheers.)

Sir MICHAEL BRUCE here stated, that the business of the Meeting had concluded, and thanked the Meeting for their prompt attendance, and highly creditable and orderly conduct—a conduct which certainly reflected not a little credit upon themselves—the County and City to which they belonged—and the cause which they had met to support.

Sir MICHAEL BRUCE having then left the Chair, it was taken by Sir JOHN FORBES, Bart. upon which,

Mr KILGOUR of Woodside, came forward and addressed the Meeting as follows—

Gentlemen—Sir JOHN FORBES having now taken the Chair, I beg leave to move a Resolution, which I am convinced will be most enthusiastically welcomed by this Meeting—it is a vote of thanks to our Honourable and Patriotic Chairman, for the able manner in which he has conducted the business of this Meeting—and for the uniform support which he has constantly given to the good cause of Reform. Gentlemen, in concluding the business of the day, I am sure, when I propose, that this Meeting of staunch Reformers, do honor to our worthy Chairman, in three cheers—I shall not want a seconder. The above motion having been seconded by Baillie MILNE, amid great acclamation—the assembled multitude gave three times three cheers for the KING—the same for EARL GREY, and the REFORM BILL—and three cheers for their excellent CHAIRMAN—and separated, and we are proud to say, without the shadow of a disturbance.

The Trades returned from the Meeting in nearly the same order of procession, in which they had gone down, headed by their respective Bands; and on arriving at the Reform Committee Rooms, in the Royal Hotel, they gave three hearty cheers. Each division then separated in the most orderly and peaceable manner. And up to the moment of going to press, we are happy to announce, that not a single case of riot, or approach to disturbance has occurred in the city—verily upholding its ancient motto of "Bon Accord."