

TO THE LIBERAL ELECTORS

OF

THE BURGH OF ABERDEEN.

Rally round Mr. JAMES W. BARCLAY, the true and tried Liberal Candidate, and not open the ranks for a TORY TRIUMPH!

FLIGHT OF THE STOCKTON CANDIDATE.

From the "Middlesboro' and Stockton Gazette."

FOR nearly a month the walls of Stockton have been placarded with flaring posters announcing that Mr. James Shaw, ironmaster, had resolved to enter Parliament; that he was the author of "Sketches in the House of Commons," by a Silent Member. On perusing the first of these notorious Sketches, our exclamation was, "What ails the fellow?" We have noticed these brochures as they appeared, but we have been quite unable to answer our own question. Mr. Shaw's acknowledging the paternity of these sketches, and his address to the electors of Stockton did not give Mr. Joseph Dodds the ague, nor could all his blandishments and the profuse use of posters get the Tories to look to him as their saviour. His reasons for adopting Stockton as the door through which he was to enter St. Stephen's are best explained in his own words:—"I have been closely associated," he says, "with the iron industry of Stockton almost since its commencement, and with the iron trade since my youth, and it will be a proud honour to be elected the representative of Stockton, where, large as its iron manufactures now are, I believe they are still in their infancy." Up till Friday night, he laboured hard to gather together a committee and make preparations for a public meeting, when he doubtless expected to show good cause why the Stockton electors, at the first opportunity, should turn the cold shoulder on Mr. Joseph Dodds, and elect Mr. James Shaw in his room. The people of Stockton would not look to their own interests, or move a finger to send Mr. Shaw to the House of Commons, and when the tide began to ebb on Saturday morning, it was discovered that the hope of the Stockton Tories had become disgusted at their supineness, and transferred his affections to another constituency. He has flown from the Tees to the Dee, and announced himself a candidate for the City of Aberdeen. Two Liberal candidates were already in the field, but Sir J. Clark, owing to sudden illness, has retired, leaving Mr. Barclay, a staunch Liberal, in the field. It is a rather significant fact that Mr. Barclay took a leading part in stamping out the cattle plague in Aberdeenshire. We fear the Tees-side ironmaster will be treated by the Liberals in the Granite City the same way. It is not very easy to snuff out a man of Mr. Shaw's assurance; but since he has "resolved to enter Parliament," the Aberdonians may belie the proverb that a prophet has no honour in his own country. Fortune does not always favour the brave, and Mr. Shaw has made a mess of every attempt to enter Parliament. His "Sketches" are unfinished; his attempt to foist himself upon the Stockton electors has ignominiously collapsed; and he now turns his back upon them to try his luck with a constituency which has little sympathy with Toryism, and still less respect for many-coloured candidates like Mr. Shaw, who can neither be said to be a Liberal nor a Tory, a Whig or a Conservative; a Radical or a Constitutionalist. Mr. Shaw wishes to be into Parliament, and that is all that can be said about him. Should the Aberdonians leave him out in the cold, he will have leisure to finish his "Sketches," which may be further embellished by the experiences of an ill-used candidate.

From the "Stockton Herald" of Saturday last, June 22.

Mr. James Shaw, or his billposter, continues to persist in bedaubing the walls of Stockton with an "address to the electors." Had Mr. Shaw been a person of ordinary sense or sensibilities, he would have come to know by this time that the money and the paste are worse than wasted. Thus far his appeals have not awakened a single response; and his attempt to thrust himself on the constituency is resented by all classes. Of course the Liberals do not want him, and the Conservatives, who mean what they say, repudiate all sympathy with his ill-defined and time-serving views. No one seems to desire any change in the representation of the borough, and those who differ most widely from the present member on certain political questions, scout the idea of even causing a contest—which could only end in one way—with an unsought and self-seeking candidate of the chameleon type.

From Mr. FARLEY LEITH'S Speeches in the New Corn Exchange and Marischal College Quadrangle.

"A LIBERAL must look more to the advancement of his party than of any personal interest. I am placed in the difficulty of having been asked to come forward and oppose one who was on the ground, and who had expressed Liberal principles; and when there is, on the other hand, a Conservative or Tory, whichever he pleases to call himself, and who is ready to jump into the gap, if I make it by dividing the Liberal party into two sections, it must be patent to each of you, and you must see that it is a vital question, at this juncture of affairs with the present Government, whether they can lose a seat. You know that they have lost a number of Liberal seats, which we must regret to see, and I should not like to be the means of them losing a seat, and I have no personal motives or interest but to see that the seat is not in jeopardy or in risk, especially a seat for the City of Aberdeen, which has been a city of Liberal opinions from time immemorial. Before I left London last night, and came down at great inconvenience to myself, I had a meeting with personal friends, friends well-known in politics, themselves members of Parliament, and all Liberals, and all seeking for my personal advancement, and wishing and desirous that I should succeed. I consulted them, and we went over the circumstances which I have told you in detail to-day. We had another meeting in the afternoon of yesterday, and they were clearly of opinion that I should err in duty as a Liberal if I were to go forward and contest your city, and that I should not be justified, as a good Liberal, in jeopardising, or placing even in risk the great city of Aberdeen as a Liberal town. * * * * *

* * * * * My candidature would only be giving the Tory candidate a better chance. I do not think I would be doing my duty in opposing the Liberal candidate; and in doing so I am sacrificing personal views, personal feelings, and desired honour—(hear, hear). At the same time I am acting under the advice of personal friends, and therefore I must ask you to allow me to withdraw. I am only under the influence of that which has such a power over me that I cannot resist doing what I consider in my own mind to be right—and whatever I conceive to be right I attempt to carry out—(cheers). It is on these grounds, therefore, that I decline, with the most grateful and thankful feelings, the honour which you propose to give me."

Mr. Leith says of Mr. BARCLAY—

"I have read his opinions—I have read his views politically, which are expressed both in his written address and speeches, and I have therefore to say that his views and principles are quite in consonance with my own, and are those ideas and principles which are held in common by every true Liberal. Therefore it is, gentlemen, that without knowledge of that gentleman individually, I believe in him, in his representative character, and he is entitled, so far as I am concerned, to respect."

Mr. Leith says that Mr. Shaw "comes to oppose the Liberal candidate, and he comes out of what I would call the camp of the enemy—(loud cheering)—and therefore we must, as regards him, be on the defensive, and we must act as if he were trying to subvert those principles, which are the boast of our community, and though he has endeavoured to put on a different character, he may be in fact termed, 'a wolf in sheep's clothing'—(hear, hear, and cheers). Therefore I say, beware of such!"

If Mr. FARLEY LEITH now stands, is he not self-accused; and judged by his own speech practically sacrificing his principles and his party?