

TO

ALEXANDER BANNERMAN, ESQ.

SIR,

IT is known to yourself, and to other Gentlemen of the Reform Committee of Aberdeen, that I intended to speak at the Reform Meeting held on the Broad-Hill of the Links, on Saturday, 22d curt. at which you presided as Chairman, and it was the particular wish of the Committee of the Working Classes of Aberdeen that I should address that Meeting. The following pages contain the speech which I had prepared for the occasion. From the extreme unfavourableness of the weather, however, it was quite impossible that I should have had an opportunity of engrossing the attention of the Meeting for so long a period as the delivery of the speech would have required.—But, Sir, the unfortunate circumstance of the falling of the hustings prevented me from addressing the Meeting at all, as that unhappy event took place before it was my lot to speak: and you will recollect that it was at your desire that I should forbear addressing the Meeting after that catastrophe that I forbore to do so, a desire on your part springing from the purest dictates of humanity; for I shall never forget the painful anxiety which you evinced, lest any one should have suffered injury by the distressing accident which had occurred, an accident which, if it resulted from the insufficiency of the hustings, that insufficiency cannot be censured in too unmeasured terms. Sir, a more unfavourable day for the Meeting could not have been, and yet I consider that it was in fact an *auspicious* day for Reform. You are well aware of the cuckoo note of the enemies of Reform about a re-action having taken place