

Club a large and mixed multitude had assembled, evidently expecting that there would be something worth seeing to reward them for their trouble. Even the railings before the building, somewhat uncomfortable as they are, were quite crowded by young people and ladies, who hoped from that exalted situation to have a better view of the procession. One of the earliest symptoms of the meeting was the sounding of the death knell to the House of Lords, which seemed to be considerably appreciated by the people assembled, and another standard, "Brains not Birth," appeared also to be a happy hit. As the various trades, with their banners, passed by, it was interesting to notice the enthusiasm of the crowd, and especially their appreciation of every thorough-going sentiment which was imprinted on the banners. At the Working Men's Conservative Club, however, there were displayed banners and escutcheons of a character entirely different, and as the procession passed that point—just at Adelphi Court—hooting and howling were largely indulged in. The Conservatives, with their usual honesty, taking a single sentence entirely apart from its context, figured out to an amused audience the following extract from a speech of Mr Bright:—"What Mr Bright says—'Repudiate without mercy any bill if it does not redistribute the seats.'" Below this came a wretchedly bad reproduction from *Judy*, in which was depicted a figure of John Bull, holding in his hand a ballot-box, and represented as saying, "If you are so confident as to the popular voice, why don't you try this?"—[the ballot-box.]

If the personal element may be taken into consideration, it may be mentioned that Mr F. Logie Pirie, the Conservative candidate for the representation of the city, occupied a window in the premises of the Culter Mills Company in Guild Street, and that on his individuality being recognised he was greeted with a chorus of howls and jeers, which did not say much for the chances of his forthcoming political campaign. On the other hand Dr Farquharson, the popular M.P. for West Aberdeenshire, got a most flattering reception. Dr Farquharson, along with Mr Alexander Webster, advocate, occupied a window in the office of Dr Webster, the city member, and it must have been exceptionally gratifying to him to hear the rousing cheers with which he was greeted by the entire line of the procession. One enthusiastic butcher who seemed to have specially recognised him shouted out, amid the loud cheers of his comrades—"That's a Liberal for you!"

As might naturally have been supposed, the great difficulties of the processionists took place when they debouched upon the Links, but the marshals duly appointed were equal to the occasion, and without any misadventure each separate portion of the procession was led to its own special platform. The platforms, of which there were five, were admirably arranged. Platform A was erected in the natural amphitheatre of the Broad Hill, which looks to the south, while the other three platforms were erected with their backs towards the sea and facing the eastern grassy slope of the hill. The speakers were accommodated with chairs, and their supporters were seated on forms behind. The "Old Reformers" congregated behind the C and D platforms.

Opinions differ as to the number of persons taking part in or witnessing the Demonstration. Timed at a given point, the Procession, which marched six deep, took 45 minutes to pass, and therefore, at a moderate computation, it must have included some 12,000 persons. The Broad Hill presented when the speaking at the five platforms was in full force an appearance such as is never approached save at race meetings or great gala festivals, and an estimate of from 50,000 to 60,000 spectators may be said to be within the mark.

Platform A was presided over by Mr Oswald Prosser, who delivered a lucidly-spoken address, in which in fair and temperate language the present situation was discussed. He made his points with great emphasis, and the cheers with which his sentiments were greeted showed that he carried with him the whole body of the people. He was followed by Mr Peter Esslemont. The popular ex-Provost, who moved the resolution that had been drawn up, spoke with even more than his accustomed vigour, and carried the meeting thoroughly with him, especially when declaring that the nation could no longer stand being humbugged by the House of Lords, and that hereditary representation must for ever be done away with. The resolution was seconded by Professor Donaldson, who delivered a very taking and, in some points, very humorous speech, the whole progress of which was marked by cheers. Mr Robert Marshall, mill-worker, Auchmill, one of the unenfranchised, and by Walker, farmer, Bithnie, supported the resolution. Mr Marshall, as a working man, was heartily received, and as a speaker he made a very effective appearance. "Bithnie," as he was familiarly called, also impressed the meeting very favourably, and the opinion which, as an employer of labour, he gave in regard to the working classes was loudly cheered. At various times the crowd in the vicinity of the platform gave unmistakable evidence that their feelings were in favour, not of mending, but of ending the House of Lords; reform, or "rectification," as Mr Esslemont put it, they would have none of. The resolution, it need scarcely be added, was carried by acclamation.

Rev. C. C. Macdonald, who presided at Platform B, had a most magnificent audience, and probably there was no speaker of the day whose hearers hung so much upon his words or gave so thoroughly unanimous an approval to his utterances. During the fifteen minutes his address occupied he was ever and again warmly applauded, and more particularly when, in graphic language, he hinted plainly that the people might by and by have to face the work of "Snuffing out" the Lords. Mr John Park, chief magistrate, Fraserburgh, proposed the resolution, and found a seconder in Mr William Robertson, farm overseer, Ellon, who, in the course of a crisply-rendered and healthily-toned speech, declared, amid the cheers of his hearers, that he at least could not see anything to induce a working-man with brains to identify himself with the Conservative cause. Mr Alexander Bremner, Sandbank, Kennay.