

moved onward was viewed with great interest. Its striking features were at once recognised and applauded, and the comicalities with which it abounded in the shape of mottoes and the figures caricaturing Lord Salisbury and the Conservative working man afforded great merriment. Inscriptious that told of the doom of the House of Lords being at hand were very sympathetically received, as was indicated by the cheering. The figure representing Mr Gladstone bowing to his enthusiastic supporters, evoked a perfect ovation. Well-known men, whether from the town or country, were quickly noticed, and were greeted with loud applause. The first person to mount the platform was Mr Oswald Prosser, President of the Liberal Association, who was accompanied by Dr Farquharson, M.P., and other gentlemen, and vigorous cheering marked the incident, these tokens of favour being renewed as other prominent men joined the company. The members and adherents of the Liberal Association appeared on the scene at a quarter to five o'clock, and, breaking out of the procession, surrounded the Platform; but other fifteen minutes elapsed before the end of the procession came in sight, and the meeting in the hollow had its full complement, members of the country contingents being the latest comers. There were on the platform, in addition to Dr Farquharson and Mr Oswald Prosser, Mr Peter Esslemont, Aberdeen; Professor Donaldson, Aberdeen; Messrs Robert Marshall, paper mill worker, Auchmull; W. Walker, farmer, Bithnie; William Bisset, Buxburn; James Fyfe, Newhills; William Innes, Buxburn; George Johnstone, Aquorthies; James M'Hardy, Footdee; Shoremaster Mearns; Coavener Byres; Messrs A. Macphail; A. Lyon, jr.; Councillor A. O. Gill; Mr James Cook, 8 Cotton Street; Dr Angus Fraser; Messrs John Sievwright; John Black, tea merchant; A. S. Cook, hon. treasurer, Liberal Association; George Skinner, Cotetown, Leslie; Robert Lumsden, banker, Aberdeen; James Crombie, commission agent, Aberdeen; Thomas Mavor, Aberdeen; Kellas, Nether Comisty; Mitchell, St John's Wells, Fyvie; Wilken, Waterside of Forbes; R. W. Soutar, solicitor, Banff; Middleton, farmer, Mill of Campfield; William Davidson, bookbinder, Aberdeen; John Harper, Birse; and Law, Schoolhouse, Buxburn.

Immediately on the bug's sounding for the speaking to begin, Mr Prosser was, on the motion of Mr John Black, called to the chair amid cheers.

The Chairman, who was received with loud cheers, said—Gentlemen, it gives me much pleasure to be able to congratulate you on the great numbers who have turned out to this demonstration to-day, evidencing as it does the deep and hearty interest which the Liberals of this district, of all ranks and classes, have ever taken in great political questions, and their determination that, so far as in them lies, their rights and those of their fellow-citizens shall not be trampled under foot—(cheers). This is not the first time that the action of the House of Peers has brought upon these Links a gathering of Scottish Liberals, for here, in 1832, a similar scene was enacted. Great as was that demonstration, it is equalled by that of to-day, for never has there been assembled a gathering more numerous, more representative, or more hearty and enthusiastic in its purposes—(cheers). Nor can we

doubt that this demonstration will have as successful an issue as followed that of 1832—(hear, hear). It is a happy and auspicious omen that in our ranks to-day we have not a few of those who then bore aloft the banner of Reform to victory—(cheers). It is our business to see that we in our day do battle in the same earnest and resolute spirit as carried these old warriors to success—(renewed cheers). Gentlemen, the warfare in which we are engaged is one of which we need not be ashamed—the cause of equal rights and justice to all—(cheers). We uphold and maintain this great and first principle of political justice—that every citizen of this Empire, whether of fame or unknown to fame, whatever his social rank, whether lofty or humble, whatever his vocation, whether he drives the pen or throws the shuttle, whether he wields the hammer or follows the plough, or whatever other calling he may pursue, provided only it be an honest one, is entitled as his inalienable right to a voice in the administration of the affairs of the nation—(cheers). And we further maintain that this right he has in whatever part of the country his lot may have been cast, be it in the great and crowded city or in the modest hamlet—(cheers). We maintain the principle that taxation and representation must go together—that the one hangs upon the other—and that the citizen who is called upon to bear a share of the burdens of the State should have his say in the conduct of the nation's affairs, and is entitled to have that say expressed by a representative in whose selection he has a voice—(cheers). Gentlemen, the people of this country have been accustomed to express their pride in the Constitution under which they live, and there is doubtless much to admire in that Constitution. One chief element in our pride has been a belief in the elasticity of the Constitution and its capability of adapting and accommodating itself to the changing circumstances of the country from time to time. It remains to be seen whether it is equal to the task of admitting to the exercise of electoral privileges two millions of our fellow-citizens who at this moment stand debarred from the exercise of these rights. Gentlemen, the issue of this controversy will show, I am satisfied, that the Constitution is equal to that task; that without rending or injuring it, and within its four corners, there will be found ways and means and methods of meeting the present difficulty—(cheers). Gentlemen, I am not to argue the question of the propriety of the equalisation of the burgh and county franchises. You may perhaps hear a word or two on that by and by. It seems to me that we are far past that stage. That question was fully before the constituencies at the general election of 1880, and upon it the country gave no uncertain sound—(cheers). Of the purposes for which Her Majesty's present Ministers were then put into power this was one, and certainly not the least—(cheers). The spread and growth of political education during the past four years have been such as to increase the need for this so much needed reform—(hear, hear). The progress, too, of obstruction in the House of Commons has been so great as to urgently call for the strengthening of the electoral body by the admission to its ranks of all competent citizens. It is a serious misfortune, indeed, that two millions of citizens