

interests of the country and ignore the rights of the people to gratify an ill-founded, narrow, and contemptible piece of class hatred towards Mr Gladstone—(cheers)—the great statesman who was enshrined in the hearts of the people, and whose life-work would form one of the brightest pages in their country's history. Another reason which the Tory orators had been shouting through the country as an excuse for throwing out the bill was that it was passed by an old and dying House of Commons. Well, suppose they granted that, suppose they admitted that the House of Commons was not so sound and healthy as they would like it, was that a reason why they should reject its work?—"No, no." The House of Commons was the best they had, and it was yet capable of some good, and they were prepared to trust their interests with even a dying House of Commons—(cheers and hear, hear)—rather than with a House of Lords long ago entered upon its dotage—(great laughter and cheers)—a House where a fool might sit and vote—(hear, hear, and cheers)—whose doors were open to every worn-out politician who failed to make his mark in the House of Commons—(cheers)—where authors were sent when they could write no more—(cheers and laughter)—where poets sought shelter when their song lost its sweetness—(cheers and laughter)—where they sent their soldiers and sailors when they had butchered a few thousands of their fellow-men, and scattered a few mud fortifications—(cheers and laughter)—the prison to which disappointed office-seekers and ex-Ministers were banished to keep them from troubling the Government. Such was their Upper Chamber as at present constituted, such was the House whose action had called them together that day. What were they to do with it? To let it remain as it was was impossible, to refrain from discussing its reform was out of the question—(cheers). It must be reformed in a very Radical way—(cheers)—but it must first pass the Franchise Bill—(hear, hear). Lord Salisbury must discuss the question with a rope round his stiff neck—(cheers and laughter)—and what was more he must pass the measure or they would tighten the rope—(cheers and laughter). Fifty years ago these Links resounded to the tread of men battling for their rights as they were that day. Some of the veterans were with them still, and he trusted they would long be spared. The days were gone when the march of progress could be stopped by hereditary privileges and antiquated traditions. The interests of the many would never be sacrificed to the whim of the few—(cheers). Freedom, truth, and equality must prevail. They fought for liberty. Let them remember that—

Freedom's battle once begun,
Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son,
Though baffled off, is ever won.

—(loud cheering, again and again renewed).

Mr Alexander Duncan, mason, Jute Street, Aberdeen, rose amid cheers also to support the resolution. He addressed them as fellow-workmen, but he should have liked if he could have called them fellow-electors. If they had been electors, however, they would not have had such a large assembly there that day. He, like the other speakers, was delighted to see such a mass of people, which showed the interest men were taking to procure their rights and liberties;

and he rose with great pleasure to support the resolution, weak as it was in his opinion, but still a step in the right direction. He needed not call upon them to support their present Ministers in the House of Commons. They were a body of men who were doing great work, headed by one of the greatest statesmen Britain had ever had—(cheers). Could they get that Opposition House called the House of Lords removed out of the way he had no doubt the "Grand Old Man" would move far quicker than he did now—(cheers). After referring to the unpatriotic conduct of the Lords, he went on to say that they had not the boldness to confront the measure with a direct negative, but said that they would pass it with redistribution. He thought that was a mock, because they wanted to encumber the measure so that it would not have been possible to have passed it in the session. He would have liked very much some of the members of the House of Lords to have seen a few of the mottoes that were conspicuous in the procession. He concluded by severely criticising the House of Lords, remarking that it was brains, not birth, that was required there.

The Chairman then said they had heard the resolution proposed, seconded, and very ably supported, and he had now to put the question whether they accepted it. First of all, before he put that question, he wished to inform them that if any gentleman would like to say a word or two, a minute was still to spare.

No one having responded to the invitation,

The Chairman put the resolution to the meeting, and, amid loud and prolonged cheering, and waving of handkerchiefs and hats, it was declared unanimously carried.

Three cheers were given for Mr Gladstone, and also for Mr Macdonald.

The Chairman then called for a cheer for the chief marshal, Dr Maitland Moir, to whom they owed immensely the success of the meeting.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Macdonald for his conduct in the chair.

The Chairman returned thanks, and asked for a cheer for the speakers, which was given enthusiastically.

The bugle at this stage sounded, and the proceedings ended.

PLATFORM C.

At this platform there was a very large assemblage, composed for the greater part of the Reformers of 1832, Messrs Ben. Reid & Co.'s employes, the comb-makers, and several hundreds of country representatives. Much enjoyment was afforded to the gentlemen on the platform by the laughable designs and mottoes carried in the procession as they marched along the base of the Broadhill. Cheers were repeatedly given for Dr Webster, M.P., Professor Minto, and Dr Bain.

Professor Minto, president of the Junior Liberal Association, presided, and there were also on the platform—Messrs John Huthcson, Chief Magistrate, Turriff; William Henderson, Devanha House; James Robertson, Laureekirk; Alex. Meston, Anguston Quarries, Peterculter; Ex-Provost Jamieson; Baillie Hutton, Woodside; Messrs W. R. Reid, advocate; Theodore Crombie, Goval; Provost