

coasts of Scotland, from the modern Athens to the stormy shores of Cape Wrath, have, through their representatives, made an unanimous demand that this great act of justice shall be done—(cheers, and a Voice—"Right they are"). So universal has been that demand, and so little can be urged against it, that the traditional opponents of extended suffrage have not ventured to give it open battle, but have sought to defeat it by obstruction, by side issues, and by impossible conditions—(hear, hear). Gentlemen, what is the meaning of the demand for redistribution before passing this just and too long delayed measure? What but the old crafty device of giving with the one hand and taking away with the other—(hear, hear, and cheers). In effect the dominant party in the House of Lords say to the Government, enfranchise the two millions of householders in the counties if you will, but before doing so show us a redistribution scheme by which the voice and the votes of the new electors shall have little or no effect on the body politic—(cheers, and "Quite true"). It is the old principle founded on distrust of the people. How else can you account for the unconstitutional demand of Lord Salisbury—(groans)—for a dissolution of Parliament while so large a proportion of his countrymen stand outside the pale of the Constitution denied their just rights? Lord Salisbury has sketched in his Manchester speech a method of distribution which will add greatly to the representation of the great centres of population. Let me assure him that if that sketch indicates the course he is to take when a Redistribution Bill reaches the Lords he will not find the proposed new electors standing in the way of so desirable a consummation—(cheers). Gentlemen, this attempt of the dominant party in the House of Lords to force on a dissolution is one more effort on the part of irresponsible privilege to prolong a doomed and obstructive existence—(hear, hear). Shall it succeed?—(cries of "No, never.") Will the nation take back at the bidding of the House of Lords the mandate it gave its representatives last election—"No"—and retire from the contest baffled and defeated?—(cries of "Never, never," and loud cheers.) Rather say that the feeble barriers of arrogant usurping privilege must go down, as they deserve to go down, before the advancing tide of a nation's progress—(A Voice—"Sweep them away")—and that the nation may be trusted, if need be, to reconstruct an instrument of State mere in harmony with the requirements of our time—(applause). Gentlemen, electors of Aberdeen and the United Kingdom, let us take our unenfranchised brother by the hand and tell him that as he was our true ally when we battled for our rights we will not desert him in his hour of battle—(hear, hear, and cheers)—but will stand by him till he conquers his right—(cheers)—till our gracious Sovereign signs the charter of his citizenship—(cheers)—and he is one with us in guiding and directing the destinies of a great, a free, and an united people—(loud cheers).

Mr William Henderson, Devasia House, who was greeted with hearty cheers, said—The demonstration of this afternoon reminds me very much of what I saw four years ago in America, previous to the election of President Garfield. I was present at Philadelphia, and saw a procession of thirty thousand men, and in New York of fifty thousand men, and I

have not seen anything like these processions from that time till this afternoon—(cheers). I am old enough to remember when the Reform Bill of 1832 was passed, and the great rejoicings that took place throughout Scotland on that occasion, and I am very thankful that I am alive to-day to see the interest that is being now taken in the extension of the franchise to so many more in Scotland as the proposed bill brought in by Mr Gladstone proposes—(cheers). Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire represent a very large constituency—(hear, hear). I do not think that there is a county in Scotland which has a larger rural population than Aberdeenshire has; therefore this bill would enfranchise more to my mind than in any other county in Scotland—(cheers)—and therefore I am very glad indeed to see that there have been a great many enthusiastic meetings held in the various districts of the county in favour of the extension of the Franchise Bill—(cheers). Gentlemen, what do we propose by this bill? We propose that every householder shall have political privileges granted to him, and that this country shall be made in some measure like those English-speaking countries that have been formed very much by those who have gone from our midst to those distant lands—(a voice—"Capital"). Who do we find going to these colonies of ours and the United States of America? Why, we find that the most intelligent of our working classes go there, and when they go they find themselves free men, and have freer political privileges than in this country—(cheers). Therefore I hold very strongly that you should have these privileges granted to yourselves—(cheers). I have little doubt you will very soon have them granted, because the House of Lords will never be able to withstand the wish of the people of the country—(hear, hear, and cheers). The Conservatives—(hisses and groans)—wish to refuse you your enfranchisement until a Redistribution Bill is brought in, but as has been truly said, the object of their trying to get a Redistribution Bill brought in at the same time is to obstruct you being enfranchised—(hear, hear)—for it would be a very difficult thing to pass a Redistribution Bill through both Houses. The difficulty of rearranging electoral districts is very great, especially the old rotten burghs, because the Tories know that they will lose a large number of their voters when they have no longer a right to return members of Parliament. I think we owe a very hearty vote of thanks to our local representatives in Parliament for the way in which they have hitherto helped us—(cheers)—and I trust that those members who represent us will continue to do so for a very long time to come—(hear, hear). I am surprised that the House of Lords—(a voice—"Should not have more sense")—great laughter and cheers)—should refuse the wish of the people. Doing so tends to alienate the affections of the working classes from those that are in authority in the country—(hear, hear). I think they are standing very much in their own light in taking up the position they do, but I daresay they feel that if a larger number of the people in this country had a voice in the making of the laws of the country they might suffer somewhat in that respect—(cheers). For instance, in reference to the land laws, which they have hitherto been able to make very much to suit themselves—