

It has been said that unity is strength, and that knowledge is power. Let us then unite together, and use that power as a means of raising ourselves in the social scale, so that we may be better able to discharge these duties devolving on us, both socially and politically—(applause)—and should the House of Lords again refuse to pass the Franchise Bill—(cries of "Tear it down!")—we will then use that power as a lever to upset that most ignoble structure, whose foundations have been sapped by Salisbury and Co. :—

The House of Lords, the House of Lords,  
Which lately in our ears has rung,  
Where legislation stands ignored,  
And freedom's measures backward flung!  
Confounded Tories are ye yet,  
And why should ye not be upset?

—(loud cheering).

The Chairman then declared the motion unanimously carried, which intimation was received with loud and continued cheering, waving of hats, and cries of "Three cheers for Mr Gladstone."

In response to loud and repeated calls, Mr Webster, M.P., advanced to the front of the platform, amid loud cheers, and cries of "Give it them hot now," &c. Mr Webster, at the outset, expressed the great pleasure it had afforded him to witness the resolution carried in a way so unexampled. Need he tell them that he agreed with it in every word and iota—(cheers)—and he assured them that he would endeavour to the best of his ability to get it carried out in its entirety, in its letter and in its spirit—(applause). The success of the meeting that afternoon had been something so extraordinary that he thought there was only one thing that they could regret. He had heard during the last session of Parliament, upon two different occasions, the fitness of burghs in Scotland to be admitted to the franchise called in question. Twice had he heard, much to his gratification, Mr Gladstone single out, in answer to that taunt, the constituency of Aberdeen as something, in his opinion, which was a type of intelligence, education, and fitness in every respect of a Scotch burgh constituency—(cheers). His only regret, therefore, was that they had not present with them that afternoon their great leader to see for himself how admirably his statement had been borne out by the whole conduct of the meeting—(loud cheers). They were not even quite sure whether the House of Lords would yield in November when the bill had passed the House of Commons; and if that turned out not to be the case, it would then remain to be seen what course would have to be taken with the House. He supposed it would be something like Stephenson's reply about the oow getting on to the railway; so much the worse for the House of Lords if they persisted in refusing—(cheers). He was not there to speak of himself, but to bear testimony, when necessary, to the remarkable success, temperance, and good conduct of the meeting altogether. In addressing his constituency a few months ago, he had then given it as his opinion that in theory the constitution of a hereditary, unelected, irresponsible House to veto the representative body was indefensible, but little did he think that so soon after it would turn out in practice to be so utterly dangerous and mischievous as it had been—(hear,

hear). Indefensible was too weak a word to describe the action of such an institution. If, he repeated, the House of Lords should be so wantonly obstinate as to again refuse to pass the bill in November, they might depend upon it that he, as their representative, would support to the utmost any course that might seem to be called for by Mr Gladstone—(cheers)—himself, or by the most advanced of Radical reformers—(cheers). He was prepared to support to the utmost any measure that might then be found advisable to put an end at once, thoroughly and radically, to the difficulties caused by the present House of Lords—(cheers). He concluded by saying that it had afforded him much pleasure to testify how warmly and thoroughly he concurred in the resolution, and to end by proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Professor Minto for presiding—(great cheering).

#### PLATFORM D.

On this platform the chair was occupied by Mr James C. Thompson, president of the Aberdeen United Trades Council, and there were present Messrs J. W. Annand, secretary; Wm. Johnston, treasurer do.; John Pirie, do.; John Rait, do.; John Campbell, do.; Jas. Robertson, do.; Jas. Hunter, do.; Jas. Forbæ, do.; Jas. M'Intosh, do.; Jas. Mackie, do.; Jas. Ledingham, do.; Jas. Marnoch, do.; William Mackie, do.; William Davidson, do.; James Walker, do.; Wm. Livingston, do.; Alexander Colquhoun, do.; Thomas Longmore, do.; Alexander Dunn, do.; Thos. M'Farlane, do.; Chas. M'Pherson, do.; Jas. Duncan, do.; John M'Hardy, do.; Samuel Cocker, do.; Peter M'Kay, do.; John Webster, do.; George Copland, do.; Wm. Shepherd, do.; Wm. Smith, do.; P. Banks, do.; H. Fraser, do.; W. Mitchell, do.; Alexander Smith, do.; W. Jaffray, do.; John Miller, do.; James Geddes, do.; John Dickson, do.; William Arbuckle, do.; Robert Ogg, do.; John Shanks, do.; William Strachan, do.; Alex. Gray, do.; George Cormack, do.; John Smith, do.; Peter Milne, do.; Alex. Law, do.; Jas. Phimister, do.; Alex. Swap, do.; — Nicol, do.; James Dean, brassfinisher; George Bannerman, mason.

The Chairman, who was greeted with prolonged cheering, said—We are met to-day under very exceptional circumstances. These are of such a kind as ought not to be allowed to exist in a country like ours that boasts so proudly of its constitutional and representative Government—(cheers). If we wish to retain the position we occupy, we must quit ourselves like men, and declare emphatically that nothing shall hinder the broadening and deepening of those principles. In our meeting to-day we have a special mission to perform, and that is to protest with all our enlightenment against the unpatriotic conduct of the House of Lords—(cheers). The House of Lords has been described as a class "despotic in Government; unpopular in character; uncongenial in blood; a caste incapable of fusion or of access, and raised at once above the sympathies and the alliances of the commonalty." The House of Lords in rejecting the Franchise Bill have refused to give effect to what our representatives had done in the House of Commons after four months of assiduous toil, I have a strong conviction that our