

demonstration is not that we want a little play or pic-nicking—may verily,—but that this and all the demonstrations that are being held are the outcome of a deep conviction, and show our earnestness in desiring that the rights and privileges which we as citizens possess shall be extended to our brethren in the country, who we believe are quite able to exercise the franchise and give such effect to it as will strengthen the growing and advancing tide of the present Liberalism—(cheers). As a class they are much in need of representation, in order that they may get out of the sow's trough that they are now wallowing in—(cheers). While we are assembled to protest against the action of the House of Lords, we are on the other hand met to express our sympathy with the Grand Old Man—(great cheering)—and not only our sympathy, but our admiration—for his striving so strenuously to give effect to the will of the people—(cheers). If the Conservatives despise what I may, in a sense, term the Conservative leadership of Mr Gladstone, we be to them when the Grand Young Man—Joseph Chamberlain—(cheering)—appears on the scene. If I can read his spirit aright, it will be no compromise—all standing co-equal as to privileges conferred by law. Much has been said about the motives of the Tory peers in rejecting—or as they call it, suspending the Franchise Bill. We hear so much of redistribution, and their excessive willingness to give the Franchise, but their make-shifts have been so many that we are led to exclaim "Fudge"—(cheers and a voice "Rot"). Their motives spring from hatred to the principle of the Franchise—(cheers)—and the present Government. If we are to accept the utterances of Lord Salisbury at the recent conference in London when he said, regarding Mr Gladstone, "Whatever else you say about his legislation at least there can be no doubt of this, that he has applied principles to the rights of the property of his fellow subjects which we never heard of in this England of ours before. Whether they were right or wrong they were absolutely new, and they seemed to lead not only to gross injustice in the present, but to an illimitable horizon of spoliation in the future." Salisbury, as you will see, leads those peers who feel the effects of the legislation of the present Government, and particularly that relating to Ireland, which, in our humble estimation, has brought peace and prosperity to our sister isle—(cheers). But, gentlemen, though justice may be delayed, it must ultimately be done—(cheers). Not only will our demonstration strengthen our own hands and minds, but, taken in conjunction with other large gatherings, it will materially strengthen the hands of the Government, and show to other nationalities who are struggling for reform and for freedom what can be accomplished by unity of action—(cheers). Since we are assured of victory we can afford to be good humoured—(cheers). The resolution which will be submitted to you does not put forward any drastic proposal with regard to the House of Lords, but if that irresponsible body should again deny the people their rights, we will not hesitate to agitate for its abolition—(continued cheering and cries of "Out with them," "Away with them"). We have called you together to share what will undoubtedly in a little be a grand victory. On our part it will be

a bloodless victory; on the part of the House of Lords, a brainless defeat—(a Voice—"Brains not birth"). Lord Salisbury may sneer and gibe, but if he were present here he would find that "Ten thousand thousand are our tongues," and he would also find good evidence that "all our hearts are one"—(great cheering.)

Mr James Forbes, boot and shoe rivetter, moved the resolution. Mr Forbes, who met with a warm reception, said he could not express his feelings with reference to that grand meeting. It showed at once that the heart of the working class of Aberdeen was thoroughly Liberal—(cheers). It was over fifty years since their fathers met on the Links; it was over fifty years since the cry was raised that the sovereignty of the people was the right thing—the only foundation from which all Governments derived their power—(cheers). That doctrine had been denied all along by the Conservative party; that doctrine had been denied by the House of Lords, aye, and our kings and queens had denied the same doctrine, and had claimed to reign by divine right. Such ideas were now, he was glad to say, being fast dispelled—(cheers)—and even their learned Lord Salisbury had come to the conclusion however reluctantly, that the sovereign power all rested with the people, and that to the people the final appeal must be made. It was nearly five years, Lord Salisbury said, since our representatives in the House of Commons were elected by the people, and because it was five years Lord Salisbury concluded that they were out of sympathy with the people—"Bosh"—that the people in the meantime had all become Conservatives—(laughter and cries of "Never")—and he wanted the House of Commons to appeal to the country because he believed that having become Conservatives the people would turn the Liberals about their business and put in Lord Salisbury and his friends—(laughter and "Never"). With regard to the resolution, he was sure there was not a word in it but would be heartily endorsed by every one around the platform—(cheers). In fact a large proportion of the assembly being composed of working men could go a great deal further—(renewed cheers). They could, as working men, go the length of seeing the House of Lords abolished altogether—(prolonged cheers). The first part of the resolution was couched in different terms from that generally used in petitioning Parliament. In ordinary cases they generally began "Your honourable House," and "Pray your honourable House," and concluded with "Your humble servants will ever pray"—("Bah"). But they took a different platform now. They did not pray for their rights; they demanded them—(great cheering). Those rights had been admitted by Lord Salisbury to belong to them; the right as citizens of this great country—as taxpayers of this great country—the right the people possessed to say that the people in the counties shall have a vote with their brethren in the towns—(cheers). They demanded that, and in demanding it they stood upon a foundation that neither Lord Salisbury nor all the lords ever born in England could upset—(cheers). But the resolution referred to the unstatesmanlike, the unpatriotic, and he might say the selfish policy of the majority of the House of Lords. Lord Salisbury had tried every means in his power to turn the people aside