

the ploughmen would swamp the farmer that he coined his wealth off. He knew something of the life these poor fellows led in the rural districts. He once himself followed the plough. In the House of Commons a Conservative was talking of the ignorance of the working classes, and saying that they were afraid to give them the vote. On that occasion Mr Gladstone coolly replied, "They have the more need of it"—(cheers). There was not one present but would say "Amen" to that—(cheers).

At this point the bugle sounded, and the chairman at once put the resolution. He declared it carried amidst the greatest possible enthusiasm. Cheers were given for Gladstone, Chamberlain, and Bright. Groans followed for Salisbury and his colleagues. The processionists then reformed and marched back to the city.

### THE REFORMERS OF 1832.

This section of the procession assembled on the Links near the foot of the southern slope of the Broad Hill. Mr William Lindsay presided. Apologies were received from the following gentlemen. Mr George Thompson of Pitmedden wrote:—"Mr Thompson, with compliments to Mr Littlejohn and Mr Annand, returns the rosette sent him, as he regrets he cannot be on the Links to wear it. This privilege he enjoyed in 1832, and on this occasion he will be present in spirit." Mr William Sim, senior, banker, Banchory, expressed regret at inability to be present and stated that in 1832 "the Castle of Crathes was painted on six-feet-square canvas and the motto 'Crathes Castle, the Citadel of Reform.'" Mr Taylor of Cushnie expressed the pleasure it would have given him had he "been able to be present on the Links with the Reformers of 1832 to-day."

Mr William Lindsay, publisher, presided, and, in opening the speaking, said that the student of history would search the annals of the past in vain for a series of political events to match in importance those that had occurred between the passing of the Reform Bill of 1832 and the present time. A Conservative friend, of the mild type, last night, by way of banter, asked him what better they had been for the Reform Bills of 1832, and since then? Stupid as this question might seem, there were some people who seemed to have serious doubts about the progress of the country. For himself, there was nothing clearer than that the Reform Bill of 1832 gave the impetus of the whole upward tendency that had characterised society since then. Their late highly-esteemed townsman, Mr Angus, Town-Clerk, about a year previous to his death, said to him, that the election of the member for Aberdeen prior to 1832 was practically determined by eight individuals. From that till the time of the candidature of their townsman, happily still alive, Mr George Thompson, jun.—(cheers)—for the representation of the city, the electoral body had grown to somewhere, he thought, between seven and eight thousand. Now they knew that the Reform Bill of 1867 raised the electors of Aberdeen to the number of fourteen thousand—(cheers). Could any man in his senses overvalue the self-respect and all the good habits that were grounded upon that, arising from so many men taking a share in the

management of the common affairs of the country? That was the mere theoretic aspect of the subject. If they went to facts the results would be still more striking. An English judge of 1830, dealing with a number of workmen in the Midland counties who had been accused of intimidating employers, said it was not only criminal for men to take steps for the lessening of the hours of labour and the raising of wages, but it was also criminal to instigate men to be discontented with their condition—(laughter). This coarse view of life expressed by a judge showed the value that was put upon working men at that time. The truth is they had no political standing in 1830, and were not entitled to give any substantial expression of their wants and wishes; they occupied, in fact, to all intents and purposes the position of slaves—(cheers). There was very much to be done still in the improvement of their condition, but it was not too much to say that the right to take part in framing and administering the law of the country had helped them to rise to a level of material and social prosperity from which they might now by industry and wisdom win the highest conditions that men might reasonably hope to attain—(cheers). That day they had assembled in tens of thousands to declare their determination that the principle of self-government should be still extended and conferred on a class too long deprived of it. When the new county electors were permitted to exercise the right, there could not be the shadow of a doubt but that they would do so unitedly with the other electors to their own and to the nation's great benefit—(cheers). One word now about the aspect of the present Franchise Bill situation, so far as the House of Lords is concerned. That House, and the party that supported it, plumed themselves on being the guardians of the Constitution—"Oh". He was surprised that it had not been rung in their ears every day since the Lords rejected the Franchise Bill that the attitude of their lordships before the country at this moment was an attitude of rebellion. They were not Conservatives at all; they were rebels simply, and that because, of the three Estates of the realm—the Throne, the Lords, and Commons—the Lords alone opposed this Franchise Bill—(cheers). It was manifest by the Queen's Speech that the bill has the sympathy of the Royal house, but then consider further that the House of Commons as representing the bill, not by an ordinary majority but by a fourth of the entire voting strength of the House of Commons, expressed the nation's will as unmistakably as it was possible to do. In these circumstances the House of Lords must accept the bill, and the people of this country would teach them that they and not the House of Lords were to rule—(loud cheers).

The Chairman then moved that the following address to Mr Gladstone should be adopted:—

To the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, First M.P., Lord of Her Majesty's Treasury.

Honoured Sir,—Having been privileged to participate in the universal outpouring of joyous feeling by the Reformers of 1832, in celebration of the passing of the great Reform Bill of that period, and being now, by the good providence of God, permitted to take part in the magnificent demonstration taking place this day in the