

had done in the past, to take a determined stand and show the House of Lords that that was a game they would no longer submit to—(hear, hear, and applause). People naturally expected that those who gave laws to others should themselves be pure. But what were the members of the House of Lords and their forefathers, and how did they become possessors of their broad acres? They had done so through effete kings, and he might say harlots in a great measure. That might sound an unseemly word, but it was well authenticated history. When he read within the past few years of the character of Mr Gladstone being maligned by Lord Randolph Churchill—("Shame")—he felt that that individual if he had any spark of honour should hide his diminished head with shame. What was the first of that name? Why, he sold the honour of Britain and sacrificed thousands of his fellow-countrymen in order to fill his own pockets, and his descendant should think shame to insult such a man as Mr Gladstone, who, he trusted in God, might be long spared to lead the House of Commons—(cheers). If things should come to the worst for the House of Lords, for his own part he looked upon it as a shoemaker would upon a pair of old shoes that would not mend and were only fit to be thrown away—(laughter and applause).

Baillie James Ross said he was only a boy in '52, but he remembered standing watching the procession, and if he had not taken any part in it he had improved his time since, and had become a Liberal—not hot and cold, but hot and continually burning—(laughter and cheers). He would like Lord Salisbury to be there to see that glorious pic-nic, and to see that it was not a sham. Lord Salisbury said that the House of Lords was a flywheel, but they knew that a flywheel without a moving power would just stand still, and Lord Salisbury must know that the moving power was the people—(hear, hear)—and if he did not know he would know to his experience some day. There was an old motto, *vox populi, vox dei*—the voice of the people is the voice of God—and when that was the case the House of Lords must just do as the people bade them—(cheers). They must stand or go, run fast or slow, just as they are bidden—(cheer.). Mr Gladstone, to whom reference was made in the address, was a man worthy of all the praise and honour they could give him, and probably there was nothing that excited him more than to see men of his own class and order, far his inferiors in intellect, doing their best or worst to vex him. He would deal more severely with these obstructives, and give them six months in prison, or put them out of the House of Commons for life. He would go further than Mr Bright in the reform of the House of Lords, and on their rejecting a bill once, would immediately, without proroguing or adjourning, send it up a second time, and if they rejected it again would immediately pass the bill as a measure—(hear, hear, and applause). Another plan proposed was to create more peers, but he had three objections to that—first, that there were too many peers already; secondly, that it did not improve a man to make a peer of him; and, thirdly, because having tried

addition and failed, they should now try subtraction—(cheers). He would take fifty, headed by Lord Salisbury, and give them a bill of divorce, and he thought this would be a lesson to those that remained. He was not sure, however, though he was unwilling to scatter them all abroad at once, but that the best way for the country and for themselves would be to make a clean sweep—(hear, hear). At all events, if they were to have a House of Lords, it must be an elected one. They begged no favour from the House of Lords; they asked their right, and that right they would have, whatever be the consequence—(cheers).

Mr Henry Worling said he stood there to enter his protest as a working man against Lord Salisbury and the majority of the Tory peers. Lord Salisbury said the nation did not want the Franchise Bill. He had an answer in the great assemblage present, and in the gathering of the Reformers of 1832, who, he made bold to say, counted as many as they could find *bona fide* Conservative working men. Their neighbour wanted the franchise, and they wanted to help him to get it. He had stood for universal suffrage all his life, and stood for it now. Lord Salisbury said it was the gutter and the slums that were speaking. He threw the reply back in his face. Lord Salisbury never worked, neither did his forebears; they toiled not neither did they spin, and they entered the House of Lords through the sepulchres of their fathers. Speaking about mending the House of Lords, the speaker said he would abolish it at once and for ever—(cheers).

Mr D. Ferrier, Woodside, was the next speaker. He said the previous speaker had spoken of '52, but he was taking an interest in these matters in '22. When there were only 33 votes in Aberdeen, he was one of those who took part in forwarding the interests of Joseph Hume, and seeing the opposition we had to contend with then, Mr Gladstone, he thought, had nothing to fear. They had to contend with the opposition of the great Duke of Wellington, but him they conquered; and Earl Grey who succeeded him in office, came forward with this advice to the Lords—"Now, my lords, put your house in order, for ye shall die and not live." It had got 50 years added to its existence, and it was no better yet. Their measure was now filled up, and before long, he did not say whether there would be a second Chamber or not, but whatever kind of second Chamber they had, they should certainly not have a hereditary House, and they must be in some sense representative of the people. He was now bordering on fourscore years, and being a reformer of early days, so far from regretting his position, his Radical principles grew stronger and stronger—(cheers).

Rev. Mr Hunter, who was the last speaker, said he saw the gatherings of '52 and took some little part in them, and they effected finally a great result. It was all Toryism before that, and he knew that that agitation, though it did not bear much fruit in regard to bills it spread intelligence as to people's rights throughout the whole of Britain, and the seed sown then had produced this great gathering—(cheers). If they sowed good seed, in due time they would have a good harvest; and this day was to a great