

best possible weapon for the annihilation of his pretensions.

I have heard it said, and seen it insisted on in the newspapers, that as Sir Michael Bruce possesses a large estate within the county, he would be more likely to watch over its true interests than the Hon. Captain Gordon. But I am not aware that Sir Michael possesses a large estate in this county; and I am pretty certain that he does not in his own right hold a single acre within it. Sir Michael is not a native of Aberdeenshire; Captain Gordon is, and his honour and prosperity depend on the honour and prosperity of his native County—they are inseparably connected. If he himself does not possess a large estate within the County, his nearest relations and dearest friends do; and there is as little chance that he will sacrifice their interests as there is that Sir Michael Bruce will sacrifice what he may consider his own. You may see by the newspapers, that the gallant Captain is supported by a host of the first Commoners of rank, influence, and intelligence in the land—by a committee composed of a larger proportion of the old families and gentlemen of property in the county, and connected with its real agricultural concerns, than was ever brought together at any former contest. That such men must be guided by an anxious regard to the best interests of their country, it would be in vain to dispute.

I have now taken an imperfect glance at what must interest you deeply, and I have endeavoured to show the comparative qualifications of the two candidates to fill the situation they both aim at. It rests with you to decide how far my views are in the right. You hold your fate in some measure in your own hands. You have it in your power to add an arm to your friends or your enemies. There can be no valid ground for dismissing Captain Gordon from your services. He himself, as well as his party, profess principles which, if they are triumphant, must go far to secure your prosperity. He has proved himself a faithful servant, and the constant and steady advocate of your best interests. He has ac-