

Amid conditions as to weather which were almost perfect, the demonstration of the Liberals and agricultural labourers of Aberdeenshire and the north-eastern counties of Scotland, conducted under the auspices of the Liberal Association and the Trades Council, in favour of the passing of the Government Franchise Bill, took place on Saturday afternoon. Throughout the whole of the previous afternoon and evening the weather looked rather unpromising, and rain fell at intervals more or less heavily till midnight. The showers were all the more welcomed from the fact that the unpleasant dust was laid, the country refreshed, and the streets rendered clean and comfortable. As the forenoon wore on the heat became oppressive, but a thin covering of clouds tempered the sun's rays so far, and the contingents from the country on their way to the city suffered less from the heat than would otherwise have been the case. It was a subject of general remark, that if the weather on the day of the opening of the Duthie Park had been half as fine, what a magnificent affair it would have been, grand as it was under the circumstances. During the early part of the afternoon the clouds occasionally gave indications of rain, or passing showers, but not a drop of rain fell to mar the interest of the spectators, or the practical enjoyment of those who took part in the procession and subsequent meetings; and it was not until the conclusion of the proceedings on the Links and when the bugle sounded that rain began to fall. Even then it came sparingly and in no way to interfere with the demonstration of the day.

It was evident from an early hour in the forenoon that the citizens of Aberdeen were fully alive to the importance of the gathering, and large crowds of people promenaded the streets throughout the forenoon. Not a few of the shops were tastefully bedecked for the occasion, while in many parts of the city appropriate mottoes and flags were displayed. The interest in the demonstration increased as the day wore on, and long before the hour at which the processionists were requested to assemble on the Reclaimed Ground at the Inches every available coign of vantage had been fully taken up, the scene being animated and inspiring in the extreme. As body after body of the tradesmen arrived on the ground they were greeted with hearty rounds of cheering. The leading thoroughfares through which the procession had to pass were likewise crowded, and every point from which a good view could be obtained was fully occupied by spectators. Special arrangements were made for supplying the large numbers of people from the country with refreshments by the leading restaurateurs of the city, one of the places largely patronised being the Café in Shiprow. As an indication of the enthusiasm prevalent in the city a considerable business was done in Gladstone medals. A local merchant happily caught the idea that, considering the feelings of the people, such an emblem would find ready acceptance, and in his expectations he was not deceived, for at various street corners the men and youths whom he had engaged to push the sale were besieged with eager purchasers.

The ships in the harbour were alive with bunting. Several of the local shipowners manifested

their Liberal sentiments by having their vessels gallily decked with flags and ensigns. Not only did the local vessels catch up the enthusiasm, but the foreign vessels vied with each other in expressing their respect for the British nation and their feelings of honour toward the free sentiments of its people.

From the time the proposal for a demonstration was mooted, the Liberal Association (headed by Mr Prosser, the chairman, Mr Littlejohn, the secretary, and Mr A. S. Cook, the treasurer), worked hand in hand with the Trades Council in carrying out the arrangements. Mr Thompson (the president) and Mr Annand (the secretary) of the Trades Council gave the best help in their power, and at several recent meetings of their body they were able to definitely conclude the arrangements for the procession. No better site for the assembling of a large body of persons could have been selected than the Reclaimed Ground, which, though at some distance from the centre of the city, is so closely connected with it by the leading thoroughfares of Market Street and Bridge Street. Full details as to the display made by the several bodies composing the procession are given at the proper place, but there need be no hesitation in stating that one of its most interesting and distinctive features was the great turn-out of representatives who bore the brunt of the Liberal fight in the times of the first Reform Bill, and in the days of the Chartist movement. These veterans of reform were present, most of them hale and hearty, and quite as convinced of the justice of their cause as when fifty odd years ago they first maintained it. One old reformer, Mr James Henderson, architect—whose portrait, after fifty years of faithful service to his craft, is now hung in Trinity Hall—had along with him his youngest grandson, a bright-eyed, intelligent-faced, young lad, who seemed to show that, youthful though he was, he was fully alive to the significance of the occasion.

Mr Wyness, the superintendent of police, who was on horseback, led off the procession precisely at 3.30 p.m., and the movement of the processionists on to Market Street was the signal for an outburst of cheering. The thorough Liberalism of the city of Aberdeen was shown by the extraordinary crowds of people who lined the streets. On the Reclaimed Ground, as stated, the spectators were massed in hundreds, and the whole line of Cross Quay up to Market Street was on the left-hand side a seething crowd of men and women, who ever and again indulged in cheering. The vessels which lined the quay on the right gave coigns of vantage of which full benefit was taken. Every sailing vessel moored there had its complement of hearty, cheering, and enthusiastic Liberals; and even in the case of steamers, while the decks were crowded, the funnels were crowded round by ardent spectators. So, along the Cross Quay, Guild Street, and Bridge Street, through a great crowd of citizens and general spectators the procession wended its way. At the corner of Market Street, in Bridge Street, and at Union Terrace, and all along Union Street, the crowd was very great.

Long before the hour at which the procession ought to have arrived, opposite the Conservative