

—(loud cheers). Let that be their signal and the keynote, and let them have as their maxim that at the door of the House of Lords there should neither be night's rest nor day's ease—(laughter)—until the just demands of the people were granted—(loud cheers).

Professor Donaldson said he rose with the greatest goodwill to second the resolution which had been so eloquently placed before the meeting. This had been a grand demonstration—(cheers)—and the hundreds and thousands composing the assembly were there to declare with one voice that the two millions of unenfranchised men should be enfranchised, and that without delay—(cheers). The House of Commons, by an overwhelming majority, had decreed that this should be the case, and there was no reason whatsoever why the decree of the House of Commons should not at once become the law of the land—(cheers). The objections that had been taken were worthless. It was said that the mass of these two millions did not want the franchise—(a Voice—"Set the Lords up here," and laughter). He was afraid they would not come—(laughter). Supposing there were some among the two millions that did not want the franchise, what was the reason of it? It was because they had been hitherto debarred from taking part in public affairs. Anything they might do in the public interest was of no use; they were outside the privileged fold. It was thoroughly untrue that the great majority of these unenfranchised men did not care for the franchise—(cheers). They were eager for it, and that was not to be wondered at. Here was a man in the town in the very same position; he had a vote. The countryman looked at himself; he was like the townsman—he had got the same form, he had got the same body, he had got the same mind, he was an honest, industrious man, of upright character—why should he not have the vote?—(cheers). And give him the vote, what happened? Then his apathy, his indifference faded away; he felt an interest in the affairs of the country, and the interest which he felt would be a blessing to himself and a blessing to the whole nation—(cheers). And what, then, did they say who opposed the passing of the Franchise Bill? They came and said, and pleaded as an excuse—"Oh, we must have a Redistribution Bill." Yes, they would have a Redistribution Bill; the time must come when they would have a Redistribution Bill. A Redistribution Bill was one of the principal features of the Liberal programme—(hear, hear)—and when the time came for such a bill, they as Scots would have a good deal to say in the matter—(cheers). But it was absurd to make a Redistribution Bill the condition of the enfranchisement of two millions of their fellow-subjects—(cheers, a Voice—"Redistribute the Lords," and laughter). And suppose a Redistribution Bill were passed just now, it would only be temporary. The two millions would yet have to say what they think of redistribution—(cheers). And who was it that was pleading these absurd excuses? It was the Tory majority of the House of Lords. This majority had existed now for a very long time—(cries of "Too long")—and for fifty years it had given a sure, an uncompromising, a determined, and an irrational opposition to every measure which the Liberal Governments had proposed for the benefit of the people—(hear,

hear). In the House of Lords there was a Conservative majority at the time of the Reform Bill, and that majority had continued till the present day. The British public had borne patiently with this—(expressions of assent, and cries of "Too long")—but they were tired of it now—(cheers). The Tory majority of the House of Lords reminded him of the cow connected with the name of George Stephenson. The question was put to Stephenson what would happen if, when his locomotive was running on the rails, a cow should chance to stray on the line in front of the engine, and he replied that it would be "a very awkward thing for the cow"—(laughter). The Tory majority in the House of Lords was their political cow—(great laughter). A Liberal train full of measures, freighted for the benefit of the people never came up, but the majority "stoitered" on to the line like stupid "nowte"—(roars of laughter and cheers). And what had been done to them hitherto? The Liberal engine-driver had come out, he had taken the cow by the tail—(much laughter)—and pulled it aside, and then the train went on to its destination, and the Liberal party gained a victory—(cheers). That day it was a question whether they should stand it longer. Two millions of men were marching onwards with a just claim; they were backed by the nation, and if a number of Tory lords stood in the way, loitering and obstructing the thoroughfare, the people must "run them in"—(laughter). They must turn the majority into a minority, or they must teach the Lords in some way or other, whatever might be the means, that they must be in sympathy with the great mass of the nation—(cheers). So those taking part in this movement need have no fear. The cause they advocated was one that was supported by reason, that had justice on its side, that had humanity on its side; it had the nation to back it up, and the heavens had smiled upon them—(cheers). Such a cause was sure to triumph—(cheers). With such champions and under such auspices, it was sure to overcome every foe, to overturn every obstacle, and to be crowned ultimately with the joyous laurels of victory—(loud cheers).

Mr Robert Marshall, millworker, Buxburn, said that, as a working man—(cheers)—and as one who had not yet received the franchise, one of the two millions from whom the Lords had withheld the right to vote, he had much pleasure in standing up to support the resolution which had been proposed—(cheers). He wished to congratulate his fellow-working men upon the success, not only as regarded numbers, but also as regarded enthusiasm, of that day's demonstration—(cheers). The numbers taking part in the demonstration had, indeed, he was safe to say, exceeded the most sanguine expectations—(cheers). They were met there for a purpose, and that purpose was to show their appreciation of what the Government of their country had done, to support them in what they were going to do, and generally to urge them to stand firmly to their rights in their endeavour to do justice to two millions of their fellow men—(cheers). Their Government, which was led by the grandest of men—(loud cheers)—had been resisted and defied by the Lords. They had not, however, been defeated, and he asked—"Shall