

they be defeated?"—(cries of "No"). He said "No," and he was sure that in that vast concourse there was complete concord as regarded the determination that they would never brook defeat by the House of Lords—(cries of "No," and cheers). Their presence there that day declared one thing, and that was that the day was past when the will of the nation would be defied and resisted by a handful of individuals who sheltered themselves behind the battlements of irresponsibility—(cheers). They cared not for the House of Lords; they demanded their rights as citizens of Great Britain, and they would have their rights—(cheers). If the vote of that great assembly was taken as to what should be done with the House of Lords, he knew in what direction it would go—(laughter and cheers). He knew what working men desired should be done with the House of Lords. But this was not the time for action on this particular score. They were not to rush against the House of Lords and overturn it all at once; they were going in the meantime to agitate, and to do their best in supporting the Government now in power to aid the cause of liberty and equality of rights by passing the Franchise Bill during the present session—(cheers). He would say little more. He had had the pleasure of standing and speaking there before an M.P. and an ex-Lord Provost. That was an unusual position for him to occupy—(laughter)—but novel and somewhat disconcerting though the surroundings were to him as a working man, he had just spoken what he felt in his own words as he had determined to do—(cheers). He had great pleasure in supporting the resolution—(loud cheers).

Mr. William Walker, farmer, Bithnie, also spoke in support of the resolution. He said it gave him great pleasure to be present, and he would cherish till his latest breath the honour of having on such an occasion been associated with a movement so laudable as one which aimed at having two millions of their fellow-men put on an equal platform with those who already possessed the franchise—(cheers). During the last two or three weeks a great deal of discussion had taken place as to the propriety of the conduct of the House of Lords. One class held that the House of Lords had acted in a perfectly right and justifiable way—(laughter and boing)—in refusing to pass the Franchise Bill—(a voice—"Born blind," and laughter). He would give the meeting the opinions of some people he had come in contact with. One side belonged to the same class as he did—the farmers. He supposed they would not guess what the objection of some of these people was. Their objection to the Franchise Bill was that the labouring classes, mechanics and artisans, would swamp the vote of the farmer. Well, he had been an employer of labour now for upwards of 30 years, and he had more confidence in the labouring classes than to suppose any such thing as that—(cheers, and cries of "So you may," and "Good, Bithnie"). The labouring classes, taken as a whole, were thoroughly worthy of being entrusted with the franchise—(cheers). They had a good representative of the working classes at this meeting in the gentleman who had just sat down (Mr. Marshall), whose speech had so deservedly met with the approval of the company—(cheers). A second objection that was urged against the passing

of the Franchise Bill had already been referred to, viz., that, as Lord Salisbury said, the labouring classes, did not want the franchise—(cries of "He does not know")—but they only required to look round on that meeting, and to take into account the other meetings that had been held throughout the country, to realise that with Lord Salisbury the wish was father to the thought—(hear, hear, and cheers). There was a class of men in the country who might have been expected to know better, who had a very low opinion of the labourers and others in the country as yet unenfranchised. It was only the previous evening that he was in company with a number of people who held different views from, he believed, the majority of those in the present gathering, and they candidly told him that it was only the rag-tag and bob-tail and off-scourings that were wanting to be enfranchised—(laughter). Judging from the meetings that had been held throughout the country, and the speeches that had there been delivered, he thought himself that the labouring classes of the country were quite as well qualified to exercise their duties in regard to the franchise as the people in the cities—(cheers). The present and similar meetings would be of great advantage to Mr. Gladstone and his Government in getting the Franchise Bill passed though the House of Lords. If the Lords again refused to pass the bill, he would heartily approve of having them, not mended, but ended—(cheers).

The bugle sound for the speaking to cease was heard just as Mr. Walker was bringing his remarks to a close, and shortly thereafter there was a second bugle sound to intimate that the resolution which had been proposed should be put to the meeting.

The Chairman accordingly put the resolution to the meeting, and in answer to his query, "Is it your pleasure to pass this resolution?" loud cries of "Surely" were raised. The gentlemen on the Platform rose to their feet in a body, the surrounding multitude cheered enthusiastically, and on every side there was waving of hats. The Chairman subsequently asked for a show of hats against the passing of the resolution. Two hats were held up amid laughter, and the explanation was given that this was owing to a mistake.

On the call of the chairman three ringing cheers were given for Mr. Gladstone, and on the motion of Mr. Esslemont, "one cheer more" for the chairman. Cheers were also raised for Dr. Farquharson, M.P., and Mr. Esslemont, and groans were given for Lord Salisbury.

The gathering then dispersed.

PLATFORM B.

At B platform there was a large assemblage. The chairman and speakers took their seats early, and got a good view of the portion of the procession as it passed along to platforms C and D. Immediately in front of the platform the butchers, whose get-up was so greatly admired, took up their position, while behind them were the workmen engaged at the Union Works. On the north side of the platform were the operative slaters and the carpetmakers. On the top and on the face of the hill fronting the platform the crowd was very large. As the procession moved on the different trades raised loud cheers