

were all Conservative by training and instinct, and were it not that the great majority of the Conservatives tried to cheat them out of their income they would be Conservatives; but seeing that they were denied the rights and privileges every citizen should enjoy, and so long as they had Conservatives to oppose their liberties, the working men would remain Liberals—(cheers). He urged the people to agitate in order to surmount the difficulties they had to contend with, but to agitate honourably, justly, and peaceably—(cheers). In carrying on that agitation honourably they strengthened the hands of the Government, because if they condescended to lawless action they weakened those who wished to assist them, and, in addition, they also weakened the hands of the good and great and grand Old Man—(loud cheers). As he had said, they likewise strengthened the hands of the Government—a Government which had been honest in its actions. The Franchise Bill should be backed up by every working man with his moral support. He concluded by urging them to put their hand to the reform plough, and if they were still to be denied their rights they would run the furrow through the House of Lord—(cheers, and "Capital").

Mr Alexander Bremner, Sandbank, Kennay, whose reception was similar to that of the other speakers, in supporting the resolution said he supposed he might address that great and imposing meeting as freemen and serfs—men who are politically free, who had a voice in the Government of the country, whose rights as men and citizens were recognised, and men who were political slaves, who had no right to say how they should be ruled. Unfortunately, like thousands there that day, he belonged to the latter class, and they were there in their thousands to demand that their fetters be struck off—(cheers)—and their brethren from town and county who were free already were there in their thousands to help them to gain their liberty—(cheers). Why were they not free? Why had they no voice in framing the laws with which they were governed, or regulating the burdens which were imposed upon them? They paid for their freedom. Why were they not free? Was their patriotism less? Was their intelligence less? Look across this vast multitude, go from man to man, and pick out those who appear best fitted to decide who should administer the affairs of this great Empire. Did not the men who were denied this power appear as capable of exercising it as those who had it? Why is it then that they were refused what it was their just and undeniable right to have? Mr Gladstone and his Government had fought bravely to give them justice. Lord Salisbury and his followers pretended to be mightily interested in them, and very desirous of giving them a vote if they would only be so very accommodating as allow them to decide how the people would use it. But they were not to be hood-winked in that manner. They were not so very dull but what they could see through the not very deeply-laid scheme of the Tory leaders. The redistribution cry had failed. They saw it, as it really was, a sham, a cheat, a huge imposition—(cheers). Unfortunately for its authors the dodge was a very transparent one—as thin and shadowy as the speeches of the Tory leaders or the leading articles of their

editors—(cheers). The motive which had prompted them to act as they had done was not, as they said, a desire for a complete measure, but mistrust and hatred of the people—(cheers). Mistrust, hatred, contempt for the masses breathed in every speech which Lord Salisbury had delivered since this agitation began—(cheers). He sneered at meetings like the present vast assemblage as "legislation by picnic," and the opinions expressed at them as the opinion of the streets. But he did not refuse to address a gathering of Conservative working men who were contented to be slaves, and who did not want to have a vote, at Manchester. People who did not want to have votes were harmless—(hear, hear). Statesmen did not give much thought to such antiquated specimens—(laughter). But at these great Liberal demonstrations they all wanted to have votes—(cheers). Lord Salisbury knew that, and he trembled for the result. He affected to despise the agitators, but in reality he feared them. He had taunted them with their orderly behaviour, and had attempted to urge them on to rash and violent acts. He had told them that they did not want this measure, that he and his brother peers would not believe that they were in earnest unless they brought violent pressure to bear upon them. A statesman aspiring to direct the policy of our nation had plainly incited them, at a time of great provocation, in the heat of a widespread, deeply-seated agitation, on the eve of a great constitutional crisis—Lord Salisbury had attempted to provoke them to set at defiance the laws of the country. For less inflammatory speeches Irish patriots and members of Parliament had been imprisoned—(cheers and laughter). But let the noble marquis taunt and jeer at his will; the most inflammatory things he could utter would fall flat—(cheers). They would not weaken their position by a single rash act. They did not need to do so. They had the power and could afford to wait. But let Lord Salisbury beware. The spirit of their forefathers was not dead; it only slept. The fire of their Scottish patriotism had only slept, not gone out; and if they were pressed too hard, if they were trampled on too far, then they ceased to speak. They would act, they would have their rights, their full rights, and nothing less—(cheers). Yes, they would have their rights, even if in forcing them they had to hurl the House of Lords into ruins—(cheers and "Bravo"). The House of Lords was essentially an institution of huge landowners, whose great endeavour had always been to protect their own interests and maintain their privileges at the expense of the people—(cheers). By rejecting the bill of the Government they hoped to put the day of reckoning a little further off. It was a miserably blind and blundering policy—(hear, hear). It was dictated by selfishness, class feeling, and party spite, but what else could they look for? They were told, on the authority of Lord Salisbury, that there was no talk of a Tory majority in the Upper Chamber until Mr Gladstone became a prominent figure in British politics, and that if he were away the majority would again disappear. Now what did this mean? Simply this—that these men who talked so loudly of their patriotism and devotion to the people were prepared to sacrifice the