

city of Aberdeen, for the purpose of strengthening the Government, of which you are the gifted head, in the patriotic endeavour they are now making to defeat the attempt of the House of Lords to delay your carrying into immediate effect the enfranchisement of two millions of our fellow subjects—we cordially and sincerely salute you with feelings of admiration, esteem, and good-will, and hope that your present efforts in favour of political justice may be speedily crowned with success.

Signed, on behalf of the Reformers of 1832, Section of Aberdeen Franchise Demonstration, this sixteenth day of August, 1884, by

W. LINDSAY, CHAIRMAN.

Mr Mitchell said—Mr Chairman, fellow-Reformers of 1832, the address which our respected chairman has read, and proposed to be adopted and forwarded to Mr Gladstone, our great Prime Minister, contains a salutation, and expresses feelings of "admiration, esteem, and goodwill" to him which meet with the warm approval and hearty sympathy of this great meeting. But while that is so, it will be observed that the terms of the address are such as could not be adopted by the whole of this great meeting, and which only apply to a small part of it. The requisite qualification for the adoption of this address is advanced or old age; and that is a qualification the possession of which by those of us who do so I am sure will not be envied by our younger brethren. Our qualification for adopting this address is, as it bears, that we participated in the rejoicings consequent on the passing of the great Reform Bill of 1832, and that by the good providence of God we are also permitted to take part in this great demonstration—a demonstration which is for the advancement of the same great principles as we contended for in 1832—(applause)—which is in favour of a measure which is now a necessary supplement to the bill of 1832; and which, when carried, will confer the franchise upon two millions of our fellow-subjects, as well entitled to it and as competent to exercise it as we are who already possess it—(applause). Such an immense and enthusiastic meeting as this, for such a purpose, recalls to those of us who were participators in the proceedings of 1832 old recollections, and makes us feel as if we were young again. It reminds us of the tactics which were employed and the obstacles and obstructions which were interposed to prevent the passing of the Reform Bill of 1832; and in those which we now see employed and interposed to prevent the passing of the Franchise Bill we recognise old acquaintances with new faces, by which we are nevertheless enabled to see that they are the offspring of the same political parents and embody the same political principles as those of the opponents of the Reform Bill of 1832—(applause). We are also reminded of the influence which we then saw exercised upon the obstructors of that time by the manifestation of an earnest, united opinion. We then saw the people of this country give such manifestation of their determination not to be denied their political rights as put an end to obstruction and was followed with success. The people were in the right in 1832. They were united and resolute, and they prevailed—(cheers). The people are in the right in 1884; they are again united and resolute, and they will again prevail—(cheers). This great demonstration and the many similar ones throughout the country are the best answers to our

opponents' taunts of indifference to the Franchise Bill on the part of the people, and the best proof of the people's desire to strengthen the Government and its gifted head in their patriotic endeavour to defeat the attempt of the House of Lords to prevent the enfranchisement of two millions of people—(cheers). The House of Lords should take warning that it is presently playing with dangerous weapons, and is affording evidence of its own infatuation, and of the necessity of so curtailing its power as to prevent it doing more mischief—(cheers). But I must not detain you, and will conclude by again referring to the expressions of admiration, esteem, and goodwill to Mr Gladstone with which the address closes, and which find an enthusiastic response in the hearts of all of us, old and young. We who took part in the proceedings of 1832 have been spectators of Mr Gladstone's life-work—(cheers)—a work which embodies much of the history of the period during which he has lived, and we know not whether more to admire the high qualifications, natural and acquired, which he has brought to the performance of his life-work, or the unselfishness, integrity, and high principle which he has manifested in all that he has done—(cheers). We not only earnestly wish him success in his present patriotic endeavour, but that he may be long spared to guide this great nation with his counsel—(cheers).

Mr Bruce, Forne, said—Little did I think, on leaving home this morning, that I would be called on and have the high honour conferred upon me to address so vast an assembly, having for its object a cause fit to make the very angels clap their wings for joy—(cheers). When I look around and hear the murmuring sound of determined men expressing their feelings not loud but deep, how old associations well up! Representing at least the non-electors of my own parish, allow me in their name and my own, to thank from the depths of our hearts the men of Aberdeen for so nobly and generously standing around me in their thousands on this our day of trial, to win for us those rights of which we have been so long and so unjustly deprived. The honour that has been so unexpectedly conferred on myself and those friends who stood beside me in the ranks of progress in 1832 will prove to them and myself a red-letter in the future calendar of our lives—a day which none of us will ever forget, and for which we can never feel sufficiently grateful to the citizens of Aberdeen. But as time speeds on our numbers decrease—it must be so. As the mantle falls from our shoulders, it will be the privilege of a younger generation to catch it, so that when your arms become feeble, and your locks whitened with the snows of winter, similar honours may be bestowed on you—(cheers).

Mr Alexander Duncan, shoemaker, Causewayend, was next called on to speak. He said he often pondered in his mind how long we in this 19th century were to be hoodwinked by the House of Lords. The people sent up representatives to the House of Commons who devoted their nights and days to the service of the country in passing good and just measures, and no sooner were those measures passed by the House of Commons than the House of Lords dared to take the liberty of vetoing them. It was time for them now, as they