DUNDEE SOUP KITCHEN.—This year the Committee, with a view of preventing abuses, propose renewing the tickets monthly. The present tickets run out to-day, and as the issuing of new tickets will take place on Thursday, it is requested that parties only give lines to those whose circumstances they really know, and that it be understood subscribers only are entitled to issue them. It is believed that, until the exercise of reasonable circumspection, the number of tickets issued is quite sufficient to meet the actual destitution in the town.

The Committee of the Dundee Soup Kitchen have to acknowledge, with thanks, the following appropriate donations:—Mr M'Farlane, Hawkhill, a bullock's hind feet, and a quantity of turnips; a Friend, a quantity of vegetables. Similar donations will be thankfully received at the Kitchen, Overgate.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—We understand that Lord Kinnaird has been admitted as a Fellow of the Geological Society of London. The Rev. Dr Anderson has had the same distinguished honour conferred on him. Sir Roderick Murchison on the occasion characterised the reverend Doctor as one of our leading discoverers in fossil geology.

NAVAL APPOINTMENT.—The appointment of our townsman, Dr Miller, is stated as follows in the *Sun*:—"Dr Miller (known as 'Simoom doctor,' because of the skilful medical aid rendered both to English and Russians at Eupatoria, Alma, &c., during the war) has been appointed to the Diadem, 32, screw, Captain W. Moorsom, C.B., at Greytown, Jamaica."

ROYAL NAVAL COAST VOLUNTEERS.—The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having directed that the Royal Naval Coast Volunteers in Scotland shall be trained on board Her Majesty's ship Edinburgh during the year 1859, notice has been given that the training will take place for twenty-eight days in the months of March, April, May, June, October, November, and December. It is intimated that the herring fishing is not to be interfered with for training.

ORDINATION.—The Presbytery of Dundee met on Thursday in Wallacetown Church for the ordination of the Rev. Mr M'Lean as minister of that church. The Rev. Mr Leitch, of Abernyte, presided on the occasion, and at the close of the ordination services, Mr M'Lean was welcomed by a number of the members of the congregation.

CRIMINAL COURT.—On Friday, Alexander Menney was tried before Sheriff Henderson and a jury, on the charge of breaking into the pheasant pens at Camperdown policies, and stealing a number of pheasants, or with resetting the stolen goods. A number of witnesses having been examined for the prosecution and also for the defence, the jury unanimously found the panel guilty of the theft; and the Sheriff sentenced him to four months' imprisonment.

WASHINGTON FRIEND'S PANORAMA OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.—This splendidly finished panorama, the work of an accomplished artist, and, from the critiques of the Metropolitan press, unsurpassed by any that has appeared in this country, opens in the Corn Exchange Hall here on Monday. From miniature sketches which we have seen of parts of the painting, we are sure the visitor will be delighted by the entertainment, which is varied by excellent music, both vocal and instrumental.

WAX-WORK EXHIBITION, BELL STREET HALL.—It will be seen from our advertising columns that Mr Springthorpe generously intends giving the entire Friday night's proceeds of his exhibition for behalf of the Soup Kitchen. Apart entirely from the great attractions of his oromonade concert, &c., the object for which this donation is intended should induce parties to patronise the exhibition liberally.

PETITIONS TO PARLIAMENT.—In the House of Commons on Friday a petition praying for participation in the benefit of the Superannuation Act was presented by Sir John Ogilvy from the post-master, clerks, letter-carriers, &c., in the post-office, Dundee. Petitions were also presented by Mr Baxter from the congregation of Protestant Dissenters assembling in Castle Street Chapel, Dundee, praying that free and grammar schools should be thrown open to all classes of Her Majesty's subjects; and from the spirit-dealers of Montrose, praying for inquiry by committee into the operation of the Public-houses Act in Scotland.

THEFT.—Charles Johnston, labourer, King Street, and Richard M'Lean, carter, Fish Street, charged with stealing 4 cwt. of hemp from the warehouse of Thomas Neish, Esq., merchant, were yesterday remitted to the Procurator-Fiscal by the police magistrate.

DUNDEE CLOTHING SOCIETY.—We understand that the ladies in the management of this excellent institution have concluded their labour for the season, after having served 307 cases, including 480 articles of clothing, and expended £68 18s 7d.

CHARGE OF FORGERY.—Patrick Griffin or Griffiths, weaver, was brought before the sitting magistrate at the Police Court on Monday, charged with having, on various occasions within the last twelve months, and more particularly within the month of January last, forged the names of the Rev. David Greig, Perth Road, Dundee, and David Taylor, weaver, Wilkie's Lane, Dundee, to the applications for Emigration Forms for the purpose of assisting persons to emigrate to Australia. Griffin was remitted to the Procurator-Fiscal.

LOCHEE.—PRAISEWORTHY CONDUCT.—William Butchart, a worker at the Camperdown Linen Works, having, by accident, lost his right hand, his comrades, desirous of affording him pecuniary assistance, got up a lottery for his behoof. The prizes to be drawn for were a writing-desk and work-box, and it is gratifying to state that, as soon as the affair became known, upwards of 700 tickets were sold. The drawing came off on Saturday last, and it resulted in a surplus of £6 16s 6d, which was handed over to the young man Butchart.

WHALE FISHING.—On Thursday last the Tay (screw) steamer, Captain Starrock, left the harbour for Shetland to complete her crew, after which she proceeds to Greenland to engage in the seal fishing. The other ships are fast progressing towards completion. The Dundee (s.s.) left the harbour on Monday morning on a trial trip down the river, previous to proceeding to sea.

WIFE-BEATING.—James Lynch, mill-worker, Murraygate, was on Monday sentenced to sixty days' imprisonment for striking his wife several blows upon the head and face, and knocking her down upon the floor of the house occupied by them, on Sabbath morning.—James Hunigan, weaver, Murraygate, was on Monday remitted to the Procurator-Fiscal on a charge of having severely assaulted his wife, on Saturday night last—William Hart, weaver, Murraygate, charged with assaulting his wife to the effusion of blood, was yesterday remitted to the Procurator-Fiscal.

ASSEMBLY.—Mr and Miss Fettes' closing ball for the season came off in first-rate style on Friday night in the Thistle Hall. The junior pupils are exceedingly well trained, their exercises being performed in a manner at one graceful and pleasing; evincing in a high degree the painstaking care and instruction of Mr and Miss Fettes. Dancing was commenced with vigour by the more advanced pupils about ten o'clock, and continued till an early hour on Saturday morning.

EXAMINATION OF QUEEN'S SCHOLARS.—At the late examination of Queen's scholars in Edinburgh, the following parties from Dundee, and who were trained in the schools connected with the Church of Scotland, have been successful, viz.:—From the General Sessional School, Meadowside—Margaret Allan and Andrew Strachan, 2d class; James Moir and David Williamson, 3d class. From the Meadowside Sessional Industrial—Elizabeth Shepherd, 1st class. From Rosebank Sessional School, Hilltown—Alex. Brown, 1st class; Margt. Ritchie and Wm. Owler, 2d class; and Margt. Crichton, 3d class—the 1st class being the highest in merit. The result is highly creditable to all interested.

ELECTION OF AN ENGINEER FOR THE CLYDE.—The Clyde Trust met on Tuesday in Glasgow for the purpose of electing an engineer in room of Mr Ure, who has been appointed engineer for the Tyne. The advertisement offered a salary of £600 per annum to a suitable person. Mr Dreghorn moved the appointment of Mr Ower of Dundee, and the motion was seconded by Mr Alexander Ewing. Mr Allan Gilmour moved as an amendment, seconded by Mr John Mitchell, that they appoint Mr Duncan, for some years assistant to Mr Ure, *ad interim*, at a salary somewhat in advance of that he now received, and to be progressive. The amendment was carried by 12 to 10. The Lord Provost and several other members protested against the decision.

WATT INSTITUTION.—On Wednesday evening the weekly lecture in connection with the Watt Institution was delivered by Henri Durlack, Esq., French teacher in the Public Seminaries, on the subject of early French literature. The lecture was one of the best attended of the whole course, and also one of the most interesting. M. Durlack exhibited a thorough familiarity with his subject, and was very felicitous in its exposition. Observing a chronological order in his sketch, he presented a rapid but vivid outline of the principal features in the early literary history of his country, adverting particularly to the *Belles Lettres*, in which the peculiar character of every nation is essentially displayed, but casting a general survey also over the sciences and arts, in the advancement of which all civilized nations participate. At the close a very cordial vote of thanks was awarded to the lecturer. Mr J. Woodfall Ebsworth, of Edinburgh, lectures to-night, on "Our living Artists."

REGISTRATION RETURNS.—In the month of January there were registered in Dundee 278 births (of which 29 were illegitimate), 90 marriages, and 200 deaths. Of the deaths 170, or 58 per cent., were those of children under five years of age. Dundee has the highest proportion of children's deaths, the proportion in Aberdeen being only 29 per cent. of the whole. This fact is paved accounted for by another fact brought out in the return for January, namely, that epidemic and contagious diseases have been more fatal in Dundee than in any of the eight leading towns of Scotland during January, the proportion of deaths from this class of diseases in Dundee having been as high as 40 per cent. Of these diseases measles seems to have been the most prevalent, no less than 65 deaths having occurred from that disease during January. In the same month 12 children died of scarlatina, 17 of hooping-cough, 4 of croup, and 4 of typhus. On account of the large mortality from measles, 22.4 per cent., of the whole, the number of deaths exceeds the births in Dundee during January.

DEATH OF THE HON. WILLIAM MAULE.—This gentleman, youngest son of the late Lord Panmure, and proprietor of the Maulesden and Fearn estates, breathed his last on Thursday forenoon, at his residence at Maulesden House. He had been in a bad state of health for a considerable time, and for the last few weeks his illness assumed a more alarming character. Professor Miller, of Edinburgh, and other eminent medical gentlemen, have been in attendance on him, but all of no avail. Mr Maule was in the forty-ninth year of his age. This event will cast a considerable gloom over this neighbourhood. We understand the funeral is expected to take place on Thursday first, when the remains will be interred in the family vault at Panbride Church-yard. Lord Panmure is now the only male representative of the family.

PEOPLE'S CONCERTS.—The second of Mr Methven's series came off on Saturday last successfully—the hall being well filled, and the audience apparently satisfied with the bill of fare. Miss Macintyre's singing, though by no means faultless, was upon the whole good. Her forte lies in such songs as "There cam' a young man," where a little pertness of manner is needed, in which she excels; but where feeling is required, she is not at all at home. Mr Julian Adams is an admirable conductor, and he does his work to perfection. His concertina playing is first-rate, in fact he is perfect master of the instrument. Mr Maclagan seems a favourite with a certain class of our Saturday evening audience, who enjoy a mixture of music and buffoonery. He can do a little of every thing, and seems careless of all things except what meets the taste of his admirers. His pretensions are most diversified, for he plays a little on the flute, fiddle, banjo, and if we forget not, we have heard him on the concertina, accordion, and even the *bones*. Singing and dancing are also in his line; indeed he is Jack of all musical trades. As his performances are not calculated to improve the musical taste of an audience, his proper sphere is therefore a cheap theatre rather than a concert room. As a musician he is decidedly *nihil*. Mr Stephen was well received, but his voice is not adapted for the large hall, and his singing was not effective in consequence. Mr Allan of Forfar and a band of Reel-players enlivened the audience at intervals, and altogether the concert, though anything but classical, seemed to give satisfaction. This objection will not likely attach to the next concert, for we observe that the sister of the celebrated soprano, Madame Rudersdorff, is to appear and other first-class talent.

FACTORY INSPECTORS' REPORT.—In the joint report of the Inspectors of Factories recently presented to Parliament, they give the following summary as the results of their operations in the working of the Factory Acts during the last quarter:—

"There is only one subject which we, conjointly, beg leave to bring under your notice. We would respectfully request your attention to the great extent of working beyond the number of hours daily to which the employment of young persons and women are restricted, and of the encroachments upon the times reserved for their meals, which prevail more especially in Mr Horner's district, as set forth by him in his present and in several of his former reports. Scotland presents a most striking contrast in this respect; for Sir John Kincaid has every reason to believe that no such violations of the law are practised in any part of his district. The imperfections in the Factory Acts which make it extremely difficult for the inspectors and sub-inspectors to detect and convict such offenders, and to fulfil the evident intentions of the Legislature in regard to the all-important subjects of limitation to the hours of work, and the securing of sufficient opportunities of rest and refreshment to the workers in the course of the day, render some alterations in the law necessary. We contemplate nothing beyond that which will secure the enforcement of the obvious intentions of the Legislature set forth in the existing Acts. Since our last report a considerable improvement has taken place in most of the branches of trade with which we become acquainted in the discharge of our official duties."

LECTURES TO SEAMEN.—The last in the series of weekly lectures to seamen, was delivered last night in the Seamen's Chapel, by the Rev. D. Ogilvie, Broughty Ferry. The lecture consisted of a narrative of the conversion of an infidel, whom Mr Ogilvie had known for some time before his death, and from the incidents in whose life he made a series of warnings and appeals to those present, with the view of inducing them to avoid evil companions and evil books. The audience was considerable, and listened to the rev. gentleman with the closest attention. At the close, Mr David Jack, in a few appropriate remarks, moved that the thanks of the meeting be given to the lecturer. This motion was heartily agreed to, when Mr Johnstone, announcing the discontinuance of the lectures for the season, alluded to the kindness of preceding lecturers in promptly responding to the calls made upon them, and by whose help the series had been rendered, in point of interest and usefulness, second to none that had recently been delivered in Dundee. He also urged on the seamen present the importance of frequenting the reading-room when at home, and perusing the books in the Loan Library when at sea or in foreign ports. Mr Ogilvie kindly offered to deliver a course of illustrated lectures next season, should the seamen turn out in greater numbers. We hope this condition will be complied with, alike for the benefit of our seafaring classes, and the encouragement of those who seek to do them good.

REFORM MEETING IN DUNDEE.

On Monday evening, a public meeting of the inhabitants was held in the New Corn Exchange Hall, convened by Provost Jobson, in compliance with a numerously-signed requisition, "to take into consideration the question of Parliamentary Reform, and also to consider the propriety of memorialising Government, and petitioning Parliament to include Scotland in any measure of Reform they may propose, with the view of placing the representation of Scotland on an equal footing with that of other parts of the United Kingdom." The Hall was crowded, considerably more than two thousand being present. The chair was taken at half-past seven o'clock by Provost Jobson, who was accompanied to the platform by George Kinloch, Esq., of Kinloch; Edward Baxter, Esq., of Kincaldrum; P. H. Thoms, Esq.; Rev. Alexander Hannay; Bailies Webster and Welch; Councillors Parker, W. Hean, Greig, Rollo, Kennedy, Stuart, D. Nicoll, and W. Nicoll; Messrs George Rough, John Long, H. B. Fergusson, R. Fergusson, Alex. Easson, Alex. Low, Neil Steel, Charles Smith, Thos. Child, J. Robertson, John Laing, R. Smith, Sinclair M'Donald, William Forgie, R. Baxter, Bailie J. Duffus, James Roger, D. Bruce, W. Gibson, W. Gellatly, John Clarke, C. M'Pherson, W. Grandy, D. Cooper, D. Scott, Patrick Matthew, Gourdiehill; I. Peterkin, Alyth; &c., &c. On the motion of Mr Edward Baxter, Provost Jobson was called to the chair.

The PROVOST, after explaining the object of the meeting, said—I believe there will be no difference of opinion entertained by any one here, that any measure of Reform proposed by the present or any future Government not treating the three sections of the empire as one, will not be considered satisfactory by this country. (Cheers.) England, Ireland, and Scotland, have many years ago been incorporated by Acts of Union; but time has cemented them by a thousand ties immensely stronger than any act of the Legislature could do. (Hear.) We all bear the same public burdens, we are all governed by the same laws. Family relationships have been formed—the blood of our fathers—ay, and of our sons too—has been shed and mingled on the same deck, and on the same green sward, for the liberties of mankind and for our own nationality. (Cheers.) This, gentlemen, is the only basis on which any measure of Reform can be built. With regard to the superstructure that is to be reared on this foundation, there must of necessity be a great diversity of opinion, and this we are now met to discuss. I trust the good sense of the meeting will offer no interruption to the gentlemen who are to address you. (Cheers.)

Ex-Provost ROUGH read letters of apology from Mr David Baxter, and from Mr George Armistead, the former occupied with a previous engagement in Edinburgh for that evening, and the other in London, and both expressing their regret at their inability to be present.

Mr JOHN LENG then proposed the following resolution:—

"That no measure of Parliamentary Reform will be satisfactory which does not embrace a large extension of the franchise, both in burghs and counties; and that nothing less than a £5 occupation suffrage in towns, and a £10 occupation and 40s freehold in counties will meet the just expectations of the people."

He stated the pleasure which he felt in submitting the motion to such a large meeting—the first political meeting held in the hall, and said that such meetings were useful both in eliciting and educating public opinion. (Hear.) Coming to the resolution, and leaving details to the speaker who was to follow him, he wished to address a few observations to those who might think generally that the resolution went too far, and to those who might think that it did not go far enough. After stating that the Reform Bill of 1832 was a middle class measure, and that it gave nine in ten of the middle classes the suffrage, and that consequently, as individuals, they had comparatively little to gain from any farther Reform measure, he said—Now, I have no need to advocate a wider franchise for my own advantage—I have the franchise, but what do I care about that? In the establishment with which I am connected there are at least a dozen full-grown, steady, well-doing, respectable men who, I am satisfied, are as well qualified to make an intelligent use of the franchise as any similar number of tenpounders, yet I believe that only one of the dozen has a vote. (Hear.) Every employer must have similar facts before him, and it seems to me that it is an entire mistake to suppose that the admission to the franchise of such men as I have mentioned will endanger our institutions. So far as I have mixed with working men I have not found them animated by revolutionary ideas. The best class of working men are almost invariably married men—careful, saving, fond of their homes and families, jealous of their independence, and ambitious so to educate their children as to raise them a step higher in the social scale. They read the same newspapers, attend the same meetings, go to the same churches, and in the main are animated by the same principles as their employers, and instead of their admission to the electoral roll in any way jeopardizing, I believe it would strengthen and secure the position of the State. Nor do I think there is the danger some anticipate of the five pounders swamping the ten pounders. The seconder of the resolution will probably give some statistics showing what the actual operation of a £5 franchise would be in a town like Dundee, but I wish to point out that the fact of reducing the franchise to £5 does not imply that all who are admitted will be five-pounders. There will be many excellent voters who are now occupying houses at £9, £8, £7, and £6, including intelligent and respectable clerks, shopmen, mill-managers, foremen, and mechanics. (Hear.) Nor will, as it is supposed, all these vote as one man on some particular side, or for some particular party; but they will, I believe, be just as much divided on every leading question as are the present electors, so that the idea of the new voters swamping the old is purely imaginary. He then adverted to the 40s freehold for counties, stating that it appeared to him to be excellent as a political premium, tempting the working classes to realise for themselves great social advantages, and for one he should rejoice to see the over-crowded and swarming towns and cities of Scotland dotted round with cheerful colonies of working men's freehold estates. (Cheers.) Turning then to those who might object that the resolution did not go far enough, he urged that the meeting was a town's meeting, and that it was desirable it should represent views on which there is a general and hearty agreement. (Hear.) He continued—If it were only Dundee that was being legislated for, I should say that, from its peculiar circumstances, £4 would be a better figure than £5—(hear, hear)—but I am told that the factors and proprietors of working men's houses in Dundee are hoisting up the rents so fast that there is every probability that those who are in £4 houses now will all be paying £5 before the Reform Bill has passed. (Great laughter and cheers.) But all that this resolution does is to fix the minimum that we will take. If any think that such a franchise would not be perfect, I quite agree with them; but if any think that there is the slightest chance of Parliament advancing one nearer to perfection than the resolution proposes I very much differ from them. John Bull never looks very far before his nose, and the moment you begin to talk to him about theoretical perfection he gives a grunt and tells you not to take up his time with such nonsense. (Laughter.) He will listen to nothing but what is thoroughly practicable, and will never take three strides if two will suffice. He then adverted to the proposal to have an intelligence suffrage—which he looked upon as impracticable, as there would be endless difficulty in satisfactorily ascertaining who are and who are not intelligent men. And in regard to manhood suffrage, he considered that a £5 suffrage in towns is a near approximation to that. A man's only half a man till he gets married. (Laughter.) And it is not possible to get a decent house for a man to take his wife into and bring up his family, in any town like Dundee, under £4 or £5 yearly rent. (Hear.) There may be men who take wives and put them into miserable holes at £2 or £3 a-year; but is it manly in them to do so? Mr Leng concluded by saying—I do not propose a £5 occupation franchise as the maximum which it might be desirable to obtain, but as the minimum which we would insist on obtaining; and I think that for practical purposes the resolution, as I now submit it, will be likely to receive more consideration than any of a more theoretical and abstract nature, and therefore I invite the meeting unanimously to adopt it. (Loud cheers.)

Ex-Provost THOMS, in seconding the resolution, adverted to the intention of the Govefment to have separate Reform Bills for England, Scotland, and Ireland; and said the Representatives of Scotland should resist any attempt to have the question of Reform thus split up by piecemeal measures. He trusted they would insist on there being only one measure for the empire—as the question was an imperial one; and he rejoiced to see that Mr William Edward Baxter had given notice of a motion for Friday evening, to test the sentiments of the House of Commons on this subject. (Cheers.) Adverting to the terms of the resolution, he held that after the bill which was laid on the table of the House of Commons in 1854, any measure of reform which did not go so far as a £5 occupancy in burghs and a £10 occupancy or 40s freehold in counties, would assuredly fail to meet the just demands and requirements of the country. (Cheers.) As citizens of Dundee, they had more particularly to do with the franchise of towns. (Hear, hear.) From a return which he held in his hand, he observed that 2317 is the number of the constituency in Dundee under a £10 franchise, and that the houses below £10 and above £5 in rent are 3129; so that, making a deduction for widows and female occupiers, the practical result of this would be that the number of electors for the town would be doubled. Although he was not here to consider particularly the suffrage of counties, yet he could not see any particular expediency or justice in proposing a £5 franchise for burghs and not for counties. (Cheers.) He could not see why the occupancy of a £9, £8, £7, £6, or £5 house in Broughty Ferry should not entitle a man to vote, as well as the occupancy of a house at the same rent in Dundee, which happens to be within the Parliamentary burgh. (Cheers.) With reference to the 40s freehold, he did not profess to understand its nature or mode of working. But he understood that it is to be a *bona fide* vote, and not a mode of creating taggot voters. And the people in Scotland claim to be placed on the same platform as the people in England; and whatever is the scale for the suffrage of those in England, that in all justice ought to be the scale for the people of Scotland. (Cheers.) Mr Thoms then referred to Reform being required not only by justice, but by every consideration of prudence and expediency, and to its being consistent with every conservative principle to concede a large measure of Reform. In proof of this he referred to the good results that had followed from the Reform Act of 1832, and from the repeal of the Corn Laws. They had added to the strength of the body politic, and to the attachment felt by the people for the constitution under which we live, as was shewn during the revolutionary period in 1848. It was not for him to lift the veil from the future, but he could not help seeing at this moment the omens of a storm in Southern Europe; and it was the duty of those in power to improve our own institutions, and to attach the masses of the people to them. He then noticed that other schemes of Reform had been mentioned, as for instance an educational test, and the having a certain amount of money in the saving's bank or in the public funds—in favour of which much might be said, but it was desirable that there should be unanimity. He said—what we wish is such an extension of the suffrage as will give us good and cheap government. I trust that a happy destiny is reserved for our country; and that while it proceeds in the course of improvement, practical, moral, and intellectual, it will continue to be regarded, as it has hitherto been, the home of freedom, the sanctuary of the oppressed and the persecuted of every land. (Cheers.)

Mr ANDREW METHVEN rose to say a few words on manhood suffrage. (Cheers.) Much more radical resolutions than that proposed had been passed in different parts of the country. In Glasgow a resolution in favour of manhood suffrage was passed with the Lord Mayor—(laughter)—I mean with the Lord Provost in the chair. And in London, Manchester, Birmingham, and other large towns in England such resolutions have passed. If Dundee were to pass this resolution you must say that you are going back. (Applause.) My resolution is:—

"That this meeting is of opinion that no measure of Reform will meet the just demands of the great mass of the people, unless it embrace manhood suffrage."

(Applause.) Now in speaking about manhood suffrage allow me to say that I listened particularly to the statement of Mr Leng; and I don't think his definition of manhood at all satisfactory. (Laughter.) However, allow me to say this, that if what Mr Leng said constituted a real man, so far as I am concerned, I have undergone that change. (Laughter.) But, however, gentlemen, to come to the resolution itself, we have heard certain objections stated very nicely to an educational franchise, and to various other proposals. But do we not see some strong objections to a £5 franchise in this town? Mr Leng referred to the rents of houses in this town, and made it an argument that the landlords are so adding to the rents that in a short time there will be very few in Dundee who have not £5 houses. But we lament such a state of things—(applause)—and we do not expect that the rents in such a short time will be increased to that amount that will give every good moral intelligent working man in Dundee a vote. (Applause.) And because I do not believe it I came forward to move this amendment, knowing that the motion would omit many a good working man in Dundee. (Applause.) I do not say that we are to expect more than the motion contains, but this meeting has been called for an expression of opinion, and I am speaking about what we ought to get. It is twenty-five years since the last Reform Bill passed, and were we now to ask a £5 and £10 franchise, it would be said to us afterwards that we wanted no more. But we want the whole hog. (Laughter and applause.) We are not satisfied with a stone and lime franchise. We want the people embraced in it, and we want the people up-hye to know that. Mr Leng says John Bull does not slide very fast. I am sure if we pass this resolution it will show him that we in Dundee at least do not wish him to slide very fast. (Laughter.) But I hope you will consider the matter carefully, weigh it over in your mind, consider whether we would be acting a radical part, if you pass this resolution you must say that we will be going back. (Applause.)

Mr SAMUEL KENNY, who rose in the body of the meeting and was called to the platform, said—I rise to second this amendment, not to thwart any design for any extension of the franchise, but simply because I consider manhood suffrage the just right of those contending for it. (Applause.) There are two classes whom I have always considered should not have the franchise—those who have it and would give it to no one else—(laughter)—and, secondly, those who have it not and do not think it worth contending for. (Renewed laughter.) If any gentleman tells me I have a right to obey a law I have had no voice in making I say that then representation is but a mockery and a snare. (Applause.) I say again that the qualification of a £5 house, according to the intelligence test spoken of here to-night, will cut off many of the class against whom machinery has operated for many years past, and who have thus been compelled to live in houses under £5 rent, but who are among the most intelligent of the community. The manufacturing prosperity of your town depends on the weaving trade, and I want to know where is the individual employed in any branch of this business who is able to pay £5 rent? (Applause.) And the same with the flax-dressers; yet have not these been foremost in political Reform during the last twenty years? (Applause.) Under the motion that has been proposed, they would be disfranchised. (Loud applause.) Mr Thoms considers that there is a cloud in the South, and he wants the £5 franchise to draw the population closer to the constitution. But I would ask if those who occupy £5 houses have been those who went to the Crimea to fight our battles? (Cheers.) I would also ask if those great floating batteries of which we have heard were to come to our shores, would the £5 houses defend your property? (Renewed Cheers.) If you want to draw the population around the throne, embrace every man unaffected with crime and willing to obey the laws. It may be said this is asking too much of John Bull. But I would like to ask, has he ever given us more than part of what we have asked? (Laughter.) If we ask a £5 franchise, perhaps he will give us £7. If we ask manhood suffrage, perhaps he will give us £5 or less. (Applause and laughter.) How is it that we have the name of being liberal to others when we do not show liberality to ourselves? If those clouds that have been spoken of shall come, and the working men under £5 of rental are excluded—what if he will step forward and tell you to fight your own battles as strangers cannot do worse to him than those who called themselves his friends. It is the working-man, still a non-elector, who has always defended our shores. (Laughter and applause.) It is an old saying and a very true one, "we may guard against an enemy but not against a pretended friend." (Applause and laughter.) I do not say any man on this platform is an enemy—(a laugh)—I hope they are all real friends; but men at a distance, seeing that we struggled to give those who have the franchise their rights, and that they are now turning their backs on us—it is preposterous. (Laughter and applause.) It would not be doing justice to ourselves, or our families, if we lay dormant under such circumstances; it would be said that we were retrograding from what we were ten or twenty years ago. (Applause.) We have here the son of a late lamented Bailie—(applause)—and I say that when his father was returned a member for this town, why, was it not because he stood by the rights of the people? The very old women going to the well would have broken their pitchers for joy when they saw him. (Loud Laughter.) Where is the man who would have come forward and said in the presence of that man that a £5 franchise should be proposed for such a town as Dundee?—a town which owes its importance to manufactures that could not be carried on without industry and intelligence among its working classes. The great Napoleon once said when he saw the enemy on a distant hill—"Soldiers, you are naked and hungry. Yonder is the enemy; behind them is plenty. March!" You, the non-electors, may look at your Parliament and those who hold the franchise, and say—"Yonder is the enemy, beyond them is plenty; let us march"—(laughter)—not in the extremes of physical force, but with that moral rectitude you have shewn. When Lord John Russell brought in his Reform Bill, he declared that if he thought there was anything more than he had asked, he would have given it. I would, therefore, advise every man who has not the franchise, never to lose an opportunity of expressing his feelings, and I call on you to do so now by your vote.

Mr STEEL who was received with great cheering, urged the necessity of Parliamentary Reform by stating that while the population of this country was about 30 millions—the number of men 20 years old and upwards was about 6 millions—the exact number of electors on the roll in 1858 was 1,225,327. Now they were not to take these figures as 1 to 6 or as 1 in 30, as they all knew that a majority of the electors sent members to Parliament. Keeping this in view they found that six hundred and twenty thousand people, over whom the other sections of the community had no control, could, by the Reform Bill of 1832, return a House of Commons empowered to inflict taxes on thirty millions of the people. Taking another view, he found that 91,000 could return a majority of the House of Commons. Whether the present system was taken with reference to the population at large, or in regard to the electors, they would arrive at the same conclusion. It was a gross deception; and he added—I will support the motion that has been so ably proposed on the following grounds—I will raise a large majority of the men of this country, and place them on the roll of electors. It will effectually stop that waste of the public funds of which they had to complain. And, moreover, he supported the motion, because, if embodied in any measure, it would be a most important approximation to the realisation of the principle that the representation of the people and its taxation should be equally extensive. (Cheers.)

Mr JOHN HUNTER stated that while the basis of the franchise proposed in the resolution was stone and lime, a frailand perishable one, the basis of manhood suffrage was the firm and eternal one of mind; and he urged upon the mover and seconder of the resolution that when a change was proposed in the franchise, they should adopt the nobler foundation. With the view of reconciling both parties, he would propose that the resolution should be adopted, with an addition, declaring that this meeting is farther of opinion that a much larger extension of the suffrage would not only be safe, but intended with the most beneficial results; and that in consequence of the advancing intelligence and increasing morality of the people, manhood suffrage must speedily become the law of the land. (Cheers.)

Mr LENG was glad to see so thorough and manly a discussion, and would not break his heart if the amendment were carried, but would of course vote for his own resolution.

Mr KINLOCH explained that in moving for a £5 franchise it was not intended, and he would never have come to the meeting if it had been intended, to say that a £5 franchise was all that they were entitled to demand. (Cheers.) He then adverted to his own lengthened connection with the cause of Reform, having been at the formation of the Edinburgh Political Union in 1831, and shewed from the principles then laid down that they were nearly as far forward as now. He also adverted to the fact of his having been the first landed proprietor in Forfarshire who publicly advocated a repeal of the Corn Laws—which he did at a time when Cobden was in favour of a fixed duty. After noticing that his father had to flee the country for his advocacy of Reform in 1819, and that the Whigs, while showering honours upon others, had never shewn the slightest sympathy for his sufferings in the cause of Reform, Mr Kinloch said that he had been often told by the Whigs not to trust to the Derbyites for Reform. Now, however small a measure of Reform they might get from Lord Derby, of this he was certain, that it would be a much greater measure than would have been granted by Palmerston and Company, in whom he had no faith. (Laughter and cheers.) His earnest prayer was, that come what would, they would never see Palmerston or his friends returned to power. John Bull never looks farther take up their time, but hoped that, for the sake of unanimity, the amendment would be withdrawn.

Mr METHVEN said he wished it to be distinctly understood that his amendment said not a word about refusing anything. It was only a declaration of the principle that they wished to set forth. He had heard no argument to shake his carefully formed opinion. With regard to Mr Hunter's amendment, honesty was the best policy. Mr Hunter sought to hide manhood suffrage, but it was better now, while they had the opportunity, which might not occur soon again, to state distinctly their opinions.

Mr GEORGE HOOD here rose in the body of the hall, and on making his way to the platform, said—The mover of the amendment says he has heard no argument why the working classes should not demand the whole thing. I will try to give one argument. It is generally stated that money is the first weapon of war, and I boldly assert that we, as working men, have not money to go for war, and it is well remembered that, when the working men had a great demonstration in London, petitions were placed against them because they had no money. (Hooting and hissing.) I must be remembered by the working men in Dundee that a great demonstration took place in Dundee. (Cries of "sit down.") What was the result? ("Sit down.") Placards were placed—(hooting and cries of "sit doon.") Placards were placed—(hisses, hooting, and cries of "vote")—placards were placed—(renewed hooting and hissing)—you may hiss as you please, but I will have the statement out. (Prolonged hissing, which was only terminated by the majority of the electors sent members to Parliament. Keeping this in view they found that six hundred and twenty thousand people, over whom the other sections of the community had no control, could, by the Reform Bill of 1832, return a House of Commons empowered to inflict taxes on thirty millions of the people. Taking another view, he found that 91,000 could return a majority of the House of Commons. Whether the present system was taken with reference to the population at large, or in regard to the electors, they would arrive at the same conclusion. It was a gross deception; and he added—I will support the motion that has been so ably proposed on the following grounds—I will raise a large majority of the men of this country, and place them on the roll of electors. It will effectually stop that waste of the public funds of which they had to complain. And, moreover, he supported the motion, because, if embodied in any measure, it would be a most important approximation to the realisation of the principle that the representation of the people and its taxation should be equally extensive. (Cheers.)

In supporting the resolution, Mr Rough adverted to his having for thirty years entertained the opinion that representation should be co-extensive with taxation; and he thought that to give the people their just rights would be the best way, with God's blessing, of making the nation still more prosperous than it had been. He expressed a desire to see men of true religious principles taking a deeper interest in political matters. And after referring to the bribery and corruption that take place at many elections under the present system, he said that the cure for this would be the ballot. Without the ballot, a £5 franchise would be no great boon. Mr Rough gave extracts from letters he had received from friends in Australia, to shew how well the ballot and other free institutions had wrought there—the elections having been admirably conducted, and excellent men chosen as representatives. He concluded by moving the adoption of the resolution.

Mr P. SMITH seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

Mr ALEXANDER EASSON proposed the next resoluion, as follows:—

"That any measure of Parliamentary Reform should be impartial, and comprehend the entire United Kingdom; and that this meeting claims from the Government, on the ground of simple justice, that the representation of Scotland be placed on an equal footing with that of other parts of the Kingdom."

Mr H. B. FERGUSSON rose amid loud and prolonged cheering to second the resolution. It was, he said, sometimes asked who and where were the people that wanted Reform? So far as Dundee was concerned, he would leave that meeting to answer the question. They heard it said, "Where is the enthusiasm which broke out before the passing of the late Reform Bill in 1832? What proof is there that the people are unanimous for Reform at all? Show us something like a corresponding enthusiasm to what took place then, and then we will believe that there is a zeal for Parliamentary Reform." Now, he claimed attention to this fact, that those who talked in that way were altogether out in the historical parallel which they seek to propose. It was not the fact that for any considerable length of time prior to the Reform Bill of 1832 there was any great popular enthusiasm manifested for that measure. He would give the statistics of the petitions in favour of the Reform Bill prior to the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832. In 1821 there were 19 petitions; in 1822, 12 petitions; in 1823, 29 petitions; and from 1824 to 1829 there was not one single petition for Parliamentary Reform. And in 1830, the very year when Lord Grey took office, pledged to bring in a Reform Bill, there were only fourteen petitions. (Hear, hear.) After noticing that it was the French revolution of 1830 that awakened the enthusiasm of the people of this country on the subject of reform, and that it was increased by the Duke of Wellington's declaration that he would grant no reform, he said, to test the similarity or the contrast of old Reform Bill times with the present, let them suppose Lord Derby were to morrow to use language like the Duke of Wellington's—would the country be quickened then? that was the question. He would be bound that there would be a wave of enthusiasm that would sweep him from his place in a fortnight and waft into power another Government whose banner would bear the conspicuous words, "Parliamentary Reform." Mr Fergusson then referred to the fears entertained by some persons about the British constitution, as if it was to tumble over their ears, and shewed that at the time of the passing of the Test and Corporation Acts, the Roman Catholic Relief Bill, and the Reform Bill, similar cries had been raised. Notwithstanding all the predictions to the contrary, the British constitution now stood firmer than it ever did, and if the reforms now advocated were adopted, and they went on to reform gradually and progressively, they would not fail to make it stronger still. (Loud cheers.) Mr Fergusson then alluded to Scotland's right to be placed upon an equality with England in regard to representation, and humorously illustrated what might be expected from delaying the consideration of Scotland's claims till long after the English Reform Bill was considered, by the following story:—One of these half-men so often alluded to that evening—(laughter)—went to get unto himself a wife, and thus convert himself into a whole man; and when asked by the clergyman, "Do you take this woman for your wife, replied, "I'm no very sure." The clergyman replied, "Sir, you ought to have had your mind made up before you came here." "So I had," he replied, "but I dinna ken hoo it is; I've taen a kind o' a scunner at her just ithenoo" (Roars of laughter and cheers.) He had no doubt the English members at present had the best intentions in the world towards Scotland; but wait till May, and they will take a scunner at us. Let all the three countries be included in one bill, as they are incorporated in one kingdom. (Cheers.) He felt gratified that attention of Parliament was about to be directed to that matter, and that they were to be asked to legislate for England, Scotland, and Ireland all at once; and his gratification was all the greater that that had emanated from one of themselves, their distinguished townsman, the member for Montrose. (Cheers.) He could not doubt that he would be backed up by every true and leal Scotch member in his endeavour to obtain justice for Scotland. Mr F

"REFORM MEETING IN DUNDEE." Dundee Courier 23 Feb. 1859. 19th Century British Newspapers. Web. 12 Mar. 2015.

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