There are many causes which lead to the continued increase of expenditure. People are beginning to discover the value of even individual votes, and wherever there is any interest in increased expenditure, there is a constant pressure in that direction, and this is especially the case in regard to dockyard constituencies and to employes of the Government, and constant attempts are being made by members of Parliament to obtain increased expenditure for the localities which they represent. (Hear, hear.) Then comes the question of Treasury control. I myself, perhaps, not an impartial witness on this point, but I have taken the opinion of the late Prime Minister, as the highest expert of the Treasury, and principle enforced at the Treasury for the purpose of checking public expenditure. The late Prime Minister remarked, the other night, in referring to the position of my noble friend, that he had done right in looking to totals and disregarding items, because it is almost impossible, in the consideration of items, to be on an equality with permanent officials, who have so much more knowledge of the subject. (Hear, hear.) Now, I have always understood that knowledge is power. (Hear, hear.) We have, at the Treasury, the greatest amount of talent we can get. The permanent officials of the great spending departments are amongst the ablest officials in the service. (Cheers.) Still, if the system be to check totals and disregard items, the system inevitably degenerates into a test of cutlery alone irrespective of results. (Hear, hear.) It is, consequently, highly worthy the attention of this House whether there should not be some change in the system for the test of cutlery alone is a fallacious one. (Hear, hear.) I must, however, say that there are great difficulties in the way of submitting off-hand to the proposals of my noble friend with regard to inquiry into the spending departments. It has on more than one occasion been proposed by the Government to refer the question of the army and navy expenditure to a Select Committee. For my own part, however, I think it would be unwise to refer the matter to that; for a Select Committee composed of members upon whom the pressure of Parliamentary duties was imposed—and we all know they are very heavy—would be unable to give such time and such assiduity full the work of a Select Committee on such an important subject in any reasonable time, and a dissolution would probably take place before they were anything like concluded. They would probably amass a large amount of information, and, at the same time, would have succeeded in completely disorganising the Departments. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, I think we may at once dismiss from our minds the proposal for a Commission of Inquiry into the Army and Navy Expenditure. (Hear, hear.) If we are to give our consent to the proposal of my noble friend, I would ask, is the Committee to go into the question of policy or not; and if it is to go into the question of policy, it is expected that the Government would allow the Committee to shape the policy for which the Government itself is responsible? (Hear, hear.) I would point out that one of the causes of the continuous increase of expenditure is the many new inventions which, from time to time, are brought out for warlike purposes; but it would be impossible for the Committee to examine these inventions from the point of view of experts. These are the difficulties which I wish to point out. I don't say they are insuperable. I think they might perhaps be overcome; but there are certainly one or two questions upon which the Government would be glad to have assistance from the House. In the first place, the military and naval establishments are too large for the work which they have to carry out, and consequently the country does not get an adequate return for the expenditure which it authorises from year to year. (Hear, hear.) Now, that question is somewhat encumbered by the inaccurate theory held by many members of this House as to what constitutes economy. The tendency to estimate economy by the amount of money expended. That is, to my mind, altogether delusive; but it is, unfortunately, the practice in this House, where a Minister proposes a new expenditure of, say, eleven millions and a half, would be considered altogether and unquestionably more economical than the man who proposed an expenditure of £12,000,000 with the same results. (Cheers and laughter.) The chief complaint made against the Government establishments is that they are in excess of the work which they have to perform. I may say that the present Board of Admiralty, and the one with which I had previously the honour to be associated, have shown themselves, where the thing is just and reasonable, ready whenever we have had the power we have got rid of redundant establishments. (Hear, hear.) But the process is, necessarily, a very slow one. We have had to show greatness to employ as many people as possible on continuous service, and it is not possible, therefore, to make these changes in a summary way. The Estimates which can be summarily reduced, but these are the estimates which provide for the work which those establishments are to do, and if you reduce the amount of work, you still have the establishment practically untouched, except that you make it less efficient and less work to do in proportion to its size. Now, the Admiralty and the War Office are great manufacturers and great employers of labour, and the definition of what constitutes economy is the very reverse of the system practised in those establishments. In a private shipbuilding yard, for instance, when a contract is entered into to build a ship, the largest possible amount of labour is at once employed and the largest possible amount of material utilised, but, in the Admiralty establishments, the longer they protract the construction of a ship, the better they flatter the Treasury. (Laughter.) For instance, when we came into office in 1885, we found that the expenditure had announced the intention of building the Trafalgar and another large ship, with a tonnage altogether of 12,000 tons, and, of that amount, we found that the tonnage for the first year was just twelve tons. (Laughter.) So that, at that rate, it would have taken a thousand years to complete the two ships. (Great laughter.) Now, sir, we have adopted the very opposite course. We have adopted the principle upon which private builders act. We have put the largest possible amount of labour to work, and used the largest possible amount of materials, with, I hope, the best results. (Cheers.) Therefore, the House will see that this is a question well worthy of their attention. If we continue to act as our own manufacturers, the House must draw a distinction between the way in which it votes money for manufacturing purposes and for the maintenance and continuation of establishments. Therefore, if the House is favorable to the proposition of my noble friend, it must not be assumed that I, on the part of the Admiralty, or my hon. friend on the part of the War Office, were authorised to give the reference to this subject in the Speech from the Throne is in any way incorrect. My belief is that, if it were possible to get over the initial difficulties which I have stated as to the appointment of this Committee, the Committee, I feel convinced, will be satisfied about the moderation of our demands. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) I think that there is a somewhat ridiculous proposition, but before hon. gentlemen assume that it is so, will they allow me to lay before them certain facts which will materially alter their opinion. What I wish my friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer he sent round a circular calling attention to the growth of the expenditure. I have had an analysis made of the Estimates for during ten years, and how far they are capable of reduction. As the Government propose as soon as this debate is concluded to take time for the discussion of proposals, I am sure the House will excuse me if I ask its attention for two or three minutes. In the interval, from 1876 to 1886, the cost of the Navy has increased 10 per cent. Taking the extent of the duties imposed on the navy, if we were so unfortunate as to get into war, is controlled by the amount of commerce we would have to protect. (Hear, hear.) I have had an investigation made as to whether, during those ten years, there had been a large increase of our mercantile marine, and I find that, during those ten years, the amount of steam tonnage of the British Empire had increased cent. per cent.—(hear, hear)—and to such an extent had it increased that, notwithstanding a large decrease in the sailing tonnage, it was very largely in excess of what it had been ten years before. But the increase was remarkable when compared with the development of the mercantile marine of foreign nations. I find that the gross combined mercantile marine of France, Russia, Germany, Italy, and Austria was considerably more than half the tonnage of the British Empire ten years ago, whereas now the tonnage of the British Empire is considerably more than the aggregate of the tonnage of these five nations. (Cheers.) I will now refer to the expenditure of foreign nations, with a view of comparing that expenditure with our own. The French expenditure during the period 1876-86 has increased 99 per cent., Germany 43 per cent., Russia 45 per cent., Italy 133 per cent., and Austria as much more. (Hear, hear.) Well, now, Sir, I think the House will admit that, with the duties of the British navy had increased during the last ten years, the increase in the expenditure bears a low proportion to the expansion of those duties. (Cheers.) I am speaking statistically of the duty to protect our commerce, which has since doubled itself. That is not an extraordinary increase in the cost to the British taxpayer. (Hear, hear.) I am taking ten years which are unfavorable, whereas our estimates for the next year show a considerable reduction. The question again arises—and it is most important, sir, so far as I am concerned, the Committee might form its own opinion—and it is this, that it is no use in keeping a navy unless you maintain it efficiently. (Hear, hear.) We are compelled to have a strong navy, because we draw the greater portion of our food supplies from abroad. It seems to me, therefore, quite clear that we must have one of two things: we must endeavour to stimulate our food supply at home by protection or else take the precaution to safeguard the transport of our food supply from abroad. (Hear, hear.) These precautions would not have to be taken so much in the interest of the rich as of the poor, for if we were so unfortunate as to get involved in a war it is the poor who would suffer from the scarcity of food. Now, I have shown that the increase in the expenditure of the navy has been 10 per cent. during the past ten years. That increase has been due to one item alone. There has been a great development of the offensive and defensive strength of ships by recent inventions. I need not assume that our large expenditure was brought about by a combination of the services, or by the cries of alarmists in the press or outside, but at the present moment there is a co-operation between those making demands on the taxpayers' pockets. Enormous sums are spent by foreign nations on warlike instruments, and manufacturers have invented and produced a fight side by side with the democracy of Ireland in the endeavour to obtain their rights. The hon. gentleman went on to describe what he had seen during the recent elections in Glenbeigh, denouncing the proceedings of the agent as monstrous, and condemning the conduct of the authorities on the occasion given to these proceedings. The agent should be ashamed of his conduct and crime, because it enabled the landlords to rob the poor, and he maintained that it was only under the system of Home Rule that a proper administration of the law could be obtained. What he wanted was to bring the law into harmony with the instincts of morality and the principles of political economy. To do this they must stop these evictions, and they must inquire into the demand that the tenants were dishonest, and prevent the destruction of any house built by the tenant, whether he could pay or not, unless compensation was given.

Colonel HUGHES-HALLETT, referring to the statement made in the Speech from the Throne, congratulated the Government on the continued peace of peace in Eastern Europe. In regard to the question of expenditure, he expressed every confidence in the action taken by the Government. The Government, he felt convinced, would combine economy with efficiency.

Mr SCHWANN, alluding to the comparison made by which they had done, both the Unionist Liberals were described as a Conservative crutch, said he should prefer to say that, instead of looking for the support of a crutch, the Tory Government were looking for what he would call a wooden-legged support. The wooden leg they sought in Mr Goschen. (Laughter.) A wooden leg had no vital connection with the body. It supposed that there had been seen that Mr Goschen had no vital connection with the Liberal party to which he had professed to belong, so it would be found by the Conservatives that that gentleman was not from them, nor was he from them. (Laughter.) The hon. gentleman went on to deal with the Irish question, denying, on evidence that he had obtained through his constituents, that the Irish peasantry were as lazy people, and contended that nothing would make peace in Ireland but the establishment of a peasant proprietary.

Colonel BIRT said unquestionably most of political agitation which had brought nothing but evil for Ireland, for which nothing could be hoped until the due administration of the law had restored the country to a state of peace and order. He believed the object of the Government was to bring about such a result he gave them his support. To realise good results they must not allow the object of the plan of the campaign, which had only been instituted as a means of extorting a measure of separation, the result of which could be nothing but misery to the Irish people.

Mr CUNNINGHAM GRAHAM strongly objected to the military policy of the Government in going to an enormous army expenditure in a democratic country like this, and he could not bring himself to say against the maintenance of an efficient navy. He regretted the secession of Lord Randolph Churchill from the Government, and he gave a warm tribute of admiration to that noble and occasionally amused the House by his rocket-like performances with regard to Ireland. He accused them of having exaggerated the dangers of the Irish country with a view of applying their remedy—coercion.

Sir R. HAMLEY thought that the wisest thing the Government could do was to follow a consistent course to that of their predecessors, and to show that while they had no sympathy with criminals in Ireland, they had no fear of them. He lamented the secession of Lord Randolph Churchill, but he accepted the views of the Irish party, and characterised as ominous and sinister the language used on a former occasion by the right hon. gentleman in connection with the payment of rent. In reference to the pathos which which the Irish evictions had been dwelt upon by hon. members opposite, he had no sympathy with the tragedy. He had that the firmer, the bolder, and the more manly the course pursued by the Government, the less ready they were to grant concessions to a faction which based its demands upon a system of encouragement they gave to the loyal and orderly portion of the Irish population the more certain would they be to receive the support of this country, and to the support which would await their policy.

Mr R. W. DUFF said he did not think the charge made by the last speaker of the Liberal party being a shattered party came very well from him, considering that he belonged to a party which did not seem to be at one amongst themselves. (Hear, hear.) The first duty of the new navy was to be efficient, and the navy had referred to the liabilities left to him by his predecessor. (Hear, hear.) He did not quite know to what the noble lord referred, but he would point out to the noble lord that when he said the policy of the Admiralty was that of economy, he was forgetting the liabilities before incurring fresh responsibilities, that was precisely the policy that was adopted by Lord Ripon, and the late Lords of the Admiralty. When the Estimates were presented last year the noble lord came down to the House and proposed that they should raise £3,000,000 on terminable annuities, in order to put the navy into an efficient state. He was not quite sure the member for Marylebone (Lord Charles Beresford) wanted £5,000,000. It was obvious that by resisting the policy which the noble lord and his friend tried to impose upon them, the noble lord left a large liabilities to their successors than otherwise would have been the case. Their policy was not to incur fresh liabilities, but to carry out the programme originally laid down by Lord Northbrook, and of which the noble lord approved. Yet the noble lord now came down and said they were suffering from the liabilities left by their predecessors.

Lord G. HAMILTON, interrupting, said that what he had referred to were the liabilities created in the year 1885, which were underestimated, and for which proper provision had never yet been made.

Mr DUFF, continuing, said it was quite true that Lord Northbrook's proposals had cost the country more than was expected, on account of the vessels built by contract being completed sooner than was contemplated, and consequently the expenditure of the shipbuilding trade, but that was really an economy. He did not admit that there had been any extravagance, or that the late Government had left any liabilities behind them, but he was convinced was that their programme was too small. He agreed with the noble lord in thinking that Committee on the Army and Navy Estimates would be useless, and practically the chairman of the Committee would become the First Lord of the Admiralty, and the First Lord would be relieved of responsibility. He was in favor of appointing a Committee of the kind suggested by the noble lord the member for Paddington would be very useful, because during the short time he was in the House he had come to the conclusion that there was considerable waste in some departments, especially in the Shipbuilding Department. During the short time he was in the House the Government had asked for leave to raise two millions in a year. It was quite true that the vast majority of these became obsolete on account of new inventions, but the amount for each year was not so large as to doubt that many became obsolete because they were built from bad designs. Some of those vessels which were held to be obsolete were only eight or nine years old, and some had only been three or four times at sea. He admitted that there was even a stronger case against the preceding Admiralty, and he was of opinion that there should be sufficient control over the Shipbuilding Department of the Admiralty. (Hear, hear.) If they had a Committee on naval expenditure, that was a consideration which ought to take up. He must say that he did not think we could make any very large reduction in our naval Estimates. When they came to look at the variety of duties the navy had to perform, and what was being done by other Powers, he did not think it was possible to make any reduction in the Estimates, but what he wanted was to get some assurance from the Government that their navy, and the best way to do that was to give some assurance to the country that, when they got money, it would be well spent. He seemed greater economy he wished this question referred to the Committee. He believed that the country did not grudge the money for the army and navy, and he wanted to see the money well and wisely spent. (Cheers.)

Mr JENNINGS protested against the attack made by Mr Chaplin on Lord R. Churchill, who had laid down principles of economy and efficiency that accounted for this by the suggestion that the Government were desirous that it should go on until they had found a seat for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. (Laughter.) As to the Address they were discussing, he certainly could not thank Her Majesty for having, through her Government, put forward economical and efficient estimates, and he proposed to refuse to do this on what the House had been told by the noble lord the had resigned his position in the Government as a protest against their excessive proposals. (Hear, hear.) He thanked the noble lord for advocating a peaceful policy, and was glad to find in the late Chancellor of the Exchequer an exponent of the views he (Sir W. Lawson) had so long endeavoured to enforce. He looked on the noble lord as a reformed character, and as one who, having been misled for a time, had taken the pledge. (Laughter.) The hon. gentleman went on to criticise the action of the Peers in supporting the Government expenditure, and he was glad to see to, and accused the late Government of having been too much guided by the Press on the large sums they had obtained from the House. The position of Ireland was a matter of such great moment that it was regarded as appalling, because he remembered the story of the African King, who said he must go to war, insomuch as he had a barrel of gunpowder. (Laughter.) He deprecated the policy of the Government, which, if adhered to, must lead ultimately to very serious results. As to the Liberal Unionists, they had to the remarkable fact that they were supporting a Government which was too bad for the noble lord, the member for Paddington. When they talked of the sacrifices they had made, they could not see those sacrifices, and quoted the remark of a speaker who had said Lord Hartington was really in power, the Tory Government being only in office. (Laughter.) The Unionists spoke of their past services, and asked why were they to be stoned after all they had done. The fact was that they were not being stoned at all. They had done, and they were doing what they were going to do. (Laughter.) He knew it was no use appealing to them to take a wiser course, but he hoped the leaders on that (the Opposition) side of the House would do so if for a strong display of non-intervention in foreign affairs, which he held to be the only policy worthy of a free, a civilised, and a Christian people. (Cheers.)

Mr T. W. RUSSELL characterised as cheap sentiment a good deal that had been said about the Glenbeigh evictions, and contended that the action of the Government which had been passed, or proposed, for Ireland would have touched the case of a single Glenbeigh tenant. For himself, he admitted both sides of the Glenbeigh controversy. Outrages on the part of the owner of the property, and hopeless poverty and destitution on the part of the tenants, and asserted that history would judge that most honourable and most patriotic act of the removal of these poor people to a better and happier position.

Mr R. WALLACE believed that if the plan of campaign had been called by a more modest title, such as that of the "tenants' union," it would not have excited so much alarm. The plan was an excellent one, as it applied only to cases where the rent demanded could not be got out of the land. (Hear, hear.) The only real way of restoring order was to enable the Irish people to restore order themselves, and not to make a forced restoration of order by a system of despotism. (Cheers.)

Mr COSSHAM moved an adjournment of the debate.

Mr W. H. SMITH appealed to the hon. gentleman to withdraw the motion, as the hour was only a quarter-past twelve. The debate had lasted four nights, and none of the amendments to the Address had yet been reached.

Mr BIGGAR opposed the further continuance of the debate that evening.

After some further conversation, the motion was put and carried without a division.

Mr HOWARD VINCENT moved the second reading of the Felonious Use of Firearms Bill, the object of which was to deter burglars from the use of these weapons, and thus protect the public from persons of violence.

Mr H. MATTHEWS failed to see any new principle in the bill, except the minimum sentence, which he regarded as a most undesirable innovation, and weighed with juries, and prevented convictions. He therefore opposed the bill.

The bill was by leave withdrawn.

The House adjourned at 12·40.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

The Press Association says although both Gladstonians and Unionists disclaim all intention of unduly prolonging the debate on the Address there seems very little prospect of it being brought to a close until the end of next week. At the time of writing, it was generally understood that the general discussion would last until this evening. If this should be the case, Mr Cremer will probably endeavour to move the adjournment to-day with the view of bringing forward his amendment, which he thinks should be the gauge, of Parliament. When the debate is resumed on Thursday, the discussion on the Egyptian question is expected to occupy the whole of one evening. Mr Cremer has no intention of bringing forward his amendment, as this would destroy Mr Parnell's opportunity. Colonel Duncan will defend the policy of the Government in regard to the Egyptian question. His speeches on the subject from the Ministerial side of the House will be few and brief. Mr Parnell will thus, it is anticipated, be in a position to move his amendment late on Thursday night or Friday evening. According to Mr Gladstone's present arrangements it seems doubtful whether he will take part in the Irish debate. The right hon. gentleman is, it is stated, present at Flamborough Head, and remain there for about a week. His supporters will, however, probably vote with Mr Parnell in a body, and several of the leading Home Rule Liberals may adopt the House.

The Press Association in a later despatch states that the division on Mr Parnell's amendment is expected to take place on Thursday night. Mr Gladstone will probably return to London in time to vote with the Irish leader, who will, it is believed, take the support of the Liberal Home Rule Liberals. Urgent whips will be issued by the Government, and it is understood that the Opposition whips will also treat the matter as an important party question.

THE RAILWAY BILL.

The Press Association understands that in the Railway Bill shortly to be laid before Parliament the Government have proposed that the Board shall facilities for arbitration that costly and protracted legislation shall in future be largely superseded in disputes between railway companies and their employes. To this end it will be sought to considerably increase the powers of the Railway Commission. Provision will also be made for the more equitable adjustment of rates, and for dealing more stringently with the working of canals.

The Press Association has reason to believe that in the Merchandise Marks Bill shortly to be submitted to Parliament an attempt will be made to put a stop to the sale of foreign watches as the products of the Swiss Watch Trade, which, it is said, has contributed largely to ruin the watch industry of this country.

We understand that the Railway Tariffs Bill of the Government, although in the main similar to that proposed by Mr Mundella when he was President of the Board of Trade, differs in the particular provisions which deal with the constitution of the Royal Commission.—"Daily News."

DUNDEE—ACTION AGAINST THE NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY COMPANY.—At the meeting of the Parochial Board yesterday a committee was appointed to take in action against the North British Railway Company for payment of assessment, an unsatisfactory reply having been received from them that they would only under a deduction of 30 per cent. of the gross value.

SKYE — CROFTERS' COMMISSION.—The Crofters' Commission begins its sittings at Portree on Thursday, and last night Mr William Mackenzie, principal clerk, arrived from Inverness. The Commissioners will begin their work with cases from the Bracadale district of Portree parish on Friday. Already about 600 applications have been lodged, and it is stated that about 500 more are in the course of preparation for the consideration of the Commission. The Commissioners will arrive at Portree this evening.

SAFETY OF THE MISSING COMMADDY PACKET.—The anxiety regarding the safety of which considerable anxiety was felt, arrived in Lochmaddy late on Monday night, having on board the whole of the preceding week's mails. The packet left Castlebay on Thursday, and Mr Cameron, the agent, who came on, causing the packet to make for Waterish Bay, where she anchored and lay until Sunday morning, when she proceeded to sea. The packet left Lochmaddy on Tuesday evening in connection with the delay of the post office to substitute a steam service in place of the present unreliable service.

THE ASYLUM STATUTORY BOARD.—Yesterday the monthly meeting of this Board was held—Provost Reid presiding. It was reported from the Board that 19 patients had been admitted during January, 8 discharged and 1 died and that 431 remained in the institution at the end of the month. From the infirmary it was stated that there were 20 patients at the beginning of the month, 8 discharges and 2 deaths, and that 19 remained under medical treatment at the 31st inst. It was agreed to proceed with the erection of a hospital in connection with the asylum according to plans and specifications submitted at a cost of about £11,500, and the House Committee were authorised to take in estimates for the different works.

KAY'S COMPOUND, for Colds and Coughs. Sold throughout the World. 1s 1½d, 2s 9d, 4s. Kay Bros., Stockport.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR STEWART OF BANCHORY.

The remains of the late Mr John Stewart of Banchory were yesterday interred in the cemetery connected with the Free Church of Banchory-Devenick. The ceremony was attended by a large and representative gathering of gentlemen from Aberdeen and the neighbourhood, as well as by the tenants on the estate of Banchory, numbering about 170, and fully that number of employes from the extensive comb manufactory in Aberdeen of which the deceased gentleman was the head. The funeral service was conducted at Banchory House at half-past one, by the Rev. Mr Hagan, of Dunfermline; and the coffin was afterwards conveyed to Banchory-Devenick Free Church, where the burial service was conducted by the Rev. Mr Hagan, assisted by the Rev. W. S. Chesburn, of Crown Terrace Baptist Church. Several appropriate hymns were sung in general chorus, the harmonium accompaniments being played by Mr Mozart Atkins, Aberdeen. The church was crowded during the service. Shortly afterwards the remains, which were encased in a polished oak coffin, with brass mountings, were borne to the churchyard, the carrying party consisting of twelve of the tenantry on the estate, accompanied by the Combworks, in relays of eight. The chief mourners were—Mr David Stewart, Dean of Guild of the City of Aberdeen; Mr John Stewart, son of the deceased; Mr Stewart, sons of the deceased; Mr Thomas Irvine, Liverpool (brother-in-law), Mr William Hall, shipbuilder, Aberdeen; Mr George Thompson, yst. of Pitmedden (cousin-in-law); Mr Douglas Stewart, Mr Alexander Chalmers (grandsons); and Professor Niven, Aberdeen University. The coffin-plate bore the following inscription:—

JOHN STEWART OF BANCHORY,
BORN, 22ND AUG., 1819.
DIED JAN. 29TH, 1887.

A choir of girls from the Hutcheon Street Works sang appropriate hymns while the company were entering the church, and afterwards at the graveyard. The wreaths sent for the adornment of the coffin numbered fifty-five. The wreaths were from the tenantry on the Banchory estate, on a polished granite pedestal, with marble base, on which was an appropriate inscription; one from the employes of the Banchory House, and wreaths and four crosses from the four sons and four daughters of the deceased; one wreath from the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, London; four from Mrs Robertson, Ardoe; one wreath from Mr and Mrs Joseph Rowell, Malvern; one from Mrs Wm. Gordon, Aberdeen; one from Mr and Mrs Friend, Northdown, Margate; one from Mr Patrick Stewart; one from Miss Julia Stewart; one from Mr and Mrs Irvine, &c. A wreath sent from the male employes in Hutcheon Street Works was placed on the coffin, and on it was the inscription "In affectionate remembrance of Mr John Stewart of Banchory, from his male employes." A wreath was placed in the female employes' Hutcheon Street Works, which it was placed bearing also a suitable inscription.

The order of the procession was as follows:—Beadles, carrying poles; the coffin, mourners, tenantry, general company, carriages.

Among those who attended the funeral were Baillies Kinghorn, Gordon, Duncan, Cruickshank, Walker; Councillors Findlay, Curr, Macconachie, Morgan, Collie, Byres, Craig, Crombie, Lyon, and Maitland Moir; Sheriff-Substitute Grant, Professor Robertson, Matthew Hay, Mr Ogston of Ardoe, Mr Fortescue of Kingcausie, Mr Alex. Forbes, merchant; the Very Rev. Dean Stopani, Dr Stewart of Hazlehead, Mr Alex. Ogilvie, Mr Alex. Ross, Mr George Ross, Mr George Donald, Mr John D. Milne of Melgum, Mr Robert Walker, M.A., librarian, Aberdeen University; Mr Patrick Stewart; one hundred and twenty Free Church Chalmers, Mr J. Murray Garden, advocate; Mr Sinclair of Loirston, Rev. Mr Lawrence, Banchory-Devenick; Mr Crombie of Balgownie, Mr Pirie of Craigiebuckler, Mr G. W. Thomson, Free West Church; Mr T. A. W. Young, advocate; Mr G. Catchead, Procurator-Fiscal for the county; Mr Alex. Ogilvie, M.A., Aberdeen, advocate, Town Clerk; Mr P. M. Cran, city chamberlain; Dr Wyll, Mr Wm. Smith, city architect; Mr Robert Gerard, Dr Gibbon, Mr Robert Lumsden, Herbert of Scotland; Mr Alex. Ross, Fordlaten, Town and County Bank; Dr Alexander, Mr Wm. Lindsay, publisher; Dr Macgregor, Dr Paul, Mr Alex. Ogilvie, M.A., advocate; Mr Sutherland, commission agent; Mr A. W. Robertson, M.A., Public Library; Mr John S. Stuart, Great North of Scotland Railway; Mr Retican, Great North of Scotland clerk; Mr John Clarke, Gymnasium, Old Aberdeen; Mr Andrew Murray, advocate; Mr Alexander H. Wilson (Messrs Hill, Russell, & Co.); Dr. Dyce, Banchory-Devenick; Mr Allan, teacher; Mr Charles Shepherd, Aberdeen Steam Navigation Company; Mr S. G. Mitchell, advocate; Mr A. C. Barker; Mr James Bruce, Mr Alex. Ogilvie, Fordlaten. Forty-twenty carriages followed the cortege, among them being those of Lord Provost Henderson and Mr George Thompson of Pitmedden. The wreaths were entrusted to Messrs James Allan and Sons, Aberdeen, and were efficiently carried out under the superintendence of Mr Garden, of that firm.

At a meeting held on Monday of the Banchory-Devenick Mutual Improvement Society, the subject of the proposition moved, seconded by Mr James Webster, that the society desire to record their regret at the death of Mr John Stewart, Banchory House, who had contributed to present arrangements it seems doubtful whether he will take part in the Irish debate. The right hon. gentleman is, it is stated, present at Flamborough Head, and remain there for about a week. His supporters will, however, probably vote with Mr Parnell in a body, and several of the leading Home Rule Liberals may adopt the House.

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ABERDEEN JUNIOR LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

LECTURE BY MR J. W. CROMBIE.

Mr J. W. Crombie, Balgownie Lodge, lectured on "The Political Situation" at a meeting which was held last night in the Northern Friendly Society's Hall, under the auspices of the Aberdeen Junior Liberal Association.

Professor Minto, who occupied the chair, made a few introductory remarks. He alluded to the fact that when he spoke in that place last year he had not Crombie was in the chair, and he (the Professor) was the lecturer, his subject being the same as Mr Crombie's. Since then, however, there had been a change, and Home Rule was the subject matter, for the extraordinary rapidity of change that characterised politics for the year before that evening had produced a great change. He had been two points in the political affairs of the country, which had occasioned them considerable curiosity. They were very anxious then to know what might come of Lord Randolph Churchill's attempt to convert the Tory party to advanced Radicalism. That was a point upon which they had had their curiosity partly satisfied. It had not been their fine speech successful. The next result was that Lord Randolph had no longer a seat in the Cabinet, and he was now free to enlighten and, perhaps, instruct the Tory party from a lofty position below the gangway. Certainly, as Liberals, they must feel that Lord Randolph Churchill had rendered them a great service. Even although he had not quite succeeded in his daring endeavour, there was no saying what he might not yet do. He was a young man of courage and ability, and he had shown that he was not afraid to found that though at present the language used about him by his party was not quite the same as was used about him by the Liberal Party, it was a considerable backing. There were one or two respects in which he had permanently changed the policy of his party. He did not think it was possible for the Tory party to go back thoroughly in favour of intervention. He had practically abolished Jingoism — (applause) — and he had given a considerable impetus to economy. At that little service he had rendered the Liberals was that he had supplied them with what they had wanted for some time, a name for their brethren who called themselves Unionists. (Laughter and applause.) The very apt name supplied by Lord Randolph Churchill was "the Tory crutch"—(laughter)—a name which the Liberal party would be accepted at once. Another point in which they felt some curiosity three months ago was the prospect of union between the main body of the Liberal party and the dissentient section of the Home Rule movement along that line also. Mr Chamberlain had certainly shown some sign of coming down from the fence upon that point, but he was still on the fence. (Applause.) Perhaps it would be more correct to describe Mr Chamberlain as sitting on a revolving stool with his face to all the points of the compass, one after the other, and occasionally in that position for him, whatever party he might ultimately select as that with which he was to reform the administration of Ireland. But they were are glad to see that Mr Chamberlain was beginning to recognise that Irish problem was the most urgent problem now before the country. (Applause.)

Mr Crombie, who was received, with applause, after referring to the retirement of Lord Randolph Churchill and the defeat of Mr Goschen, said that Mr Chamberlain, who had begun with a feel in a little lonely outside the Liberal fold, was once more sniffing for readmission into the fold. The door stood open. Let him enter. (Applause.) They would welcome him with all the welcome that was ever accorded to a prodigal. (Hear, hear.) They would shut their eyes when he entered, so as to make it easy for him. They would try to look as if they did not know that he had strayed away. He then proceeded to refer to the bill of fare with which the Government had come forward. The bill of fare was most tempting. It contained, at least, some dishes that, he confessed, made the teeth of a Radical water. But they knew that the dishes were only in the bill of fare. (Laughter and applause.) They knew that the only cook who could have cooked them, Lord Randolph Churchill had left the establishment in disgust. (Laughter and applause.) Perhaps in one other respect at least the bill was entirely occupied with a huge potful of Irish stew. (Laughter.) The Government thought the Irish question was to be neglected. They had adopted the certain policy during their heads in the sand, and thought that they would evade their difficulty. But while the Government had been neglecting the Irish question the Irish people had been taking it into itself (Hear, hear.) There had been six months of resolute Government in Ireland, and it had been six months of resolute failure. (Applause.) This failure had been due to the Plan of Campaign. He then proceeded to explain what he considered the plan of campaign was. They would recollect that last April Mr Parnell introduced the Tenants Relief Bill, which was not as had sometimes been said, to reduce rents by 50 per cent., but simply a bill to stay evictions pending further inquiry, in cases where rents were not paid, if the rent had been paid up. Well, the good landlords in Ireland, many of them who had voted against the bill in the House, went back to Ireland, and by the force of their example the very thing which that measure would have made them do by law. But there were bad landlords in Ireland—there were shameless men who had taken advantage of the Land Legislation was intended, and consequently evictions have been threatened in Ireland. They had seen something of what these evictions were like in Glenbeigh. He had heard and read of such things in former times, in times of war, in times when the worst passions were stirred up to their devilish dregs, and when the source of pity was frozen in the heart; but it had been left for the Tory Government to legalise them in this nineteenth century within the precincts of the United Kingdom and in times of peace. (Applause.) He did not blame the people then for the violating details, but he asked them, in their imagination, to multiply these and hundred times, and they would have some idea, and only some idea, of what the winter scene in Ireland in a hundred times, and if it had been for the plan of campaign. (Applause.) The plan of campaign was simply a plan of combination of poor wretches, driven to the last extremity by the terrors of eviction. Having quoted and commented upon remarks made by Mr Chamberlain and Mr Goschen against the plan of campaign, Mr Crombie said they had no objection to speak of freedom of contract in Ireland, he asked were they to stand by and watch the horrors of eviction in Ireland simply because it was written in the law? There was something greater than to lecture upon the majesty of the law, but it seemed to him to be nothing more than heartless pedantry to apply these platitudes to Ireland in the present crisis. Surely there was a spirit of the law as well as the letter. (Applause.) The Irish Nationalists were blamed for not respecting the law in Ireland, but the Nationalists who had done so had not yet had been guilty in this matter. Sir Michael Hicks Beach and the "Standard" newspaper had each given expression to utterances which should place them side by side with Mr Parnell and Mr O'Brien. The question of Home Rule was something like the magic flute which no one could listen to, whether he was a disciple of Gladstone or of Mr Chamberlain without dancing a vigorous jig. (Laughter.) Lord Carnarvon, our illustrious townsman Sir Robert Hamilton, who was turned out of his place because he was a friend of Home Rule; Colonel Turner, who filled the Queen's Bench; and Sir Redvers Buller had all fallen victims to Home Rule, the latter being a staunch Home Rule Conservative. It seemed to him that a Cabinet Council meeting in Downing Street must be something like a party of men who met in the time of the plague, each looking with a suspicious eye upon the other, and wondering who would next drop down a victim to the awful plague. (Laughter and applause.) When Mr Chamberlain spoke at Hawick it seemed as if he had changing the medical tables of Dr Jekyl's mixture, for he first spoke as Mr Chamberlain the Unionist, and afterwards as Mr Chamberlain the Radical, and he was in danger of properly disposing of his duties and privileges. (Applause.) Dr Jekyl lost his prescription, and Mr Chamberlain lost his, and he would have to remain the man he was when he lost it. What would it be? He thought, he hoped and believed, that it would be Mr Chamberlain, the Radical. (Applause.) He hoped that the Liberal Unionists do then, poor things? (Laughter.) They would then have to choose whether they would remain the Tory crutch, as Lord Randolph Churchill had called them, or they would have to be told them, frankly also that he would chuck them aside the moment he could walk on his own legs. There were two classes of Liberal Unionists, he admitted. He had mourned the loss of the Radical, but not as one having no comfort, as he expected they would before long rejoin the main body. They had been driven away by persons who had gone to the side issue. It would remain for some Greville memoirs of the future to explain the causes that led to a great political change. He had lately lighted on a noble career to turn round and deny himself, and what had led Mr Chamberlain and Sir George Trevelyan to forget for a moment the side on which they had fought for years. (Applause.) If ever the Whig Unionists, he did not regret them at all. (Applause.) They had, he believed, long been hanging to them by a mere thread, cumbersome and useless, and if they had not let loose, they would. Irish question they would have lost them over some others. Alluding to Home Rule he asked why should Scotland, Wales, and England be left out of Ireland? (Applause.) She needed it, and there was no country more capable of using it well. (Applause.) Lord Salisbury has called the Irish a nation of Scotchmen (laughter) and he Scotch asked for Home Rule he would call them Hottentots too! (Laughter.) Since they met last a lake had been formed in Aberdeen. (Laughter.) There had been born a Liberal Unionist Association. It was a puny babe. (Laughter.) It was born out of time. (Renewed laughter.) It was born to a heritage of disaster. (Applause and laughter.) He held in his hands the constitution of the babe; it was a delicate constitution—(laughter)—but he thought it merited their pity rather than their wrath. Some of the Liberal Unionists were not the two enemies Home Rulers had to fight against, but he had no doubt that they would overcome all difficulties in time. (Applause.)

Mr G. B. Thomson moved a vote of thanks to Mr Crombie, which was heartily carried.

THE EVICTIONS AT GLENBEIGH.

Mr A. Macphail said that since they had come into the hall, the secretary of the association, Mr Gerdie, had handed him the following resolution with regard to the eviction at Glenbeigh, which he begged to move:—"That this meeting expresses unqualified condemnation of the conduct of the Government in tolerating such acts of barbarous cruelty as the evictions at Gl