
**Speeches Delivered at Public Meetings in Scotland, and
Newcastle, in 1834**

Durham John George

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Author: Durham John George

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SPEECHES

OF

John George Lambton

THE EARL OF DURHAM,

DELIVERED AT

PUBLIC MEETINGS

IN

SCOTLAND, AND NEWCASTLE,

IN

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SPEECH

AT THE DINNER GIVEN IN

EDINBURGH,

To EARL GREY, on the 15th of September, 1834, after the Lord Advocate had proposed the health of "The Earl of Durham and the Reformers of England."

— — —

GENTLEMEN,—It is quite impossible for me to express to you adequately the gratification I have derived, the heartfelt pleasure I have experienced, in witnessing the splendid scene this day. It is, indeed, a noble tribute paid to my illustrious relative, one of which he may justly be proud, but of which I need say no more, than that he has acknowledged it in terms which do honour to his heart, and justice to his eloquence. But highly as I estimate this appropriate tribute, this great act of national justice rendered to an illustrious statesman, I agree with my honourable friend in thinking that this meeting is also valuable for public reasons, and on public

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grounds. How often have we been told by Tory authorities—you must allow me to make use of that expression; they seem to have become ashamed of it themselves, and to have departed from it,—how often have we been told that the spirit of reform was dying away, that liberal feelings were no longer predominant; and, as my noble friend said, that the day was fast approaching when the people of England would return as repentant sinners to their abandoned home of Toryism, to be received in the open arms of their forgiving Tory masters? I ask you, do the proceedings of this day indicate any such wanton abandonment of their inestimable privileges? (“*No, no!*”) The popular “gathering” of this day, if I may use a Scottish expression, proves, that the best and most influential of Scotland, not perhaps the majority of the nobility of this country, because, without their tickets being countersigned at Dunbar, they could not come, are present at this magnificent festival. If, at this gathering, we miss the presence of those illustrious Tories, and their veteran leader, we have here the representatives, I mean the Provosts and Magistrates, of the commerce and industry of all the great towns of Scotland; all this tells us a very different tale from that which the Tories would tell us; and is full of generous anticipation for the free, and independent, and liberal people of Scotland, (*cheers*); and so would it be in every part of the empire, were an occasion offered of eliciting

the sentiments of the people of this country. It is true, we have no longer to make the same exertions as when we struggled for the Reform Bill; but no man shall tell me that our feelings and principles are not the same. (*Cheering.*) How foolish to imagine that the great tide of improvement can be arrested in its progress, or that it will cease to flow with a resistless progress. It is true, the barriers and obstacles have been removed, and the waves flow in a more even channel; the tumult has been arrested, but the depth, the power, the all-conquering energies still remain, and, if roused into action, must be omnipotent. (*Great Cheering.*) I ought to apologise for taking up so much of your time. (*Cries of "No, no," and cheers.*) I must beg you then to accept my best thanks for the cordial reception given me, and for the high honour conferred upon me, by connecting my name with that of Reform. The transcendent talents of my friends around me amply justify any homage that is paid to them; but how can I repay the meed of approbation which you have bestowed on me? I acknowledge the immeasurable superiority of my noble friends; but in one respect I will not yield to them, nor to any man, in attachment to the liberties of my country (*cheering,*) and in a firm uncompromising determination ever to strengthen and maintain its institutions. My learned friend, the Lord Advocate, has been pleased to refer to my public services. I have now been more than twenty