

managed, and we ought not to forget to whom we were indebted. [Cheers.] Not long after, Sir Francis retired from public life altogether, and is here, I rejoice to say, in good health and vigor. Looking at him this evening, I thought of the description applied to a great historical character—"His eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated." [Cheers.] This was said of the great Hebrew Lawgiver, after a busy life, at the age of 120 years. Perhaps we could not expect in these degenerate days, when the wear and tear of public men was greater, that such a period might be reached, but there was no one present who would desire to place any limit upon the period during which we hoped still to have the advantage of our friend's matured experience, sound judgment and vigorous intellect in the intercourse of daily life, and as an observer and guide of public affairs. [Cheers.] They all entertained for Sir Francis the highest esteem, respect and regard. He wished to assure him these sentiments were in their hearts, and the outward manifestations would now be given in the bumper toast he proposed to his health. [Loud cheers.]

SIR FRANCIS HINCKS then arose amid vociferous cheering, and said: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—Accept my heartfelt thanks for the honor which you have just done me, and for the sentiments you have expressed. I have on many occasions, during a long public career, received similar demonstrations from my friends; but I can say with perfect truth that I have never had any that has given me such gratification as this manifestation, because I feel that it is one of personal regard. I know that there are round this table gentlemen entertaining a great variety of political opinions, for this is not a political club. I had no idea that such an honor would be offered to me, and I was very much surprised when I first heard of it, and I confess for some little time afterwards I was much embarrassed as to what I should say upon such an occasion. I happened to mention to a friend, who knew of the intention of giving me this entertainment, that I really did not know what to say on the occasion. I felt that I could not approach general topics or political subjects. I was told:—"Oh! There is no difficulty at all in the matter. You can speak on the subject of clubs, and show what has been the influence of clubs." Well, I really thought it was a very rational topic, so I went to work to study the subject of clubs. I went back to one frequented by Shakespeare, and the club named Buttons, of which