

members, and the more sober garb of the civilians. When the clatter of the knives and forks, well sustained for some two hours, had subsided, the President proceeded to propose the list of Toasts, which were drunken with enthusiastic and unanimous acclaim.

The Hon. Chairman said, that having now discussed the preliminary business of the evening, and laid in a tolerably good foundation which most of them had moistened "wi' a wee drap of the barley bree," he would now proceed with the regular toasts. But before doing so, he could not but congratulate the admirers of Burns, whose genius had drawn together as numerous, as intellectual and as brilliant a meeting as had ever assembled round a dinner-table in Halifax. (Cheers.) Altho' the generous wine would continue to flow freely round the table, this was intended, and should be regarded as a literary entertainment, and he was proud to see present many gentlemen of known ability and eloquence which would presently be brought into play. There was a noble band, too, not, it might be, of the sweet singers of Israel, but masters of the thrilling and soft music of Burns, which would penetrate to their inmost souls.

And now, Mr. Vice, I shall announce the first toast, which will rise naturally to the lips and gush warm from the heart of every loyal British subject. It is our singular good fortune while under the rule of a great constitutional monarch, to acknowledge the sway of an accomplished woman and an exemplary wife and mother. The calm and almost severe simplicity with which our Queen has assumed the empire of India, and of more than a hundred millions of human beings, has something in it approaching to the sublime. But Her Majesty not only commands the respectful homage of the intellectual and sound-thinking in every part of her dominions, she knows how to draw to herself the subtler and finer essences, the unreasoning, it