

the personal attachment of this great people of England, that there is nothing I would not do, in order if possible by concession to promote and bring about and increase that union. And I am not afraid to say that I thank the Government for the concession. (Cheers.) And, sir, when my friend Mr. Sampson, I am sure from the highest principle, criticizes my conduct, I am bound to ask in what relative positions we stand. Sir, I think it is nearly forty-four years since I began (I think that is the phrase they used in those days) to meddle in politics. I followed the principles held by my father, and which, I believe, were also the principles of my grandfather, and I hope they may remain the principles of my son, who is in Parliament, however much we may all of us differ with regard to unimportant details; and from that day to this I do not believe that there is any man in England who has employed more time, who has sacrificed more personal interest, who has laboured harder in the promotion of all measures having for their aim civil, religious and commercial liberty—than I have done. (Loud cheers.)

Sir, when I was twenty-one, I had a vote; therefore I was able to throw my lot into the scale in favour of any candidate. I was not excluded, like many of our friends who are ably represented to-night. I was, also, a Churchman, and therefore every office in the State, every piece of preferment in the universities, was open to me. I was under no disqualification; I was under no ban; I had nothing to gain. Personally—for in those days Liberal politics were not very popular with certain classes in this country—personally I had everything to lose; but I fought the battle for my fellow-countrymen, who were Nonconformists, and who had no vote. (Cheers.) Now, gentlemen, I think it is a little hard on a veteran reformer like myself, who has seen every measure which he has struggled for carried, who can feel like the man who has scaled the mountain and gazes down upon the blooming pastures and beautiful groves, everything smiling and delightful, the conquests of his toils and labours—conquests not earned for himself, but for others in disability and exclusion—that he should on the eve of a general election be singled out for attack either here or elsewhere. Why should I, I ask, be persistently so attacked? I know there is a notion that “gratitude is a lively sense of favours to come.” Well, it is very likely that there are few more favours to come