

added—'And many thanks to you, Ma'am.'

'You are welcome, sir,' said she, 'very welcome to half a dozen votes, if we had them.'

What took place between us after the Captain and his party left, I will not relate to ye, for it was disgracefu'—I'm ashamed o't until this day; indeed, I carried the marks o' her nails upon my face for the space o' a fortnight, which looked particularly ill upon the countenance o' a magistrate. Weel, it was in the afternoon o' the same day, ane o' the gentlemen belonging to Mr. Wood's party, called again at the shop; and, me being in the haberdashery line, he wished to purchase a quantity o' ribbons for election favours. To the best o' my recollection, he bought to the amount o' between twa and three pounds' worth; and, to my surprise, he pulled out a fifty pound bank note to pay for them.

'I fear sir,' says I, 'I'm short o' change an' ye can pay for the ribbons ony day as ye're passing.'

'Oh, no,' says he, 'don't talk about the change—it can be got at any time.' And he laid the fifty pound note upon the counter. 'I trust, added he, we may now recon upon Mr. Gourlay's support.'

'Really, sir,' says I, 'I have not had time to weigh—that is, to turn over the subject in my mind properly; but I will consider o' it. I am sure, Mr. Wood has my good wishes.'

'Thank you, sir,' said the gentleman, leaving the shop, 'I shall inform Mr. Wood that he may reckon upon you.'

Now I would have called after him that he was by no means to reckon upon onything o' the sort, for I had not made up my mind; but I thought it would look ill, and I suffered him to leave with the impression that I was a supporter o' his party. I couldna think for a moment, that he proposed onything to a man like me by no taking the change o' the note; and, I intended to send it to the inn in the morning as soon as the Bank opened; but I happened to say, in the course o' conversation, to a neeher that dropped into the shop a short while after, that I thought Mr. Wood was very liberal and flush o' his siller; and I unthinkingly mentioned the circumstance o' the fifty pound note, and the change, and the ribbons. Weel, the person left the shop without making any particular remark upon the circumstance that I observed; but what was my horror, I may say my confusion and astonishment, when just on the edge o' the evening, (for it was in the summer time,) and just as we were shutting up the shop, here's a great gilravishing and a shouting at

the end o' the street, and along comes twa or three hundred callants, and and some young chields that were never out o' mischief; with the effigy o' a man tied to a pole; and they had the odious thing dressed as like me as possible; but what was worse than a', they had a great label on its breast, wi' the words, '*Fifty pounds for a pair o' ribbons!*' written on; and they had the audacity to stand shouting and yelling, and to burn it afore my door—I was in such a passion as I believe man never was in afore! Me! a magistrate, and ane o' the principal men o' the town-council to be thought guilty o' takin a bribe! It was horrible! horrible! I first seized the yardwand, and I rushed into the crowd, and I ran round me right and left, until it was shivered to pieces; and then I ran into the shop, where the mob kept hissing and yelling; and I took the fifty pound note, and gied it to ane o' the shop-lads—'Rin,' says I, 'rin wi' that to Mr. Wood, or to the gentleman that brought it, and tell them that I neither wish to see their money nor their custom.'

So the lad ran wi' the note to the inn, and did as I ordered him. But oh! I had a awfu' nicht wi' Mrs. Gourlay! There was na an ill name that she could get her tongue about that she didna ca' me. 'Silly Simon' and 'Simple Simon' were the gentle terms that she used. I was ashamed to show my face at the door, for I was in the town talk. But, still, notwithstanding a' the persecution I was sufferin', I was in a swither hoo to act, for I was determined, if possible to abide by my worthy father's advice, and vote wi' the winning side. However it was hard to say which would be the winning side for, though Mr. Wood was a great favourite wi' a majority o' the working-classes, and even wi' a number o' the council, an' though he was very liberal an' lavish wi' his money as I have said, yet there was a great number o' respectable folk took a very warm interest for Captain Oliver. There were a vast o' my best customers on baith sides, and it was really a very delicate matter for me to decide hoo to act—for ye will observe I am the last man in the world that would offend onybody, and especially a person that I'm obliged to. Weel, just while I was pondering in which way my worthy father would have acted under similar circumstances, I received a letter in the name o' three or four leddies, from whom I had, first and last received a great deal o' siller—and who, at the same time, were gey deeply in my books—and they plainly informed me, that, unless I