

Saturday 28th November 1885



MR COSSHAM'S RETURN FOR EAST BRISTOL.
TORCHLIGHT DEMONSTRATION.

A great demonstration took place last evening in East Bristol to celebrate the return of Mr Handel Cossham.

At seven o'clock torchlight procession was organised at Barton Hill, and several hundreds of persons marched through St. George's to Trooper's Hill, headed by a brass band. Coloured fire was burned along the route, and at intervals there were cheers for Mr Gladstone and Mr Cossham.

The scene at Trooper's Hill is not likely to be soon forgotten by those who were present. The spot for the demonstration was not altogether a favourable one for a wet and dark night, but a large crowd of three or four thousand persons assembled, and the utmost enthusiasm prevailed.

Numerous tar barrels were placed together and ignited, and the bonfire might have been seen from the greater part of Bristol. Cannon were fired, red fire was kept burning in different parts the ground, and the whole scene was calculated to make a lasting impression minds of those who witnessed it.

Mr Cossham was accompanied by several of his supporters, and cheers were repeatedly given for the first member for East Bristol.

Mr John Beavan, who acted as chairman, said they were met to celebrate the glorious victory which the Liberal party had achieved in East Bristol. They had beaten the enemy, and could do it again to-morrow if necessary. (Cheers.)

They had succeeded in returning one of the best representatives the working classes in the United Kingdom, and so long as Mr Cossham was to the front he ventured to think no Tory would be found oppose him. (Cheers, and a voice: "He will Prime Minister before long.")

Mr Handel Cossham, M.P., who was received with cheers, said he thought no man could look upon a sight like that without being moved. It was a most magnificent sight, and by his mind the most pleasant part of it was that it was entirely spontaneous—(cheers)—no beer barrels, no scattering of money, no endeavour to mislead the people; they had all turned out of their own accord to welcome their member because they liked their member, and had returned him triumphantly at the head of the poll. (Voice: "And will again.")