

pernicious spirit, which has already desolated one of the finest countries of the earth, and which unless rooted out, would spread its contagious effects as wide as society itself should be found to extend.

As long as the efforts of our internal enemies were confined to mere opinions, and that among the combination no names either of rank or respectability were to be found, so long the government of this country left them to their original insignificance; but when they had drawn within the vortex some of higher rank and better promise, men, who, however honest in their intentions, were so blinded by a false zeal, as to suffer themselves to be made the dupes of those who have nothing less in view than the utter annihilation of the Constitution, then was it time for the executive government to do their duty, and with the strong arm of power, to convince such, they were as able as willing to protect the persons, and preserve the peace of those by whom they were so intrusted.

After his Lordship had, in a very forcible manner taken a view of those who would persuade us we ought to exchange the blessings we actually enjoy for ideal ones, he concluded with calling upon their Lordships to shew their determination to support the Crown and Constitution of these Realms, by adopting the address lately voted by the other House; for which purpose his Lordship moved, 'That the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, be introduced into the humble Address of the Commons, &c.'

Lord Harrington seconded the motion, accompanied by a few judicious observations upon our happy situation, compared with that of every country in Europe.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS the Prince of Wales arose to express his sentiments upon this occasion. In doing so, it was not his intention to enter into a detail of topics or arguments which the subject matter before their Lordships so obviously pointed out, and which had been, and no doubt would be, noticed by others; but to express his attachment to our happy Constitution, as handed down to us by our ancestors—a constitution consisting of three estates, which he had in his earliest infancy been taught to admire, and which it should be his pride and endeavour to maintain inviolate to the latest period of his existence. Impressed with these sentiments, and animated by such principles, he felt himself bound upon the present occasion to give his most hearty concurrence and approbation to the motion offered to their Lordships.

Lord Lauderdale and Lord Spencer rose both at an instant. The call of the house was clamorous for the latter; but the former persisted, and carried his point of preference. His Lordship said, upon any other occasion he should unquestionably feel it both his duty and his wish to give way to the noble Lord, but that on the present, he felt himself so particularly called upon, that he must persevere in asserting his claim, immediately to repel a personal insinuation against his own character, as implicated in the censure fulminated against those with whom he acted, with whom it was his pride to act, and would continue, he hoped, to be so to the latest period of his existence. His Lordship deprecated the evils which threatened the unhappy people of another country—he approved not of their principles, neither did he countenance those of which their Lordships had heard so much promulgated in the writings of Mr. Paine. His Lordship had not even read them, nor those of his Satellites in mischief; but he held himself called upon to vindicate himself, and those with whom he acted, from imputations as odious as they are unjust; upon men of probity and influence, of patriotic character and private virtues.—against this Society, (FRIENDS OF THE PEOPLE) his Lordship said, he must consider the attack directed, because they professed themselves the firm friends, and zealous, but yet temperate, advocates of a PARLIAMENTARY REFORM. The attack his Lordship declared to be insidious and dastardly, such as could proceed only from the malignity of apostacy, and the diabolical design to sunder the most honourable ties, and break the bands of the longest and most amiable friendships.

The object of him and his friends was held up basely to the Country, as proceeding from principles other than those avowed, and tending to produce a total subversion of the blessings we now enjoy. Nothing could be more likely, his Lordship said, than for those whose overweening ambition had burst every restraint of honour and of principle, with whom what was one day reform was another day rebellion, to endeavour to overwhelm those whose present pursuits were reproachful to their former delinquency, with every virulence of invective, and every calumny of insinuation.

Yet his Lordship recollected, that one of his Majesty's Ministers had made his debt with the principles he had now abjured; and he denied the pages of Mr. Paine's most treasonable pamphlets to contain great blasphemies against the constitution of the country, that had been writ-

ten by a noble Duke then present. Here his Lordship read certain extracts from a Letter to Col. Sharman, (we think) speaking of the Royal Veto with abhorrence, and every exertion of a similar nature to the counteraction of measures proposed by the people. His Lordship then referred to certain Associations of a former period, in which a Parliamentary Reform had been the declared object of the very persons now opposing its necessity; he coupled the Duke of Richmond with Alderman Wilkes, and Mr. Pitt with Horne Tooke. (This facetious distribution of persons produced a loud laugh.)

The noble Lord then alluded to the supposed impropriety of choosing the present time for the bringing forward of any reform whatever. He affirmed, that the present times were as becomingly chosen, as those when his Majesty's ministers thought proper to discuss so momentous an object. But in whatever quarter his Lordship surveyed their conduct, he viewed the same incoherence of thought and action, the same incongruity of conception and appliance. They had chosen to recur to the affairs of France; for my part, said his Lordship, I am not one of those who think, that in this House that nation offers any becoming object for investigation. It was not his choice; he must follow, however, where they had led. They referred to its disasters without perceiving, or dissembling their perception, that the primordial evils of that country had flowed from a principle which he for one, had reprobated as chimerical, irrational and destructive, and which deluging the colony of St. Domingo with blood, they were yet not ashamed to adopt. By their abolition of the Slave Trade, they were preaching up massacre in the island of Jamaica, and advertising for Colonial Insurrection, as well as by their Proclamation they invited a civil War. But they had other means to avert the latter disaster, and he even saw present a noble Duke, who was to command a camp in the summer, for the express purpose of overawing the Capital. And, indeed, his Lordship said, that if any man in this country was more than ever particularly well qualified for such a command, it was the noble Duke he alluded to. He had filled up the measure of political turpitude so full that there was not another like him, and the choice and the measure were well appropriated.

The Duke of Richmond rose in the most violent disorder—He commanded the noble Peer to forbear such impertinent personalities—he spoke to order—it was utterly insupportable, and an individual outrage.—If the noble Lord felt sore upon any reflection made on his Lordship's conduct in countenancing those societies, it was not the Duke's fault.

Lord Lauderdale persisted he was perfectly in order, because he was not speaking of an individual Peer, but one of his Majesty's