

Feb. 29.

position was agreed to. an humble address be would be graciously ommons, copies of all ed by the committee sent state of agricul- &c. His reason, he was to ascertain whe- ple was well founded, e, produced a suffici- ion of its inhabitants. inconvenience would rn at certain periods. il had not gone into y and Ireland. The ys gave notice that Friday, April 1. dingly made a simi- negated. He then ties of corn, that had tain, and the quanti- tain into Ireland, for

ee on the corn bill, subjecting vessels to and Lord Sheffield.— uer, on a motion by ery hundred tons of e hands of some pro- at the vessel was pro- rejected;—ayes 39; that the ports should of foreign wheat, till d of 48 s. as proposed, encourage the agricul-

motion. Pulney, Mr Bastard, Browne, and Mr Fox, these gentlemen it was city complained of in natural scarcity; but

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they ascribed it entirely to a departure from the old principles of the corn laws, by the act which took place in 1773, which had tended to induce farmers to throw their lands into grass instead of corn, from the encouragement it gave to the introduction of foreign grain. They wished now, they said, to recur to the former principle, and the former plenty would of course be restored.

Mr Ryder, and Mr Pitt opposed the amendment, ascribing the scarcity in late years, not to the operation of the law complained of, but to the encrease of wealth, of population, of luxury, of horses, of distilleries, &c. On a division the amendment was carried;—ayes 59, noes 63. Adjourned.

April 11. The committee again sat, when a long and warm debate took place, on the clause permitting the warehousing of corn.

Mr Powys complained, that after it had been once rejected, it had been again introduced without sufficient warning having been given of that intention. This position was warmly disputed by Mr Ryder.

Lord Sheffield argued with great force of reasoning against the whole clause; alleging many arguments to prove that it must be highly pernicious to the agriculture of this country. Among other particulars, he stated, that one hundred thousand tons of shipping came annually from the Baltic, from Flanders, and Ireland, to Liverpool for salt, [he did not specify coals,] and could afford to bring 500,000 quarters of wheat at a very small expence. He said farmers would soon see they could not raise corn in competition, and would necessarily turn from tillage to pasture. He added, those magazines were unnecessary, as we never had found occasion for them during the prosperous times of our corn trade.

Many other members having objected, in particular, against that part of the clause for paying the expence of warehousing by the public, Mr Ryder agreed to withdraw this part of the clause.

The committee then divided;—ayes for retaining the clause thus amended 86, noes 70,—majority against it, 14. A division also took place on the clause for dividing the kingdom into districts,—ayes 65, noes 58,—majority in its favour, 7.

*The remainder in a succeeding number.*