

ESSAY

ON

Modern Reformers.

IF I were to address the People of this Province to warn them against the baneful effects of modern reform it should be in the following words.

“Amongst the devices by which public attention may be excited, and public compassion awakened, towards those, whom, neither genius, nor industry, nor virtue, would have forced into distinction, the most frequent, and, perhaps, the most successful, is the art of connecting illegal transactions with popular pursuits, and rendering the Administration of Government odious, by complaint and clamour against those denials, which have been deservedly, nay often designedly, incurred.

There are a species of offenders in this country, who claim merit from the avowal of deliberate malignity; whose public virtue is distinguished only by an opposition to public justice, and whose policy consists in taking advantage of that disposition in some minds, that considers all government as an oppression—that feels all subordination as a misery. Such a disposition, inflamed by popular clamour, and directed to the purposes of faction, has often counteracted the ends of justice, by converting its sentence into reward; and the desperate rioter, the malicious libeller, and the treacherous unpurser of