

“ tee appointed thereupon.” The Ministry, most certainly, were not such poor politicians, as merely for conscience-sake, to force on a bill of so nice and difficult a composition, and so liable to be called, by the Malevolent, *An Act for giving more power to Ministers*, notwithstanding the largeness of their Majority. After being heartily slapped on one side of the face, obstinately to hold out the other to the like treatment, would be, now-a-days, a strange kind of primitive goodness. By the mere offer of such a bill (to borrow the expression of a certain talking Alderman) *liberarunt animas suas*. And who can blame Men, in times of clamour, for going no farther, and for a little wordly attention? Doubtless, they would be content rather to lie under an undeserved imputation of not being in earnest when they talked of a bill, and of their throwing it out merely as a tub for the Leviathan of opposition to play with, than enter into another long and hot field of disputation and wrangling, the end of which is not always to be foreseen; when at the worst, they are sure of having an acquittal for themselves, from the experience of what is past, whatever they do. They are not like some Ministers, who court a renown for their eloquence. They are very far from ostentation or outward parade, and talk modestly; yet, they can do the strong thing, when necessary, as much as other people, *Suaviter in modo sed fortiter in re*. But, is it not astonishing, that the Great Dictator, and his immediate followers, should shew a dislike to such a statute, or ordonnance as this, which might, in future, be a shield of defence for any thing so bold a Minister might venture

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