

but was over-persuaded by the Hon. John Richardson, backed by a gentle *Gale*, (one indeed, that has also veered about like the wind, and from being a sworn enemy to the whole tribe, has become one of their particular friends and advocates.)

Such, indeed, are the meannesses, to which party-feeling has made a man bow, who once was thought an honour to the country, free, & independent in his principles, an honest man, and a patriot; but now alas! how changed, how "fallen from his high estate!"

Should you deem this worthy of insertion, you may hear again from

Your obed't. serv't.

SCRUTATOR.

Popular ballads have often not only had a considerable influence on the manners and modes of thinking of a nation, but have also been attended at times with very important political consequences. The song of "Lillibullero" it is said, cost James the II. his crown, and more ripened and prepared the public mind for the glorious revolution of 1688 than the productions of the press, cramped indeed as it was by that arbitrary monarch, and the discussions in Parliament, overawed as they were by despotic power. The British anthem of "God save the King" has done more to cherish the loyalty and affection of the nation for the house of Brunswick, than the most elaborate panegyrics. "Wilhelmus Van Nassouwen," was the rallying song which upheld the name, and restored to dominion the princes of the House of Orange; and we all know the enthusiastic ardour that pervaded revolutionary France to the tunes of "ça ira," and "Allons enfans de la patrie." Songs and ballads on political subjects are, therefore, of great utility in all disputes that either affect, or must ultimately be decided by, popular sentiment. Scarcely any have yet appeared amongst us on the subject of the projected Union of the Canadas, fertile as it is in topics for railery, for reprobation, and for exhortation, the three qualities which political ballads ought always to possess. One under the title of "the Delights of the Union" has appeared in the *Kingston Herald*; but its length, (being no less than forty-four stanzas,) renders it quite unfit for a popular song, and it also enters too specifically into the clauses of the obnoxious bill, that we all so much detest.—There are some good things in it, however. Alluding to the French Canadians, and to the Scotch faction, that is attempting to get the command of every thing in this province, the following verses are no bad ironical picture.

"What can *they* know of civil rights
Or how of civil lists form notion?
Most ignorant and factious wights,
We'll drive them all into the ocean.