

ible degrees, the enormous augmentation of our ships and men, while the naval force of our enemies is actually much less than in former years.

"That, as a remedy for this alarming national evil, it is absolutely necessary that the grievances of the navy, some of which only have been recited above, should be redressed; that a limitation of the duration of service should be adopted, accompanied with the certainty of a suitable reward, not subject to any of the effects of partiality, and that measures should be taken to cause the comfortable situations in the ordinary of the dock yard—the places of porters, messengers, &c. &c. in and about the offices belonging to the sea service, the under wardens of the naval forests, &c.—to be bestowed on meritorious decayed petty officers and seamen, instead of being, as they now generally are, the wages of corruption, in borough elections.

"That this house, convinced that a decrease of energy of character cannot be compensated by an augmentation of the number of ships, guns and men, which is, at the same time, a grievous pecuniary burden to the country, will, at an early period of next session, institute an enquiry by special committee, or otherwise, into the matters above stated, and particularly with a view to dispensing suitable rewards to seamen; that they will investigate the state of the fund at Greenwich hospital, and ascertain whether it is necessary to apply the droits of the admiralty, and droits of the crown, as the natural first means of compensation to those who have acquired them by their valour, their privations and their sufferings."

Sir Francis Burdett seconded the resolution.

Mr. Croker said, he should think himself wanting in duty to the house, if he did not at once assure them, that except the very opening of the resolution which had just been read from the chair, there was not one statement which was not unfounded in fact, or exaggerated in the highest degree, (Hear, hear.)—He had only to lament that the noble lord had not brought forward this subject at an earlier period of the session, so that his statements might have been refuted in a manner more decided, although perhaps not more satisfactorily than they would be on the present occasion. He was surprised that the noble