

Financial Reform Tracts. It was published, with the resolutions and petition adopted at the meeting, in several of the local papers at the time; but it is, nevertheless, desirable that the whole should be placed on permanent record amongst the transactions of the Association, in order that they may be bound up with the second volume, and the Council have therefore determined on their republication.

The meeting in question was held at the Concert Hall, Lord Nelson Street, on Thursday evening, January 21, 1857. It was open to all comers and was most numerously attended. The chair was occupied by L. Heyworth, Esq., M.P., and amongst the invited guests was J. A. Roebuck, Esq., M.P. The proceedings were perfectly unanimous. The following is a copy of the

#### REPORT.

In presenting an account of the proceedings of the Financial Reform Association, since the last public meeting of the members on the 16th December, 1852, and of its present condition, the Council feel bound to allude, in the first instance, to the interruption of that wholesome and invigorating intercourse between them and their constituents, which was contemplated in the 5th rule passed for the guidance of the Association, at its original institution, on the 20th of April, 1848—viz.: "That there should be an annual general meeting for the presentation of a report, and the passing of the accounts." The Council hope, however, that a brief explanation on this point will be deemed satisfactory.

The annual meeting which ought to have taken place in 1853, was delayed, from time to time, by circumstances over which the Council had no control, until the proper period had long passed; and the two next years being years of warfare, the Council, though divided as to the war itself, deemed it impolitic, if not unpatriotic, to present such an opportunity as a general meeting would have afforded for any clashing of public opinion, which, by encouraging the enemy, might have retarded the restoration of peace. This difficulty being removed, the ordinary course of the Association is now resumed; the expression of public opinion is again invited; and the Council are convinced that the most unrestrained discussion as to the origin of the late war, its policy, progress, and results must be beneficial to the country.