

under the long interruption it had suffered, was still kept down by the low state of public credit, and by the dispiriting prospect before us: the affairs of the East India Company were in a state of embarrassment, which rendered their situation in the utmost degree critical: and, to complete the whole, the country was so distracted by factions, that it scarcely seemed possible to form any settled government, to whom the people could look up with confidence for any relief from such a complication of difficulties.

The reverse in 1790 is so extraordinary, considering the short space of time which has intervened, that we should almost doubt the reality of our former distresses, if the history of what has passed since the meeting of the Parliament of 1784, did not furnish us with causes fully adequate to the happy effects, which we have experienced, in so speedy a transition from the brink of ruin to an enviable pitch of national prosperity.

In order fully to recollect our situation at the melancholy period here alluded to, it is necessary to take a view of the circumstances which preceded the dissolution of the former Parliament. The repugnance which the country shewed in the spring of 1782 to the continuance