

STATE OF THE NATION,

&c. &c.

THE purport of the following observations is to take a general review of the state of public affairs, from the period of the late treaties to the commencement of the year 1822. The circumstances which compose this review have not, as yet, been produced to the public with sufficient fulness and distinctness. If some of the matters have been touched upon, and even discussed in parliament, in answer to the observations of the opponents of his Majesty's ministers, they have been discussed only as single measures, and without any reference to their coherence with the system of administration of which they formed a part.

The ministers of a free and high-minded country cannot be without a due feeling of the value of public character. They know, that in public station, still more than in private life, a good name is connected with the due and effective performance of duties; that character is influence, and that influence is power; that power from influence will extend its operation, where power from law and positive authority cannot reach; and that the goodwill of the people towards government, has in all ages proved the readiest means of an effective administration. Under these considerations, his Majesty's ministers for themselves, and their friends for them, must naturally desire to stand well in public opinion. They desire it for themselves, and they desire it for the country. For themselves, they must feel that they deserve public confidence for a conscientious and effective discharge of their duties: for the country, they must desire, and desire most anxiously, that a general feeling for the public good, and a general persuasion that the