

hope that public affairs will be conducted with an honest view to the public welfare.

The subject of parliamentary reform, had been so frequently and so fully discussed, and was besides so plain and simple in itself, that there could scarcely be a doubt that it was fully understood, and there was as little doubt that it was at this moment generally desired. He believed it was thirty years ago this very year, and this very month, for, if he mistook not, it was in the month of Feb. 1780, that the attention of the citizens of Westminster was called to this great subject in that hall opposite (pointing to Westminster Hall) by a dear friend of his, a truly enlightened patriot and most excellent man, the late Dr. John Jebb. He had stated in his own clear and forcible language, to the body of electors of that day, the absurdity, the inequality, the utter inadequacy of what was called representation—and he had clearly pointed out the evils which were then resulting from the imperfect constitution of the House of Commons, and the still more alarming evils which were likely to result from it at no great distance of time. Various proceedings afterwards took place, many meetings were held, and committees were appointed for the promotion of this great object; at length a young man of very considerable ability, and to whose patriotic spirit the country at that time looked with high expectation, appeared to take up the cause with great zeal, and publicly declared, that without a PARLIAMENTARY REFORMATION *neither the liberties of the people could be preserved, nor could any honest administration remain long in office.* Yet this young man afterwards became himself Prime Minister, and to the misfortune of this country held that situation, without any reform of parliament, more than sixteen years. Whether he held it honestly or not, he (Mr. S.) would leave it to the meeting to judge.

In the year 1780, when the subject was so ably brought forward by that worthy man Dr. Jebb, we found ourselves in the midst of an unjust, impolitic, and disastrous war. In the course of that war, the permanent taxes were doubled, his Majesty's armies defeated, and his counsels disgraced, and after more than one hundred millions had been added to the national debt, and one hundred thousand brave men lost to the country, the contest was given up, and the object of the war totally abandoned. Now he would ask this plain question—Could that disastrous war have been so long persisted in, after