

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Monday, May 21st, 1810.*

The HON. THOMAS BRAND moved, "That a committee be appointed to enquire into the state of the representation of the people in parliament, and of the most efficacious means of rendering it more complete, and to report the same with their observations thereupon to the House \*." He was seconded by ,  
and, on a division, there were,

Ayes 115, Noes 234.—Majority 119.

\* Mr. Brand stated, "that he did not mean to touch the right of voting for county members, except by letting in copyholders, and assimilating the mode of voting in Scotland to the practice of this country; but that, whilst he left the right of voting so far untouched, he should propose to disfranchise the boroughs, in which the members were returned upon the nomination of individuals, and, as the numbers of the House would be diminished in that proportion, to transfer the right of returning such members to populous towns, and to apply any surplus to the more populous counties; that he would recommend the duration of parliament to be made triennial, together with a concurrent arrangement for collecting the votes by districts and parishes. And that, with a view to the independence of parliament, persons holding offices without responsibility should not be suffered to have seats in that House \*."

\* Cobbett's Parl. Deb. XVII. 123-164.