

delegate of the Financial Reform Association; and, at the instance of the Council, measures were taken which resulted in the Chamber of Commerce also sending a representative. On another question more strictly local,—the opposition to a most improvident disposal of the site of the old borough gaol—the Council took the initiative.

Amongst the many other subjects which has occupied the attention of the Council from time to time, the following may be enumerated:—The advantage of having one central building in each town or district, for the transaction of all business connected with taxes, general, municipal and parochial; the monopoly of the Bank of England, and the absurdity of paying to that institution large sums annually for the loan of its own paper, on the security of that of the Government; the injustice of the system under which the whole country is made to pay for metropolitan improvements, such as the widening of streets, sewerage, or the formation and maintenance of public parks, for police magistrates, police courts, policemen, and gaols, for public rejoicings, and for various other matters which the inhabitants of the provinces have to provide for themselves; the defective state of the criminal law, under which the country is put to all the expense of formal trial in the cases of offenders acknowledging their guilt, before the committing magistrates, or taken in *flagrante delicto*; and the bungling legislation which has loaded the statute book with acts to amend or repeal other acts, or parts of acts, thus rendering the law such a mass of confusion and perplexity, that the ablest judges are often puzzled to know what it really is, and not unfrequently give conflicting decisions, when the plain and obvious principle is, that a new act should comprise all such portions of the preceding statutes as are intended to be retained, repeal the rest by their omission, and enact such new provisions as may be necessary, thus embracing the whole law on that particular subject.

From this hurried and imperfect sketch of proceedings since the last public meeting, it must be manifest, at least so the Council hope, that the Association, though comparatively inactive during part of the period, has rendered important services, and that, with increased means, and additional acting members in the executive, it may be instrumental in rendering many more. The steady support of a great number of the original members, and