

whose attention has been directed to such inquiries, to lay before the public, a clear and explicit declaration of their sentiments on the subjects of coin and paper currency, and that with as little delay as possible, on two grounds, recognized by Mr. Huskisson; 1. the importance of the question; and, 2. the necessity of having it thoroughly considered, previously to its discussion in Parliament.

In regard to the first point, the importance of the question, my ideas go far beyond those which the Honourable Gentleman seems to entertain. He admits "that it affects, in its practical consequences, the interests and the comforts of every class of society," (Preface p. 13); but that is nothing to the view in which the question ought, in my apprehension, to be considered. On the decision of that question, depend, not only the interests and the comforts of every class of society, but the very safety and existence of this great Empire; in other words, its security against foreign conquest, or internal convulsion; either, or both, of which must necessarily follow, if the currency of the country be rashly tampered with, or its established system of circulation overthrown.

As to the propriety of having the subject thoroughly discussed, previously to its being