

Mr. STURCH then came forward and said—

That while he requested the attention of the meeting for a few minutes, he was perfectly aware that it might be considered as a high degree of presumption in an obscure individual to address himself to so large and respectable a body as the electors of Westminster, and to expect them to attend patiently to any thing he might have to offer. And he should certainly have thought it his duty to preface what he intended to submit to their consideration, with something like an apology for that presumption, if he did not recollect that they were already well acquainted with the occasion of their meeting, and that they knew it to be a subject which belonged to one class of men as well as to another, on which the welfare of the whole community depended, in which the poor, the humble, and the illiterate, were equally interested with the learned, the powerful, and the wealthy; it therefore never could be impertinent or obtrusive, in any man of any class to take it up, and to endeavour to enforce it upon the minds of his fellow-citizens. If he had thought that it required superior abilities or extensive learning, or that great opulence or high rank were necessary to qualify a man to lay before them the business of this day, he should certainly have resisted the invitation of his friends and declined the task that had been assigned him, since he had no pretension whatever to any of these. But, happily for him, no such qualification was necessary for the part that he had undertaken. For what was it that he had undertaken. It was surely this: to remind his fellow-citizens of one of the plainest and simplest of all obvious truths, namely, that whenever men were so inattentive to their best interests as to suffer their affairs to be taken out of their own hands, and the management of them to be usurped by persons who have not only a different, but an opposite interest from theirs, and over whom they have no controul, those affairs were likely to be very badly managed.—In addition to this he had to *excite them, and to call upon them to excite their fellow-subjects in every part of the British islands, to endeavour by every peaceable and legal means to recover that controul over their own affairs which they had lost, and to exert themselves with one heart and one soul to obtain what was always their undoubted right, a FREE, FAIR, AND ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE IN PARLIAMENT, without which there can be no chance of preventing the rapid increase of the enormous burthen of taxation; neither security for that portion of liberty which we enjoy; nor the least ray of*