

hundred and fifty-four members, who are not, in fact, elected by a two hundredth part of the nation, would have formed an actual majority of six votes against the whole other representatives in the House. In the year 1770, the English nation became jealous that their liberties were in danger, because Government had interfered in the election of Mr. Wilkes, as a member for the County of Middlesex. The letters of Junius are chiefly employed upon this topic. Junius, with all his merit, resembled a barber, who plucks out a single hair, when he ought to be shaving your beard. It could not be of the least consequence to the County of Middlesex, nor is it of any concern to any other county in England, who are their representatives, since the two hundred and fifty-four members who are elected by a two HUNDREDTH PART of the nation, and the forty-five make-weight Scotch members, are alone sufficient to insure a majority. The subject is too absurd to admit of an argument, and too detestable for declamation. If Government were candidly to send two hundred and fifty-four excisemen, or clerks from the Bank of England, into parliament, in place of these two hundred and fifty-four members, it would save the expence of election, and a great part of the necessary expence of corruption. It is true, that the masters of rotten boroughs are often inrolled in the ranks of opposition; and among others, the Earl of Chatham began his progress as a member for Old Sarum. But an opposition always consists, in part, of adventurers, who, as Dr. Johnson observes, "having estimated themselves at too high a price, are only angry that they are not *bought*.\*" There is a cant expression in this country, that our Government is deservedly *the wonder and envy of the world*. With better reason it may be said;

\* *Vide Falso Alarm.*