

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, June 15th, 1809

SIR FRANCIS BURDETT moved, "That this House will, early in the next session of parliament, take into consideration the necessity of a reform in the representation*." Mr. Madocks seconded the motion, and the House divided,

Ayes 15, Noes 74.—Majority 59.

* "My plan," said Sir Francis Burdett, "consists in a very few, and very simple regulations, and as the disease we labour under has been caused by the disunion of property and political right, which reason and the constitution say should never be separated, the remedy which I shall propose will consist in reuniting them again. For this purpose I shall propose,

"That the freeholders, householders, and others, subject to direct taxation, in support of the poor, the church, and the state, be required to elect members to serve in parliament.

"That each county be subdivided according to the taxed male population, and each subdivision required to elect one representative.

"That the votes be taken in each parish by the parish officers; and all elections finished in one and the same day.

"That the parish officers make the returns to the sheriff's court to be held for that purpose at stated periods; and

"That parliaments be brought back to a constitutional duration*."

* Cobbett's Parl. Deb. XIV. 1041-1071.