

A N

A D D R E S S , &c.

THE silence with which you are permitted to assemble at this very critical juncture, You may with more reason impute to the imbecillity of administration, and the distraction of their councils, than to the integrity of their intentions, a respect to your independence, or to the want of an hireling to execute their purpose.

The last Sessions of Parliament was opened under a scourge of ironical ridicule, too thinly veiled for the concealment of its authors, or intention; And yet whilst the sneer arose, and was encouraged from that part of the house which dared avow the purpose of repressing public debate, and of discountenancing those who had always acted honestly, and wished then to speak with freedom; Judicious men would not commend or join in it: and even those whom a flow of spirits, or the poignancy of the satire had united in the general laugh, felt upon reflection a serious and deep regret, that they might, by their indiscretion, have assisted a scheme, fatal to the freedom of debate in parliament, and therefore dan-