

"Anson seemed quite disconcerted, and knew not what to say.*" This agrees exactly with the account given by Mr. Courtney, in a late debate in the House of Commons, where he observed, that members came into parliament, with a label at their mouths, inscribed, *Yes*, or *No*. The state of British representation has been often examined and censured. A few particulars may serve as a specimen of the rest.

England is said to contain eight millions of inhabitants, who send to the House of Commons five hundred and thirteen members. At this rate, every million ought, upon an average, to chuse sixty-four representatives. The cities of London and Westminster contain between them, about a million of people, who elect not *sixty four*, but *six* members for parliament. The borough of Old Sarum, which contains only *one* inhabitant, sends *two* members.

On this topick, a short extract from Mr. Burgh's Political Disquisitions, may entertain the reader.—

"Two hundred and fifty-four members are elected by five thousand seven hundred and twenty-three votes; now, the most numerous meeting of the Comons ever known, was on occasion of the debate about Walpole, A. D. 1741. There were then five hundred and two in the House. Therefore, two hundred and fifty-four comes very near a majority of the House, or the *whole acting and efficient* number. And the greatest part of these illustrious five thousand seven hundred and twenty-three, who have the power of constituting lawgivers over the property of the nation, are themselves persons of no property†."

The writer has here committed a slight inaccuracy; for, in the debate about Walpole, these two

* Doddington's Diary, 3d. edition, p. 256, 283, 293, 329.
et seq.

† Political Disquisitions, vol. 1. p. 45.