

ADDRESS, &c.

THE natural desire of every individual, is to make his condition better than it is, be it what it may. Nations composed of individuals, have the same motive principle, and however the advancement of one class, may involve misery and privation to others, still, improvement of the public *status*, is the avowed object of every ruler, and of every pretended or true patriot. The acquisition of wealth is the most obvious, though not always the truest mode by which this end can be accomplished; and though wealth, strictly speaking, is only a means of acquiring health, comfort, luxury, refinement and power, we find these each in turn absolutely sacrificed for the purpose of what is called gain. In our time, and with our race especially, the logic of the ledger surpasses all philosophy, and he who would not be received as a visionary or a hypocrite, must speak of the wealth and welfare of nations, and of individuals, as synonymous terms.

Unbeliever, as I am, in the proposition, that millions of pounds gained to the community by the degradation and misery of millions of human beings, is a public good; I am not disposed to quarrel with humanity as I find it. I am willing to admit that the amount of rent of land is of more national importance than the food of the people, and the finding a market for the merchant more to be thought of than the physical or moral condition of the thousands who are his customers. If I invite your attention to any motives of philanthropy, humanity, or morality, it is because these may be indulged in as cheap luxuries, and because they may be made subservient to the great end of saving and acquiring money; and if I use any suggestions merely founded on the promotion of human happiness, in the abstract, and separating the idea from the possession of money, the separation shall only be momentary. I look not for the assent of any who would be the losers in pocket by the adoption of my plans; and I have but faint hopes of the aid of any able to promote them, unless circumstances should prove their expediency, from