

ed nugatory, by the perverseness of those, who are most concerned. What can be more splendid in theory, than for the population of a nation to have a voice in their own government? to have the high privilege attached to their citizenship of choosing deputies or delegates, who are to represent their opinions and interests—to have the great honour done their feelings and judgments, of being consulted thro' their representatives in all the weighty and minute acts of an immense empire? All this, undoubtedly, is very gratifying to national pride, but alas national pride is too easily satisfied with shadows, and national honour often finds a bubble in its grasp when it catches at beautiful theories. The election of representatives instead of being a solemn, deliberative national act—is a disgusting game in which generally the greatest knaves are winners. Members are returned—and what are they?—the free chosen of the people, culled as the choicest of the multitudes of the country, and sent freely and calmly to act as the sanctified Aaron's of the Empire?—not at all—they are a collection of men who have just come out of much expense, corruption, immorality, and prostration of principle. Degraded, and the sources of degradation, they have obtained the distinguishing badge of national Representatives. They despise the tools which have been just used; and the tools look with much jealousy and diffidence, on those whom they consider half dupes, and half rogues. What can be expected of such an Assembly? May it not with much truth say, “our own right arm, our wealth our cunning, or our subserviency has placed us here—what is the brawling corrupt nation to us, be true to your own interests and prejudices, you House of Commons, who owe not a tithe of a tithe to public spirit or independence.” This state of things is as undeniable, as it is lamentable—and it naturally impels a glance at its causes. First then it has falsehood for its broad characteristic; the House of Commons, theoretically, is a collection of men sent by public opinion and consent to act for the nation—the fact is, many of this body of men are not sent by the influence of public opinion, and the few who represent public consent, are too generally bribed or cajoled into acquiescence. The largest constituent parts into which we may divide the causes of