

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

ENGLAND.

March 23.—The Reform Bill passed a second reading, by a majority of 1. As a proof of the necessity of some Reform in **WHAT IS CALLED** "the People's House," we subjoin the following analysis of the House of Commons; abridged from the London Spectator:—

Total number of members, 653. As to the ranks and professions of members, there are—Peers, and persons connected with peerage, 255; place-men and pensioners [of these one third are connected with the peerage] 63; officers of the army, 65; officers of the navy, 24; bankers, or connected with banks, 35; merchants, or connected with merchandize, 92; lawyers, 62.—204 English Boroughs return 406 members to the House of Commons; 76 of these boroughs (returning 152 members) have a smaller number of voters than 100 each, and 44 of them (returning 86 members) have a smaller number of voters than 50 each.

12 Welsh boroughs return 12 members; 34 Irish boroughs, 26 members; 15 Scotch boroughs, 15 members; 40 English Counties, 50 members; 12 Welsh counties, 12 members; 32 Irish counties, 64 members; 30 Scotch counties return 30 members.

122 English members are returned by themselves or their kindred; 140 English members are returned by other patrons; 89 Peers are patrons of 123 boroughs returning 175 members; 65 Commoners, are patrons of 70, returning 99 members; Government has 6 boroughs, returning 9 members.

Thus it appears that 293 members are returned, not by the people, but by the patronage of peers, commoners, and the government—to say nothing of the Scotch representation, which is thoroughly rotten, and of the commanding influence of peers and great commoners in the county representation of England, Ireland, and Wales. When these are taken into account, we shall not greatly err in saying, that the absolute majority of the House (330) is returned directly or indirectly by less than two hundred individuals! Which, calculating the population of Great Britain and Ireland at 21 millions, places the choice of the majority of the popular branch of the legislature in the hands of about the ten-thousandth part of the people? It will further be seen that of the 204 English boroughs, 76 of them are so insignificant either in their total population or in their number of voters, as to have fewer than 100 electors each, and 44 of these boroughs have even fewer than 50 electors each. This is a striking proof of the decay in the representative system—the effect of "the great innovator," Time. The 45 Scotch members are returned by between 3 and 4,000 voters in the whole.

When to the glaring defects in the representative system indicated by the above statements, are added the bribery and corruption practised in consequence of the mode in which the votes are taken,—the prolonged continuance of elections, with all their riot and debauchery,—difficulties of voting in counties,—and the nuisance of non-resident voters,—we may well exclaim—How vast a space is there for reformation! We may add—How vast are the obstacles which a reforming administration has to overcome!

There is one remark which will press itself at the first glance on every one that consults these tables. Britain is the greatest naval power, and immeasurably the greatest commercial power in the world; as an agricultural country, it is inferior to many; its military force is less than some of the third-rate states on the continent of Europe. It might have been expected that the prominent features of British society would have been in some measure impressed on its legislature; but how stands the fact? The whole naval influence of the country is represented by 24 men; the whole commerce and manufacture send to Parliament 80 individuals; while the army gives 80, and the landed interest 400!!

The Colonial Trade Bill was lost by a majority of 46. This news excited much joy in British America.