

stitution, instead of considering solely the absolute perfection of theory, illusory enough sometimes to insinuate into the political body a mortal germ of dissolution, seductive appearance of salutary amelioration. Provided, above all, that they do not arrive, *some day*, even to suffer them to drag in the dirt the patrician toga, or at least cease to have the same respect for it as for the royal mantle and the elective chamber; for, (*if by timidity,*) by indifference, or by a false popularity, to provoke or contribute to the profanation of one of the three fundamental authorities, would that be walking in the road to a wise reform? Would it not rather be completely turning the back upon old England to follow the errors of a democracy without controul?—Would it not be denying that charter, as yet without a rival in the ancient world, and whose vital strength resides in the equal independence, the equal respectability, the equal inviolability of the King, the Lords, and Commons. Nothing is perfect on earth, either in men or in laws. But where, when shall we approach nearer to perfection? Lucien Bonaparte, in concluding his first volume, wishes that the French Throne might be surrounded with democratic and aristocratic institutions, wisely balanced;—that is a complete elective representation, and a hereditary magistrature, powerfully conservative. And he believed that a mixed Government so constituted, is the only one where constitutional liberty can live and prosper in the midst of the iniquities and passions inseparable from humanity.”

TRADE AND NAVIGATION.

The annual accounts of imports and exports, customs duties, the number and tonnage of vessels, &c. which were recently presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's com-

mand, are just printed. We propose to notice the principal points in each.

The first is, “An account of the imports of the principal articles, of foreign and colonial merchandise, of the consumption of such articles, and of the customs duties received thereon, in the year ended 5th January, 1838, compared with the imports, consumption, and receipts of the preceding year, ended 5th January, 1837.” While there is a decrease in the quantity of *coffee* imported, from the British possessions in America and Africa, of 3,600,000 lbs. there is an increase in the imports of this article from India, of 6,000,000 lbs.; so that the total imports of coffee in 1837 exceed those of 1836, by 2,346,193 lbs. There appears an increase, compared with 1837, of 1,500,000 lbs. in the quantity of coffee entered for home consumption. Of *wheat*: the imports in 1836 were 168,647 quarters, of which 19,554 quarters were entered for home consumption; and the duty paid was £5603. In 1837, the imports of wheat were 455,828 quarters, of which 232,993 quarters were entered for home consumption; duty paid £303,179. Of the *silk manufactures* of Europe, the following are the quantities imported in the two years:—

	1836.	1837.
	lbs.	lbs.
Silk or satin, plain	65,418	80,735
—figured or brocaded	71,633	40,215
Gause, plain	458	1,225
—striped, figured, or brocaded	14,691	22,063
—tissue, foulards	15,399	8,164
Crape, plain	3,242	4,696
Velvet, plain	13,405	16,798
—figured	3,099	1,773

Of bandannoes and other silk handkerchiefs, the manufactures of India, there were imported in 1836, 351,066 pieces; in 1837, 560,398 pieces. There appears to be some diminution in the import of *spirits*. The total imports of 1836, including rum, brandy, and geneva, were 7,486,535 gallons; in 1837, 6,991,730 gallons. Of *sugar*, the imports from the British possessions in America have