

Do not, for example, the advertisements from the Ordinance-office give "dreadful note of preparation," more certain and trust-worthy than "we are credibly informed?"—"Advices received from Trieste;" or "We have it from the best authority?" in all which, credence follows in the inverse ratio of asseveration. Then again, in matters of trade, revenue, and other branches of political economy, the notices to insolvents afford much plainer indications of national prosperity or adversity, than could be gathered from all the Custom-house returns that ever were printed.

It must however, be freely confessed, that documents of this description are not every body's market, and that not only genius is necessary to pick the marrow from the bone, but much perspicuity also; to avoid such errors as that of the Frenchman, who inferred the political corruption of England from the column which he imagined an address to Lord L—, which is headed in large capitals, "WANT PLACES!" Those who know the details of office can best tell how egregious a blunder the presuming traveller made; and can answer that the whole newspaper would not contain all the applications to the heads of departments from gentlemen who *Want Places!* Applications,—which employ so many corresponding clerks only to answer them. But it is chiefly for the minor moralities that the advertisements of a newspaper may be usefully studied, though occasionally the more heroic virtues are both theoretically and practically illustrated in these productions. The devotion and gratitude of Members of Parliament, as set forth in their addresses to the electors after the return, and their humility and patriotism during the canvass, are enough to move the stubbornest hearts, and have touched our's again and again almost to tears.

The offers of money lenders are splendid testimonies of the innate generosity of our very dear countrymen, amongst whom Jews and Christians rival each other with a zeal and devotion the most flattering to the national character. The hospitality of those who provide board and lodging for young men standing in need of such accommodation, is no less praiseworthy; while the terrible denunciations against vicious indulgencies so fearfully promulgated by the *velites* of the Esculapian band, ought to reclaim the most hardened sinner. Matrimonial advertisements afford striking proofs of modesty, the absence of pretence, and the *bonhomme* of the age, no less than the prevalent contempt for pecuniary motives. He who doubts the advantages of education, may be convinced of his error by studying the promises of dancing masters; while the advertisements of insurance offices are lessons of prudence, and those of the lottery-office keepers are direct incitements to that enterprise which is the life and soul of a commercial people. Then it is impossible to look over the "*Sales of Estates*" without a crowd of moral reflections rushing upon the imagination. The uncertainty of human affairs, the instability of fortune, the "*quantum in rebus inane*" are felt at a first glance; while a more steady and protracted scrutiny points the close connexion of cause and effect, which regulates the transfer of property,—connecting extravagance with ruin, and vice with beggary. On the other hand, it must be owned that incentives to vicious excesses are to be