

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

In the Parliamentary session above mentioned, James Silk Buckingham, Esq., then one of the members for Sheffield, moved in the House for the adoption of the following resolution:—

“That a select committee be appointed to inquire into the extent, causes and consequences of the prevailing vice of intoxication among the labouring classes of the United Kingdom, in order to ascertain whether any legislative measures can be devised to prevent the further spread of so great a national evil.”

The motion was opposed by Lord Althorpe, on the part of the Government, and by several others; but on a division, after Mr. Buckingham's reply to the various objections that were urged, it was carried against the Government; the unexpected majority being received with loud cheers; and the following committee, in which almost every part of Great Britain and Ireland was represented, was appointed. [Here the names are given of the 38 members composing the committee, among whom are Mr. Buckingham, as chairman; Lord Althorpe, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Sir Robert Peel; Mr. Baring; Mr. Hawes; Alderman Wood; Serj't Lefoy; Sir Andrew Agnew, and other distinguished gentlemen.]

The list of witnesses will be found to embrace men of various ranks, professions and localities, so that their experience was gathered over an extensive range of countries and occupations; and on the evidence elicited from them after many days of patient examination, extending from the 9th of June to the