

THE first part of the operation of the Reform Bill has already commenced, by the registration of the names of those entitled to vote, by the Sherriffs, who has been holding courts for that purpose daily, since Wednesday last. Mr. Murray is assisted in this arduous task by Charles Neaves, Esq. of the Edinburgh bar, and who goes this circuit.

Mr. Neaves was sworn in a Sherriff substitute during the period of these sittings. Above 500 of the 2159 claimants for votes, were objected to by the two parties, and the unobjected votes having been disposed of, at two o'clock on Saturday, the Sherriffs then took up those objected to, and up to the hour when the court rose, only 30 of these had been decided upon.

Thus thereabout 470 votes remains to be decided after Saturday, and if no greater speed take place than on Saturday, the list cannot be gone through sooner than this week. Our first impression with respect to the great number of votes which would be rejected is now completely changed, and to take the lowest numbers, we are certain that 2000 votes will be registered, though probably not many more than the half of them will go to the poll.

The Sheriffs are putting the most liberal construction on the act, and in some cases where there may be doubts whether the tenant or proprietor comes up to the statutory sum, if the sum in dispute be trifling, they allow the vote, remarking in one case that the legislature never meant to deprive a man of his vote on the most trifling difference of opinion, as the value of his rent roll or occupancy. Some queer cases of objection have been decided, and some still more queer remain for disposal; on the whole we think that it would be better that some of the claimants would withdraw than stand the scrutiny, as it happens often to be unpleasant and ridiculous. We are of opinion that many of the objections are not very credible to the several parties by whom they are made.

As their Lordships and many individuals brought forward as witnesses, have experienced much inconvenience from the protracted attendance. Swearing was apparently held cheap—and during no one day of the Circuit Courts did we ever witness half the number of oaths taken as was done on Saturday, being given as to the value of occupancy and rental. By our next, we shall probably be able to give a statement of the exact number of votes registered, in whose favour they will be given, and a likely account as to the County Election.