

THE ABERDEEN PIRATE,

A WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

[No. 22.]

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BURGH REFORM---CORPORATIONS.

We some time ago called the attention of our readers to the subject of Corporations; showing the great hardship which young men laboured under, in being hindered from following out, as masters, that trade to which they had devoted their attention. Now, this is certainly a very great hardship, for the same money that is demanded by the Corporation for his freedom, would enable a young man to lay in a stock of material, and, to use a vulgar phrase, "fairly set him on his feet." But let us not be misunderstood—let us not go too far. A reduction of the entry money to a Trade may be made, for we are for no total abolition—no destruction of the barriers of Corporations. It is all good and well to say that all men are citizens of the world, and should, in the exercise of their several functions, be free as air; but there is an inherent pride of particular citizenship, which has prevailed the human mind in all ages, and we hope such local associations will not be destroyed.

It is argued, why is it that a tradesman from Dundee, for instance, should not be allowed to commence business here without any fetter? We answer, by all means let him commence business, but laying aside all idea of the sum to be paid on the conditions generally—we say, let there be some distinct compact formed between him and our other party, so that he may have the *right* of citizenship. We admit that the present entry money is by far too high; it might be lowered—but if so, it is evident that new entrants can have no interest in the funds of the Trades already accumulated. That is a clear case, and would never be disputed; in fact, an interference with the public creditor would not be half so unjust. Under the proposed plan of Corporation Reform, the present members will just form themselves into a Benefit Society, or else break up the funds and divide them. Be that as it may, we hold that, as a city, it is not to be borne that all sort of association between the members of the several Trades should be broken up; it would be a dangerous and unfriendly step; it would root out all sort of friendship, whether of a social or of a mercantile nature. The same principle holds with respect to Burgh Reform. By all means give the inhabitants the election of their Dean, and a control over their funds.

This is a subject which will call for particular attention in the next Parliament, and there can be no doubt but that Whigs and Tories will all agree in opening, to a certain degree, all Corporations. We now live in extraordinary times, and the seed of General Reform, which has now been long cast on the ground, is beginning to spring up, and will produce an abundant harvest. Rational liberty has lately achieved great victories. Its first triumph was the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts; Acts which had been all along supported with the greatest enthusiasm by the Conservative party. One class of Dissenters having been thus relieved, the march of liberty went on, and the next victim was

the Catholic Emancipation Bill, and all classes of his Majesty's subjects were allowed to worship God without any fear of penalties or civic qualifications.

The Reform Bill passed as a matter of course, and we have now every reason to believe that other reforms will follow in its train. We will have a church Reform; the abolition of Slavery; for being free ourselves, we must see all our race free also. We shall have reform in the expenditure of every branch of the public service, and, in short, a Reform era has dawned on this country, the end of which it is impossible to foresee; but we sincerely pray that the people and their legislators may not go too far, but in every attempt to ameliorate the condition of the country, they may study *Moderation*.

THEATRE.

Our Theatrical season has opened with every prospect of success. Mr. Cony and Signior Martini, and the dogs, did not certainly give much note of a good season, if we were to judge of the houses during their stay; but we now see that Mr. Ryder is determined to bring forward some of the legitimate actors; those who can support the regular drama. Abbey, for instance, he is a glorious little chap, and very clever; reminding, in some of his touches of humour, genteelly on Johnson, and ludicrously on poor Berriman. Miss Wyndham is another good addition to the Company, and promises to be a favourite. She is really a pretty woman. The first Star of the Season is poor Paddy Weekes, a *great* addition to the Company. Mr. Weekes was always a favourite with an audience, and, in our opinion, deservedly so, for his rich, racy humour, in his own department of characters, is unapproachable. Who, for instance, could come up to him in his song, "Twas at the sign of the fork"? No one. We hope Mr. Ryder will be mindful, and bring such actors as will support his Stars, without which, half of their excellence is lost. Mr. Ryder deserves well of the Aberdonians, as during a period, we think, of 19 years, he has used every exertion in catering for the support of the regular Drama in Aberdeen, and we are only sorry to say, that of late, he has been but badly rewarded.

To the Editor of the Aberdeen Pirate.

SIR,—As I live on the north-west end of Charlotte Street, may I be permitted through your Miscellany, to ask the Commissioners of Police, why there are no Lamps on part of that Street? This is a very great inconvenience in dark nights, more especially as the Police carts have emptied from 50 to 100 loads of rubbish on it, which has never been removed. I may add, that we are in this part of the city, taxed as well as others, and I think in justice, we ought to have a little more attention paid to our convenience. Trusting that these grievances will be redressed by the proper authorities,

I am, &c.

New Flesh Market, Nov. 15, 1832.

A TAX PAYER.