

ON THE BALLOT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ABERDEEN MAGAZINE.

I TRUST that in my former paper I stated the arguments against the ballot fairly and fully, and likewise the refutation of these arguments as given by the supporters of secret voting. In that paper I confined myself to the examination of the arguments for open and secret voting, both on the abstract principle, and as applicable to the particular circumstances and condition of voter and representative in Great Britain, I now proceed to the examination of the arguments against the ballot, as deduced from the experience of countries where secret voting is practised.

It is the usual way with the opponents of the ballot, when driven from all these positions which I have already pointed out, to make

their last stand upon *experience*. They say the ballot does not produce the effects we expect from it in America and in France. Now, even granting the truth of the remark, I deny its application. I say the test of experience is not fairly applied in the present case. It does not necessarily follow, that because I lose my purse in the blackguard assembly at the Tennis Court, I must button up my pockets before going into a lecture at the Royal Institution. It does not follow, because I am not sick during a voyage to London in the Duke of Wellington in the month of June, I will not be so in the month of September or April. It does not necessarily follow, that because the ballot does not produce the effects we expect from it in