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WORD IN SEASON,

&c. &c.

THE Reform Bill, about which so much has been spoken and written, being now the law of the land, and all the preliminary steps taken for the election of a Reformed Parliament, I take the liberty of addressing my fellow-electors who are, by the new law, exalted to a distinguished station among their countrymen;—a station which confers upon them one of the most honourable and valuable privileges that can be enjoyed in the world. As every privilege is accompanied by proportional responsibility, the more distinguished the privilege is, the deeper must be the responsibility of him on whom it is bestowed. As the elective franchise is one of the most honourable, so is it one of the most responsible of privileges, and if honestly exercised, unshackled by all personal or family considerations, it exalts a man to a rank among his countrymen far above any that kings can confer. On the contrary, when it is exercised for selfish purposes, forgetting that it is a sacred trust for the benefit of the whole community, the person guilty of such dereliction of duty commits an unpardonable treason against his countrymen, and must incur hatred and contempt. He that is base enough to barter his franchise for gain, is degraded as far below the rank of a free man, as the honest exercise of it exalts others; he who so barter it, really degrades himself below the meanest slave. It is, therefore, melancholy to reflect on the state of degradation to which the notorious and shameful abuse of this privilege has reduced so large a portion of our countrymen; an abuse