

situated within the borough of Aberdeen, and affords him a vote in it; therefore, say the wiseacres, it is his interest to vote for an alteration of the Corn Laws which would be the ruin of agriculture! This argument, however, is founded on falsehood, and a gross misrepresentation of facts. One of his estates, though situated within the extended limits of the borough, with the exception of a few houses and gardens along the road to the town, is all in valuable corn land, cultivated at great expense, and which requires as much the protection of the Corn Laws as any land in the kingdom. This may perhaps be the argument which induces a number of the Established Clergy to oppose his election, and officiously to interfere with the farmers. It is, no doubt, the interest of the parochial clergy, that the price of corn should be high, and no body of men can, in general, be more self-interested. Egotism, however, often blinds men so much as to cause them to miss, rather than attain their end. Can any one who is conversant with the subject believe, for a moment, that the Corn Laws are in the least useful to the farmer? The high but fluctuating duties give to land an elusory value, and keep rents *too high* for *ordinary* seasons, when prices are naturally *reduced*. In *bad* seasons, when prices *would* advance, the foreign corn is poured out of the warehouses at the *lowest* duties, to the great loss and disappointment of the farmer. All the advantages of these laws (so much cried up) are merely calculated for the benefit of landowners and speculators in corn. They neither protect the consumer from the disadvantage of too high prices in *bad* seasons, nor the farmer from that of ruinously low prices at other times. All who have any knowledge of the matter, are fully convinced that the Corn Laws require to be seriously revised and amended. Many of the clergy are fond of meddling officiously in political straggles, of which

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way in Aberdeenshire, on these principles. Thus they prove that he adheres to no party, if they prove any thing else than their own ignorance and stupidity.