

the first Michaelmas, was dispensed with. Mr. Hadden, therefore, has a just claim to all the merit of the acts of the Town-Council for thirty years at least. The great improvement of the city, however, does not altogether appear so great a piece of merit in every eye as in his own. In the *first* place, has it been done at his expense, or is it really worth what it has cost? In order to defray the expense, the extensive estates belonging to the city in the parishes of Nigg, Skene, and Kinel-lar, have been alienated on the sole authority of the self-elected Council, and an immense sum of debt has been contracted; which estates were granted to the community by the Kings of Scotland, for the purpose of maintaining the police of the city, and for building and supporting the prison. In consequence of the perversion of these funds, the inhabitants have been assessed for a heavy police-tax, for the expense of a new gaol, and a large sum annually for rogue money, &c. In order to open two new streets, an Act of Parliament was obtained, which was declared *by SEVERAL PEERS of the highest honour and soundest judgment in the House, one of the most arbitrary and unjust that ever was passed.* By this act, many were compelled to part with their property far below what it was worth to them, and enormous expenses were incurred which can never be reimbursed; for, notwithstanding the extravagant prices at which areas in the new streets have been sold, the proceeds do not equal the cost. Though the rents of shops in these streets are far above what the trade of the town can afford, none of the houses that have been erected in them give an adequate return for the sums which they have cost, and many of them that have come into the market have been sold at a ruinous loss. The effects of the measure have, however, been deplorable on the property in other parts of the town, the greater part of which has been reduced to less than half its former value; many tenements are uninhabited, and many more will soon be abandoned as not worth the expense of keeping them up. The effects of these high rents are ascertained by the number of bankruptcies which occur, exceeding in