

ADDRESS

TO THE

WORKING CLASSES,

BY THE

ABERDEEN

WORKING MEN'S ASSOCIATION ;

TOGETHER WITH THE

OBJECTS AND RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION.

“Get knowledge, *not* arms ; for this is the power by which tyrant thrones and tyrant domination shall be crushed, and ‘like the baseless fabric of a vision, leave not a wreck behind.’”

FELLOW WORKMEN,

AFTER the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832, a jubilee was proclaimed, in the fond hope that a brighter and happier era for mankind had at length arrived, and that our deliverance from the long and dreary reign of oppression was effected. The conduct of the first Reformed Parliament, in resisting Mr. Hume's motion on naval and military sinecures, in adopting coercive measures for the people of Ireland, instead of redressing their grievances, besides their tergiversation on the malt tax, and numerous other delinquencies, convinced many that these fond expectations of political improvement were still doomed to farther disappointment. Subsequent events have proved that these evil forebodings are but too true.

After twenty-two years of profound peace, and six years of an administration pledged to large measures of retrenchment and reform, here we are still suffering from the effects of cruel laws and excessive taxation.

If the present Government had acted up, with a determined spirit, to their professions (made when requiring our aid to keep them in power) and given us a national system of education, abolished the taxes on knowledge, and the odious and accursed corn laws, we would have accepted these gratefully, as an earnest of further ameliorations,

10 33