

JOHN DAVIDSON AND THE WORKING CLASSES.

Every one for himself; if I dont speak for myself now, no other body will do it.—*Old Play.*

The great *John Davidson* has again appeared before the public in "A Letter to the working classes of Aberdeen," which what ever Mr Davidson may assert to the contrary, certainly appears to have been dictated more by a spirit of *gross egotism* than by that regard which he professes to have for the "working classes".

He commences this "something in the shape of a pamphlet", as he styles it in his preface, by calling to their recollection the "faithful" manner in which he had humbly endeavoured to the best of his ability to execute the trust which they were pleased to place in him when, at thier large public meeting, in may, 1831. he was by their unanimous voice, elected one of their late Reform Committee; and on the grounds of "having for so long a period gratuitously assisted them," he "thinks he may warrantably request of them to give him a hearing."

He then proceeds, in a rhapsodical manner, to "congratulate" the Working Classes on several events connected with the passing of the Reform Bills, talks enthusiastically of the Lion of England having arisen in Britain's crisis, and roared out Reform! and of having out-generalled and vanquished the General of Waterloo, which, in Mr. D.'s opinion, is certainly not the least of the laurels reaped from the field of Reform which laurels Mr. Davidson considers are brighter, richer, and more imperishable, than all those gathered from the blood-stained plains of Waterloo!

In all his congratulations, Mr. D. seems particulary anxious that the Working Classes should bear in mind that *he* had no small share in the atchievement of that glorious victory, especially in that on the address, where he says, (mark

his vanity). "I deem myself honoured to have been the instrument of framing such a document in support of His Majesty's government. On your agreeing to adopt that Address at the Jubilee, I did not for a moment doubt that it would receive the approval of the King's government; although I was led to think so from the tenor of communications which, humble as I am," (very humble truly,) "I had the distinguished honour previously to receive from the noble Premier; yet I will confess that I was exceedingly surprised at his Lordship's condescension in the manner of acknowledging receipt of that address. I suppose you have all seen the noble Earl's letter of acknowledgement, directed to me, (aye, reader, to John Davidson, *Esq.*) but I do not think it enough that you have seen and read that letter in the public prints,—you should, every one of you, possess for himself, a copy of this invaluable document."!

There is a very amusing sentence near the conclusion of this admirable production, where Mr. D. relates the severe persecutions he has been subjected to on account of his adherence to the good cause. He says, "During my connexion with you, I have sustained no little political abuse, and have had pointed at me the finger of foppish pride, and the gibes of the would-be wiling; yet ever bearing in mind, 'through evil report and good report,' the responsibility under which you were pleased to lay me, I did my best to serve you, and more I could not do."

In short, there is nothing in the whole paper but self, self, self! and he even seems to upbraid them with having allowed him to assist them for so long a period gratuitously; but says in the end, that their patriotic and peaceful conduct is a better recompense than if they had handed him the cash of that man Rothschild, whose purse supports thrones, and sustains kingdoms.

Surely if the Universal Suffrage should ever come into operation, the Working Classes will not be so ungrateful as to forget John Davidson, *Esq.*

In the meantime, he is taking care to remunerate himself by making them pay for abundance of his two-penny trash.