

# S P E E C H

OF

## JOHN DAVIDSON,

WRITER IN ABERDEEN,

INTENDED TO BE DELIVERED BY HIM AT THE GREAT REFORM MEETING, HELD ON THE BROAD-HILL OF THE LINKS, ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1831, BUT WHICH CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES PREVENTED.

---

MR. CHAIRMAN, AND FRIENDS,

It has been industriously circulated by the enemies of Reform, that a re-action has taken place among the people as to the great Measure, that is to say, that the people have cooled in their attachment to that Measure. Where is the proof of this? Cast your eyes over the United Kingdom; extend your vision from the centre to the circumference of the empire, and say where this can be shewn.—Sir, it is an insult to the country to say so;—it is a perversion of language to say so;—it is a statement fraught with the most direct and positive falsehood;—it is like the Bond Street story of my Lord Wharncliffe;—it is the offspring of those who, like my Lord Mansfield, may (wonderful to tell) yet be unconvinced of the need of Reform: and, Sir, while the country in general has demonstrated the falsity of the tale, Aberdeen in particular has not been in the rear with her testimony to the same effect. Sir, in place of the smallest symptom of re-action appearing here, the fact is quite the reverse; for at least 1000 more signatures were affixed to the late petition to the House of Peers than were attached to the previous petition to the House of Commons. Sir, the attempt of His Grace, the Lord Lieutenant of this County, to under-