

ferent interests, and the interests of the County generally, which its representative for several Parliaments must have acquired? All these questions must be answered negatively. The only thing which has brought Sir Michael into public notice is, that he has attended a few meetings in favour of Reform, and once, or it may be oftener, given utterance to a few sentences of a speech, in order that he might propose or second a resolution. But let me ask this gentleman's warmest admirers, if his remarks on these occasions showed great depth of thought, extensive research, originality of sentiment, vigour and decision of character, or any one quality to entitle him to a superior claim on your suffrages over Captain Gordon?

I do not wish it to be supposed that Sir Michal Bruce makes any boast of his abilities. Far from it. I only ask those questions to show that, as they must all receive a negative answer, he has on those points no good ground to claim the votes of the Aberdeenshire constituency. Nor is it my wish that he should be blamed because he has not great abilities, or if he has, that he has not shown them. Nature is not equally bountiful to all, nor are all alike able to take advantage of the gifts which she bestows. All I wish to establish is, that his abilities are not superior, that his experience is far less, and that he has shown no one qualification to entitle him to a superior claim on your suffrages over the present gallant and veteran representative. He has been pushed forward by ambition, and the numbers of his party to canvass for a situation which he has not yet proved himself qualified to fill; and his claims, when put in opposition to the principles and steady, upright, persevering conduct of Captain Gordon, must appear, "trifles light as air."

The only ground on which he can offer a plausible claim to contest the County is, that he is a Reformer; but as he must consequently be an advocate for free trade in corn, or apostatize from the principles of his party, this pretext can avail him nothing, seeing it furnishes his opponent with the