

some extent in the mind of Earl Grey ; and his second measure was much less sweeping and extensive than his first. The first was based on the principle of household suffrage, and involved a return to the original scheme of triennial Parliaments. The means, too, which he originated to give the cause a popularity and strength outside the walls of Parliament, that might find it favour and secure it attention within, partook of a boldness characteristic of an early stage of vigorous and sanguine manhood. He took a prominent part in the formation of the " Association of Friends of the People," with associates such as Whitbread, Erskine, Cartwright, and Macintosh,—men almost all of whom lived long enough considerably to modify their views ; and it was in the character of the leading organ of this body in the House of Commons that he brought forward his first motion on reform. There were, however, some few points in which his earlier scheme excelled that which he lived to transfer to the statute-book as part and parcel of the Constitution of the country. It gave single votes to individual electors, and single votes only ; and provided that the elections, on a dissolution of Parliament, should take place simultaneously all over the empire. In order rightly to estimate the value of these provisions, we have but to look at what is perhaps the greatest defect, both in principle and practice, in the scheme of parliamentary reform which he afterwards carried. A single individual may at the present moment hold votes in at once every represented county in Scotland, and in every burgh or district of burghs that returns a member. On this principle, it is not the holders of property that vote,—property being regarded, as it ought, as a mere qualification that fixes the status of the individual, and establishes his stake in the country,—but the property itself. It is the voice of the house, field, or farm that votes,—the same voice serving for several houses, fields, or farms—just as the same voice in a