

as a politician is of course mixed up with that of his associates, and must be regarded generally as that of the "Review" which he conducted. For about thirty years, as we had once before occasion to remark, the "Edinburgh Review" laboured indefatigably, with various political objects in view, mainly, however, to repress the dreaded growth of despotism, and to assert the cause of constitutional reform. And for at least the latter half of that period its exertions were accompanied by very marked success. During the war with France, the current ran strongly against it. It was thrown out in its calculations, both by that infatuation of Napoleon which led to the Russian campaign, and by the military genius of Wellington. The consequent issue of the great revolutionary struggle was a struggle which it had not foreseen. There was, besides, a principle elicited in our state of war, which ran counter in its influence to that of the "Review." The resentments of the people were so enraged with their enemies abroad, that they had comparatively little indignation to spare for their rulers at home. But a period of peace told powerfully in its favour. Men found leisure to look through the spectacles which it furnished, at the defects of existing institutions; its politics spread and gathered strength; a second French Revolution,—achieved under immensely more favourable circumstances than the first,—wrought as decidedly in favour of the Liberal cause in Britain as the first French Revolution had wrought against it; and Whiggism at length saw its favourite scheme of political reform embodied into a bill, and passed into a law. And in producing this result the "Edinburgh Review" had a large and sensible share. But then, Jeffrey was simply one of several powerful-minded men, to whom the periodical owed its political potency. Regarded, however, in its purely critical character, and as a leader of the public taste in poetry and the belles lettres, the case was otherwise. Though Sir James Macintosh occasionally