

the people as well as the dwellings, let them lay these things to heart, and let them be assured that the first thing to improve the labouring man is to hold out to him the prospect of an independent position, which he may hope to attain by prudence, economy, and honest labour.—*June 24, 1854.*

THE FRANCHISE.

ONE of the most remarkable sayings of which the discussion in Parliament on the Reform Bill proved the occasion was that of Lord Jeffrey, then Lord Advocate for Scotland. "It was a measure," he said, "that would separate the waters above the firmament from the waters below." The remark embodied both a striking figure and a solid truth,—a figure which, by appealing to the imagination, has sunk deeper into the memory of the country than any other produced at the time; and a truth which recent events have served peculiarly to substantiate and elucidate. It was in consequence of this separation of the waters that, while the revolutionary hurricane raged wide upon the Continent, dashing into one wild weltering ocean of anarchy and confusion the dense and ponderous masses, whose inherent strength no such measure had divided into antagonistic, self-balancing forces, Britain escaped at least all the more terrible consequences of the storm. It is doubtful, however, whether we are permanently to escape. We are told by men of science that, save for that continuous belt of ocean which girdles the globe in the southern hemisphere, we of the northern regions would have scarce any tides. In the equatorial and arctic oceans, the rise of the sea, in obedience to the attractive impulsions of the sun and moon, is checked by the great continents that stretch from