

but by a comparative standard,—not by its price in pounds sterling, but with reference to their own circumstances and condition, and to the efforts which the acquirement of it had cost them. We have seen working men quite as proud of the little house, consisting of a *but* and a *ben*, a trap-stair and a loft, which the painful labour of years had secured to them, as the merchant on the little estate of some three or four hundred acres, in which he had invested the savings of a lifetime, or the master-builder or contractor of the half street or square of which his profession, long and successfully pursued, had enabled him to become the owner. We therefore do not attempt fixing the line to which, in this special direction, the franchise might be safely permitted to descend ; but we do think it is a direction in which it might descend very safely ; and though in our larger cities, such as Edinburgh and Glasgow, its descent would have scarce any effect in extending that basis on which the representation of the country rests, and which to a certainty must by and by be widened and enlarged, we are mistaken if in the smaller towns it would not considerably more than double its area. It would broaden the base of the social pyramid, and enable it to resist, without the danger of overthrow, the coming tempest which is so visibly darkening the heavens.

Is there any other portion of the “waters beneath the firmament” that might be separated from the general mass, and made to balance against it, somewhat in the manner in which the tidal wave that enters through the Bristol Channel from the south balances and counteracts the tidal wave which enters the German Sea from the north, and in some parts of the coast, as at Great Yarmouth and the Hague, reduces, by fully one-half, the average rise and fall of the tide ? We would answer this query much more hesitatingly and doubtfully than the other. We, however, do not see on what principle it is that, while the tenants of houses of ten