

them to the dangers of treacherous landslips and sudden avalanches.

What, let us ask, would be the effect of a still further upheaval of the political area, that would place the ten-pound franchise in the position of a second old-coast-line, by raising a widely spread five-pound franchise outside of it. To what regions of party would such an upheaval add new breadth? In what regions would it leave the present limits unchanged? What would be its effect, for instance, on the various parties in Edinburgh, as brought out by the late election? Some of these, though of but comparatively recent appearance, must be regarded as tolerably permanent in their elements. The Forbes Mackenzie Act is a law of yesterday; but the strong re-action against the spirit traffic has been going on for some considerable time; and so long as the monstrous evil of intemperance continues to exist, *it* will, we cannot doubt, continue to exist also. It will continue to form the pervading soul and spirit of a distinct party; nor will the antagonist party—the public-house one—be less permanent. The latter has in its composition that strongest, though at the same time most sordid, of all elements, a profit-and-loss one: it stands on a monetary basis,—a foundation that bids fair to remain firm till at least the millennium; and so both these parties, come of the Forbes Mackenzie Act what may, may be calculated on, in any future contest, as permanent ones. How would an extension of the franchise affect them? There are about nine hundred spirit-dealers in Edinburgh; and it has been calculated that in the late election about three hundred others voted in the spirit-dealing interest, influenced by the stake which they possess as proprietors of public-house property. A public-house or tap-room in a suitable situation lets at a higher rent, by from one-third to one-half, than it would bring as a dwelling-house. And hence the interest of the proprietors of such, in their standing as public-houses, and, of consequence,