

their opposition to any measure that would have the effect of either lessening the number of spirit-dealers, or reducing their profits. Now, to this public-house party an extension of the franchise to the five-pound householders would bring almost no accession of strength. All the spirit-dealers pay at least ten-pound rents ; all the owners of their houses are ten-pound proprietors ; both classes are within the limits of the existing franchise, and certainly, as a body, exhibit great energy, and hold well and act efficiently together. The extension of the franchise would do almost nothing for them. It would do much, however, for their opponents. The strength of the temperance cause will be found to lie chiefly among the decent five-pound house-tenants,—skilled mechanics chiefly, provident enough to meet the landlord at rent-day, and in the main a very safe class. The men at present outside the representative pale who would support the publicans, had they the power, are a greatly lower class, who, though in some instances they may pay as high a rent, pay it by the month or the week, and who would almost always lack the qualification of being settled for a twelvemonth in the same dwelling. Universal suffrage might, and we daresay would, strengthen the publican cause ; whereas a judiciously limited extension of the suffrage would have the effect of virtually weakening it, by, of course, leaving it just what it is, while it greatly strengthened the opposition to it.

The Roman Catholic party in Edinburgh is another comparatively new party. We remember that in 1824,—the year in which we first saw the Scottish capital,—the bakers of the place and its Irish papists were at feud, and that the bakers, being the more numerous and powerful party of the two, had the better. Times have since changed : the Edinburgh Irish are now to be reckoned by thousands,—from fifteen to twenty mayhap,—and their franchise-holders amount to from two to three hundred. And yet an extension of the