

franchise to the five-pound level would do exceedingly little for them. They consist almost exclusively of two classes,—a broker and petty-dealer class, whose shops, and sometimes their dwelling-houses, are of value enough to bring them within the limits of the ten-pound qualification ; and a class of unskilled labourers, who live gregariously in humble hovels, to which a five-pound qualification would not nearly descend, and who, besides, shift their dwellings, on the average, some four or five times every twelvemonth. One has but to scan for a few minutes the congregation of the Roman Catholic chapel in Lothian Street, as the motley crowd defiles on their dismissal towards the Cowgate, in order to see that in this party, as in the other, it is from universal suffrage, and not from a judiciously restricted extension of the franchise, that there is aught to be feared. The qualification would require to descend very low indeed ere it could reach the class, comprising nine-tenths of the whole congregation, who wear their week-day clothes on Sunday because they have no other, and are able, at the utmost, to greet the day with a clean shirt ; and as for the few respectably dressed men in black among them,—that, though on but the ordinary level of the attendants at Protestant places of worship, catch the eye here as the magnates and aristocrats of their church,—they are all voters already. As opposed to the Papists, however, the Protestant party would gain in strength, and that very considerably, by such a limited extension of the franchise as the one we specify. At least not more than one-third of the men who attend anti-Popish lectures, and whose presence at Mr John Hope's meeting made it respectable in point of appearance and numbers, at present possess the franchise ; but they are a decent, well-conditioned class, and the houses they inhabit do not fall, save in exceptional cases, beneath a five-pound rental, but, on the contrary, average very considerably above it. It may be safely presumed that any few ac-