

lapsed classes and our useful citizens of the humbler class, than that which a five-pound household qualification would furnish. It has been said by a contemporary, more especially by its correspondents, that our aim in supporting Mr Brown Douglas in the recent contest was simply to aggrandize the Free Church. We see not, however, how, in the political field, the Free Church *could* be aggrandized. We certainly look for no endowments for herself, and ask neither place nor emolument for her ministers or members. We have assuredly no wish to see *her* revolving round the Treasury as her centre. If we have desired to see some of her abler men returned to Parliament, it was not because they were Free Churchmen, but because we knew that on the most important questions of the day their opinions were sound; and if we now desire to see many of her members possessed of the franchise, it is only because we believe they would exercise it safely and well. We simply throw off, on the present occasion, a few suggestions, not as definite conclusions, but as food for thought,—as contributions, too, towards the solution of what we deem an interesting problem. The show of hands at the hustings of last week was greatly in favour of Mr Brown Douglas; and, when led to inquire how best the “declaration of the poll” could be made to agree with the “show of hands,” we could bethink us of no better plan than that of a five-pound qualification.—*February 16, 1856.*