

three months, the number that usually happened in seven years, half a century ago. The other great improvement of which Mr. Hadden boasts so highly is upon the harbour—a great improvement truly, but has he all the merit of it? Has it been executed in the best manner, and at the most moderate expense? The expense has certainly been enormous, and a great part of it useless, as all the trade that the town has ever had, or, from its local situation, ever can have, might be carried on in vessels that do not require such a depth of water, as it has been the object of the improvements to obtain, at such a reckless expense. Mr. Hadden has boldly challenged any one to point out a single instance of mismanagement in these improvements, or of a job in the execution; but, perseverance even in improvements, on borrowed funds, until the credit of the corporation was reduced to bankruptcy, cannot surely be called the best of management. The system of borrowing, not only for outlay on the public works, but even to pay interest, was persevered in until 1817, when the treasurer stopt payments. Mr. Hadden and his self-elected junto, then found themselves in “a calamitous situation;” and, at length, discovered, that the present mode of election of the “Town-Council, and management of the town’s affairs, are radically defective and improvident, tending to give an individual or party who may be so inclined, an excessive and unnatural preponderance, and to foster a system of secrecy and concealment, under which the most upright and best intended magistrates may not be able to acquire that thorough knowledge of the situation of the burgh which is requisite for the due administration of its affairs; and was, therefore, of opinion, that *some change* ought to be effected in the manner of electing the Council, and *effectual control* given to the citizens over the expenditure of the Town’s Office-bearers”!! Mr. Hadden had been, at that time, with little interruption, carrying on that same system of “secrecy and concealment” for upwards of thirty years; and for fifteen of these years, may be said to have been the sole arbitrator. The