REDUCTION OF THE DUTY ON TEA. IMPORTANT TOWN'S MEETING.

Our worthy Mayor, as previously notified by us, convened a public meeting of the inhabitants of this borough, on Monday last, in compliance with a numerously and influentially signed requisition presented to him, and which, among other things, declared the opinion of the requisitionists to be—

"That the existing duty on Tea, in this country is unduly high,—that its tendency is materially to cripple the trade of this manufacturing district with China, and that it is therefore injuriously with the comfort and domestic enjoyments, besides discouraging habits of temperance, among the great body of the people; and it is, therefore, necessary to consider the propriety of memorialising the First Lord of the Treasury on this subject, and of requesting that in constructing the financial arrangements for the ensuing year, such reduction may be provided for as shall place that article within the reach of the people generally, at a moderate price."

The meeting was held in the Philosophical Hall, and was attended by many of our most influential bankers, merchants, and traders,—amongst those present being the following:—Rev. W. V. Brown, Esq., Edward Baines, Esq., M.P., W. V. Brown, Esq., Edward Baines, Esq., Hamer Stansfeld, Esq., J. D. Luccock, Esq., Darnton Lupton, Esq., Alderman Bateson, Alderman Hebblethwaite, Alderman Scarlett, Esq., E. Eddison, Esq., John Marshall, Esq., Martyn Roberts; Esq., M. E. Heycock, Esq., John Wilkinson, Esq., W. Sykes, Esq., Councillor Richardson, Mr. Blake, Yeadall, &c.

Upon the motion of H. Stansfeld, Esq., seconded by Alderman Bateson, Mr. Alderman Baines was called to the chair, in the absence, through illness, of the Mayor (C. G. Macleay, Esq.).

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, observed—I regret that the Mayor is not present on this occasion to afford us that advantage which his presence, holding the position of first magistrate of this borough, would have given us. And I regret his absence the more as I understand that indisposition is the cause of it (hear, hear). I am sure that no disposition is the cause of it (hear, hear). I am sure that no man would more readily, on occasions, place himself in situations where he thinks he can confer benefit on this town, on whose behalf he is acting; and I am sure it would have been himself he is acting; and I am sure it would have been himself he is acting; and I am sure it would have been himself