

THE  
NORTH OF ENGLAND  
MAGAZINE.

VOL. II.]

MARCH, 1843.

[No. XIV.

A GERMAN'S VIEW OF THE GERMAN  
CUSTOMS' LEAGUE.

The German customs' league is one of those few institutions, which have given general and entire satisfaction, to all those at least immediately concerned; and, though this is partly, and perhaps chiefly, owing to the unsatisfactory and unnatural state of affairs, which preceded its formation, the fact remains not less curious, not less gratifying, and not less worthy of elucidation. In the few years, which have elapsed since its establishment in 1828, the league has completely realized all the hopes and wishes of those who laid its foundation. Its present extension is much larger than could, ten years ago have been anticipated; and its influence on the internal trade and on the manufactures of Germany has been much more beneficial, than even the most ardent minds expected; while in a political view its importance has been yet greater, for the advocates of a more intimate union of the German states have received a powerful ally, an *argumentum ad hominem*, by such a striking example of its advantages.

Before the formation of the league, each of the thirty-six German states had not only a different line of custom-houses, but even a different system of duties. Every commercial system was adopted in one or other of the states; there were free trade,

[VOL. II.] L 1

