

HILLI-ONNEE.

[In the year 1841 Lord Palmerston had a celebrated race-horse called Ilione, the pronunciation of whose name became a matter of dispute on the turf. An appeal having been made to his lordship, he replied, to the surprise of some scholars, that it should be pronounced as if written Hillionnee. Apparently this view arose from his lordship's having become a convert to the system of accentual pronunciation. The ordinary English mode of pronouncing the name is that indicated by Pitt in his translation of the Eneid, Book I., when he speaks of the sceptre

“ That wont Ilione's fair hand to grace.”]

THE Whigs can boast of many a name,
 Great Normanby and Little Johnny;
 But far their foremost child of fame
 Is he that owns fleet Hilli-onnee.

'Mong lords and legs a contest rose
 As fierce as e'er was fought with Bonny:
 From words, it almost came to blows,
 And still the theme was Hilli-onnee.

And some said this and some said that;
 No want there was of caco-phony:

With short and long, with sharp and flat,
They sore misnomered Hilli-onnee.

Then One bethought him of a way
To terminate this acri-mony ;
He called as umpire of the fray,
The lord that owns fleet Hilli-onnee.

His lordship, though a scholar once,
At this appeal was much *étonné* ;
But loath to be esteemed a dunce,
He searched his books for Hilli-onnee.

No doubt he well remembered yet
Old Sophocles's *Hanti-gonnee* ;
A clearer case he could not get,
Nor more in point for Hilli-onnee.

But firmer proofs he sought and found ;
The Greeks, disliking mono-tony,
Had accents to direct the sound,
And these showed here 'twas Hilli-onnee.

He wrote his answer, brief, yet bright
With classic wit and keen i-rony,

And having quashed the Tories quite,
He taught us all 'twas Hilli-onnee.

O Peel ! your guilt what tongue can tell !
'Twas nothing less than rank fe-lonny,
To oust a lord who talks so well
Of heathen Greek and Hilli-onnee.

Had I the might of Pindar's muse
To sing the praise of Palmer-stonny;
The deathless prince of Syracuse
Should yield to him and Hilli-onnee.

Pindar, alas ! is in his grave ;
But this good page of old E-bonny,
For distant days the name shall save
Of Palmer-ston and Hilli-onnee.

November 1841.