

An authentic narrative of the dissensions and debates in the Royal Society. [Regarding Dr. Charles Hutton's dismissal from the office of Foreign Secretary] Containing the speeches at large of Dr. Horsley, Dr. Maskelyne, Mr. Maseres, Mr. Poore, Mr. Glenie, Mr. Watson and Mr. Maty / [Anon].

Contributors

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AN AUTHENTIC
NARRATIVE
OF THE
DISSENSIONS
AND
DEBATES
IN THE
ROYAL SOCIETY.

Containing the SPEECHES at large of

Dr. HORSLEY		Mr. POORE
Dr. MASKELYNE		Mr. GLENIE
Mr. MASERES		Mr. WATSON

AND
Mr. MATY.

L O N D O N :

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A N
A C C O U N T
O F

The Diffensions and Debates in the
ROYAL SOCIETY.

THE Diffensions, which have lately taken place in the Royal Society, have unhappily arisen to such a height, as to engage, in some degree, the attention of the Public. The notion that is gone abroad seems to be, that some members of the Society (represented perhaps as few in number and obscure in character and situation) taking fire at an affront, which, as they conceived, was put upon their friend, by a resolution of the Council, have, to gratify a resentment, just perhaps and honourable in its origin, but

unjustifiable and extravagant in its aims, stepped boldly forward, and threatened to impeach the whole official conduct of the President. The Gentlemen who profess to arraign the measures of the President's government, cannot sit silent under the opprobrium of having rashly disturbed the peaceful labours of a Society, instituted for better purposes than the pursuit of private quarrel, and the agitation of contentious debate. They find it necessary to declare who they are; of what abuses they complain; and by what fair and honourable means they would seek to redress them. They find an appeal to the Public, upon these articles, necessary, on account of the controul that is laid upon the freedom of debate in the meeting room of the Society. They have recourse, as to the last resort of Englishmen, to the freedom of the Press. They are sensible that it will be for their advantage, however contrary to their feelings,

ings, to transfer their cause from the bar of their own Society, where it might have been for the interest of the President to have suffered it to be tried, to the bar of the Public; at which all causes, once brought to it, are sure to receive, soon or late, a fair decision. They are conscious that it will soon be made appear to the Public, what is already well known in the Society, that their number is neither so small, nor their situation so low, nor their characters so insignificant, as to create a prejudice against any business of which they are the promoters. Their number is not less than five-sixths of the true effective members of the Royal Society; five-sixths of those who constantly attend its meetings from an attachment to its pursuits. By their literary fame, and by the rank which they hold in liberal and venerable professions, they conceive that the Public will allow them some title to

respect; and they hope to make appear to the Public, what they have not been allowed to explain to the Society, that their views are to serve the Society in its most essential interests. That the Society must owe to the success of their exertions, the renovation of its credit, if not the continuance of its existence.

They conceive that, to put the Public in possession of the full merits of their cause, little more is necessary than a circumstantial narrative of the proceedings at Somerset-Place on the eighth of January, and the 12th of February, prefaced with a concise summary of things previous to the meeting on the eighth.

The office of the Society's corresponding Secretary, an employment of great honour, much trouble, and little profit, the annual salary being no more than 20 l. had been held, and the duties of it had been ably and punctually discharged,

charged, for some years, by Dr. Charles Hutton, Professor of Mathematics in the Royal Military Academy of Woolwich. On the 20th of November, the President summoned his Council for the purpose, as afterwards appeared, of depriving Dr. Hutton of his office. This purpose was effected by a resolution of the Council, which was said to be a method of *letting down the Doctor easy*; namely, that it was expedient for the foreign Secretary to reside constantly in London. In this resolution, which was supported by an *insinuation* only of a negligence on the part of Dr. Hutton, in the duties of his office; the Council unanimously concurred; with the exception only of the Astronomer Royal, who desired that his friend might be heard before he was dismissed, and of Mr. Maty, one of the principal Secretaries, who out of duty to one of the first principles of equity, seconded the Astronomer's request.

Dr.

Dr. Hutton conceiving himself to have been affronted by this resolution of the Council, of which the purport was too plain not to be understood, came to the Society, on the 27th of November, and resigned his place, in a speech, which, though couched in modest words, and apparently conveying no more than an ordinary resignation, strongly spoke the language of injured merit.

On Monday December 1st, the Society, assembled for the anniversary election of the Council and officers, was surprised to find the name of the Astronomer Royal omitted in the list of the intended Council. Their surprise was the greater, because no gentleman of eminence in the same branch of science was substituted in his place. The Astronomer's friends conceived, that whatever might be pretended, his independent conduct in council was the real cause of his dismissal. Their indignation was inflamed,

and in the interval between the 30th and the Society's next meeting, it was determined, that some notice should be taken of these arbitrary proceedings. Accordingly on the eleventh of December, Mr. Poore, in an elegant and temperate, but very pointed speech, proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Hutton.

He was seconded by Mr. Maty, who said, he rose to second with the utmost pleasure, as he had been extremely hurt at Dr. Hutton's resignation, which he was satisfied the Council could never mean to take place.—In the use of these expressions, he made some sacrifice (a crime of which he is seldom guilty) of his sincerity to his complaisance. His own testimony, confirmed by what came from others, in the progress of the business, proved beyond a doubt, that the resolution of the Council was meant for no

no other purpose than that which it immediately produced.

The President, extremely surpris'd, at first made some very strong attempts to stop debate entirely, not only for that time, but for ever : but being reminded of the positive obligation laid upon him by the statutes of the Society, to put every question regularly moved and seconded, he express'd a desire that a Committee might be appointed to enquire into the merits of the services for which Dr. Hutton was to be thanked, at the same time suggesting that perhaps the Council itself might be a very competent Committee for that purpose. Mr. Poore rose again and said, that Dr. Hutton's friends desired nothing so much as a fair and strict enquiry into his services in his office, and he thanked the President for the equity and condescension of his proposal. Notwithstanding this declaration from Mr. Poore in the name of Dr. Hutton's friends,

friends, no regular motion came from the chair, or from any of those who discovered the warmest zeal for the support of the President's measures for the formation of a Committee; nor was any step taken to give either form or opening to enquiry. The President seemed very ready to let his own proposal drop, when he discovered that Dr. Hutton's friends were willing and prepared to meet it. Dr. Horsley, not averse to enquiry, (the contrary appeared by the very forcible expressions which he used without effect to *elicit* crimination from the President) but jealous, as he has since declared, of the mode to which the President seemed inclined, urged the question; saying, that unless the President would support his general charge of negligence, by allegations of particular instances, it would be exceedingly improper that a gentlemen of Dr. Hutton's high character, should retire from the service of

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the Society without their thanks. That unless specific accusations were set up instead of vague and general insinuations; the general merit of Dr. Hutton's scientific character would be the only circumstance which ought to influence the ballot. An attempt was made to get rid of the business by the previous question. This was rejected by a majority of five, the numbers being 33 and 28; after which the main question was carried by five, the numbers being 30 and 25.

No sooner was the meeting broken up, than the President summoned a Council for the Wednesday following; perhaps it would be more accurate to say, he would have summoned one; the fact is, that neither the President, nor the Secretary, nor the clerk, nor any officer, nor any servant of the Society, was informed of the actual residence of Mr. Brander, whom the President had
put

put into Council upon the supposition that he lived in London; whereas for some time past he has retired to his country seat on the coast of Hampshire. For want of this information no summons could be sent to that Gentleman, and for that reason no statuteable Council could be held. However a sufficient number assembled; a number which might have been sufficient but for the informality of the meeting. The company paid no attention to a defence which Dr. Hutton had sent in writing to the Secretary; and although no special matter of complaint was alleged against him, it was thought proper to declare that the resolution of the former Council was a very wise one, and ought to be enforced.

The sequel shewed how little these measures were calculated to restore the peace of the Society; the end which the

President and his Committees professed to have in view. On the meeting of the Society on the next day, Dr. Horsley moved, that Dr. Hutton's defence, which the Council had treated not only as nugatory, but as a full justification of the vote of the former Council, should be read to the Society. The motion was introduced with a short speech, in which the proceedings of the Council of the preceding day were treated with great freedom, and the injustice shewn to Dr. Hutton, with high indignation.

This motion was seconded by Dr. Maskelyne, who had not been present at the former meeting, in which the vote of thanks had been carried; but he now came forward with great spirit, and in a speech, the substance of which is in the appendix, declared to the Society that he had moved to have Dr. Hutton heard before he was dismissed, but had been refused. No reply being made to this,
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the following defence was read. To the understanding of this, however, it is necessary to premise, that though the President had refused to come forward with any direct charge, a rumour had been set about concerning three foreign letters which had not been answered. To this charge therefore Dr. Hutton replies, and then concludes with what must have struck every body very forcibly at the time, that his dismissal (for that was then allowed to be the true word) had come upon him without a single previous admonition from the President.

Dr. Hutton's Defence.

“ As to the duties of the second agree-
 “ ment made February 1782, I have regu-
 “ larly fulfilled them all as far as there
 “ was ever any occasion offered, by re-
 “ turning thanks for all foreign presents
 “ received, and prepared answers to all the
 “ letters

“ letters I ever received, and sent them
 “ to be laid before Council too according
 “ to article 3d of the agreement. And
 “ the reason why no answers are entered
 “ in a book as required by that article, is
 “ as follows: In the first place then, I
 “ never received any but three letters; I
 “ know of no more; and these were given
 “ to me by the clerk, who said he had
 “ them from the Secretary to deliver to
 “ me. Now the first two of these three
 “ were given me at the same time, being
 “ as it were but one letter, written at the
 “ same time by the same party: it was
 “ from the college of Cambridge in the
 “ American States, consisting of two parts;
 “ the one part was only to return thanks
 “ to the Royal Society for a present of the
 “ Astronomer Royal’s printed book of ob-
 “ servations, and the other part was to an-
 “ nounce a paper of astronomical observa-
 “ tions sent at the same time from the Col-
 “ lege to the Society. Now as the first of
 “ these two parts could require little or no

“ answer, I delayed answering them till
 “ their paper of observations should pass
 “ the Society and Council, that I might
 “ be able to inform the College as to the
 “ fate of it, whether it was to be printed
 “ or not; and I asked Dr. Maskelyne from
 “ time to time if it had past the Council,
 “ which as soon as I knew of, and had
 “ provided the means of transmitting my
 “ answer to the College through the hands
 “ of a friend at New York, (for we were
 “ then at war with America) I prepared
 “ my answer, and sent it by the clerk to
 “ be laid before Council for their ap-
 “ probation, with the original letter to
 “ which it was an answer. The clerk ac-
 “ cordingly delivered it to Mr. Planta in
 “ Council, for that purpose; but he,
 “ without laying my answer before the
 “ Council, returned it to the clerk to give
 “ it me back again, saying, that it did not
 “ signify now, as he himself had answered
 “ it. So much then for the answer to
 “ the twin letter. The only other letter
 “ that

“ that was given to me, was also by the
 “ clerk, who said he had it from the Secre-
 “ tary to give me: I asked the clerk if he
 “ knew for what purpose it was delivered
 “ to me, as it was only a letter to announce
 “ a present (from a Mr. Gual, or some such
 “ name) sent to the Secretary, and seemed
 “ to require only a common letter of
 “ thanks, as in the 2d article of the agree-
 “ ment; but he said he knew not, as he
 “ was only told to deliver it to me. I
 “ then asked Mr. Planta about it, and he
 “ informed me it only required a common
 “ letter of thanks for the present, and
 “ which letter of thanks I accordingly
 “ wrote and sent like as all the rest, and
 “ which therefore was not a letter to be en-
 “ tered in a book as per 3d article of agree-
 “ ment. Hence then it appears there can
 “ no answer appear as entered in a book,
 “ since the only (twin) one, I was prevent-
 “ ed from answering, and my answer never
 “ laid before the Council. I am therefore
 “ clearly not culpable by any breach of
 “ duty.

“ duty. But if even something of this kind
 “ had been the case: if I had been dila-
 “ tory in some part; or if I had delayed or
 “ neglected some answers to letters, &c.
 “ might I not have expected to have been
 “ reminded of it by the President, or by
 “ some person for him, to have quickened
 “ my application, or to have given me oc-
 “ casion to clear up the matter, that there
 “ might be no misunderstanding, before a
 “ vote of censure should be past on me,
 “ amounting to a discharge from my office
 “ unheard and without the knowledge of
 “ any suspicion of any neglect or offence
 “ given? And for this purpose the Presi-
 “ dent had opportunities enow given him
 “ to speak to me about that or any other
 “ business, as I purposely have constantly
 “ attended at least every other public
 “ meeting of the Society, and very often
 “ every meeting, to the great neglect of
 “ my many other important concerns.
 “ And these frequent attendances in
 “ town; where I have commonly remained

“ for three days each time I came, have
 “ obliged me to keep apartments in town,
 “ the expences of which have always cost
 “ me more than double the salary I re-
 “ ceived for the discharge of my office.
 “ But notwithstanding all these oppor-
 “ tunities, since the last agreement in Fe-
 “ bruary 1782, the President has never
 “ once opened his mouth to me on the
 “ subject of my office, nor ever sent me
 “ any message concerning it.”

To this defence no regular reply was
 attempted. But in the course of some
 desultory debate many circumstances
 came out, which tended to heighten its
 effect on the minds of the company.
 Mr. Planta confirmed Dr. Hutton's asser-
 tions respecting two out of the three
 letters. Mr. Planta acknowledged, that
 he had consented to accept of Dr.
 Hutton's place, under an impression, it
 is to be supposed, that very sufficient
 reasons would appear for Dr. Hut-
 ton's

ton's dismissal. He declared, however, that he had already recalled the consent which he had too readily given, and that he now declined the office. This declaration redounds highly to Mr. Planta's honour; but it accords but ill with an assertion of the President's, that the vote of Council respecting the Corresponding Secretary, was not intended to make a vacancy of the office. For if the office was not to be made vacant, why was a successor provided for the person who held it? The President, who in this debate condescended to be himself the advocate of his own measures, in proof that Dr. Hutton had written no letter, taxed him with having received twenty pounds for having written only three. This piece of reasoning had perhaps no great tendency to weaken the impressions which Dr. Hutton's defence had made, confirmed as they had been by the candid concessions of Mr. Planta. Nor

will it seem extraordinary, that the business of this night should terminate in an approbation of Governor Pownall's motion, by a majority which amounted to more than three-fourths of the whole assembly. The motion made by Governor Pownall, and seconded by Mr. Glenie, was in these terms : “ That if Dr. Hut-
 “ ton hath been, in the opinion of any
 “ member of the Society, criminated, it
 “ is the opinion of the Society, that he
 “ hath fully justified himself.” It was carried by 49 against 15. And thus closed the business of the Royal Society for the year 1783.

The strong attempts which were made in the course of the last debate, to stop debate entirely, had compelled the President's opponents to insist upon the necessity of debate in certain circumstances of the Society ; and in the heat of this argument Dr. Horsley had declared, “ that the Society is now in cir-
 “ cumstances

“ circumstances which render debate ne-
 “ cessary to its preservation : that its
 “ chartered rights had been infringed—
 “ the freedom of its elections controuled
 “ —the business of the committee of pa-
 “ pers mismanaged : that he had charges
 “ to bring forward which might keep
 “ the Society in debate the whole win-
 “ ter ; especially if upon every occasion
 “ of debate it was first to be debated,
 “ whether the company should debate
 “ or no. Perhaps beyond the winter—
 “ Perhaps till the season should return
 “ for the President to inculcate his
 “ annual admonition from the Chair,
 “ which it was to be hoped would
 “ never be again, what it had too long
 “ been, a nugatory form—his admoni-
 “ tion to the members to think of pro-
 “ per persons to be chosen into the
 “ Council, and to fill his own and the
 “ other offices.”

It was now but too evident, that a
 storm was gathering, and the President
 judged

judged it necessary to take measures to allay it. The expedient which he embraced was to invite a select party to his own house, to consider of what measures might be taken for restoring the peace of the Society. The transactions of that meeting, at which none of the writers of this narrative had the honour to assist, they presume not to relate. A notion soon went abroad, which the event has since justified, that it was resolved to bring forward some motion, which should quash all inquiry into the President's official conduct by a general vote of thanks or approbation. In the first week of January a card was sent round to all the members of the Society, in which their attendance, on the 8th, was requested, in these terms :

“ The President of the Royal Society
 “ presents his compliments to Mr. ——,
 “ and requests his attendance at the next
 “ ordinary meeting of the Royal Society
 “ February

“ February 12th, as it is probable that
 “ questions will be agitated on which
 “ the opinion of the Society at large
 “ ought to be taken.”

The members which obeyed the summons might be 170. Of these it may be fairly estimated that not more than 70 were of those who regularly attend the meetings of the Royal Society.

As soon as the President had taken the Chair Mr. Anguish, the Accountant-General, rose, and, declaring that he had a motion to make relating to the private concerns of the Society, that might probably throw the assembly into debate, moved, that strangers might not be admitted. The motion was seconded, and carried without a division. For, altho' many gentlemen might think it of no importance to exclude strangers, yet none wished to make a debate upon any secondary point.

After

After other matters of form were dispatched, Mr. Anguish rose, to propose and recommend his motion. He said,
 “ that the peaceful studies of the Society
 “ ty had been disturbed two successive
 “ nights by debate ; that of the occasion of these debates he would say
 “ nothing, that business having been terminated, and he not wishing to revive
 “ it ; he would therefore confine himself
 “ to observing, that a learned Gentleman
 “ had, he would allow with great candour, declared in the last of their debates, that the Society, far from being
 “ quiet now, should be kept in debate
 “ for the whole winter ; that he would
 “ bring charges against the President :
 “ he had gone farther ; he had declared,
 “ with the same candour, what those
 “ charges were ; the Accountant-General
 “ had heard them ; they appeared to
 “ him very frivolous ; he did not doubt
 “ but they would do so to the Society :
 “ be that however as it might, the intent

“tent of them was evident, it was to
 “turn the President out of his place :
 “that was the real cause before the So-
 “ciety ; why not then try it immedi-
 “ately ? For his part, as he had said
 “before, he was satisfied how it ought
 “to go, and therefore he should move,
 “that *this Society do approve of Sir*
 “*Joseph Banks for their President, and*
 “*will support him.*”

This motion was seconded by the
 honourable Henry Cavendish : it was op-
 posed by Mr. Poore, who observed to
 the following purpose.

“He said he thought the motion gene-
 “rally improper, but particularly unsea-
 “sonable at that time, and in fact equally
 “dishonourable to the President and his
 “friends.

“That it was unprecedented, to propose
 “a formal panegyric on any public person

“ who had not, by a retirement from
 “ office, left a seal upon his services and
 “ character ; or who, remaining in it, had
 “ not given some signal occasion for extra-
 “ ordinary applause : that a motion for
 “ *general approbation*, at the beginning of
 “ an annual office, was absurd in itself ; and
 “ for *future support*, could be only the
 “ effect of blind partiality, and anticipated
 “ obsequiousness.

“ That the President was so far from
 “ giving occasion for extraordinary ap-
 “ plause, that he had very lately given
 “ cause for dissatisfaction ; that particular
 “ instances, by no means trifling, had been
 “ adduced ; that more remained to be
 “ shewn : that the majority of the con-
 “ stant and regular attendants on the So-
 “ ciety had shewn their sense of those
 “ instances ; and that the motion for an
 “ extorted compliment must appear
 “ therefore particularly unseasonable.

“ He

“ He thought it expedient to state
 “ briefly to the very numerous and re-
 “ spectable meeting then assembled, the
 “ result of the late debates, to shew that
 “ if the President drew any inferences to
 “ himself from them, it could not be that
 “ of the approbation of a majority of the
 “ usual effective members : nor that the
 “ disapprobation arose from interested or
 “ factious men, since those who had
 “ avowed their dissatisfaction, were
 “ men of known science, and charac-
 “ ter.

“ He said, that he thought it dishonour-
 “ able to the President and his friends to
 “ endeavour, by anticipated and dubious
 “ praise, to evade the minutest discussion
 “ of his conduct, that even prejudice
 “ might require. That he wished them
 “ not to hazard a motion so precarious in
 “ its issue, which if gained, would be a
 “ feeble substitute for the real and unani-
 “ mous suffrages of a majority of at-

“ tending members ; but if lost, or even
 “ if not gained by a great majority, would
 “ be more humiliating to the President
 “ than his opponents could desire. That
 “ it would be to his friend’s honour to
 “ withdraw a motion so indelicate, and
 “ in fact so nugatory: which could never
 “ be effective to palliate, or remove
 “ charges which had never been investi-
 “ gated, and that he was certain enquiries
 “ and debates would not be stopped by
 “ a temporary effort of this kind ; by a
 “ shadowy compliment, which the Presi-
 “ dent had been led to desire from the
 “ adulation of followers, and the par-
 “ tiality of admirers, who had deluded him
 “ into false notions of his own dignity :
 “ that he wished not to see the President’s
 “ dignity so committed as it must be by
 “ such a question; that his official charac-
 “ ter could rest on no such basis ; that it
 “ depended neither on his rank, fortune,
 “ nor friends ; but on his personal quali-
 “ ties, his special good conduct, and

“ above all on that dispassionate and equi-
 “ table behaviour, that moderation and
 “ temper, which might always lead him
 “ to consider himself the least, and the
 “ Society the most important object of
 “ his attention : that such conduct would
 “ procure him, not a sudden, dubious,
 “ and extorted testimony of approbation,
 “ but the truest tokens of it, in the fre-
 “ quent and industrious attention of
 “ members to the purposes of the So-
 “ ciety, in the readiness of domestic
 “ and foreign correspondencies on im-
 “ portant objects, and in the fame and
 “ reputation of the Society both at
 “ home and abroad.

“ He said he should not move the pre-
 “ vious question, as he knew that his
 “ friend on his right, Dr. Horsley, had
 “ much more to say against the motion.”

Mr. Poore was followed by Mr. Baron
 Maseres,

“ Mr.

“ Mr. PRESIDENT,

“ I most perfectly agree with the
 “ Gentleman who moved this question,
 “ in wishing to restore the peace of this
 “ Society, and to return from these un-
 “ harmonious debates, to the more quiet
 “ and instructive business of these weekly
 “ meetings, *the reading of the learned pa-*
 “ *pers presented to the Society.* But it
 “ appears to me, that this is impossible to
 “ be done consistently with justice, and
 “ the permanent welfare of the Society,
 “ so long as there are just causes of com-
 “ plaint against the conduct of the Pre-
 “ sident, which it is thought necessary
 “ that the Society should be informed of.
 “ If such causes do exist, the only re-
 “ dress, that can be had for them, must
 “ come from the Society at large, when
 “ they exercise their power of annually
 “ choosing their President, and other of-
 “ ficers: and for this purpose it is ne-
 “ cessary that they should be distinctly
 “ in-

“ informed of these causes of complaint,
 “ and of the proofs by which they are
 “ to be supported : and this information
 “ can be given them in no other way so
 “ easily, so fully, and so fairly, as at
 “ these meetings. The interruption,
 “ therefore, of the usual readings of the
 “ Society, in order to introduce this in-
 “ formation, is a matter of necessity, not
 “ choice ; unless we chuse to leave every
 “ abuse of power that the President may
 “ be guilty of, to the oppression of the
 “ other most respectable servants, and
 “ most worthy members of the Society,
 “ uninquired into and unredressed. And
 “ therefore I can by no means approve
 “ of the present motion *of thanking the*
 “ *President for his conduct in the office of*
 “ *President, and of declaring a resolution*
 “ *to support him,* which tends to pre-
 “ clude and cut short these necessary in-
 “ quiries. On the contrary, I think a
 “ particular day should be assigned for
 “ the examination of every head of ac-
 “ cufation

“ cufation againft the Prefident, which
 “ Dr. Horsley, or any other Gentleman
 “ in the Society, may think proper to
 “ bring forward. When thefe are all
 “ gone through, but not before, the
 “ Society will be ripe to form a judg-
 “ ment concerning the prefent quef-
 “ tion; and to declare, *Whether they will*
 “ *support the Prefident in his office or not.*
 “ Without fuch a courfe of inquiry the
 “ prefent motion, if carried, can do the
 “ Prefident no honour; becaufe it will
 “ be carried without a fufficient know-
 “ ledge of the grounds and merits of the
 “ question. But, if thefe inquiries are
 “ fet on foot, they may turn out very
 “ much to the Prefident’s advantage, and
 “ give general fatisfaction to all un-
 “ biaffed and impartial members of the
 “ Society. For it may happen, that the
 “ charges of misconduct, that will be
 “ brought againft him, may be fhewn to
 “ be falfe, or may not fufficiently be
 “ proved to be true; or, laftly, if they
 “ are

“ are true, may be thought frivolous : in
 “ all which cases the censure of the im-
 “ partial members of the Society will
 “ fall on the persons who shall have
 “ brought them, and the President’s con-
 “ duct will derive additional lustre from
 “ the inquiry. I must confess, indeed,
 “ that this does not seem to be the most
 “ probable result of such an inquiry ;
 “ because in the only charge that has
 “ hitherto been investigated in the So-
 “ ciety, *That of the unjust removal of*
 “ *Dr. Hutton from his office of Foreign*
 “ *Secretary*, it has clearly appeared to
 “ the Society, upon the indisputable testi-
 “ mony of Dr. Maskelyne and Mr. Maty,
 “ the Secretary to the Society, that the
 “ President did throw out some loose
 “ charges against the Doctor of neglect
 “ of duty in his said office of Foreign Se-
 “ cretary, but without specifying any par-
 “ ticular instances of such neglect ; and
 “ that, when solicited by Dr. Maskelyne
 “ to mention some such particular in-
 F “ stances,

“ stances, and to permit Dr. Hutton to
 “ be acquainted with them, and to be
 “ heard in his own defence against them,
 “ he refused to do so; and that he had
 “ formed a resolution of displacing, if
 “ possible, Dr. Hutton from his said of-
 “ fice, and had pitched upon a particular
 “ person to succeed him, whom he had
 “ persuaded to consent to accept the
 “ office; and that he had solicited his
 “ Council, (the late Council,) to join
 “ with him in removing Dr. Hutton;
 “ and, upon their refusal to do it in a
 “ direct manner, had prevailed with
 “ them to do it in an *indirect* manner,
 “ by passing a resolution that was calcu-
 “ lated merely to oblige Dr. Hutton to
 “ resign his office. I say, in the only
 “ instance which has been investigated
 “ before the Society, it has appeared that
 “ the President did do the very things
 “ which he was charged with doing, and
 “ which, I believe, in the opinion of the
 “ majority of the Society, must appear to

“ be capricious and unjust. From this
 “ specimen we have, surely, no reason to
 “ conclude without an inquiry that the
 “ other accusations, (whatever they may
 “ be,) are probably without foundation;
 “ but rather the contrary.

“ Nor have we seen that the President,
 “ after this plain proof of an unjust re-
 “ moval of Dr. Hutton from his office,
 “ has given those signs of repentance and
 “ reformation that the Society had a
 “ right to expect from him, by restor-
 “ ing the worthy member to his office,
 “ or prevailing upon his present Council
 “ to join with him in requesting him to
 “ resume it, as he before prevailed upon
 “ his late Council to join with him in
 “ compelling him to resign it. This was
 “ what justice and a regard to the senti-
 “ ments of the Society required to be
 “ done: and, if he had done it, I should
 “ have thought there would have been
 “ reason to expect a change of conduct

“ from him in other respects, that would
 “ have removed the dissatisfactions of
 “ the Society, and made it unnecessary
 “ to make a strict inquiry into what is
 “ past. But, as this has not been done,
 “ I am of opinion, that the present
 “ motion for a vote of approbation of
 “ his conduct is premature, and wants
 “ foundation.”

Dr. Horsley then rose and spoke in the following terms.

“ Mr. PRESIDENT,

“ Twenty years are almost elapsed,
 “ since first I sought and obtained the
 “ honour of being associated with this
 “ learned body. Much of that time, as
 “ much as could be spared from the du-
 “ ties of my profession, has been devoted
 “ to those studies, which are the imme-
 “ diate object of the Society’s institu-
 “ tion. (It is for the world to say how
 “ successfully.) I have sitten in its
 “ Coun-

“ Councils ; I have borne one of its
 “ highest offices ; something I have from
 “ time to time contributed to its volumes.
 “ Is it to be supposed, Sir, that I, from
 “ a foolish desire of displaying my abili-
 “ ties in frivolous debate, should be
 “ willing to disturb the peace of the
 “ Society, and call off its attention from
 “ my own favourite pursuits ? Sir, no
 “ motive could induce me to engage the
 “ Society in debate, but the persuasion
 “ of my mind, that abuses have been
 “ long practised, and are still going on,
 “ which must affect the honour and
 “ prosperity of the Society, which threa-
 “ ten its very existence, and for which
 “ debate is the only remedy. Abuses,
 “ which in the end will more impede the
 “ business of the Society than any debate
 “ can do, because they will put a final
 “ stop to the business of the Society, by
 “ its dissolution. In this state of things
 “ I am the mover of debate, not from a
 “ fondness

“ fondness of debate, but choos[ing] it as
 “ the least of two great evils. But, Sir,
 “ Gentlemen declare themselves alarmed
 “ at the number of motions, which they
 “ conceive I have announced. Sir, this
 “ alarm is founded on their own mis-
 “ conceptions. They should rather be
 “ alarmed at the magnitude of the abuses
 “ of which I complain, than at the num-
 “ ber of my intended motions. I have
 “ said indeed, that those abuses are enor-
 “ mous, and will afford copious matter
 “ of discussion. But they are all redu-
 “ cible to a few general heads, and the
 “ motions, which will contain the remedy
 “ for them all, will be few and simple.
 “ Gentlemen complain, Sir, that I have
 “ refused to give notice of the motions
 “ I mean to make, and this refusal
 “ is made one pretence for the motion
 “ which has been just brought forward.
 “ It is true, Sir, that when a very learned
 “ and honourable member of this So-
 “ ciety, whose advice I always wish to
 “ treat

“ treat with the greatest respect, proposed
 “ to me to give previous notice of my
 “ motions, objections pressed upon my
 “ mind very strongly. I conceived that
 “ to give notice of a motion, would only
 “ create much useless trouble to you, Sir,
 “ and to myself. That after such notice,
 “ we should both think it necessary to
 “ solicit the attendance of our friends;
 “ and that the fate of every motion would
 “ depend, not on the real merits of the
 “ question, but on the assiduity of either
 “ party in making previous visits. Under
 “ these impressions I rejected the pro-
 “ posal of our learned and honourable
 “ friend. I have since weighed the mat-
 “ ter in my own mind very coolly; and I
 “ do perceive, that the reasons for giving
 “ notice are much stronger than the ob-
 “ jections against it. I now therefore
 “ promise, Sir, to you and the Society,
 “ I promise upon my honour, that I
 “ will bring forward no motion, without
 “ giving previous notice of my inten-
 “ tions.

“ tions. Having said thus much, Sir, in
 “ answer to what seemed personally ap-
 “ plied to me in the speech of the worthy
 “ member, who moved the present ques-
 “ tion : having declared the motives of
 “ my own conduct, and the rules to which
 “ I am willing to submit ; I desire to be
 “ heard upon the particular merits of the
 “ question, upon which the Society is
 “ now to decide.

“ Sir, if I could consider the motion as a
 “ mere compliment to the President, hav-
 “ ing neither retrospect nor consequences,
 “ I would be one of the foremost to con-
 “ cur in it. For, Sir, whatever warmth
 “ of resentment I may be apt to feel,
 “ and to express, when I conceive the
 “ character of my friend to be injuriously
 “ attacked ; with whatever zeal, with
 “ whatever vehemence of zeal, I may be
 “ ready to rise, when the chartered rights
 “ of this Society are to be asserted, when
 “ its constitution is to be defended against
 “ encroach-

“ encroachments; I am still ambitious
 “ to seize every fair occasion of ex-
 “ pressing personal respect to Sir Joseph
 “ Banks. And I feel it a most painful task,
 “ which my duty to the Society imposes
 “ on me, to arraign and to expose his con-
 “ duct, in the high office which he does
 “ us the honour to hold among us. Sir,
 “ it has been suggested to me, by gen-
 “ tlemen who conceive that debate is the
 “ worst thing which can happen in this
 “ Society, that if the abuses, with which
 “ I charge the President’s government,
 “ do really exist, I might take a better
 “ and a more effectual way of obtaining
 “ the remedy; of accomplishing what
 “ they conceive to be my ultimate pur-
 “ pose, by communicating my opinion
 “ to the members of the Society in pri-
 “ vate visits: and I am really inclined to
 “ think that this is very good advice.
 “ If my intention were to cure the
 “ abuses of the President’s government,
 “ by preventing the renovation of his au-
 G “ thority

“thority next St. Andrew’s day; I do
 “think, that this purpose might be more
 “certainly carried, in the way which has
 “been recommended to me. But, Sir, I
 “believe you will yourself allow, that the
 “method, which I now pursue, of public
 “debate and discussion, is a less certain,
 “is a far more fair and honourable way.
 “You would rather, Sir, that I should
 “make your plan of government a topic
 “of public debate, than that I should
 “calumniate your character in private.
 “This therefore is the method, to which
 “I shall adhere as the most honourable.
 “I must therefore, however unwillingly,
 “speak to the merits of the question now
 “before us: and if I should bring for-
 “ward offensive matter, I must intreat
 “your candid hearing. You are a pub-
 “lic man in this Society: your conduct
 “therefore must be subject to revision;
 “and you must bear with an adversary
 “who,

“ who charges you publickly, because
 “ he disdains to wound in secret.

“ Sir, when I consider the time when
 “ this question is brought forward, just
 “ after the government of the Society
 “ hath been convicted of a flagrant act of
 “ injustice towards one of our most re-
 “ spectable members, after an open decla-
 “ ration of charges of mismanagement to
 “ be brought forward against the Pre-
 “ sident, charges of an infringement and
 “ invasion of the chartered rights of the
 “ Society ; I cannot but consider the mo-
 “ tion as intended to have a respect to
 “ what is past, and an operation upon
 “ what is to come. It is intended to
 “ throw contempt upon the vote of
 “ the Society, which justified Dr. Hut-
 “ ton ; and to prejudge all future accu-
 “ sations of the President. If this be
 “ not the intention of the motion, it is
 “ unseasonable and nugatory. For to
 “ what purpose is the Society, at this
 G 2 “ season,

“ season, to pass a vote of approba-
 “ tion of the President’s conduct, and
 “ to declare they will support him. The
 “ anniversary election is just over; he is
 “ in the chair for the year; and what-
 “ ever may be the Society’s opinion of
 “ his conduct, nothing but his own act
 “ can put him out of it, before the ex-
 “ piration of the year. At the end of
 “ the year his office determines. At the
 “ present season he neither needs sup-
 “ port, nor have the Society any sup-
 “ port to give him. As for those *opti-*
 “ *mists*, who hold Sir Joseph Banks to be
 “ the best of all possible Presidents to be
 “ found in this best of all possible worlds,
 “ let them come down at the next anni-
 “ versary, and re-elect him. That will be
 “ the season for giving him support. At
 “ present no support can be given him,
 “ unless it be the unjust support of ap-
 “ proving the conduct towards Dr. Hut-
 “ ton, which the Society hath already
 “ condemned, or of securing him against
 6 “ all

“ all future complaint by a general vote
 “ of approbation. Sir, I know that it
 “ is the language among those who
 “ would give the President this support,
 “ that in the business of Dr. Hutton, the
 “ Society was taken by surprise. The fact
 “ is far other wise. Taking the numbers
 “ as they are stated in the minutes, (the
 “ record I believe is not quite accurate)
 “ but taking the numbers as they are there
 “ stated, the whole number of Fellows
 “ that voted upon the question of Dr.
 “ Hutton’s justification, after his defence
 “ had been read, was sixty. Now sixty
 “ is perhaps as great a number as is usu-
 “ ally to be found in any ordinary meet-
 “ ing of the Society, and is almost the
 “ whole sum of its constant effective
 “ members. Many it is true had been
 “ asked to come down; not asked for
 “ their votes; but asked to come down,
 “ and vote upon questions as the merits
 “ should appear to them. Very few were
 “ informed of the particular motions to
 “ be

“ be brought forward. I believe I
 “ may say none, except the few who
 “ took an open part in supporting them.
 “ But of these sixty who voted, forty-
 “ five, that is three-fourths of the whole
 “ number, declared Dr. Hutton justified
 “ by his written defence. Still it is said
 “ that this Society, which justified Dr.
 “ Hutton, was not informed of the full
 “ merits of the question, upon which
 “ they decided. That the President had
 “ charges against Dr. Hutton to which
 “ the written defence gave no reply.
 “ Sir, was not the Society, which justi-
 “ fied Dr. Hutton, informed of the
 “ full merits of the question, upon which
 “ it decided? Why then was not full
 “ information given? Why were not
 “ the charges publicly alleged, to which
 “ his written defence was no reply?
 “ Why was not I put to shame and
 “ silence, when standing upon this floor
 “ I averred, as I do still aver, that
 “ nothing worthy of censure could be
 “ laid

“ laid to Dr. Hutton’s charge? Why
 “ were these unanswerable charges sup-
 “ pressed, when Dr. Hutton’s accusers
 “ were challenged to produce them?—
 “ Why were they suppressed! Truly,
 “ Sir, for a reason more easy to be
 “ guessed, than fit to be mentioned. It
 “ was understood that those pretended
 “ charges, were much too futile to be
 “ alleged to an impartial promiscuous
 “ company. They were reserved for a
 “ select meeting of *friends*, in the Pre-
 “ sident’s own house, in which every
 “ thing that might fall from the lips of
 “ authority was sure to be received
 “ with applause and admiration. But
 “ what were these charges? futile or
 “ momentous, what were they? I be-
 “ lieve, Sir, when we speak of *charges*,
 “ we speak by an enallage of the number
 “ little used in the living languages
 “ of Europe. I have yet heard but of
 “ one, which is founded on a letter from
 “ Mr. Bonnet of Geneva, to a learned
 “ mem-

“ member of this Society, in which Mr.
 “ Bonnet complains of the singular bre-
 “ vity and dryness of a letter of thanks,
 “ which he had received from Dr. Hut-
 “ ton as our foreign Secretary, in return
 “ for a present which he made to the
 “ Society of his very valuable work, en-
 “ titled *Collection Complete des Oeuvres*.
 “ This work, Sir, arrived in England
 “ some time in the summer 1782, during
 “ the recess of the Society. It was pre-
 “ sented to the Society at their first
 “ meeting after the recess, and the letter
 “ of thanks to Mr. Bonnet was sent
 “ December 17th of the same year.
 “ There was no delay therefore on the
 “ part of our Secretary. Nor indeed is
 “ any delay pretended. The whole
 “ charge is, that Mr. Bonnet complains,
 “ that having made a very valuable pre-
 “ sent to the Society, he has not, in his
 “ own opinion, been *thanked enough*.
 “ Now, Sir, the plain matter of fact is
 “ this. It is a declared maxim of the So-
 “ ciety,

“ ciety never to give a judgment either
 “ of approbation or of censure, upon any
 “ work, discovery, or invention which
 “ may at any time be communicated to
 “ it. If the Society gives no judgement
 “ upon works and inventions immedi-
 “ ately communicated to it, and publi-
 “ shed to the world through the channel
 “ of its own volume ; *a fortiori* it ought
 “ to give no judgement upon publications,
 “ in which it hath had no share. Up-
 “ on this principle the wisdom of former
 “ Councils hath tied the Secretary
 “ down, in the business of giving
 “ thanks, to the use of a printed form ;
 “ lest if he were at liberty to return thanks
 “ in too rhetorical a language, an ap-
 “ probation of the body might some-
 “ times seem to be conveyed, which
 “ an author might circulate more for
 “ the gratification of his own vanity
 “ than to the credit of the Society.
 “ The foreign Secretary is to return
 “ thanks by this printed form, except
 “ in some extraordinary cases, when the

“ President may think proper to give
 “ particular instructions. No particu-
 “ lar instructions were given in the case
 “ of Mr. Bonnet. He received thanks,
 “ therefore, according to the printed
 “ form; and if he complains, that the
 “ thanks were not proportioned to the
 “ value of his present, the conclusion
 “ is, not that Dr. Hutton hath been
 “ negligent in his duty; but that Mr.
 “ Bonnet is ignorant of our national
 “ character, that he is not aware, in
 “ what contempt the high-minded Eng-
 “ lishman holds that sort of reputation,
 “ which is built on a vain reciprocation
 “ of compliment between men of learn-
 “ ing: and that he is ignorant of the
 “ rules of the Society; which allow no
 “ larger thanks, than those which Dr.
 “ Hutton gave. It is said indeed that
 “ Dr. Hutton wrote to Mr. Bonnet,
 “ without knowing what particular in-
 “ structions the President might have to
 “ give. That he never presented him-
 “ self at the breakfast in Soho-square
 “ to

“ to receive the President’s orders. And
 “ so at last, Sir, Dr. Hutton’s accusers
 “ think proper to change their ground.
 “ Unable to convict him of any negli-
 “ gence in his office, they prefer a new
 “ indictment, on which it will perhaps
 “ be no difficult matter to convict,
 “ that Dr. Hutton, diligent as he has
 “ been in the duties of his office, has
 “ however neglected to *adore the majesty*
 “ *of the President*. Sir, if Dr. Hutton
 “ has been never seen at the President’s
 “ levees, he has been seen at the So-
 “ ciety never less frequently than once
 “ in every fortnight. There was the
 “ place for the President to deliver his
 “ instructions. Or they might have been
 “ conveyed by message through the
 “ clerk ; or if a personal interview were
 “ necessary, Dr. Hutton might have been
 “ required, by message, to wait upon the
 “ President at his own house, to receive
 “ his orders. Dr. Hutton would hard-
 “ ly have disobeyed the summons,
 “ though he may not have leisure, or he

“ may not have inclination, to pay a re-
 “ gular attendance at the levees. Sir, I
 “ insist that no officer of the Society
 “ can be liable to censure, much less
 “ to dismissal, for any thing less than
 “ statutable offences. And I deny, that
 “ any of our statutes require any officer
 “ of the Society to repair to Soho, at
 “ stated times, to eat breakfasts with the
 “ President.

“ Such, Sir, is the futility of the heavi-
 “ est charges, that Dr. Hutton’s accu-
 “ sers have been able to set up in answer
 “ to his defence: and these are the only
 “ charges, to which it is pretended, that
 “ his defence is not a sufficient reply.
 “ No doubt therefore can remain, that
 “ Dr. Hutton was very properly justified,
 “ by the vote of the Society at the last
 “ meeting; and that the proceedings
 “ against him make one instance, in
 “ which the Society cannot approve the
 “ conduct of their President. Upon this
 “ ground, if there were no other, I
 “ should

“ should think it my duty to oppose the
 “ present question. But to judge of the
 “ full merits of the question, the Presi-
 “ dent’s conduct should be examined, in
 “ every instance in which it hath been
 “ arraigned. But as this would draw us
 “ in to very long discussions, I am con-
 “ tented to confine myself at present to
 “ the single article of his unjustifiable in-
 “ terference in the election of candidates :
 “ and upon this I must entreat a patient
 “ hearing, as I conceive it to be an open
 “ invasion of our chartered rights, and an
 “ abuse which calls for some immediate
 “ remedy. It is an invasion of our char-
 “ tered rights, because in effect it takes
 “ the election of candidates out of the
 “ hands of the Society, in which the char-
 “ ters place it ; it leaves only the shadow
 “ of an election, while the admission or
 “ exclusion of any candidate is made to
 “ depend upon the single will of the
 “ President. Sir, I would not be under-
 “ stood to say, that the President is to
 “ be abridged of a right which is ex-
 “ ercised

“ exercised without blame by every member
 “ of the Society ; the right of objecting to
 “ candidates, whom he may know to be
 “ unqualified ; the right of warning the
 “ Society against the election of impro-
 “ per candidates. I must observe, how-
 “ ever, that the practice of Presidents
 “ hath hitherto been, never to sign any
 “ candidate’s certificate. And I should
 “ think, Sir, that the rule which this
 “ practice prescribes to the President,
 “ in the business of elections, is a strict
 “ neutrality. For if it is improper (as
 “ this practice seems to declare) that
 “ the President should support any can-
 “ didate by his signature, the equity of
 “ the thing would be, that he should not
 “ interfere by his testimony to any can-
 “ didate’s disadvantage. But this I am
 “ willing to give up. I am content
 “ that the President should object to im-
 “ proper candidates. But my complaint
 “ is, that this right of objecting has
 “ been exercised (Sir, you must pardon
 “ the strength of the expression) capri-
 “ ciously

“ciously ; against candidates to whose
 “qualifications and characters there was
 “no just exception ; against candidates,
 “whom the Society ought to have
 “courted and embraced. I complain
 “too of the manner of the President’s
 “interference ; which has been either to
 “solicit the Fellows on the evening of
 “election, that at his request, without
 “any reason assigned, they would be
 “pleased to black-ball such or such a
 “person ; or to persuade the friends of
 “the candidate to withdraw his certi-
 “ficate, before the evening of election,
 “under the apprehension of a rejection
 “of their friend, at the instance of the
 “President. I have no less than eight
 “instances to allege of gentlemen of the
 “most respectable character, and of the
 “highest eminence in different branches
 “of science, who have been excluded
 “from this Society by this indecent and
 “unconstitutional exertion of the in-
 “fluence of the chair. The first in-
 “stance I shall allege is that of Mr.
 “Henry

“ Henry Clarke, of Manchester. Mr.

“ Henry Clarke is a gentleman of the

“ most unblemished character in life, a

“ mathematician of the greatest emi-

“ nence. Sir, when I say that Mr.

“ Clarke is an eminent mathematician,

“ my meaning is not merely that his

“ reading in mathematical subjects is

“ very extensive—that he has studied

“ the most difficult books—that he is

“ versed in the most abstruse parts of

“ the sublime mathematics—that he

“ knows every thing that is to be learnt

“ from books, or from masters. This,

“ Sir, is not what I call eminence in

“ mathematics. Nor is this the merit

“ that I ascribe to Mr. Clarke. Sir, I

“ affirm that Mr. Clarke ranks as an

“ INVENTOR in mathematics. He

“ has furnished new *Compendia* of Calcu-

“ lation in the great business of finding

“ fluents from fluxions. Perhaps, Sir,

“ Gentlemen on the other side may be

“ inclined to combat this assertion; per-

“ haps they will tell me, that however

“ highly

“ highly I may be inclined to rate the
 “ merit of Mr. Clarke’s writings, his
 “ pretensions to originality have been
 “ questioned by very good judges. I
 “ know, Sir, that a worthy member of
 “ the Society, carried away by that
 “ veneration for his illustrious preceptor,
 “ which great minds are apt to entertain
 “ for those, to whom they think them-
 “ selves indebted for their own attain-
 “ ments, has affirmed in print, that what
 “ I call Mr. Clarke’s inventions are all
 “ contained in certain *formulae* of Mr.
 “ Thomas Simson’s. But, Sir, the fact
 “ is, that Mr. Thomas Simson’s works
 “ have been diligently conned by many
 “ learned gentlemen in my eye, by Dr.
 “ Hutton, by the learned Astronomer,
 “ by Dr. Price, by myself, by every
 “ Gentleman here who calls himself a
 “ mathematician, and none of us had the
 “ good fortune to discover Mr. Clarke’s
 “ methods in Mr. Simson’s *formulae*, till
 “ Mr. Clarke himself laid them open.
 “ Mr. Clarke therefore is entitled to the

“ rank of an inventor, notwithstanding
 “ that his inventions may be found *in ovo*
 “ in an earlier writer. Perhaps we shall
 “ find no inventor, whose pretensions
 “ have not been combated upon the same
 “ principle. It was the case of Mr.
 “ Cotes, when his *Harmonia Mensurarum*
 “ first appeared. Dr. Pemberton, over-
 “ jealous of the fame of Newton, wrote
 “ a tract to shew that Mr. Cotes’s methods
 “ were deducible from the *formulae* in
 “ the book of quadratures. The thing
 “ is true. However, mathematicians
 “ were so delighted with the elegance of
 “ Mr. Cotes’s Theorems, so sensible of
 “ their utility, and so thankful to Mr.
 “ Cotes for the discovery; that Dr. Pem-
 “ berton got very little credit by his
 “ publication, though it contained many
 “ things worthy of the attention of Ma-
 “ thematicians. But, Sir, whatever may
 “ be the merit of the question between
 “ Mr. Clarke and Mr. Landen, it is
 “ sufficient for my purpose, it is a suffi-
 “ cient proof of Mr. Clarke’s abilities,
 “ that

“ that he has been the author of a book
 “ worthy to be the object of Mr. Landen’s
 “ animadversions. Sir, Mr. Clarke’s
 “ certificate was signed by Dr. Percival,
 “ Mr. Henry, Mr. White, Mr. Butter-
 “ worth Bailey (very sufficient vouchers
 “ of the worth of his character), by Dr.
 “ Maskelyne, Dr. Hutton, and Mr. Wales
 “ (very sufficient vouchers of his mathe-
 “ matical abilities.”) [Here the Presi-
 dent’s friends attempted to overpower the
 speaker with a clamour for the question,
 and the clattering of sticks.] “ Sir, Mr.
 “ Clarke was black-balled through the
 “ interference of the Chair, as gentle-
 “ men in my eye are ready to attest.”
 [Here Mr. Poore rose and said, *I* was
 asked by the President, on the evening of
 election, to black-ball Mr. Clarke.]
 [Clamour for question increased, with ac-
 companiment of sticks.] “ Sir, I per-
 “ ceive I shall not be permitted to go
 “ through my eight instances of exclusi-
 “ ons. I will mention therefore only one
 “ more, which is that of Major De Barres.

“ I chuse this instance, Sir, because what
 “ I have to say will be confirmed by the
 “ testimony of two learned gentlemen *,
 “ who I believe mean to follow me in
 “ this evening’s debate.” [Clamour
 for question, with accompaniment of
 sticks, excessively loud.] “ Sir, since it
 “ is the resolution of your friends, that I
 “ am not to be heard upon an argument,
 “ to which they are conscious they can
 “ frame no reply, I shall struggle no
 “ longer with their clamour.—I shall say
 “ but a few words more. Sir, it would
 “ be absurd to vote the present question
 “ without a discussion of its merits. Ap-
 “ probation is no approbation, unless it
 “ be accompanied with a conviction that
 “ it is deserved, on the part of those who
 “ bestow it. Sir, I well know, the gene-
 “ rosity of your high spirit will reject an
 “ approbation voted in ignorance. Sir,
 “ You will say to us, *Give me no appro-*
 “ *bation till you are satisfied that I deserve*
 “ *it.* *Approbation given, while a suspi-*

* Mr. Maty, and Major Grant.

“ cion may remain that it is undeserved, is
 “ a false compliment.

Falsus honor juvat —————

Quem nisi mendosum et mendacem?

“ Let the charges, which have been set up
 “ against my conduct, be fairly discussed
 “ and fully investigated. When they are
 “ found to be groundless and nugatory,
 “ then give me your approbation. Your
 “ approbation given then will gratify me;
 “ because it will be at the same time an ap-
 “ probation of me, and a censure of those
 “ who have dared, without cause, to arraign
 “ my conduct. Approbation given now,
 “ before these charges are done away, were
 “ premature. It will not gratify me. It
 “ will offend. These, Sir, I know to be
 “ your sentiments: I concur with you in
 “ these sentiments: and I move the pre-
 “ vious question.”

The Reverend Dr. Maskelyne, the
 Astronomer Royal, rose next, and se-
 conded

conded the motion for the previous question, in words to this effect :

“ He had been present at public assemblies, which regulated their debates
 “ after the manner of the two houses of
 “ parliament; there the question was
 “ never put, till every one that chose it,
 “ was suffered to speak. They cannot
 “ with propriety put this question, while
 “ any gentleman is offering to speak.
 “ As to himself he was sorry to be obliged
 “ to take a part in this business, but it
 “ was unavoidable. He had been present
 “ at a meeting of the Council, of which
 “ he was then a member, where this
 “ business originated. There a motion
 “ was made, which by implication deprived Dr. Hutton, a worthy member
 “ and great mathematician, of his place
 “ of Foreign Secretary; and in order to
 “ enforce the motion, Dr. Hutton was
 “ accused of neglect of duty, and refused
 “ to be heard in his defence, previous
 “ to the putting the said motion; and
 “ it

“ it was even refused to postpone the
 “ said motion till the next meeting of
 “ the Council, that Dr. Maskelyne
 “ might in the mean time apply to Dr.
 “ Hutton for his answer to the accusa-
 “ tion, and be his advocate. Thus a
 “ worthy member was deprived of his
 “ office, under an accusation of neglect
 “ of duty, and with a refusal for him
 “ to be heard in his defence. This cer-
 “ tainly makes much against the main
 “ question. So do the charges against
 “ the conduct of the President, offered
 “ to be brought by Dr. Horsley ; and
 “ the Society cannot properly decide
 “ upon the question till they are
 “ heard.”

Mr. Maty, who, had the debate been
 carried on with any kind of decency,
 intended to have stated some very curi-
 ous matter relating to three of the cer-
 tificates, and also to have gone very deeply
 into the policy *invariably* observed by
 the President in the formation of *his*
 Council,

Council, attempted to say a few words, but he was not suffered to proceed. After a great deal of noise and confusion, which was allowed to break out many times without any interruption; Mr. Anguish and Lord Mulgrave both declared that they wished the gentlemen of the opposition might have a patient hearing. Lord Mulgrave added, that he was sure their charges would appear very frivolous: he trusted the division of that night would convince them of it; if it should not have the desired effect, some *broad hints* might be necessary, to convince the gentlemen who seemed so active in promoting these dissensions, how highly their conduct was disapproved by the majority of the Society. Upon this Dr. Horsley rose, in some warmth, and addressed the President in these words:

“ Sir, what has fallen from the noble
 “ Lord, seems so directly pointed at me,
 “ that I must beg leave to say a few
 “ words, to inform the noble Lord what
 “ may

“ may be the effect of *broad hints*.
 “ Sir, we see and confess the extent of
 “ the President’s personal interest. We
 “ see that great numbers may be oc-
 “ casionally brought down, to ballot
 “ upon particular questions, who do not
 “ honour the Society with a very regu-
 “ lar attendance. We are well aware,
 “ Sir, that oppressive statutes may be
 “ framed in the Council, and, with this
 “ support in the Society at large, receiv-
 “ ed. We understand, that motions
 “ personally offensive and injurious may
 “ be brought forward, and perhaps may
 “ be carried. And by these means the
 “ remedies, which the scientific part of
 “ the Society would wish to apply to
 “ the abuses which exist, may be pre-
 “ vented. But, Sir, I am united with a
 “ respectable and numerous band, em-
 “ bracing, I believe, a majority of the
 “ scientific part of this Society ; of those
 “ who do its scientific business. Sir,
 “ we shall have one remedy in our
 “ power when all others fail. If other
 K “ remedies

“ remedies should fail, we can at last
 “ SECEDE. Sir, when the hour of se-
 “ cession comes, the President will be
 “ left, with his train of feeble *Amateurs*,
 “ and that Toy * upon the table, the
 “ GHOST of that Society in which
 “ Philosophy once reigned and Newton
 “ presided as her minister.”

The Astronomer Royal said, “ he had
 “ devoted himself to the Royal Society ;
 “ that he had given them many papers
 “ of his own, many from his friends ;
 “ he believed, as many as any member of
 “ the Society, and that he should be
 “ always happy to do so ; that he hoped
 “ there would be no occasion for a Se-
 “ cession, and that the more learned and
 “ usually-attending members would be
 “ found a majority on this question ; but
 “ that, if there should be a necessity for
 “ a Secession, the *best* Society would be
 “ the *Royal* Society in fact, though not
 “ in name.”

* Pointing to the Mace.

After the Astronomer, Mr. Glenie rose and declared himself in these words.

“ Mr. PRESIDENT,

“ It is with concern and reluctance,
 “ that I rise to speak on this occasion, as
 “ I flattered myself, that the differences
 “ and disputes of this Society would be
 “ settled and accommodated in a man-
 “ ner both satisfactory to the Chair and
 “ calculated to promote the honour and
 “ welfare of the Society itself. — But
 “ when I hear a motion made, which,
 “ if carried, must stab this Society to
 “ the very vitals, and endanger even the
 “ existence of this once much admired
 “ and philosophic Assembly, I conceive
 “ myself to be bound both in duty and
 “ in honour to deliver my sentiments
 “ on the subject.—I should consider my-
 “ self indeed an enemy, nay even a trai-
 “ tor to science, if I did not.—For what
 “ is the purport of this motion? Plain-
 “ ly this, to prevent all debate, to ex-
 “ clude even the privilege of inquiry.—

“ And what must be the consequence ?
 “ If debate and investigation are to be
 “ banished from this Society, abuses
 “ however great or enormous may be
 “ introduced and countenanced with im-
 “ punity.—And how can it prosper or
 “ even exist, if such things may not
 “ only be introduced into it, but sanc-
 “ tioned and established by custom,
 “ without leaving even the possibility of
 “ redress or remedy ? The motion there-
 “ fore is not only premature and un-
 “ seasonable, but injurious to the in-
 “ terests of the Society, and highly
 “ irrational and absurd. — For it con-
 “ tains in its very nature an accusa-
 “ tion of the Chair itself, a consci-
 “ ousness of something wrong, a dread
 “ of investigation. — One of the most
 “ learned, most scientific, and most re-
 “ spectable members of this Society has
 “ publicly declared, that he has sever-
 “ al matters to lay before it, which de-
 “ mand the most candid and serious in-
 “ quiry. — And in this declaration he
 “ appears

“ appears to be seconded by the greatest
 “ part by far of the scientific Fellows
 “ here present.—To prevent all expla-
 “ nation however of these particulars is
 “ professedly the object of this motion.
 “ —Now, if the Chair is not afraid to
 “ meet such inquiries, what reason can
 “ there be for bringing forward a mo-
 “ tion to prevent them? *I repeat it*, if
 “ the Chair is not afraid to meet such
 “ inquiries, for what purpose is a mo-
 “ tion brought forward to exclude them?
 “ Much has been said by the mover of
 “ it; though, in my opinion, to very
 “ little purpose, about preserving the
 “ peace of the Society.—That its ordi-
 “ nary business should be broken in
 “ upon by debate, is certainly much to
 “ be lamented; but it is surely better,
 “ that this business should be interrupted
 “ for a season, than that its very ex-
 “ istence as a Philosophic Body should
 “ be brought into risque and danger.—
 “ Unanimity within these walls is un-
 “ doubtedly an object highly desirable;
 “ and

“ and so sincere are my wishes on this
 “ head, that I might safely call even
 “ Heaven to witness, that there is no
 “ member whatever of this Society, who
 “ more ardently desires the preservation
 “ of tranquility, order, harmony, and
 “ concord in it, than I do; provided at
 “ the same time the Society itself be
 “ preserved in a prosperous and flourish-
 “ ing condition, and such establishment
 “ of order and of concord be not erected
 “ on the ruins of its liberty, and sup-
 “ ported and maintained by means in-
 “ jurious to the most meritorious indivi-
 “ duals composing it, derogatory from
 “ its honour, destructive of its interests,
 “ and subversive of the ends of its insti-
 “ tution.—I wish not, however, and
 “ surely no member of it can wish to
 “ ever see it unanimous at the expence
 “ of its freedom and independence.—
 “ That unanimity may always prevail
 “ here as much as possible, is one of
 “ the first wishes of my heart relative to
 “ this Society. The first however is,
 “ that

“ that the Society itself may remain free
 “ and independent, and that its ho-
 “ nour, its dignity, and its reputation,
 “ be for ever preserved inviolate and
 “ undiminished.—But how are these to
 “ be supported? Is it by the catalogue
 “ of its members? Is it by the list of
 “ wealthy, or even noble names, that are
 “ to be found in it?” [Here Mr. Glenie
 was interrupted — The remainder of
 what he was going to say, is what
 follows.] “ Is it by the authority of the
 “ President and an overruling indecent
 “ interference in the election of can-
 “ didates? Is it by the formation of a
 “ Council incapable of examining or
 “ even perusing the various papers on
 “ mathematical, mechanical, astronomi-
 “ cal, optical, and chemical subjects, &c.
 “ that may come before them? Is it by
 “ the expenditure of money intended for
 “ the encouragement of science on use-
 “ less pompous show and decorations?
 “ Clearly not; but by the materials con-
 “ tained in its publications, and the cul-
 “ tivation

“ tivation and improvement of those
 “ sciences, which first brought this
 “ Society itself into credit and repute,
 “ which first made Englishmen boast of
 “ it, and foreigners admire it.—But how
 “ are these materials to be procured, if
 “ such members, as are most capable of
 “ supplying them, are discountenanced,
 “ oppressed, discouraged? and such per-
 “ sons, as are most likely to furnish them,
 “ when proposed as candidates, exclu-
 “ ded by an influence, which at elections
 “ ought not to be exercised? These
 “ sciences have always been admired in
 “ every age and in every country;—and
 “ although they may frequently cease to
 “ be fashionable, they never can cease
 “ to be estimable.—But if they are to
 “ be discouraged and totally renounced
 “ for fashionable pursuits and trifles, the
 “ reputation of this Society must be-
 “ come as changeable and transitory as
 “ fashion itself—Then this house, in-
 “ stead of being the resort of philo-
 “ sophers, will become a cabinet of
 “ trifling

“ trifling curiosities, and degenerate in-
 “ to a virtuoso’s closet decorated with
 “ plants and shells.—Authority in ma-
 “ ters of form, order, and decorum, I
 “ am as ready to support as any man;
 “ but in things that are the objects of
 “ reason alone, (and surely the sciences
 “ are those objects, if such objects exist)
 “ the exercise of it must be rejected
 “ by every reasonable person with scorn
 “ and indignation. There are two
 “ things, which, for the honour and
 “ prosperity of this Society, I most
 “ heartily wish for; one, that such
 “ members, as are most calculated for
 “ cultivating and improving these sci-
 “ ences be countenanced as much as
 “ possible in their cultivation and im-
 “ provement; and that those, who have
 “ given public proof, that they are most
 “ likely to answer this purpose, be al-
 “ ways encouraged to become members;
 “ the other, that each Fellow may ever
 “ receive from the Society at large such
 “ assistance and protection, and enjoy
 L “ just

“ just such influence in it, as is pro-
 “ portionate to the degree of utility,
 “ that he is of to it, and the measure
 “ of support, that he brings to its re-
 “ putation. Before I conclude however,
 “ Mr. President, I must beg leave to
 “ make a few additional observations in
 “ regard to the motion itself, that it
 “ may not go abroad in its present form,
 “ to the eternal disgrace of this So-
 “ ciety. Had I been called upon to
 “ vote you thanks for your conduct as a
 “ matter of form, civility, or compli-
 “ ment, I would have joined in the vote
 “ as heartily as any man : But this is not
 “ the case. I am requested, I am de-
 “ fired to come to an unspecific, un-
 “ qualified, unconditional resolution to
 “ support you in the chair at all events,
 “ and to renounce even the privilege of
 “ judging for myself both now and in
 “ time to come. For how can those
 “ gentlemen, who thus pledge them-
 “ selves publickly to furnish an uncon-
 “ ditional support, unlimited as to time,
 “ extent,

“ extent, or operation, ever withdraw it
 “ on any future change of sentiment or
 “ opinion, without becoming charge-
 “ able with inconsistency? The present
 “ motion calls upon us to support ar-
 “ raigned conduct, without inquiry or
 “ investigation; to give public sanction
 “ to abuses subversive of the interests
 “ of the Society; to sacrifice science to
 “ complaisance and sycophantic adu-
 “ lation; and to approve, at the same time
 “ that itself conveys censure.—O! un-
 “ accountable inadvertency, thus heed-
 “ lessly to bring forward a motion,
 “ which in its nature implies an accu-
 “ sation of that very person, whose con-
 “ duct it would approve!—For God’s
 “ sake let it be qualified in some manner
 “ or other, that it may not be mentioned
 “ without these walls, that there could
 “ exist a Fellow of this Society capable
 “ of making within them a motion the
 “ most preposterous and irrational per-
 “ haps, that ever appeared in any assem-
 “ bly; and that it may not stalk forth

“ approved, to the everlasting disho-
 “ nour of this once philosophic body,
 “ with such striking features of ab-
 “ surdity”.

After Mr. Glenie had spoken, Mr. Maty once more attempted to gain a hearing of the specific charges against the President, by appealing to the numerous members of both houses of parliament, who were present; asking them, whether, if a general vote of approbation of a minister's conduct had been moved for in either of the houses, it would not have been regular in any member to have adduced any particular instances, which he might think could not be approved. To this no answer was made, nor were two excellent speeches from Sir Henry Englefield and Mr. Watson, the purport of which was to desire, that before the previous question was put, the main question should be farther investigated, more successful. About eleven the pre-
 vious

vious question was put, when the numbers were for it 59, against it 106, the President's vote included. The main question was then put, and the numbers were against it 42, for it 119—the President's *own vote, in his own cause*, again included.

The language of the President's friends, after this defeat of their antagonists, was not that of conquerors. It was moderate, and humble; as if the exultation which naturally follows success, were restrained, in this instance, by a sense of the dishonourable means by which the victory had been attained; and perhaps by a prescience, that an opposition to measures of Caprice, Folly and Injustice; an opposition which in its very infancy embraced so large a part of the true effective members of the Society, however it may be overpowered in the beginning upon particular questions, must
in

in the end prevail. It was said, that the President bore no resentment to the Gentlemen, who had been the most active to impeach his conduct. That he desired nothing so much as the general restoration of harmony and good humour in the Society; that he would even condescend to take hints for his future conduct, from the complaints which had been made; that if he had interfered in the election of candidates, it had been from a desire of excluding improper persons.—Perhaps he had been misinformed in particular instances—He would certainly be more cautious for the future: that his council would be formed hereafter upon a new plan; so as to be, what the Council formerly had been, not a meer list of honourable names, but a Committee of Men of Letters: that his deportment to the Officers of the Society would be more liberal, and his treatment of the servants more mild and just.

It

It was thought expedient to try the sincerity of these fair professions; and the case of Dr. Hutton seemed to offer a very fair experiment. Dr. Hutton, by the vote of the Society, December 18th, having been absolved of the negligence which had been imputed to him; justice plainly required that he should be reinstated in the office, from which a vote of Council, founded on a presumption of his delinquency, had, in effect, removed him. It was resolved to make the experiment, whether the President would be inclined to this act of Justice. And for this purpose it was agreed, that Mr. Baron Maseres, on the 29th of January, should give notice of his intention to make a motion upon this subject on the 12th of February. What passed in the Society on January 29th, the evening when the notification was to be made, gave indeed but little hope of the success of the intended experiment. The Society was kept in debate for
three

three hours by the President's friends, upon a motion to which they confessed they had nothing to object, but "that it
 " was a Motion: That all Motions should
 " be discouraged: that the Society should,
 " upon no occasion, be indulged in the
 " liberty of recommending any measure to
 " their President and Council."* Nevertheless, at the end of this singular debate, Mr. Baron Maseres rose to give his intended notice. He was stopped by the President, who told him that by a statute which had that day passed in Council, every motion to be made hereafter must be given in to the Se-

* The motion which drew from the President's party an avowal of these aristocratic principles, was proposed by Sir Henry Englefield; and it was to this effect.
 " Resolved, That it be recommended by the Society to
 " their President and Council, to publish the names
 " of the persons to whom they shall in future adjudge
 " Sir Godfrey Copley's medal, and to declare the sub-
 " ject of the paper on which that honour shall be con-
 " ferred in the volume of the Transactions next follow-
 " ing every such adjudication." The motion was at last carried by 50 against 24.

cretary

cretary, in writing, signed by six or more members. Mr. Baron Maseres said, that he already had his motion in writing, and would presently get it signed. But the whole company called loudly for the Statute. The Statute was read as follows :

“ That the Meetings of the So-
 “ ciety may not be wasted by unpro-
 “ fitable debates, contrary to the intent
 “ and meaning of the fifth section of
 “ this chapter, it is constituted, esta-
 “ blished, and ordained, that every mo-
 “ tion or question, proposed to be bal-
 “ lotted for by the Society, shall be
 “ fairly transcribed on paper, and being
 “ signed by six or more Fellows of the
 “ Society, it shall be by them delivered
 “ to one of the Secretaries at a Meeting
 “ of the Society; and shall thereupon
 “ be read immediately after the declara-
 “ tion of the Presents on the table; and
 “ after being marked by the Secretary
 “ with the date of the day when deli-
 M “ vered,

“ vered, it shall be fixed up in the com-
 “ mon meeting-room of the Society at
 “ the next ordinary meeting; and on
 “ the meeting next following the same,
 “ it shall be put to the Ballot, unless
 “ those who have signed it agree to
 “ withdraw it.

“ But nothing contained in this Sta-
 “ tute is to be construed to extend to
 “ matters relative to elections, or the
 “ ordinary business of the Society.”

Mr. Maseres's motion was then sub-
 scribed by twelve gentlemen, and deli-
 vered to the Secretary. It was con-
 ceived in these terms :

“ That as it appears to be the sense
 “ of the Society that Dr. Hutton, by
 “ his written Defence, and by what has
 “ been said in support of it, has en-
 “ tirely refuted all the insinuations that
 “ had been thrown out, concerning his
 “ neglect of the duties of his office of
 “ Secre-

“ Secretary for the foreign correspon-
 “ dence, it be recommended by the
 “ Society to their President and Coun-
 “ cil, to rescind the order lately made
 “ for preventing persons, residing out
 “ of London, from holding the said
 “ office, and to request Dr. Hutton to
 “ resume it.”

The twelve subscribers were these,
 Francis Maferes. Nevil Maskelyne.
 Samuel Horsley. Edward Poore.
 William Brown. James Horsfall.
 George Shuckburgh. Isaac Goffet.
 John Hyacinth de Magellan. William
 James. John Wilson. Thomas Brand
 Hollis.

After the meeting of the 5th, a card
 was sent round to all the members of
 the Society, requesting them, in the Pre-
 sident's name, to attend on the 12th,
 in the same terms which had been used
 on the former occasion*.

* See page 22.

On the 12th, the President took the chair at the usual hour; the assembly far less numerous than on the 8th of January. After the minutes were read, and the business of form was dispatched, Mr. Baron Maseres rose; and in a short speech shewed the close connection between the vote of the Society on Dec. 18th, and the question which he now proposed. “That
 “ it was so plainly a matter of honour and
 “ justice, that the affront which had been
 “ put upon Dr. Hutton, should be done
 “ away in the manner which this motion
 “ recommended; that he had expected, that
 “ the President and Council would do it
 “ of their own accord. But as they had
 “ not done it, nor given any reason to
 “ think that they intended it, it was high
 “ time that the Society should remind
 “ them of it. The same principle of
 “ justice, which made this reparation necessary on the part of the President and
 “ Council, who had given the unmerited
 “ affront, made the interference necessary
 “ necessary

“ cessary on the part of the Society, who
“ had pronounced Dr. Hutton innocent.”

Mr. Maferes sat down, and Dr. Horsley
on the same side, and Dr. Watson, one of
the Vice-Presidents, on the contrary, rose
both in the same instant.

Dr. Horsley. “ Sir, I believe that in all
“ Societies, in which the order of debate
“ is understood, the mover and the se-
“ conder of a question are always heard,
“ before any thing is said in reply. I rise
“ to second the motion made by my learn-
“ ed and respectable friend on my right
“ hand ; I take it for granted, therefore,
“ I shall be heard without interruption
“ from the other side.

“ Sir, the connexion between the
“ present motion, and a late vote
“ of the Society which justified Dr.
“ Hutton, were it not sufficiently ap-
“ parent of itself, has been so ably set
“ forth by my learned friend, that I shall
“ have no occasion to trespass long upon
“ the Society’s patience. Indeed I
“ should

“ should think it unnecessary to say a
 “ word upon the subject, were it not that
 “ Dr. Hutton’s friends, in every stage of
 “ this business, have laboured under a
 “ very particular disadvantage: no fair
 “ and open accusation has been set up,
 “ to which we might once for all reply.
 “ Dr. Hutton has been accused in whis-
 “ pers, Sir, which could be traced to no
 “ certain origin, nor tied down to any very
 “ precise meaning. When one of these
 “ has been answered, another has been
 “ sent abroad. Such whispers, Sir, are
 “ now afloat. Many gentlemen here
 “ may have caught one or another of
 “ them. And if they are not replied to,
 “ they may perhaps influence the ballot,
 “ more than any thing that may be
 “ openly alleged.

“ The first whisper, Sir, that caught
 “ my ear, was the whisper about Mr.
 “ Bonnet’s complaint, that he had not been
 “ *thanked enough* for his present. To
 “ this I had the honour to reply before
 “ a

“ a very numerous assembly, on the 8th
 “ of January. But I have lately caught
 “ another whisper upon the same story.
 “ It is set about, that my reply, however
 “ plausible, was unfair and imperfect.
 “ That I kept back a very material part of
 “ the story, and brought forward only so
 “ much of it, as my apology would suit.
 “ Truly, Sir, those who propagate this re-
 “ port, give me the credit of abilities as
 “ an advocate, which I am not conscious
 “ that I possess. A client whose case
 “ would not speak for itself, when his
 “ story should be fairly told, would be
 “ likely to receive little benefit from
 “ any eloquence of mine ; my only ta-
 “ lent (if I have any) as a pleader, is
 “ that of being able to tell a fact, in all
 “ its circumstances, with perspicuity.
 “ What was this important part of the
 “ Bonnet business, which I concealed ? It
 “ seems I mentioned only Mr. Bonnet’s
 “ present of his book : but his present was
 “ accompanied with a letter. For the
 “ present,

“ present, it is confessed, he had the pro-
 “ per thanks, according to the rules of
 “ the Society. But the letter required
 “ an answer, and there is no printed form
 “ of answer to a letter. There can
 “ be none : for every letter must be
 “ answered according to its particular
 “ contents. I confess that according to
 “ this state of the case, my former apo-
 “ logy for Dr. Hutton was insufficient.
 “ What new one shall I now set up ? shall
 “ I deny that the pretended letter ever
 “ existed ? I will not deny it. I will
 “ not found the defence of Dr. Hutton’s
 “ character upon a falsehood. Shall I
 “ say, that the purport of the letter was
 “ merely to announce the present ; so
 “ that the formal thanks for the present
 “ made the proper answer to the letter ?
 “ This may have been the case : but I
 “ will not take upon me to say positive-
 “ ly this was the case ; for the contents
 “ of the letter are to me unknown. I
 “ must admit, that, for aught I know to
 “ the

“ the contrary, the contents of the letter
 “ were special and important, such as
 “ to require a speedy and particular an-
 “ swer. Shall I say, that the letter has
 “ had that answer? No, Sir; I say no
 “ such thing. I believe in my con-
 “ science, that the letter has had no an-
 “ swer at all. Now, let me see—I have
 “ granted that a letter came many months
 “ since from a learned foreigner—full of
 “ very important matter—which requir-
 “ ed an immediate special answer—which
 “ to this hour is unanswered.—Why
 “ truly, Sir, the blame of a great neglect,
 “ or of some worse crime, must rest some-
 “ where. But where does this blame
 “ rest? Sir, rest where it may, it rests
 “ not upon Dr. Hutton. The fact is
 “ this: the present and the letter came
 “ together during the recess of the Socie-
 “ ty. The present remained in the house,
 “ and was visible: but the letter, I know
 “ not by whom, nor from what motive,
 “ the letter was carried away, and to

“ this hour Dr. Hutton has never seen
 “ it. He knows of the existence of this
 “ letter, no otherwise than he knows the
 “ existence of any manuscript in the Va-
 “ tican ; by the testimony of other per-
 “ sons.” Dr. Horsley proceeded to dis-
 cuss another whisper, which pretended
 to account for all that had lately hap-
 pened in the Society, by an imaginary
 disagreement between the President and
 Dr. Hutton.—The disagreement was
 supposed to have arisen on Dr. Hutton’s
 side, in consequence of a disservice which
 the President had done him with the Board
 of Longitude. It was supposed, that Dr.
 Hutton’s resentment had carried him to
 treat the President with such open disre-
 spect, as might justify the President’s in-
 tention of dismissing Dr. Hutton from his
 office. Dr. Horsley shewed, that this whole
 story was false in every circumstance.
 The President had done Dr. Hutton no
 disservice with the Board of Longitude.
 The attempt to do him disservice came
 from

from another quarter. The President resisted it warmly, and generously espousing Dr. Hutton's interest, rendered him an essential service, of which Dr. Hutton always speaks in terms of gratitude. The cause therefore assigned for the pretended disagreement between the President and Dr. Hutton being a falshood, the supposed resentment and the disrespect, on Dr. Hutton's side, must be as much a dream as the disservice on the President's. The ill treatment of Dr. Hutton had been unprovoked. Dr. Horsley went on, " I have answered the whispers
 " which I have met with abroad: I
 " must now take notice of something of
 " a more serious nature, which is circu-
 " lated within these walls. It is asked,
 " why was the President's very fair pro-
 " posal of appointing a committee to
 " examine into the merits of Dr. Hut-
 " ton's services, why was so fair a pro-
 " posal rejected by Dr. Hutton's friends?
 " Sir, it was not rejected by Dr. Hut-
 N 2 " ton's

“ ton’s friends. The propofal was suf-
 “ fered to drop by thofe who made it,
 “ when it was perceived that we were
 “ ready to meet enquiry. Sir, I will
 “ be fo fair as to confeß, that if a regu-
 “ lar motion had been made for the
 “ appointment of a committee, I ſhould
 “ have oppoſed it. I deſired an enquiry;
 “ I ſollicited an accuſation. But I would
 “ have oppoſed that mode of enquiry. I
 “ thought the buſineſs was then before
 “ the proper committee, the Society at
 “ large. To vindicate the aſperſed cha-
 “ rafter of one of their own members
 “ is at any time an object of ſufficient
 “ importance, to engage the attention of
 “ the whole body. I ſhould therefore
 “ have oppoſed the appointment of any
 “ ſmaller committee. And I will tell
 “ you why I would have oppoſed it. I
 “ ſhould have looked upon it as a *trick*, to
 “ ſend the buſineſs to a *packed* jury. [A
 “ great cry of Order, Order.] Sir, I re-
 “ peat my words—I ſhould have thought
 “ that

“ that the attempt to refer the enquiry
 “ to a committee, was but a trick, to send
 “ the business to a packed jury.” [Order,
 Order, Shame, Shame.] “ Let Gen-
 “ tlemen hear the reason of my suspi-
 “ cion, and then let them say, whether
 “ it would have been unworthy. Sir,
 “ the proposal of enquiry by a commit-
 “ tee, and the refusal, on a former occa-
 “ sion, to hear the accused party in his
 “ own defence, came from the same
 “ quarter : and the proposal was ac-
 “ companied with a suggestion, that
 “ the Council itself might be a proper
 “ committee for the purpose. What,
 “ Sir ! the accusing party proper to be
 “ the judges ! Had I not reason to
 “ suspect any mode of enquiry recom-
 “ mended from that quarter, and ac-
 “ companied with such a suggestion ?”
 Dr. Horsley concluded with saying,
 how much the feelings of his friend Dr.
 Hutton were hurt, that the Society’s at-
 tention should be often called to what
 might seem his personal concern.

Dr,

Dr. Watson, one of the Vice Presidents, then rose, and presented a paper, which, he said, was a defence of the proceedings of the Council, which he had obtained permission to submit to the Society, *salvo jure* of the President and Council. This defence accordingly was read. After defining the office of Foreign Secretary, making mention of Dr. Hutton's appointment, &c. &c. the defence states, that the Council, very anxious to have the foreign correspondence properly kept up, had found upon inquiry that it had not been so; that it appeared that five letters, viz. two from America, one from a Mr. Gual, one from Mr. Bonnet, and one from the Imperial Academy at Manheim, had not been answered; that it further appeared, that thanks had been returned in one day, for fifteen presents, received in the course of six months. In consequence of all this the Council had thought proper to make the order so much complained of.

Dr.

Dr. Maskelyne rose and said, “ That
 “ he did not recollect that the charges,
 “ specified in this paper, had ever been
 “ made; but that even if they had been
 “ made, time had been refused for Dr.
 “ Hutton to come and answer them,
 “ which the Astronomer conceived he
 “ would very well have done.”

The Society called loudly for Dr. Hutton’s defence, which was read; after which Mr. Maty spoke *nearly as follows* *.

“ I rise, Sir, with great diffidence :
 “ Gentlemen have a right to laugh, but,
 “ Sir, I really rise with very great diffi-
 “ dence, from the sense of having several
 “ prejudices to do away in the minds of
 “ the Society. It has been said, Sir,
 “ that I have been uncommonly warm
 “ throughout the whole of this affair :

* Mr. Maty has taken the *not-unusual* liberty of throwing his argument into a stronger form than he originally gave it. This it is hoped will not be thought improper by the public.

“ Sir,

“ Sir, as far as that warmth is constitu-
 “ tional, as far as it only affects myself,
 “ and prevents my being heard as I
 “ might otherwise hope to be, I am more
 “ the object of pity than of blame. If I
 “ have been too warm in *this manner*, I
 “ am sorry for it; I beg the Society’s
 “ pardon : I will be warm in this manner
 “ no more. But, Sir, there is *another* kind
 “ of warmth which I cannot so readily
 “ apologize for, and that is the warmth
 “ charged upon me as an officer of this
 “ Society. It has been said, that it is in-
 “ decent and improper for any person sit-
 “ ting in this chair to take an active part
 “ in the disputes of this Society, parti-
 “ cularly when the conduct of another
 “ officer of the Society is the subject of
 “ discussion. Sir,”—(Called to order by
 Mr. Anguish, who said, there was a
 question before the Society, and that
 the Gentleman consumed the time in
 speaking about himself.) Mr. Maty went
 on : “ Sir,—though I conceive myself

“ dence reposed in you this very morning,
 “ after all that has passed, by a Coun-
 “ cil who have allowed you to bring for-
 “ ward, as a defence of their predecessors
 “ in office, a memorial, which neither
 “ they nor their predecessors have ever
 “ read, or ever heard read. What, Sir! will
 “ the gentlemen who were so loud just
 “ now upon my learned friend’s using
 “ a *verbum ardens* (which, if equitably in-
 “ terpreted, could only mean, that if *you*
 “ named a Committee, that Committee
 “ would incline to *wish you very well*),
 “ what must these gentlemen say, and
 “ what must they think, upon being told
 “ that the Council has been induced to
 “ lay before the Society, with great so-
 “ lemnity, and *salvo jure*, a defence of
 “ which they themselves have never heard
 “ one word? Sir, I will tell you what
 “ the Society must think; the most par-
 “ tial friend you have here, if with his
 “ partiality for you he maintains any care
 “ for the learned body to which he be-
 “ longs, must think that it is time to
 “ look

“ look very seriously to the formation
 “ of our Councils; time to compel our
 “ President to produce a house list se-
 “ veral weeks before the election; time
 “ to eradicate from his mind, and from
 “ the minds of all who are sent to Coun-
 “ cil, that decency requires and custom
 “ warrants him to be the sole person
 “ to propose, and that they are only
 “ there to hear and approve; whereas
 “ the presidency is a presidency of bare
 “ order, like that of the Speaker of the
 “ House of Commons, and in Council
 “ the President ought not to lead more
 “ than any other person. But, Sir, why
 “ do I insist so much upon the incon-
 “ sistency of the Body’s producing a
 “ defence which they have never heard?
 “ Why, Sir, because that inconsistency
 “ has produced another, which, with
 “ all the respect for what you deign to
 “ bring forward in Council, never could
 “ have taken place if this wonderful
 “ composition had been read to us in
 “ the morning. What is that? Why,
 O 2 “ Sir,

“ Sir, three charges are produced, all
 “ of which had not only been an-
 “ swered in the face of the Society, but
 “ Mr. Planta had acknowledged the
 “ answer to two of them to be a suffi-
 “ cient one, and has not denied the
 “ third; I mean, Sir, the letters to
 “ America, and the letter to Mr. Gual.
 “ To what purpose, then, are they put
 “ in again? is it from heedlessness? Can
 “ it be under the idea that no member of
 “ the Society will recollect that they have
 “ been answered, nor the adversary hit
 “ so conspicuous a blot? Warm and
 “ heedless as I am, Sir, I cannot let it
 “ pass by. I will say more, Sir: I do
 “ not know whose composition this is;
 “ but if I could suspect it were sanctioned
 “ by the President of the Royal Society,
 “ who, for ought I know, may not have
 “ read it any more than the Council, I
 “ would not give him my vote at the next
 “ election; not for any want of equity;
 “ for I am very willing to allow all that
 “ has passed to have arisen from impe-
 “ tuous

“ tuous haste, which unfortunately now
 “ scorns to retract ; but for having given
 “ proofs in the management of this
 “ whole affair, that he wants the great
 “ powers of mind requisite to manage
 “ great affairs, and is therefore unfit for
 “ the Councils of the Royal Society.
 “ Thus much, then, Sir, for three of
 “ the letters : with respect to the fourth,
 “ Mr. Bonnet’s, my learned friend has
 “ said so much, that I will only add one
 “ word more. I think, Sir, with Dr.
 “ Horsley, that the laconicism pre-
 “ scribed to us by our ancestors becomes
 “ us ; I think that Mr. Bonnet, espec-
 “ ally considering that his book was
 “ partly controversial, and that he is very
 “ severe upon the Linnæan understrap-
 “ pers in several parts of it, has been praised
 “ enough ; but whether he was or was not,
 “ the blame of not praising him more does
 “ not lye on Dr. Hutton ; for, in the
 “ first place, he had not your orders for
 “ it, without which the statute forbid his
 “ acting ; nor could he have them, as be-
 “ ing

“ ing engaged in an unfortunate review :
 “ (I must take shame to myself) I took
 “ away the letter, and kept it for some
 “ months. Now, Sir, for the fifth let-
 “ ter ; it appears, by a note upon it, *I*
 “ *believe* in your own hand-writing, [*Pre-*
 “ *sident. In my* hand-writing, Sir, but that
 “ is two years ago] : “ no matter how long ;
 “ it appears, I say, that it was kept till some-
 “ body should be found to undertake the
 “ meteorological correspondence proposed
 “ in it. That person is not found yet : but
 “ kept or not, Dr. Hutton never saw it ;
 “ indeed, it was not even mentioned to
 “ either of the Councils, nor do I be-
 “ lieve, though this I cannot affirm, that
 “ it was in the book when Dr. Hutton,
 “ who was dismissed the 18th of No-
 “ vember, called at the house the 17th
 “ of October to see what business there
 “ was for him. Thus much then for
 “ the heavy part of the charge, the five
 “ letters. I come now to the 15 pre-
 “ sents (these appeared to me to be eight
 “ when I looked into the book this
 “ morning,

“ morning, but I will allow them to be
 “ 15) acknowledged in one day. Here,
 “ Sir, I allow myself at a loss for a de-
 “ fence. I must leave it to Dr. Hutton, or
 “ *valeant quantum valere possunt*. I would
 “ however appeal to the gentlemen bred
 “ in our universities, to the gentlemen
 “ of the army, to the gentlemen used to
 “ the discipline of any liberal society under
 “ the sun, and ask them how much they
 “ ought to avail. Sir, their answer will be,
 “ that supposing the whole true, it is
 “ not a charge for which a good-natured
 “ man would raise his voice to his black
 “ servant; much less what should cause
 “ the associates of one of the first ma-
 “ thematicians in Europe to dismiss him
 “ unheard from the hard earnings,
 “ which, for ought the contriver of the
 “ wrongs, whoever he may be, might
 “ know, he might want to support his
 “ family. The Society however, Sir,
 “ will judge as they please; for myself,
 “ though I will blame no single man,
 “ though I am ready to allow it was an

“act of haste, I cannot bring myself to
 “give soft names to harsh actions: I
 “have always considered the Doctor’s
 “dismissal as illiberal and unjust; as
 “such I shall always consider it; and
 “the only way in my mind to do away
 “the disgrace is to restore him. This
 “the Society is now called upon to
 “recommend, and I hope they will join
 “heartily and unanimously in it.”

Dr. Hutton being called upon, rose
 and said a few words, the purport of
 which was to confirm what had been said
 by Mr. Maty in relation to Mr. Bon-
 net’s letter, and that from the Academy
 of Manheim. He declared himself quite
 unconscious of any act, which could be
 deemed a negligence by reasonable and
 equitable judges, and insisted with great
 earnestness on the illiberal injustice of
 refusing to let him know his crime be-
 fore he was *ignominiously* and *insidiously*
 dismissed.

He

He was asked about the fifteen presents, received in the course of several months, and acknowledged in one day. He said, “that he had given a regular attendance “at the Society once in every fortnight, “for the purpose of consulting the minutes, to see what presents came to “hand. If in the interval of any two “of his stated attendances, an entry had “been made at once of fifteen presents “received in a long course of time, the “consequence would be, that the fifteen “letters of thanks would be all dispatched the same day. He always made the “acknowledgements as soon as he had “information of the receipt.”

The Accountant-General then rose. The hour being late, he found himself in danger of being overpowered by a loud cry for the question. This in two respects would have been detrimental to the cause, which he thought proper to espouse. For besides that the cause would have lost the assistance of

so able an advocate; time would not have been given for members of parliament to come down, to assist in the business of the Society, after the weightier deliberations of the House of Commons were closed. This blow, which might have been fatal, Mr. Anguish parried with the dexterity of a master. He affected to be indifferent whether he was heard or no. He said, “ That the hour
 “ indeed was late; that the Society was
 “ certainly very well prepared for de-
 “ ciding; and that what he had to say
 “ might be omitted; but that, however,
 “ as he had a few words to say, with
 “ the permission of the Society he
 “ would go on.” [Hear him, hear him,
 from both sides.] “ He then declared
 “ himself an independant man, of no
 “ party, who had come to the Society
 “ on the former nights of debate quite
 “ unprejudiced, and would give an ac-
 “ count of what his sensations had been
 “ on the whole affair. The first night a
 “ vote of thanks had been asked for Dr.
 “ Hutton;

“ Hutton ; it was unc customary, but the
 “ Society suffered it to pass. The se-
 “ cond night a defence of the Doctor
 “ had been produced, and it had been
 “ moved, that if he had been criminated
 “ in any one’s opinion, that crimination
 “ was done away : this too the Society
 “ had been induced to pass, from a de-
 “ fire of peace ; but in the course of that
 “ night’s debate, an alarming circum-
 “ stance had come out ; for what had ap-
 “ peared a *single* measure, was announ-
 “ ced as part of a regular plan of at-
 “ tack on the President, and the Society
 “ was threatened to be kept in debate
 “ the whole winter : this had alarmed
 “ the Society, it had alarmed the Ac-
 “ countant-General ; opposite measures
 “ in consequence had been determined
 “ on ; and on the 8th of January a vote
 “ of approbation and support of the Pre-
 “ sident had been moved for. This vote
 “ Dr. Horsley had opposed, and in so do-
 “ ing had brought forward his charges ;
 P 2 “ he

“ he had begun with the strongest of
 “ them ; he was wise in so doing ; he
 “ would have been unwise if he had done
 “ otherwise ; it had happened, however,
 “ that this strong charge consisting of
 “ an accusation of the President for in-
 “ terfering improperly in eight elections ;
 “ and the Doctor having consumed an
 “ hour * in speaking to the first of them,
 “ the Society had refused to hear any
 “ more : in this the Society had acted
 “ perfectly right ; it was not fair to at-
 “ tack the President upon a subject, on
 “ which it might not be prudent, it
 “ might not even be safe for him to de-
 “ fend himself ; the subject of the cha-
 “ racter of the persons whose admission
 “ he might have opposed ; and besides,
 “ the argument used by the learned gen-
 “ tleman was not only unfair, but it was
 “ inconclusive ; it was not sufficient to

* The Doctor was 10 minutes in speaking about Mr.
 Clarke, as may be easily estimated, by any one who
 consults the speech.

“ be a Mathematician, to be a Fellow
 “ of that Society; there were other quali-
 “ ties requisite, social qualities, the want
 “ of which might make a man unfit,
 “ however competent he might be in
 “ learning. Be all this, however, as it
 “ might, the event of the debate of the
 “ 8th of January had been adverse to
 “ the opposite party; and a very large
 “ majority of the Society had declared
 “ themselves in favour of the President:
 “ surely after this it was to be expected
 “ that the Society would have been
 “ suffered to remain at peace; surely
 “ there was something due from men of
 “ social dispositions to the sense of the
 “ majority of the body, with whom they
 “ were associated. Gentlemen, however,
 “ had not thought so; a very extraordinary
 “ proposition had been brought forward
 “ that night, and supported with un-
 “ common contention; not only so, but a
 “ most extraordinary expression had fal-
 “ len from a gentleman; the Account-
 “ ant-

“ ant-General was quite astonished to
 “ hear it come from that reverend mouth :
 “ a reverend gentleman had expressed an
 “ apprehension, that if a Committee had
 “ been appointed to enquire into Dr. Hut-
 “ ton’s conduct in his office, it would have
 “ turned out a *packed jury*. Good God,
 “ Sir! Did the reverend member consider,
 “ that the Committee must have consist-
 “ ed wholly of members of the Royal
 “ Society? Could a *packed jury* be form-
 “ ed of members of the Royal Society? *
 “ But what was the thing now demanded?
 “ Why that the body at large should
 “ interfere in a matter with which it
 “ had nothing at all to do. Did two of
 “ the gentlemen †, who had pressed this,
 “ recollect the oath they had taken at their

* Certainly not, if by a packed jury he meant a jury
 of scoundrels : but if the words were only used to signify
 a Committee too apt to be misled by an implicit trust
 in the President, such a Committee might easily be found
 in the Society. The present Council is a standing Com-
 mittee of that description.

† Dr. Maskelyne and Mr. Maty.

ad-

“ admission into the Council, the oath to
 “ act faithfully and honestly in all things
 “ committed to their trust? Had they
 “ kept this oath? the Accountant knew
 “ that they had, whilst he was in Coun-
 “ cil with them, and he doubted not
 “ they had done so since. Did they
 “ imagine then, other members of Coun-
 “ cil were less conscientious than them-
 “ selves? and if they were, did the gentle-
 “ men conceive that what had been
 “ taken up upon good ground and ma-
 “ ture deliberation, would be so easily
 “ relinquished? † Certainly it would
 “ not. If the Society was to be unani-
 “ mous, (the Speaker himself exempted,
 “ for he certainly should not concur) in
 “ voting for Dr. Hutton’s restoration, the
 “ Council would be right in not attend-
 “ tending to their requisition. To the

† All this would have been very good reasoning if
 there had been either good ground or mature deliberation,
 but the fact has been shewn to have been otherwise.

“ Coun-

“ Council’s disposition, † Mr. Keck had
 “ bequeathed his money ; they were the
 “ elected governors of the Society ; they
 “ had named Dr. Hutton to an office the
 “ Society did not even know any thing
 “ of ; they had removed him ; and from
 “ them there neither was, nor could be,
 “ any appeal ; to attempt it was a de-
 “ mocratic infringement on the principles
 “ of the constitution, [Here a loud laugh,
 and some hissing] ; “ it was very like
 “ what was passing in another place ;
 “ but if there could be an appeal, if the
 “ Society had the power that was claim-
 “ ed for them, it was easy to be seen on
 “ what side it would be exerted ; for
 “ the Fellows of the Royal Society,
 “ though not perhaps all Mathematicians
 “ or devoted to particular studies, were
 “ all very sensible men. And now ha-

† This is a gross misrepresentation of the fact. Mr.
 Keck’s bequest is to the President, Council AND FEL-
 Lows of the Royal Society ; and by the letter of the
 will, the appointment to the office, constituted by the
 legacy, is in the body at large.

“ ving said this much upon the general
 “ question, the Accountant-General was
 “ really unwilling to observe upon the de-
 “ fence which had been brought forward;
 “ perhaps it might be unnecessary; per-
 “ haps the gentleman who had made the
 “ motion might be willing to withdraw
 “ it; he would ask him if he was.”

Mr. Baron Maseres. “ Sir, my motion
 “ having been signed by eleven other
 “ respectable members of this Society, I
 “ do not conceive myself at liberty to
 “ withdraw it without their concurrence;
 “ but if I was, I do not feel myself in
 “ the least inclined to do so; for after
 “ attending to all that has been said, I
 “ am thoroughly satisfied that no charge
 “ whatever lies against my friend Dr.
 “ Hutton.”

Mr. Anguish. “ That being the case,
 “ Sir, I am at liberty to go on with my
 “ observation, and conceive that the de-

Q

“ fence

“ fence made is no defence at all ; for
 “ what does it amount to ; Gentlemen
 “ have told you, that they think the
 “ ordinary letter of thanks sufficient ;
 “ What, Sir ! to a foreign Academy ! Is
 “ this civil ? What will foreigners say
 “ of us ? What will they think of the
 “ civility of the Royal Society ? On the
 “ other hand, it evidently appears, that
 “ there has been neglect in not acknow-
 “ ledging presents : this is allowed on all
 “ sides * : upon the whole therefore, Sir,
 “ I shall be against the motion.”

Mr. Maty rose to set Mr. Anguish
 right with respect to a date ; repeated
 what he had said before about the two
 letters ; and reminded the Society, that
 the presents which had *accidentally* been
 acknowledged six months after the time
 they should have been, were presents in
 course. “ With regard to using or not

* For the truth of this assertion, see page 105.

“ using

“ using the common form of thanks, Mr.
 “ Maty again insisted on the danger of
 “ being too particular; which he con-
 “ firmed by the instance of a Mr. *Heslinot*
 “ *Accoucheur* at *Brussels*, who had thought
 “ proper to prefix the common letter to
 “ the second edition of his book : a thing
 “ which had given great pain to some
 “ leading men in the Society (not to the
 “ speaker himself, he confessed) and had
 “ almost brought on a deliberation, whe-
 “ ther it might not be proper to apply to
 “ the Pope, or the Emperor, or the In-
 “ quisition, all which might easily have
 “ been done thro’ the medium of the
 “ Foreign Embassadors, who watch so
 “ tenderly and conscientiously over the
 “ peace of the Society, to punish such
 “ an insult upon the majesty of the So-
 “ ciety.”

Mr. Poore said a few words to assert
 his own independance, to declare him-
 self free from any factious views, and

unconnected with any party. He expressed great personal respect for the President and the members of the present Council, and an entire approbation of the methods in which men of fashion of the present age prosecute their studies.

Mr. Poore was followed by Edward Watson, Esq; Barrister at Law, who replied to Mr. Anguish in words to this effect.

“ Mr. President,
 “ It is with very great anxiety that I
 “ presume to obtrude upon the patience
 “ of gentlemen who are calling for the
 “ question, especially at so late an hour.
 “ Yet notwithstanding that, and much as
 “ I distrust the force of any thing that has
 “ occurred to me, during the discussions
 “ of this evening, towards producing a
 “ change of opinion in any of those
 “ members of the Society who may be
 “ already determined how to ballot; the
 “ turn

“ turn which the debate has taken, and
 “ the feelings thereby stirred up in my
 “ breast, persuade me not to give a silent
 “ vote.

“ If the Society will have the indul-
 “ gence to hear me, I shall take the li-
 “ berty of adverting to two collateral
 “ questions, which have been made by
 “ the learned gentleman over against me,
 “ for the sake of putting them entirely
 “ out of the case, and of shortly answer-
 “ ing some of the positions laid down
 “ by him, in descanting upon them,
 “ which I conceive to be founded in mis-
 “ take. The first of these questions is,
 “ that the matter under our immediate
 “ consideration, is in fact a personal at-
 “ tack upon you, and so intended by
 “ the gentlemen who have brought it
 “ forward; and the second, that such
 “ affairs as the appointment, controul,
 “ or dismissal of the foreign secretary,
 “ and the like, are exclusively within the
 “ pro-

“ province of the President and Coun-
 “ cil, the Society at large having no
 “ right to intermeddle with respect to
 “ them.

“ After having said what I think ne-
 “ cessary upon these topics, I shall wish
 “ to subjoin but a word directly upon
 “ the question which is to be put to the
 “ ballot.

“ As to the notion, Sir, of this being
 “ only a covert mode of attacking you,
 “ and part of a scheme systematically
 “ planned for that purpose; if I thought
 “ so, I should highly disapprove the de-
 “ sign, and would exert myself to the
 “ utmost in opposing its effects; but I
 “ would counteract it in some other way,
 “ and not by refusing to do justice. I
 “ have never been consulted upon the
 “ subject by any person, either in favour
 “ of the motion, or in opposition to it.
 “ My judgement is decided by what I
 “ have

“ have now heard, in which many cir-
 “ cumstances occur absolutely to refute
 “ such a supposition ; and my learned
 “ friend who, as I am told, for I was
 “ not here, brought forward the first of
 “ these motions, and has taken an active
 “ part in them all, has rendered it unne-
 “ cessary for me to state the reasons why
 “ I think so, by having denied, in the
 “ most express and unambiguous terms,
 “ the existence of any design of that
 “ sort, as the first moving cause of what
 “ the Society has already done in vindi-
 “ cation of Dr. Hutton. Nor ought
 “ this mistaken suggestion to delay that
 “ compleat redress, which the vindication
 “ of the honour of the Society requires
 “ to be offered to him. At any rate
 “ the utmost that the ingenuity of the
 “ learned Gentlemen can now make of
 “ this surmise, will only bring the case
 “ to the school point of *videtur quod sic*,
 “ *probatur quod non*. To my view it
 “ has

“ has not even the slightest tinge of such
 “ an appearance.

“ With regard to the second question
 “ made by the learned Gentleman I
 “ hope to shew that he is still more
 “ palpably mistaken, notwithstanding he
 “ is supported in it by another learned
 “ Gentleman * of the same high situation
 “ with himself in an honourable profes-
 “ sion, the doctrines of which, I persuade
 “ myself, cannot maintain the points
 “ insisted upon by them. They have
 “ both asserted, with no small degree of
 “ warmth, that the Society at large can
 “ have no right to interfere in this mat-
 “ ter ; because, they say, we have nothing
 “ to do with our own estate or our pe-
 “ cuniary concerns. They seem to me,
 “ both of them, industriously to use this
 “ argument so as to beg the question for
 “ the sake of the inference. And they
 “ must be well aware, that they could not
 “ otherwise employ it with any effect.

* Mr. Holford.

“ I need not, to refute it, take a wider
 “ field, than they have taken ; and will
 “ therefore confine myself strictly to the
 “ case before us, which has been spoken
 “ of as an interference not warranted by
 “ our charters ; for we have been told
 “ that, by these, the general body has
 “ no authority in pecuniary concerns,
 “ and that the sole power over them is
 “ vested in the President and Council.
 “ Yet the Gentlemen did not chuse to
 “ rest on this ground alone, but referred,
 “ in support of their assertion, to the will,
 “ by which the salary of the Foreign Se-
 “ cretary was given, and to some legal
 “ opinion about the construction of that
 “ will. These were mentioned, but
 “ loosely, and, as seemed to me, *ad*
 “ *captandum* merely. If any precise
 “ argument was drawn from either, my
 “ dullness is to blame, that I did not
 “ comprehend it ; and I cannot answer
 “ what (no doubt the fault is mine) I
 “ do not understand. If this refe-
 R “ rence

“ rence was made for the sake of shew-
 “ ing that the office of Foreign Secretary
 “ was so instituted, and that the estate,
 “ out of which the salary is paid, is so
 “ strictly and exclusively vested in the
 “ President and Council, that whatever
 “ the law may be in other cases, their
 “ conduct is not subject to the review or
 “ controul of their Constituents in this
 “ particular case, the will, and opinion,
 “ raising that distinction, ought to have
 “ been produced, read, and investigated.
 “ This not having been done, no man
 “ will suffer his judgement to be so
 “ concluded by them. I have never
 “ seen them ; but I dare say that if I
 “ were to call for them, they would flat-
 “ ly refute any such distinction. I
 “ need not however waste the time of
 “ the Society by calling for them to be
 “ read, in as much as the common sense
 “ of the thing is alone decisive against
 “ the weight of all that has been urged,
 “ if they were alluded to merely in aid
 “ of

“ of such a notion. Let me advert to
 “ them now, under the supposition that
 “ it was intended to apply them to the
 “ more general declaration, as instances
 “ of our having nothing to do, in a full
 “ meeting of the whole body corporate,
 “ with any part of our estate, finances,
 “ or officers. To this purpose, I have
 “ no hesitation to admit, without ex-
 “ amining, that they are literally as stat-
 “ ed by the learned Gentlemen; for I
 “ have no dread of their being received
 “ as very conclusive evidence, in contra-
 “ diction to our charters, our bye-laws,
 “ and our habitual practice. I will shew,
 “ before I conclude, that every power
 “ granted to our Corporation by the
 “ Crown, the exercise whereof is not
 “ expressly confined to the President and
 “ Council alone, belongs to the aggre-
 “ gate body of President, Council, and
 “ Fellows. And I may add that, with-
 “ out the call of special occasions, the
 “ Fellows, annually and regularly, do

“ exercise a controuling power in money
 “ matters, by appointing Auditors for
 “ the Treasurer’s accounts and receiving
 “ their reports. The same controuling
 “ power belongs to them in all extraor-
 “ dinary cases like the present.

“ But the two learned Gentlemen have
 “ both contended, that without the per-
 “ mission of the President and Council,
 “ we could not entertain the question
 “ now under consideration. It is true,
 “ the new statute, made the other day,
 “ proves, that this is not the opinion of
 “ the Council. But the two learned
 “ Gentlemen, who have been heretofore
 “ in Council, go even greater lengths than
 “ this; and assert with equal eagerness,
 “ that the Body Corporate at large has
 “ no authority to discuss or deliberate
 “ upon any of its affairs.

“ Sir, it was well and truly said in this
 “ room the other evening, by a Gentle-
 “ man

“ man of eminence in the literary world,
 “ that nothing can restrain us from such
 “ deliberation, that no power upon earth
 “ can prevent our debating, when mat-
 “ ters occur which in the opinion of any
 “ individual call for it, short of such a
 “ power as could prevent our meetings al-
 “ together. I will demonstrate this upon
 “ general principles, and by considering
 “ the special constitution of this learned
 “ body. In general it is an essential in-
 “ herent quality of all corporations, and
 “ of this amongst the rest, to manage
 “ their own concerns. The form of our
 “ incorporation shews how this power is
 “ to be exercised by us. And, although
 “ there is a distinct executive branch, a
 “ superintending controul exists in the
 “ general body. This must be so in all
 “ corporations, constituted as ours is, un-
 “ less in particulars where it is expressly
 “ negatived and taken away. This is the
 “ case with the Royal Society. The
 “ President and Council are ordained a
 “ Standing

“ Standing Committee for the arrange-
 “ ment and management of its affairs ;
 “ but this does not exclude the General
 “ Body Corporate from interfering, when
 “ special cases arise that call for inter-
 “ ference. It is in ease, and not in de-
 “ fiance, of the whole body, that the
 “ common and ordinary management is
 “ lodged in the hands of a delegated few.
 “ This position does not rest on argument
 “ alone, nor result merely from analogy
 “ to other corporations : if it did, I
 “ should deem myself warranted in as-
 “ suming it ; but the express words of
 “ your own charter are my authority.
 “ I thought so, and therefore turned to
 “ them at the table, whilst the learned
 “ Gentleman on your right hand was
 “ speaking. The clause, to which I re-
 “ fer, grants, that the President, Council,
 “ and Fellows may meet in any place
 “ within the Kingdom of England, for
 “ the purpose of making experiments
 “ and cultivating natural knowledge ;
 “ *aliiq;*

“ *alijsq; negotiis ad Societatem prædictam*
 “ *spectantibus, quoties et quatenus opus*
 “ *fuert.* It must therefore be denied,
 “ and denied by something more conclu-
 “ sive than mere assertion, that the sub-
 “ ject upon which I am now address-
 “ sing you is a matter pertaining to the
 “ Royal Society ; or a doctrine, that we
 “ have nothing to do with it, cannot be
 “ sustained. Indeed the reasons by which
 “ the two learned Gentlemen themselves
 “ have given colour to their allegations,
 “ were I minutely to dissect them, would
 “ sufficiently refute that doctrine.

“ Another reason, Sir, why this is not
 “ a matter for the sole and exclusive de-
 “ termination of the President and Coun-
 “ cil, may be collected from hence ; that
 “ where an exclusive authority, or any
 “ thing of that sort, is intended to be
 “ granted in our charters, it is distinctly
 “ and unequivocally so expressed. Thus,
 “ for instance, the power of making bye-
 “ laws

“ laws and ordinances is vested in the
 “ President and Council only by an ex-
 “ plicit and distinct article in the grant.
 “ And the learned Gentlemen will not,
 “ as lawyers, deny to me, that, in the
 “ construction of charters, *expressio unius*
 “ *est exclusio alterius*.

“ Perhaps in a certain sense, and to a
 “ certain degree, we may even direct,
 “ we certainly may advise, the President
 “ and Council what statutes to make :
 “ And I can entertain no doubt, that we
 “ are strictly within our own province in
 “ desiring them to reconsider, or direct-
 “ ing them to rescind, their resolution
 “ concerning Dr. Hutton. I would ra-
 “ ther they should have done this with-
 “ out a question : but with, or without,
 “ I have no hesitation in saying, that it
 “ ought at all events to be done. Upon
 “ this matter the Society is fully quali-
 “ fied and competent to decide ; not, as
 “ the learned Gentleman has said, be-
 “ cause

“ cause the President and Council have
 “ allowed us the privilege of deciding in
 “ this particular instance, with a *salvo*
 “ *jure* for future cases ; but by the funda-
 “ mental principles of our constitution,
 “ and terms of our incorporation.

“ I will now in a few words assign
 “ some of my reasons for thinking, that the
 “ resolution of the President and Coun-
 “ cil, whereby Dr. Hutton was com-
 “ pelled to resign, ought to be reconfi-
 “ dered and rescinded. I will examine
 “ the question upon its own merits, and
 “ not follow the learned Gentleman thro’
 “ his historical detail of events leading
 “ to it. I have great pleasure in de-
 “ claring my thorough conviction, that
 “ the present, as well as the late Coun-
 “ cil, is composed of persons not less re-
 “ spectable for their personal qualities,
 “ talents, and learning, than honourable
 “ for their rank and situation in life.
 “ But does it thence follow, that they

“ are infallible? And in a case too,
 “ which they tell us themselves they de-
 “ termined, in a manner that I aver no
 “ reason can justify, no rules of justice
 “ can approve! For they tell us, that
 “ they did not think it necessary to
 “ make Dr. Hutton acquainted with the
 “ charges exhibited against him, and to
 “ call upon him for his defence, before
 “ passing their resolution, which, when
 “ passed, they might have seen would
 “ necessarily compel him to resign. The
 “ equity of such a procedure does not
 “ press upon my mind. We hear, that
 “ many members of the Council have
 “ since declared their perseverance in it;
 “ but my apology for them is, that they
 “ fell into this error likewise without
 “ due consideration. And this alone
 “ is a sufficient reason for sending the
 “ case back to be reconsidered. I should
 “ have better liked the question upon
 “ which I am speaking, if the phrase
 “ of it had been *reconsider*, instead of
 “ *rescind*,

“ *rescind*, and if this simple reason for
 “ our sending the matter back had been
 “ expressed in it, that Dr. Hutton’s de-
 “ fence, which had not been heard at
 “ first, might be heard upon a review of
 “ the complaints against him. If how-
 “ ever, after all, the members of the
 “ Council do not feel their own honour
 “ concerned, and are not impelled by a
 “ sense of duty to take the matter back
 “ voluntarily, and of their own accord; I
 “ do not imagine myself bound, at this
 “ late time of night, to carry my deli-
 “ cacy for them so far, as to move and
 “ moot an amendment in words, which
 “ ought not to be, and would not be, a
 “ material alteration in substance. That
 “ I cannot consent to give up, although
 “ I would by choice express it in the
 “ mildest and most respectful words,
 “ that language can furnish. For I can-
 “ not allow myself to think it possible,
 “ that the President and Council, or
 “ any individual amongst them, will be
 “ inclined to take the learned Gentle-

“ man’s advice, and to defy, or even to
 “ seem indifferent to, the opinion of
 “ the whole body of the Society, in
 “ whatever terms expressed.

“ I cannot conclude without adverting
 “ to one thing which fell from a Gen-
 “ tleman in the middle of the room to
 “ this effect; that Dr. Hutton, or the
 “ clerk, or somebody, has been the cause,
 “ either innocently or otherwise, of some
 “ persons thinking themselves neglected,
 “ or of some letters to learned foreigners
 “ not being written punctually, and there-
 “ fore the President and Council did right
 “ in dismissing Dr. Hutton.

“ The learned Gentleman, who made
 “ this argument, did not seem to deny,
 “ that the resolution passed by the Pre-
 “ sident and Council stigmatized Dr.
 “ Hutton with the substance, although
 “ not with the form of a dismissal. So
 “ far he put the case fairly. But need
 “ I ask if this is justice! or if so gross

“ an act of injustice is not to be rec-
 “ tified ? Will it not rather be the opi-
 “ nion of this liberal Society, that even
 “ if Dr. Hutton’s other business did
 “ prevent his being at the House of
 “ the Royal Society, so often as the
 “ duties of his office were understood
 “ by the President and Council to re-
 “ quire ; he ought at least to have been
 “ admonished ; to have been asked,
 “ whether he could make it convenient
 “ to attend more frequently ; or to have
 “ been told what was alleged against
 “ him, and called upon for his defence,
 “ before being dismissed from his office,
 “ deprived of his salary, wounded in
 “ the pride of his honour, and disgraced
 “ in the eyes of the world ?

“ Sir, I will not weary the Society
 “ with a recapitulation of reasons, which
 “ convince my understanding, that it is
 “ fit and necessary to admonish the Presi-
 “ dent and Council to reconsider what
 “ they have done. My vote will not be
 “ directed

“ directed by influence or favour, but by
 “ justice.”

About eleven the question was put.
 The affirmative balls were 47 ; the
 negative, 85.

The present narrative cannot be more
 properly concluded, than with a sum-
 mary of a third debate, which took place
 on the 26th of February, upon two mo-
 tions intended to lay a restraint upon the
 President's undue interference in the
 election of candidates. The motions
 were in these terms.

February 12th, 1784. I. “ Resolved,
 “ That it would be highly indecent
 “ and improper, if the President of this
 “ Society should, in any future instance,
 “ solicit votes either for or against any
 “ person, duly recommended by certifi-
 “ cate as qualified to be made a Fellow
 “ of the Royal Society, on the evening
 “ of the election.”

II.

II. “ Resolved, That it would be
 “ highly indecent and improper, if the
 “ Prefident of this Society should here-
 “ after, either in the election of can-
 “ didates, or upon any other occasion,
 “ endeavour to avail himself of his situ-
 “ ation, to influence the vote of any
 “ officer of the Society.”

These two motions, in compliance with the new Statute, were delivered to the Secretary in writing on the 12th, signed by nine gentlemen; Samuel Horsley, Nevil Maskelyne, William James, Henry Maty, Charles Hutton, John Hyacinth de Magellan, Francis Maferes, T. Brand Hollis, Richard Paul Jodrell.

When these motions were first read by the Secretary on the 12th, the Prefident attempted to put the question, whether it was the pleasure of the Society that they should be hung up in the meeting-room.

His

His friends were prepared to cry, *No, No*. But Dr. Horsley rose, and told the President, “ that he was not at liberty to
 “ put that question. That the new statute
 “ ordains, that any motion delivered in
 “ writing to the Secretary, subscribed by
 “ not less than six Fellows, *must* be hung
 “ up in the meeting-room for a fortnight,
 “ and must be put to a ballot. That the
 “ Society, by the force of this statute, were
 “ left without the power of a previous ne-
 “ gative.” The President’s friends seemed
 unwilling to admit this construction of the
 new law. Dr. Horsley insisted on the letter
 of the statute, which he said “ he was very
 “ willing to accept in its fair and obvious
 “ construction.—He thought the regula-
 “ tion a wise one.—He confessed it would
 “ be unreasonable, that the Society should
 “ ever be troubled with the discussion of a
 “ question, which no six members would
 “ approve. But if the statute was to be
 “ made the engine of despotism; if it was
 “ to be twisted, by arbitrary constructions,
 “ to

“ to any sense which might serve a present
 “ purpose ; he said, it would then become
 “ a grievance, which the Visitors must be
 “ called upon to redress. He said, that it
 “ is not at all necessary that a majority
 “ of the Society should concur in an ap-
 “ peal. Any one member has the right of
 “ appeal, who may feel himself aggrieved.
 “ That if he could suppose that none
 “ would join him in a resistance to these
 “ arbitrary proceedings, (he knew the
 “ case would be far otherwise, but could
 “ he suppose so tame a spirit would pre-
 “ vail) he would himself be the one per-
 “ son to call in the Visitors. And the
 “ appeal being once lodged, he reminded
 “ the President, that the statute against
 “ which the appeal would lie, till the
 “ Visitors should have decided upon the
 “ cause, would be mere waste paper.”

The President, finding himself fast
 bound in the fetters which himself had
 forged, made no further resistance. The

motions were accepted, and on Thursday
 the 26th the debate came on. Dr. Hors-
 ley, the mover of the two questions, con-
 tended "that the influence, which had
 " been actually exerted by the chair in the
 " election of candidates, constituted a ne-
 " cessity for these regulations. He offered
 " to prove by eight instances, that by this
 " influence, the Society had actually lost
 " many useful members." It was objected
 on the other side, that it would be improper
 to enter into a discussion of the character
 and qualifications of any of the gentlemen
 who had been excluded, because it might
 not be proper or safe for the President's
 friends to state objections to character in
 answer to the encomiums which the sup-
 porters of the two motions would pro-
 bably bestow on every excluded candidate.
 That the discussion was unnecessary,
 because if the interference of the Pre-
 sident was at all improper, it was
 equally improper in the case of an un-
 deserving, and of a worthy candidate.

The

The mover of the question acquiesced in these principles, and dropped that part of his argument. He acknowledged “that the President would deserve
 “the thanks of the Society, by warning
 “gentlemen against improper candidates.
 “But he contended, that this warning
 “ought to be given some considerable
 “time before the evening of election,
 “that every gentleman might have opportunities of forming his own opinion
 “of the merits of the candidate, upon
 “his own enquiries.” Upon this ground he argued for the first question; “and
 “the second, he said, was so plain a
 “truth, that as nothing could be said
 “in opposition to it, so it was unnecessary
 “to allege any arguments in its support.
 “That the officers of the Society are not
 “the servants of the President. That
 “they owe him no particular duty, more
 “than the respect that is owed to him
 “by every other Fellow. That their
 “whole duty is owed to the Society.
 T 2 “ And

“ And the duty they owe the Society,
 “ is to obey the Statutes, and to act for
 “ its interest, and its honour, according
 “ to their own opinion and their own
 “ conscience.”

Mr. Baron Maferes rose to second Dr. Horsley's motion, and said, “ That the two
 “ resolutions proposed to the Society ap-
 “ peared to him to be so evidently true, that
 “ it was almost impossible for any member
 “ of a Philosophical Society to give his
 “ negative to them, and therefore hoped
 “ that the Society would instantly give
 “ them an unanimous assent.” This oc-
 casioned a laugh from many of the Pre-
 sident's friends: upon which Mr. Ma-
 feres said, “ That he had meant to speak
 “ very seriously, in saying what he had
 “ said concerning the impossibility of
 “ giving a negative to such very evident
 “ propositions; but that as he perceived,
 “ that many Gentlemen of the Society
 “ seemed unwilling to let the resolutions
 “ pass

“ pass unanimously in the affirmative, he
 “ would recommend it to them to get rid
 “ of them either by a previous question,
 “ or by an amendment that would ren-
 “ der them capable of receiving a nega-
 “ tive from reasonable men, as by pre-
 “ fixing to them the words, *It is neces-*
 “ *sary to declare that, &c.*”

He also said, “ That he thought the
 “ Gentlemen, who had brought forward
 “ these resolutions, were under an obliga-
 “ tion of stating to the Society the facts,
 “ which they thought had rendered the
 “ declaration of such resolutions neces-
 “ sary : to the end that they might not
 “ be exposed to the censure of troubling
 “ the Society, and wasting their time in
 “ debating and considering, and declaring
 “ their assent to mere abstract proposi-
 “ tions, however true or evident : and that
 “ therefore he would relate to the Society
 “ those facts concerning the President’s
 “ conduct, which were the occasion of
 “ the

“ the second resolution.” He then said,
 “ That he had heard Mr. Maty, the Se-
 “ cretary, declare and complain, that the
 “ President had on one occasion desired
 “ him to black-ball a particular person,
 “ who was a candidate for a fellowship
 “ of the Royal Society, a few minutes
 “ before the balloting begun; and that
 “ he, Mr. Maty, had thereupon told the
 “ President, that he could not comply
 “ with his request, because the candidate
 “ was a respectable person and his friend,
 “ and that he had promised to vote for
 “ him: upon which the President re-
 “ plied with some surprize; *What, then!*
 “ *am I deserted by my assessors?*” He
 further said, “ That Mr. Maty had
 “ added, that, on a second occasion, some
 “ months after the former, the President
 “ had again desired him, a little before
 “ the balloting for a fellowship of the
 “ Royal Society had begun, to black-
 “ ball the candidate; to which he had
 “ made the like answer of refusal as be-
 fore;

“fore; and that then the President
 “had said with great warmth, *Ob ho!*
 “*I understand you now, Mr. Maty;*
 “*you’ll please to observe, that this is the*
 “*second time that you have voted con-*
 “*trary to my desire.*”

Mr. Maty was absent, being confined to his bed by a severe illness. But the relation, given by Mr. Baron Maseres, of the two conversations between the President and Mr. Maty, in both of which the President had taken the liberty to express such high indignation at Mr. Maty’s refusal of a black-ball, was confirmed in all its essential circumstances by Dr. Horsley. Dr. Horsley indeed related the words of the second conversation with some little variation. Instead of “*Ob ho! I understand you now, Mr. Maty,*” the exordium, as Dr. Horsley related it, was “*Ob ho! now we understand one another, Mr. Maty.*” In what followed he agreed exactly with Mr. Baron Maseres:

but observed, that the whole conversation was closed with a menace, which the learned Baron had omitted, “ Perhaps, Sir, this may be a business for the Council.” Mr. Baron Maseres said, “ Very true, I recollect that Mr. Maty “ mentioned words to that effect.” So that the whole variety between the two relations of the Baron and Dr. Horsley lay in the difference between these two forms of expression, “ Oh ho! I understand you now, Mr. Maty,” and “ Oh “ ho! Mr. Maty, now we understand one “ another.” The Gentlemen on the other side contended, that this slight difference invalidated their whole testimony to the fact. The President maintained, that the words ascribed to him, upon the second occasion, were so very foolish and improper that he could not have made use of them. In this argument the premises were too clear to be denied, though many were inclined to doubt of the conclusion. The President however confessed, that he might
 say

say to Mr. Maty upon the second occasion, "I think, Sir, we are always upon contrary sides." However, the depositions of Mr. Maseres and Dr. Horsley being thus set aside, it was argued, that no well-attested instances had been produced, in which the President had attempted to influence the officers of the Society, in the manner which the second question declared to be improper; and that of consequence that motion became quite unnecessary. The first motion was deemed unnecessary too, for want of that proof which the supporters of it were not allowed to bring. Dr. Horsley was stopped, when he would have stated his eight instances of exclusions; and then it was pretended, that no evidence had been brought, that any exclusion had ever taken place at the instance of the President. An objection of more weight, because a fairer one, was urged by the Lord Viscount Mahon; that a sollicitation of votes as a personal fa-

U

vour

your would be improper, in any member of the Society, as well as in the President; and at all times, as well as on the evening of elections. That the restraint therefore should have been general, extending to all the members of the Society at all times. Had his Lordship preferred a specific amendment, to make the motion conformable to his own sentiments, it would probably have been accepted.

The chief opponent of both the motions was Mr. Thomas Anguish the Accountant-General; a Gentleman who stands high in the esteem of the world for his professional abilities, and his public talents; not to mention the embellishment which his character receives from some little tincture of the liberal sciences. Mr. Anguish has indeed, in every stage of these debates, been the most active advocate of the President's measures. It has been matter of surprize to Gentlemen on both sides, that so little notice

was taken of his laboured harangues in he two last debates, by the Gentleman at whom his rhetoric was understood to be chiefly pointed. It is fit that the reason, which Dr. Horsley has assigned to his friends, should be now imparted to the public. He was over-heard to say, after the meeting of the 26th broke up, that Mr. Anguish's speeches contained so little of argument upon the point in debate, and so many gross personalities, that he thought them best answered by a silent contempt: that had he replied at all, it must have been only to express the particular pride and satisfaction, which he feels in a conduct which the Accountant-General thinks proper to reprobate; and to lament, that the discordance of their opinions should be so great, that he could only concur with the Accountant-General in a single sentiment; namely, that the Society has not been sufficiently nice, in canvassing the qualifications of the members, which she has thought proper to

adopt ; and that, through this inattention, some persons of an improper complexion have gained admission : Such are they, who presume to trace the conduct of their associates, when it happens to differ from their own, to base and dishonourable motives : Such are they, who dare to insinuate, that any member of the Society has not been observant of the obligation, which he subscribed at his admission. It is to be supposed, that the interest and honour of the Society are objects to which all her members are equally attached, whatever differences of opinion may prevail concerning the means, by which those desirable ends are to be secured. It is to be regretted, that any, who hold a contrary language, ever gained admission into a philosophical community.

However feeble the force of Mr. Anguish's rhetoric might appear to his antagonists, he had the satisfaction to find
himself

himself on the victorious side. Both questions were rejected by a great majority. Upon the first the affirmative balls were only 27, the negative 115. Upon the second, previously encumbered with amendments to render it nugatory, the affirmatives were 23, the negatives 102. Still the minority feel no abashment. Two and two ever will be four, and the three angles of a triangle ever will be equal to two right angles, whatever majorities Presidents of Royal Societies may procure to vote the contrary.

APPEN-

APPENDIX, N^o I.

DR. Horsley's motion, Dec. 18, for the
 reading of Dr. Hutton's defence, was
 seconded by Dr. Maskelyne, who spoke to
 this effect: " He apologised for taking up
 " the time of the Society, being unaccustomed
 " to speak in public, and sorry that the ne-
 " cessary defence of a worthy member might
 " throw blame in another quarter. That a
 " regard to justice impelled him to it, and that
 " nothing but that could have induced him to
 " it. He had had the honour to be a member
 " of the late Council; and was present at a
 " meeting thereof, when a motion was made
 " implying the removal of Dr. Hutton from
 " his place of Foreign Secretary. That at
 " the same time Mr. Planta, your worthy and
 " learned minuting Secretary, was mentioned
 " as proper to succeed him; who he durst
 " say, from his knowledge of him, did not
 " seek for this office, but might perhaps not
 " think it improper for him to accept of it,
 " if it should be vacant. Lest the general
 " motion, implying the removal of Dr. Hut-
 " ton, might not be sufficient; an accusation
 " was added, of his having been guilty of
 " neglect of duty in the course of the last
 " year. Upon this it was rejoined, that Dr.
 " Hutton was so remarkably diligent and ex-
 " act in business, that there must be some
 " mistake

“ mistake in this suggestion of neglect of
 “ duty, and it was desired that he might be
 “ heard in his defence, before a resolution was
 “ passed which virtually deprived him of his
 “ office. This was absolutely refused; the
 “ same, as he understands, was done at the last
 “ meeting of the Society, at which he was
 “ not present, but where, as he has been in-
 “ formed, Dr. Hutton was again accused of
 “ neglect of duty, without any particular
 “ charges being brought against him.” The
 Astronomer Royal went on, and said, “ That
 “ he thought no officer of the Society ought
 “ to be removed, but for grave and weighty
 “ reasons; as it could not be done, without
 “ throwing some imputation upon his charac-
 “ ter. That Dr. Hutton is now contending,
 “ not for a place of twenty pounds a year,
 “ but for his good name, for the good opi-
 “ nion of this Society, which is much more
 “ precious to him.” He added, “ That he
 “ was particularly sorry, that this injury had
 “ been done to one of the most learned and
 “ deserving of their members, who has com-
 “ municated many valuable papers to them,
 “ and is likely to communicate many more;
 “ who is indefatigable in business, has spent his
 “ whole time in the promotion of science;
 “ and is one of the greatest mathematicians
 “ in Europe.”

A P P E N D I X, N^o II.

AN idea having gone abroad, that the first votes in Dr. Hutton's business were obtained by surprize; it is thought adviseable to lay before the Public the names of the members who were present on the two first nights of debate.

Fellows present Dec. 11, 1783.

Sir Joseph Banks in the Chair.

Mr Anguish	Dr. Fordyce
Mr. Aubert	Dr. Fothergill
Mr. H. Browne	Dr. Gray
Dr. Brocklesby	Mr. Glenie
Dr. Blagden	Dr. Garthshore
Mr. Bridgen	Dr. Garden
Mr. Brown	Dr. Heberden
Mr. Brereton	Dr. Horsley
Dr. Bromfield	Mr. Hollis
Mr. Bagnell	Mr. Hunter
Duke de Chartres	Mr. Hurlock
Prince Caramanica	Mr. Hurlock
Mr. Cavendish	Mr. Horsfall
Mr. Cotton	Mr. Ker
Mr. Crawford	Dr. Kippis
Mr. Combe	Mr. Kirwan
Mr. Emlyn	Dr. Lort
Mr. Freere	Lord Mulgrave
Mr. Felton	Mr. Magellan

Mr.

Mr. Maferes	Mr. Ruffel
Mr. Maty	Lord Spencer
Mr. Marsden	Dr. Symmonds
Mr. Mauduit	Mr. Seward
Dr. Morell	Sir Geo. Shuckburgh
General Melville	Dr. Saunders
Lord Palmerston	Dr. Smyth
Mr. Poore	Dr. Stebbing
Mr. Planta	Mr. Whitehurst
Mr. Paradise	Mr. Watson
Mr. Putman	Mr. Walsh
Governor Pownall	Mr. Wales
Dr. Price	

Fellows present Dec. 18, 1783.

Sir Joseph Banks in the Chair.

Mr. Adye	Dr. Dargent
Mr. Anguish	Mr. Emlyn
Mr. Atwood	Mr. Felton
Mr. Aubert	Dr. Fordyce
Dr. Blagden	Dr. Fothergill
Count Bruhl	Dr. Garden
Mr. Bridgen	Dr. Garthshore
Dr. Brocklesby	Mr. Glenie
Dr. Bromfield	Dr. Goffet
Mr. Brereton	Dr. Gray
Mr. Brown	Dr. Horsley
Dr. Buxton	Mr. Hurlock
Mr. Beaufoy	Mr. Hurlock
Mr. Cavendish	Mr. Hunter
Mr. Cavallo	Dr. Heberden
Mr. Combe	Mr. James
Mr. Crawford	Mr. Ibbetson
	X Dr.

Dr. Kippis	Mr. Poore
Mr. Keate	Governor Pownall
Mr. Kirwan	Dr. Price
Mr. Layard	Mr. Raper
Dr. Lockman	Mr. Ruffell
Sir Ashton Lever	Dr. Sheperd
Mr. Magellan	Sir Geo. Shuckburgh
Mr. Maferes	Dr. Stebbing
Dr. Maskelyne	Mr. Stuart
Mr. Maty	Dr. Simmons
General Melville	Lord Spencer
Mr. Mauduit	Mr. Wales
Mr. Mylne	Mr. Walsh
Mr. Minet	Dr. Watson
Mr. Nairne	Mr. Whitehurst
Mr. Planta	Dr. Wilkinon
Mr. Paradise	Mr. Wollaston
Mr. Penneck	Mr. Henry Watson

THE END.

ERRATA.

- Page 7. line 1. *for* the 30th *read* the anniversary
 19. line penult. *for* made confirmed, as *read* made,
 confirmed as
 21. line 3. *for* had *read* have
 22. line 4. *dele* of
 38. line 1. *for* of *read* for
 62. line ult. *for* putting the *read* putting of the
 110. note, line 1. *for* he *read* be.

Wells
1







