

we sent forth to Europe, at the head of our learned volume, a speech of that gentleman, deficient in English, deficient in grammar, deficient in idea, full of fulsome and undignified adulation of ourselves, mean and inadequate in expressions of respect and gratitude, where the highest respect and gratitude is due. The dignity of the Society was committed, when we sat patiently by, and saw that gentleman encouraging the very disorders he was elected to restrain. At one time voting in his own cause; at another, affecting not to count the balls in a question which was going against him*; a third, taking the sense of the body, in direct opposition to a positive statute, by

* On a question moved by Sir Henry Englefield, without the knowledge of any professed member of the opposition, to insert in imitation of other academics, in the volumes of the Transactions, the names of the persons who gained the Society's medal. Whether Sir Henry thought that abuses had existed, which would by this means be corrected, and that L'Abbé Fontana and Dr. Ingenhouz, (great despisers of imaginary distinctions and literary charlatans,) had been particularly ill-used by not having it given to them, is more than can be said; but it is certain that Sir Joseph Banks was desired by one of his intimate friends, on the very morning the question was to be debated in the Society, to let the Council do what Sir Henry asked, and that he refused it.—He will tell the world, whether it was for the purpose of stopping useless and unprofitable debates, in which he has so admirably succeeded. On this occasion, however, the debate, profitable or unprofitable, went against him; for Sir Henry carried the question by a great majority, though Sir Joseph was then in the plenitude of his power; but, strange to tell! though the question was carried four months ago, the Council have as yet made no order in the business. Is this persevering in the support of claims that cannot be supported, or is it not? Surely, a conciliating and moderate-minded man, would not only have *directly* seized this occasion of seeming to yield a little to the declared sense of the body; but he would have anticipated their desires, and been himself the mover to take a fresh opinion of Council concerning the right of nomination to the place of Foreign Secretary, which he could not but be sensible was not only a point very likely to be disputed, but a very disputable point. Yet Sir Joseph will be surprized, and inveigh against those who consume the time of the Society in frivolous and unprofitable debates, when at the very next meeting of the Society the Secretary receives, as he certainly will, a motion signed for the purpose of recommending to the next year's Council, immediately to take this opinion.—As to this whole quarrel with the Foreign Secretary, it appears so thoroughly ridiculous, that one would hardly think new circumstances could come out to make it more so; and yet, strange to tell! there are such. An iniquitous law was made, that Dr. Hutton should not reside at Woolwich, and lost his immediate successor resides near Chelsea: Dr. Hutton was held up as a negligent man, for not having answered an insignificant letter of Mr. Bonnet; and, for aught that appears upon our books, *where the President himself ordered that it should appear*, the Margrave of Anspach's letter, accompanying a most splendid present, has never been answered.—O consistent spirit of inconsistency, how harmonious are all thy blessed operations!