

very expensive in the publication, and certainly no ornament to the volume—were written by the President's friends, and have been published solely out of compliment to him; and though the sending Mr. Nairne, who had taken a decided part in the controversy about conductors, at all to Heckingham was an *imprudent*, and the sending him as *second* to Dr. Blagden, was an *improper* step, we are willing to attribute them both to those little partialities inseparable, perhaps, from the condition of human nature, and which we should even disdain to remark in one who did not plume himself so much on disdaining jobs. We allow then that our finances have been well managed (not better managed than they were by Sir John Pringle) we grant our President the praise of being attentive in his attendance and solicitous to do us good (not more attentive, nor more solicitous than Sir J. Pringle was)—But what then? We have not written thus far to dissemble what we think. Sir Jos. Banks *might* make a very good Clerk, a very good Attorney, or even a very good Treasurer to the Society; but the man who is to fill the place of President, should be something more. As to the procuring more papers, better papers than other Presidents have done, though possibly some slight praise is to be bestowed upon the hospitality that has aimed at this (God forbid that we should seriously detract from this hospitality any more than from the *love* of science, or any other praise-worthy quality the President may possess); nobody will tell us that it is owing solely to this hospitality. Surely the papers of Mess. Cavendish, Kirwan, and Herschell; of Dr. Maskelyne, Dr. Hutton, and Mr. Wales; of Mr. Vince, Dr. Waring, Mr. Hunter, and Mr. Maseres; (and take these away, what so great remains?) would have been produced, though there had been no breakfasts in Soho Square, and though it had not been known that Sir Joseph Banks wished the Society should have many papers. And *who knows*, after all, (we speak upon more than conjecture) how many papers have been stifled, and how many *subjects* of science have been discouraged, by the same caprice and love of dominion, which has dictated so many other innovations. One thing *we* know, that to affect a high contempt for some very good foreign papers (visible in the cases of Abbé Fontana and Dr. Ingenhouz) and to make himself the tribunal by which all papers are to be judged, before they are offered to the tribunal of the Society, is not the way, cannot be the way, to procure many papers. But once more, it is for higher objects we contend, and of delinquency in higher objects we accuse. The Royal Society *was* a *Society*; we do not wish to see it a *monarchy*; it *did* conduct itself according to the rules of justice and equity; we desire it may not violate those rules; its principles *were*, that the first distinction of men is virtue, and the second learning; we cannot bear that

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