

But, besides these considerations, which are to the President and his *Assessors*, there is one which immediately concerns the Society, and that is, that if the *ducal chairs* are once to be bestowed, we shall be involved in endless *unprofitable* debates, about recommending to Council, on whom they shall be bestowed. The republican, when he hears they are to be given to Sovereign authority, will ask them for the senators of Lucca and San Marino; or if he is not a very learned republican, for the senator of Rome; somebody else will think that Meer Catibaw, a Cherokee King, or the well-educated Omiah, now perhaps a powerful Chief, in his own country, ought to have them; and a third party will be of opinion, that General Paoli, sometime Protector, tho' never King of Corsica, and certainly not the worse for having been unfortunate, ought to have them perpetually. Thus the Geographer and Heralds of the Society, will be constantly at work about the *jus gentium*, and Somerset Place continue in as great a ferment as the diet of Ratisbon, 'till it is determined who are sovereign princes and who are not. But this must not be: *traditum ab antiquis morem servare memento*, which being translated means, no chair but the President's and the two Secretaries ever ought to come into the meeting room of the Royal Society. It is the same spirit of adulation to great personages, which has dictated the new alterations in the lists, in which, amidst the truly courtly care to secure protection, support, and forbearance for the Royal Society of London, by inserting the *additions* of every Commissioner of the Customs, and Member of Parliament, who has the honour to be of the body; we cannot but admire, that it has been thought improper to print any addition after the name of the surgeons. As to Mr. Nairne, the instrument-maker, though foreign academies may think the admission of an eminent man in his profession, does us as much honour as any admission on the list, we can account for his profession not being marked. The President, (preluding, as it should seem, to his future greatness) endeavoured formerly to exclude him, as well as several other learned members, from the Society. Another proof, if any was wanting, that the gentleman now in the chair, however qualified, or whatever his merits of another kind may be, has not the ideas proper for a President of the Royal Society, and that he never will have them.

Two words more, and we have done.—Much has been said of the President's attachment to the interests of the Royal Society, as far as his abilities will allow him to see them (nobody has spoken of him as a lynx) and of his nice attention to the management of our finances. Neither of these qualifications we mean absolutely to deny him; for, though the two worst papers in the *Transactions* of the four last years—papers

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