

volous as the public may have been taught to think, and may, for aught we know, invidiously be suggested in *another place*. As to the intention of levelling principalities and powers, of which some of us are so ridiculously and senselessly accused on this occasion; nothing of that tendency can be attributed to our measures: For whatever may be this man's or that man's opinion of the utility of honorary distinctions, and the respect due to them (and where shall opinions of that kind be free, if not among the members of a Philosophical Assembly?) it is, we think, pretty well agreed on, that every man leaves his rank at the door of the Royal Society, except with regard to the bare object of civility, just as every man leaves his sword at the door of some other peaceable assemblies. The question, therefore, is not whether any Margrave, or Bargrave, or Palsgrave, is great enough to have particular respect shewn him; but whether it is more manly for him to be contented with the attention that was shewn to Peter the Great the great civilizer of Russia, to the present King of Denmark, the present King of Poland, &c. when they visited the society, than to have innovations made on his account. Now it is apprehended there are some very good reasons why he should be contented with these civilities. In the first place, if he is a man of sense, or has had a tolerable good tutor, he will be taught, what we conceive to be very good morality, even that of king Solomon, and no levelling doctrine at all, that it becomes crowned heads to bow to science, and not science to bow to crowned heads. Secondly, he will see, that though he sits in ever so fine a chair, he will still be but the second man in the room, for the President must sit above him, covered too, whilst he sits uncovered, unless it is indeed *appointed, constituted, and ordained* otherwise by a new statute*.

* Since this article has been drawn up, Mr. Maty has written to Paris, to know what the custom of the academies there may be, with regard to the distinctions paid to great personages. The following is the answer he received.

“L'Académie Françoise, mon cher confrère va recevoir à la descente du carrosse les Souverains étrangers qui lui font l'honneur de la visiter et leur offre le fauteuil du Directeur. L'Empereur l'a refusé absolument, comme nous avons vu à l'académie des Belles Lettres le Grand Duc & la Grande Duchesse de Russie refuser absolument les fauteuils qui *les auroient distingués* et vouloir être assis sur nos chaises. A l'Académie Françoise ainsi qu'à l'académie des Belles-Lettres les personnes de la suite occupent les sièges placés derrière les fauteuils des academiciens, ou chez nous derrière les sièges des officiers.”

No doubt the Kings of Bolabola and O-whi-hee are the only monarchs in the world who would dream of introducing the “ceremonies that to great ones ‘long,’” into a literary assembly. Not again that we lay great stress on such matters, one way or other; but they serve to shew the spirit by which the President is governed, and the splendid improvements he is likely to introduce.

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