

Mr. Ogden could not perceive how danger or inconvenience could follow the adoption of his motion. It was the duty of a special committee, to examine the contents of petitions referred to them and report thereon, and his object at present was to enable the committee to report in such a manner as they thought expedient; if favourable to the petition, perhaps by a bill, if to the contrary, that they might be enabled to say there was no necessity for the market prayed for, or that this petition ought not to be granted. The petition having been received, something must be done with it; but, if referred to a committee in the manner he had proposed, the house were not at all bound by its report, whatever shape it might assume, any more than it was by having allowed the petition to be received. The question put from the chair, whether a petition should or should not be received, is not to obtain the opinion of members as to granting or refusing the application, but to ascertain there is nothing disrespectful in the paper. Mr. O. expressed his unwillingness, upon the mere *ipse dixit* of any honourable member, that his own motion was contrary to rule, to withdraw it, as he should rather wish to see the rule. He asked where would be the inconvenience if the committee reported a bill to erect a market as prayed for? Is this house, or a single member, bound to be of the same opinion? Not at all. If the committee should be adverse to the petition, my motion, said Mr. O., by the introduction of the words, "or otherwise," enabled them to say so, and I repeat that gentlemen ought to shew me that this is contrary to rules and precedents rather than assert it to be so. As they have not done so, (altho' I do not consider it of any great consequence in what manner the petition is referred to a committee,) I do not feel disposed to retract any part of my motion.

Mr. Stuart said. The question involved in the petition is one so completely new, that at first I was inclined to vote against it, being received. The object of the petition is to obtain leave to establish what at present is unknown in this country, viz. a private market. I do not mean to say that the measure may not be a wise one, a very wise one, but it is a proposition altogether novel, and is one, tho' I have not considered the subject particularly, that, at first blush, I am disposed to vote against. The petitioner commences by assuring the house that

\* This is true in the abstract; but we all know, what effect papers, ready drawn, have upon any meeting. A bill ready drawn, and laid before the house would be much more likely to receive immediate concurrence without mature examination, than if, after a report is given in, a bill has to be prepared, by which, time for reflection, and opportunity for discussion, is afforded.