

take the consequences,* if either those ears have chinks in them, or he has chosen ears which were not *affected* to hear him. At all events, that this is a general defence, ill applied in this particular instance, any one will see who once more reads the respectable names of Mr. Clarke, Major Desbarres, Mr. Meyrick, Dr. Bates, Mr. Hallifax, Dr. Enfield, Dr. Berenbroock, and Dr. Blanc.

If any thing farther could be wanting, after what has been said, to induce the Society, now at length, since it has not done it before, to interpose, it would be the following very strong considerations: to wit, That from the nature of our elections, two remedies remain in the breast of the opposition, which may be tried, and, probably, with success, if all the rest fail. The one is for the members of it to form into a firm and steady phalanx, to shut the doors of the Society entirely, and oppose all admissions whatsoever, till there is full assurance given that the outrages now complained of shall never be repeated. As the law, which places the power of rejection in the hands of one third only of the company present, affords great facility for doing this, so it is more than probable, that many, even of the members who have lately voted with the President, would see, with pleasure, any attempt to restrain that deluge of ignorance, and idleness, which, in the course of the present Presidency, has flowed down upon us from the upper parts of the town. Nor, indeed, would it be an improper step if the friends to the personal distinctions of men, in opposition to the imaginary ones, were to seize the present occasion of holding out, that they will no longer chuse any Peers or Privy Counsellors of the three kingdoms, who are spiritless enough to suffer their friends to *smuggle* them into the Society by surprize, under the cover of the statute, which *allows* but does not (as, perhaps, is commonly thought it does,) *compel* them to be put to the ballot on the night they are first proposed; thus precluding the usual previous enquiry into their characters and literary qualifications. This statute, which is a disgrace to the framers of it, might, perhaps, be less obnoxious at a time when Peers and Privy Counsellors were fewer, and when the *real* claims of high birth were less understood; but now that mistakes in these matters are no longer (publicly at least) made with impunity, it is proper that the only literary body in Europe, which knows any thing of the kind, should throw down this monument of the adulation and servility of its first Founders. And it will easily be thrown down, without giving the council the trouble of repealing the statute, (which, however, it should be recommended to it to do,) if a few members will give in

* Which in this case cannot be bad, for we do not assert that Sir J. B. has excluded any man on the score of moral character, and any other causes of exclusion, he was certainly, *quoad* the candidate, at full liberty to urge, his sins towards the Society.

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