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find, that all those who were declared ineligible by the house, actually continued to sit till they were disqualified by an act of parliament. It had been declared, that minors, aliens, &c. were incapable to sit in the house of commons; yet till the reign of king William they both occasionally sat. It has often been resolved, that the eldest sons of peers, mayors of corporations, and other classes, are ineligible, individuals of which now compose this house. No express act of parliament was ever made to exclude them. Though I should think it unjust to disable a man for actions committed before the act, yet if an act be fairly brought in to declare ineligible all who have been in orders, I shall not oppose it. It is indeed rather cruel in the noble lord thus to tantalize me. Had I not heard his most pious, religious, and learned speech, I should not have been so sensible of the immensity of the loss I am about to sustain. When he knew my situation, he might have been a little less lavish in eloquence. The legislature, sir, has not been sparing of disqualifying acts. In 1705, an act was passed, declaring ineligible all officers of customs and excise, distributors of wine licences, the commissioners of sick and wounded, and various others; but an act to disqualify those who have once exercised the functions of a clergyman, never has been proposed. As, therefore, my constituents had an undoubted right to elect me, I reckon myself bound to struggle as hard to preserve my seat, as if I were personally anxious to preserve it. To disqualify the beneficed clergy to sit in this house, would certainly tend much to preserve its purity.

The measure would be a highly proper one, and should have my warmest support. It might indeed be urged, that there are already not a few among us much more dependent upon the crown than any of the clergy, beneficed or unbeneficed. Of such an argument I shall not avail myself. Because things are bad, it surely is no reason why they should not be prevented from growing worse. I beg to be understood as not defending