

ber of elbow chairs, placed once for all on the ministerial benches, would be less expensive to government, and just about as manageable. I call these, and every ministerial tool of the same kind, expensive, because those who are obliged to *buy*, must be understood to *sell*\*, and those who range themselves under the banners of opposition, can only be considered, as having rated their voices too high for a purchaser in the parliamentary auction†.

There is a fashionable phrase, *the politics of the county*, which I can never hear pronounced without a glow of indignation; compared with such *politics*, even pimping is respectable. Our supreme court have, indeed, with infinite propriety, interposed to extirpate what are called in Scotland, *parchment barons*, and have thus prevented a crowd of unhappy wretches from plunging into an abyss of perjury. But, in other respects, their decision is of no consequence, since it most certainly cannot be of the slightest concern to this country, who are our electors, and representatives; or indeed, whether we are represented at all. Our members are, most of them, the mere satellites of the minister of the day; and forward to serve his most oppressive and criminal purposes.

It seems to have been long a maxim of the monopolizing directors of our southern masters, to extirpate, as quickly as possible, every manufacture in this country, that interferes with their own. Has any body forgotten the scandalous breach of national faith, by which the Scottish distilleries have been

\* "Damn you and your instructions too, I have BOUGHT you, and I will SELL you," said a *worthy* representative to his constituents, when they requested him to attend to their interest in parliament. *Political Disquisitions*, vol. 1. p. 280.

† To this general censure we can produce a few exceptions, but the individuals are so well known, that it would be needless to name them.