

them to the 59, and the numbers will be 89 to 76 ; * a majority it is presumed too small to have produced any but an ignominious success on the main question, on which if the division had been a small one, Sir Joseph Banks would have been obliged to resign, in consequence of his own declaration, for want of that decided majority, without which he declared he would not go on. It was, therefore, a step of high, though dangerous, policy, to prevent, by any means, this matter from being gone into ; but the more politic it was, the more the whole transaction now calls for the resentment of the Society, which, at the same time, must acknowledge that the warmth of opposition has been no greater than might well be expected, from persons so treated as we have been under such circumstances. We were warm in the beginning, because we found ourselves unfairly opposed, when we were conscious we were in the right ; and because we were still more unfairly opposed, we have grown still warmer. Surely there is nothing in this extraordinary, or that should make our case unfavourably thought of, any more than the small minorities in which we have been found since the 8th of January. Whoever knows the nature of mankind will easily account for those minorities, as whoever knows us will easily believe our positive assertion of having disdained to make them greater by other methods than by fair argument. Had *we* thought it fit, and decent to make this a personal business, it will be confessed our names are not so inconsiderable, nor our personal friends so few, but we must have carried some more votes, and have neutralized many, but we disdained to adopt any such artifices, and never went farther (the proofs exist) than to desire a few friends to literary liberty to be present and hear. We trusted to the force of truth upon liberal minds, we trust to it still, and doubt not but it must be victorious. For, as to the President's last refuge, and the only cover his friends ever attempted to make him fly to, that the attack upon his interference in elections, is an unfair one, because it makes his defence personally dangerous, * who that is used to reason but sees that it proves too much ? Once allow that any public officer is not to answer a charge of injustice and illiberality, in the proper tribunal, because the consequence of his own action may bring himself into danger, you allow all that faint-hearted fraudulent tyranny ever can contend for ; whereas the true reasoning is, that, whoever undertakes to exclude a man from any club or society, on the score of character, of course, does it at his own risk ; he trusts his secret to ears which he has a right to depend upon, (when he has such a right) and must

* Add the names of the insulted absentees who would have been asked to come if the bold stroke had been apprehended and the numbers must have been still nearer to an equality.

* See Mr. Anguish's speech,

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