

something in his own defence, but it seems that his faculties were too much overpowered to think of those subtleties and refinements which have since occurred to him.' Smart party journalism of this kind must not be taken too seriously. Blackstone was silent, partly because he was not naturally a ready debater, and partly because your deep thinker takes longer to adjust his ideas. But Sir Fletcher Norton—an expert debater—came to his rescue and turned the laugh against Grenville: 'I wish,' he said, 'the honourable gentleman instead of shaking his head, would shake a good argument out of it.'

"The passage in question from the Commentaries furnished, no doubt, a capital argumentum ad hominem for debating purposes, but it was not inconsistent with Blackstone's Parliamentary view. It enumerated the disqualifications for serving in Parliament, not mentioning the cast of expulsion, which, no doubt, Blackstone had not thought of before, and concluded with these words, 'But, subject to these restrictions and disqualifications, every subject of the realm is eligible of common right.' In subsequent editions of his work Blackstone added Exclusion from the House to the list, and hence arose the practice at Whig banquets of giving as a toast 'The First Edition of Blackstone's Commentaries.' Whatever the merits of the controversy, its result was to disenchant Blackstone with Parliamentary life. It taught him the lesson—to use his own words—that 'amid the rage of contending parties a man of moderation must expect to meet with no quarter from any side.' "

"Junius's Anti-Blackstonian letters," wrote Mr. N. W. Sibley, "are some five in number, some of which were written under the nom de guerre of Philo-Junius. Speaking of the learned Commentator's action in the Wilkes' controversy, the great satirist wrote: 'Doctor Blackstone is solicitor to the Queen. The doctor recollected that he had a place to preserve, though he forgot he had a reputation to lose. We have now the good fortune to understand the law, and reason the doctor's book may safely be consulted, but whoever wishes to cheat a neighbour of his estate, or to rob a country of its rights, need make no scruple