

selves, or in a leader, whose single will, aided by their support, should dictate every decision.

Nothing is more certain, than that this has almost invariably been the case, and that during this period, a large majority of those who compose the councils of the present day, have had their regular rotation of counsellors and magistrates.

What however has established, in a very great degree, this thirst for condensed power, in a narrow circle, is a very singular institution, and which we believe is peculiar to Aberdeen. — Instead of adhering to the salutary practice, as established by the act 1756, of having councils regularly at a certain hour once a fortnight, by which business would be kept within a proper compass, and every counsellor made perfectly acquainted with every matter which came before that body; the whole transactions of the council are previously arranged by a *monthly meeting*, consisting intirely of present and former magistrates, and who may facilitate or obstruct whatever is agreeable to their own views; the intire business of what is called settling the funds is finally determined by this body: the power of selecting whatever is to come before the council is altogether vested in them. Such a meeting, founded upon pretences however plausible, is evidently destructive of the independence of the council, and must reduce no inconsiderable number of that body to the rank of cyphers. Like the Lords of the Articles in the Scotch Parliament, they possess a negative before debate, and as a majority, intirely supersede the necessity of councils, and the form will just be gone through, merely because the sanction of that body, to save appearances, is absolutely needful.

Our fellow citizens, and the public, are already acquainted with the very extraordinary proceedings of the council, in the Head Court of the 21st instant.

What demon of discord could have prompted that miserable system of circumscribed and illiberal policy, adopted on that memorable day, it is not for us to say; we will take leave, however, to observe, that it would have been infinitely more candid, though not less arbitrary, to have denied us access to the records at once. The effect would have been the same, but it would have shortened the business, and saved appearances.

The matter, however, is now brought to a crisis. Every right which the burgeses fondly hoped they were in possession of, as constituent members of the Head Court, has been denied them. The burgeses roll has been refused to be read, and the sence of that body objected to upon any one question.

After having been allowed the exercise of their privilege to examine the public accounts, that with greater propriety they might form a judgment; to be excluded from every other right, which would render that investigation of any utility; and to be called together as members  
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