

been subservient to them, all of whom have hitherto adhered to the noxious faction, and are now understood to use most improper means to coerce the votes of the tenantry; a conduct which will render further measures necessary to secure the freedom of election.\* It is to be hoped, however, that the tenantry will have the courage to resist such tyranny, and exercise their franchise in such a manner as becomes free men. Tenants may exist without lairds, but lairds cannot exist without tenants; of the two classes, the latter may be the most independent.

When the Egotist faction were driven from the administration, and the dawn of Reform arose, (thanks to their obstinacy!) the Independent Electors in this County, and the gentlemen of liberal sentiments, began to entertain some hopes of rescuing it from the thralldom in which it had been so long held by the unconstitutional influence of one family, and to restore to it the long lost freedom of electing its Representative in the great council of the nation. Accordingly, after due deliberation, all the independent electors and principal proprietors joined in a requisition to Sir Michael Bruce, to offer himself as a candidate for the representation. Being only lately settled in this County, in which he acquired a considerable estate by his marriage, Sir Michael was rather averse to come forward. He was, however, prevailed upon by the principal freeholders, who knew him to be a man of strict honour, and liberal and constitutional principles, adhering to no faction. Having a large estate in this County, another in Stirlingshire, and other property, he is independent as to fortune. From the stake he has in the country, we may judge how much he must be interested in its prosperity, and how anxious he must be for defending

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\* Captain Gordon is favoured by a majority of the old constituency, which will be easily accounted for by inspection of the list of Gordons who are proprietors, and of the parchment barons created by them, almost all of whom have come under personal obligations to him for his interest in securing patronage in some way or other.