

pretty well aware of the nature of my duties to the community, and of the remuneration I receive for performing them, and I need not, therefore, detain you with any statements on these heads ; I may say, however, that now at least so far as concerns you as a body, or the community, whose municipal affairs you were elected to administer, I have no political duty whatever to perform ; and you are aware that I am, by act of Parliament, prohibited from interfering in any way in the Elections of the Burgh Member.—You are also aware that the Town-clerkship has always been considered as an adjunct to some other business, and that the emoluments arising from it have never been sufficient for the sole support of the person holding it, and you may have heard that all my predecessors in office exercised some other business or profession. The gentleman whom I succeeded was, as you all know, a Bank Agent, and, as you all likewise know, I am by profession a Solicitor in the Courts of the County, and that on my practice as such my livelihood principally depends,—and you may easily believe I am always glad to be employed professionally by any person for whom I think I can act satisfactorily. It is necessary to have these facts in view, as they will have a considerable bearing on what I am about to say. The Chamberlain's appointment again is only, as you well know, from year to year, and though I never heard of any one being dismissed after having been once appointed, I do not mean to deny that it is, and always has been, in the power of the Council, at the end of any one year, to dismiss that officer without reason assigned, by simply declining to elect him ;—such a proceeding has, as I have already said, never, so far as I know, been adopted, and the practice has invariably been to re-elect the person once appointed so long as he expressed his readiness to continue, and accordingly Mr. Cruickshank, the present Chamberlain, was not appointed originally until his predecessor sent in his resignation, and in this way, although the election has been annual, the appointment has been permanent.

The duties discharged by the Chamberlain are numerous, responsible, and laborious, and he is always under caution for his intromissions ; and although, by the late consolidation of the Town's debt, there will be less of labour in the payment of interests than formerly, enough will still remain in the collection of the public revenue, and recovery of the Burgh taxations, at all times reluctantly paid, to amply merit all the remuneration which has ever been allowed to this officer. Here, too, the remuneration has always been considered as altogether inadequate