

for the support of the person holding the office, and he has also invariably adopted some separate business or profession. In the present instance, Mr. Cruickshank happens to have chosen the same profession that I did, and he too is also a practising Solicitor in the County Courts. Part of his duty has hitherto consisted in the collection of the King's Taxes within the Burgh, and he has been thus prevented from interfering in any way in the election of the Burgh Members. Thus both Mr. Cruickshank and I have hitherto been, under high sanctions, prohibited from interfering politically in the Burgh Elections; and, therefore, part of the resolution passed by you appears wholly unnecessary even for the purpose it professes,—and can only, it would appear, have been added to disguise the real intent of the motion, of which more anon. It so happens that Mr. Cruickshank and I have been honoured with the confidence of Captain Ferguson of Pitfour, the Member for the County, whose agents we have been in the contests which have recently occurred for the representation of Banffshire. We are both highly sensible of this honour, and grateful for the trust reposed in us, and we shall never fail to express our high gratification at the splendid success of our gallant constituent, nor cease to do every thing that we possibly can to render that success permanent and enduring; and we are delighted to say, as we do on the firm conviction founded on sources of information open to none but ourselves, that, be his agents who may, his seat for Banffshire is too firmly fixed to be shaken by the utmost efforts of any who think to give him trouble, even if their exertions should be aided by all the influence of that government which professes to conduct the affairs of the state without patronage. We are not so vain as to insinuate for a moment that any part of this success is attributable to us, but it cannot but be gratifying to our feelings to know that there are some who think it is, and we appreciate the compliment paid to us accordingly.

Having thus given an outline of the nature and duties of our appointments, and of our other employments and professions, I shall now, in the second place, as I proposed, proceed to consider the nature of the body of which you are the individual members. Previous to the passing of the Burgh Reform Act, the Town Councils of Scotland had a just title to be considered political bodies, for in them was vested the whole power of returning the Burgh Members to Parliament. By that Act, however, this power was taken away, and the Councillors of Scotland have now no greater power as such in the election of the Members of Parliament, than any of the other ten pound Electors of the Burghs; and thus, the only