

avow that he had brought on his motion, not because he considered it wrong in the abstract for public officers to interfere in politics at all, but because Mr. Cruickshank and I had thought proper, in the exercise of our professions, to act for a gentleman holding opinions different from his; but although my delight was great, it was balanced by my fears, that this view of the question would be disavowed and discountenanced by the speakers who might follow, and great was my surprise when I found that I had given them credit for more tact than it turned out they possessed. Were Mr. Gordon's views disclaimed? No. On the contrary they were re-echoed, not only by the Secunder of the Motion, but also by the other gentlemen who spoke in support of it, one of whom went the length of saying, that he would vote for the motion, because the Tories had objected to his claim at the last Registration Court. Nay, further, when Mr. Smith, one of yourselves, Gentlemen, who is a Political Agent for the Reform Candidates or Clubs (for on your side such Clubs do exist) both in County and Burgh, stated, that he thought the motion applied to him, as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Harbour Trust, in which capacity he received a salary from the Community, he was assured by an influential Member of the Council, that the motion could not apply to him, as he was the servant of the Harbour Committee, and not of the Council (the Harbour Committee consisting, be it remarked, of the Council, *and one, and only one other Member*); and besides, the understanding was, that it was not meant to include him, his political exertions being on the right side, and that the motion was directed solely against Mr. Cruickshank and me.

This, Gentlemen, I think you will admit is a fair statement, and if any one now doubts the intention of the motion, his capacity cannot be of a very exalted character. In short, it is clear as the noon-day sun, that the intention and object of the motion was to punish Mr. Cruickshank and me, not because we had taken an active part in politics, but because our part was taken on the wrong side. It may be said, indeed, that it was intended, by the success of the motion, to hurt the Conservative Member, by depriving him of our services; but this supposition, besides inferring a degree of vanity on our part, of which we are not at all guilty, would imply, on the part of the originator of the motion, an idea, that any act of his could annoy or injure Captain Ferguson; an idea too absurd to allow me to suppose a person of his known good sense could for a moment entertain, and therefore I must hold, and I think you, Gentlemen, will admit, and