

I am sure the public will conclude, that the first view of the intent and object of the motion is the correct one.

Having thus shown, and shown I think satisfactorily, that the motion was intended to injure Mr. Cruickshank and myself, I will now, as I proposed, take a view of what the consequences and effects of the motion, public and private will be, if it is persisted in. On me it can have no effect whatever, and I candidly tell you at once, that I wholly disregard it, and will continue to the best of my abilities to discharge my duties to my gallant and honourable constituent, which are in no way whatever incompatible with the due performance of my duties as Town-Clerk of Banff; so, therefore, as regards me, the motion can have no private consequences whatever. With respect to Mr. Cruickshank, the case is different, as, as already said, should he, like me, resolve to adhere to his constituent, it is undoubtedly in your power to refuse to re-elect him. Should you do so, you will thus displace from an office (the duties of which you yourselves admit in express terms, he has discharged with the utmost fidelity and integrity, and to the entire satisfaction of the community), a gentleman of mild and unobtrusive disposition and kindly conduct, because, on a point over which you have no corporate controul and with which no earthly connection, he has presumed to hold opinions different from those which, as individuals, you say you profess; and thus, for no fault whatever, but simply differing from your despotic will, will he be deprived of a source of income to a continuance of which he was, by the inveterate usage of the Burgh, well entitled to look, and you will have the satisfaction to think, that all this you have done, towards a gentleman whose father spent a long and laborious life in the service of the community over which you are the governors, and who is himself, as some of you at least should know, at all times anxious to oblige a friend. Such will be the private effects and consequences of the motion as regards him; its effects as regards the public are of deeper import.

If the principle for which Mr. Gordon contended is to be admitted, That the servants of all public bodies must be of the same mind as themselves, then will these bodies become in a great degree irresponsible, and may be able to carry into operation schemes and designs which at present they cannot contemplate. It is, you will admit, a safe principle, at least it is one recognised by the party to which you are attached, That over every governing body there should be ample and efficient checks, and this is a principle the justice of which, even although I do