

period for which he is elected expires, some of the Council (say the majority) happen to change their opinions, while the unhappy Clerk abides by his, and thus the very opinions which made his election natural at first, may become reasons why he should be displaced. Does Mr. Gordon mean in such a case to say that he should be displaced? I should think not; but yet his principle, if it involves anything, involves this, and hence the absurdity of admitting it. It may be said, however, that the case I have figured can never occur; but this is an entire mistake, for such a case has arisen, and that case is mine. I was appointed some years ago Town Clerk of this burgh for life, and at that time there sat around the Council Board a set of gentlemen whom I then, as I now do, respected and esteemed. At that time, I heard of no differences of opinion in the Council, and yet it was known that I was strongly attached to High Tory principles, and the conclusion, therefore, is, that those who then appointed me held the same opinions themselves; now it so happens that of the gentlemen who did appoint me, I see at the Council Board as now established, a pretty considerable sprinkling, their being, I think, no less than eight gentlemen now in the Council who were members of it, under the system to which it may be said I owe my appointment; but it somehow or other has fallen out that we are now of different opinions. Now, as I am conscious of no change, but on the contrary am satisfied that I have never varied in my political opinions, or swerved from the principles I have ever professed, it follows, that they and not I have seen cause to think differently. So here is the case I have figured, and I cannot but submit that it would be exacting too much for them to say to me, "as we have changed our opinions, so must you, or quit"—but this is nothing more or less than what has been done by the success of Mr. Gordon's motion, and this is the case also as regards Mr. Cruickshank. Nor will it do to say that it is impossible for the Council, or any number of its members to change their opinions within the period for which they would elect a Clerk; for a man may change his mind, if cause arises to his satisfaction, as easily within one year as within five, and hence it is obvious that it would be quite possible for a poor Clerk, elected only for a year, to fall into the same predicament that I have done, and still continue to hold the very opinions which formed his chief recommendation at election.

I trust I have thus shown to your satisfaction the absurdity of the principle for which Mr Gordon contended, that the private effects of his motion would be most injurious to an amiable and