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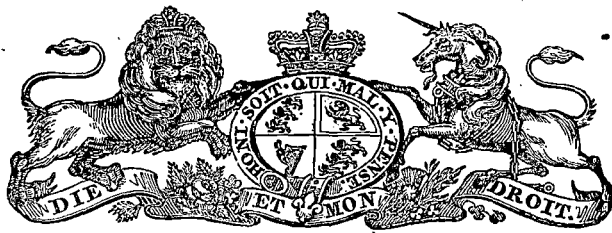
1857.

T A S M A N I A.

R E P O R T

FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED 3RD NOVEMBER, TO INQUIRE
INTO THE TRUTH OF THE CHARGES MADE, RESPECTIVELY, BY THE
HON. MEMBER FOR RICHMOND AND THE HON. MEMBER FOR FRANKLIN.

Brought up by Mr. Chapman, and ordered to be printed, 16 December, 1857.



THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed, on the 3rd November, 1857, to inquire into the Truth of the Charges made, respectively, by the Hon. Member for Richmond, Mr. Gregson, and the Hon. Member for Franklin, Mr. Balfe, have agreed to the following

R E P O R T.

THE Committee are of opinion that the charge preferred by Mr. Gregson against Mr. Balfe, "*of having been guilty of writing anonymous letters to a Magistrate and a Clergyman, with a wife and four children, of a most atrocious character, and such as it is impossible for this House to conceive,*" is altogether unsubstantiated, if not positively disproved, by the evidence produced; and they hold Mr. Balfe fully exonerated from that charge.

In reference to the charge brought by Mr. Balfe against Mr. Gregson, "*as being one of the conspirators who acted in getting up this false charge against me,*" your Committee are of opinion that Mr. Balfe has not substantiated his charge of conspiracy against Mr. Gregson; and they acquit Mr. Gregson of that charge: but they conceive that the fact of Mr. Balfe being aware that Mr. Gregson was in communication with Messrs. Freeman, Kirwan, Crooke, and John Litman, from an early period after the alleged finding of the anonymous letters, afforded some grounds for suspecting that Mr. Gregson was concerned with them in attempting to prove that Mr. Balfe was the author of those letters; and Your Committee further submit that the charge was made by Mr. Balfe while smarting under the offensive and groundless accusations of Mr. Gregson, and that considerable allowance should be made for him under such trying circumstances.

Your Committee, in conclusion, desire to draw the attention of your Honorable House to the evidence of Messrs. Freeman and Kirwan; and, in doing so, they deem it their duty to express their strong feelings of indignation and abhorrence that anonymous letters, so deeply involving the honor of a lady, should have been placed broadly before the world by those persons; and still more, that the House of Assembly should have been chosen as the arena for discussing matters of such a character.

THOS. D. CHAPMAN, *Chairman.*

*Committee Room, House of Assembly,
16th December, 1857.*