

for Jones and Hall were simply compared with those counted for every other Candidate, except Hatchison, they had a Majority of Legal Ballots. - So far therefore as any conjectured Scripples with Regard to Truth can be imagined to influence on this occasion, the Return as it stands and as it is said it ought to have been, are upon precisely the same footing. But take the Return according to its obvious Import, and it would be true according to the opinion of the Judges. They conceived that Ballots given for a Candidate in a State of Disqualification were illegal, and therefore rejected such as must have been given for Hatchison before the Commencement of his Eligibility. Upon no other Idea could they Certify that Jones and Hall had a Majority of Ballots. for literally this was not the fact. A supposed illegality attached to a portion of Hatchisons Ballots was doubtless the Ground of their Certificate that Jones and Hall had a Majority - to have prefixed therefore the word "Legal" was so far from being unfruitful to the opinion of the Judges, that (altho not inserted in the Return) it must of necessity have entered into their Determinations - and, even if it did not, the word "Legal" could never have made the Return inconsistent with Truth if it is not so as it now stands. - The omission consequently was not from Design - We would ask what Benefit will result from this unparalleled Excess of technical Rigour now attempted to be exercised over acts of this kind? - Will it prevent false Returns? unquestionably not. For if a Judge can be induced to return a Man duly elected and that he had a Majority of Ballots (when in Truth he was not duly elected and he knew the fact to be so) will he hesitate to joist in the word Legal and thus leave his Knavery half finished and incomplete? - Certainly no. - What other Object then is to be answered by this Nicety? We profess we cannot discover.

4. Because the Conclusion of the Return states Jones and Hall to be duly elected which could not be if they had not a Majority of Legal Ballots compared with the other qualified Candidates. - It requires a great degree of penetration to discover that the Return of one which could not possibly exist without another fact as