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Jan^{y} – continue reading enquiring and writing in conjunction with Joseph Fletcher – on London Corporation – and the report of the commissioners – / the proofs only.

Persecution of the unstamped very fierce – Government determined to put them down this cannot be done.

Proceedings of the last year revised by us.

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Feb^{y} —

Proceedings to procure repeal of the Stamp on Newspapers – are becoming very extensive —
Meeting at Hoopers Pall Mall
D^{o} — Lord Melbournes —
Persecution virulent —
Opposition increases —
Public meetings increasing.

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March

Proceedings to procure a meeting in the Guildhall London —
Extraordinary & successful exertions of Dr Black [?]
See Paper on this subject
Meeting at the Guildhall on monday 7 – [489]
Much occupied in this matter.

[489] On this large and successful meeting, see Wiener, *War of the Unstamped*, pp. 109–110.

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June

Lugged [?] into a newspaper project and my time greatly occupied therewith very foolishly — Appointed with M^r Harrison to examine certain statements respecting arrangements – Consumed much time took much trouble, and made a report to the committee – on the 8 July. The whole scheme was made as perfect as possible – None took the pains necessary to understand the matter, and John Crawford who with Ashton Yates[490] were deputed to find a wonderful man for an editor found one whom they represented as better qualified to take the command in the concern than "any other man in Great Britain," and yet neither of them understood what his office would require of him. They found this man in a small scotchman a protegé of Crawford, the editor of the Spectator which never paid its expenses and is heavily in debt. These men want no system ~~for~~ to secure regularity and efficiency, they say Make M^r Rintoul – the Editor and leave all the rest to him. The others – JohnTravers,Thomas Gibson – W^m Pritchard. W^m Wansey [?] Edwin Field, Ben Wood.

These are are [*sic*] desirous that the paper should be established, and I have no doubt that it would succeed, the London daily papers are one and all despicable tools of either the paltry whig administration or their opponents the Tory faction. The people are now forward enough to support a well conducted newspaper which would be the mean and dirty tool of neither faction, but there will be no such nor any paper at all, set up by these men[.]

Rintoul is a dabbler whose latents [*sic*, perhaps 'talents'?] are mediocre, and is a shuffling tricky scotsman, men whom as shufflers when they become shufflers beat all the world in that capacity.

[490] Both members of the Association for the Abolition of the Stamp Duty on Newspapers.

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