SOME

OBSERVATIONS

Relative to the LATE

BILL

For Paying off the RESIDUE of the

NATIONAL DEBT

OF

IRELAND,

Humbly ſubmitted to the Conſideration of the TRUE FRIENDS of this COUNTRY.

——— *pro Rege ſepe*
Pro Patria ſemper. ———

DUBLIN:
Printed in the YEAR MDCC LIV.

1754

HouseoftheOireachtas

This tract was in the same year, 1754, reprinted in London with the following new title;

"An Account of the Revenue and National Debt of Ireland; with some Observations on the late Bill for paying off the National Debt: in which is contained, A Speech to the Parliament of Henry Lord Viscount Sidney, Lord Lieutenant in the year 1692, as also an Order of Council, and several Resolutions of the House of Commons, extracted from their Journals, parallel to the present juncture of Affairs in that Kingdom".

The fact was first noticed by the author of a tract, written partly in answer to the "Observations," intitled "The Proceedings of the House of Commons of Ireland in rejecting the altered Money Bill on Dec.r 17. 1753, Vindicated" &c. &c.: and he observes on it, in an advertisement on the reverse of the title, that "it is impossible for any man, but the "Contriver, with certainty to say, what was the "intention of this change: But be it what it "may, it is hoped this Notice will prevent it "from passing under its disguise, as unanswered "and unanswerable, and will save the innocent "country from being hurt by that which is "suspected to be a concerted scheme of its "unnatural enemies."

TO THE

READER.

IT well becomes the Dignity of Government to deſpiſe the Revilings of a diſappointed Party, and to ſet at Naught the Writings of thoſe who invent, and propagate Stories, in order to give ſome Colour to the Attempts of their Patrons, for obtaining that Aſcendency in the State, which they aſpire at. But there are ſome Things, in which it will be always proper for the Friends of a good Government to take Pains, to rectify the Notions of a miſinformed and deluded People.

THE Writer of the following Paper, however unequal he be to the Taſk, has, with dutiful Loyalty to the beſt of Kings, with the higheſt Reſpect for his Grace, who doth with ſo much Candour and Benignity, repreſent his Majeſty's moſt ſacred Perſon in this Kingdom,

and with the ſincereſt Affection for his Country, undertaken ſome Part of this Work.

THE Quotations from the Journals of the Houſe of Commons, and the Abſtracts from the Public Accounts, with the Obſervations on ſome of them, may, perhaps appear ſomewhat tedious; but they have been thought uſeful, if not neceſſary to the giving a true State of the main Queſtion.

IF the Writer of this Paper hath as fully ſucceeded, as he has fairly and with Candour attempted to ſet theſe Matters in a true Light before his Countrymen, he doth not grudge the Pains he has taken on this Occaſion.

SOME

Houses of the Oireachtas

SOME

OBSERVATIONS

Relative to the Late

BILL, &c.

IN order to ſet the Matter now intended to be obſerved upon, in a full Light, it may not be improper to give a ſummary State of the Hereditary Revenue, and additional, unappropriated, Duties; as alſo, of the Origin, and Encreaſe of the Debt of this Nation, and of the Means whereby it was in Part paid off, and how the Reſidue was intended to be diſcharged, by the late Bill. And, as, in ſtating Matters, preparatory to the Queſtion on that Bill, it will be thought proper to quote ſome Parts of our Parliamentary Hiſtory, which expoſe the feeble Condition of our Conſtitution, Endeavours will be uſed, to point out the prudent Maxims of Policy, eſtabliſhed by the true Friends of *Ireland*, ſoon after the late happy Revolution, and which have ever ſince, been ſteadily purſued, to the great Benefit of this Kingdom, by a Majority, at leaſt, of the Houſe of Commons, until this Seſſion of Parliament, which

will ſhew the miſtaken Notions of thoſe who proceed upon different Principles.

The hereditary Revenue of *Ireland*, is accounted for under the following Heads; and the groſs Produce of them was, at a Medium for twelve Years ended at *Lady-Day* 1741, 392,755 *l.* a Year, and at a Medium, for the twelve Years ended at *Lady-Day* 1753, they produced 443,073 *l.* a Year.

Cuſtoms Inwards, Cuſtoms Outwards } By 14 and 15 *Car.* II. Cap. 9.

Imported Exciſe, Inland Exciſe } By 14 and 15 *Car.* II. Cap. 8.

Ale and Beer Licences, by 14 and 15 *Car.* II. Cap. 18.

Wine and Strong-Water Licences } By 17 and 18 *Car.* II. Cap. 19.

Quit-Rents, Crown-Rents, and Compoſition-Rents. } Quit-Rents, by 14 and 15 *Car.* II. Cap. 2. and by 17 and 18 *Car.* II. Cap. 2.

Crown-Rents, are Rents reſerved to the Crown on Grants, Charters, *&c.*

Compoſition-Rents, conſiſt of Rents accepted by the Crown, in lieu of Services, *&c.*—reſerved on ſeveral antient Tenures. And where the Crown has reduced Quit-Rents, theſe reduced Rents are commonly called Compoſition Rents.

Hearth-Money, by 14 and 15 *Car.* II. Cap. 17; and 17 and 18 *Car.* II. Cap. 18.

Fines, Seizures and Forfeitures, } Ariſe from the Revenue Laws and Forfeitures.

Prizage on Wines. An antient Duty to the Crown, but it was granted to the Houſe of *Ormond*,

Ormond, and is now rented by the Crown at 4000 *l.* a Year, clear of Fees, altho' it doth not yield ſo much.

Light-Houſe Duties. By Preſcription, for the Maintenance of Light-Houſes, and is at the Rate of Four-Pence *per* Ton on foreign Ships.

Caſual Revenues, conſiſts of Fines in Courts of Law, Amerciaments, Treaſure-trove, *&c.*

Thus we ſee that ſeveral Branches of the Hereditary Revenue, are Parts of the antient Inheritance of the Crown. And it appears in the Journals of the Houſe of Commons that not one of the Acts of Parliament, whereby the other Branches are granted, or confirmed to the Crown for ever, took its Riſe in the Houſe of Commons. They were every one of them framed in the Council here, ſent to *England*, from thence tranſmitted into *Ireland*, under the great Seal of *England*, according to *Poyning*'s *Law*, received, and paſſed by the Commons, without any Murmuring, much leſs Complaint, of Encroachment on their Right or Privilege.

The Crown having by theſe Laws, obtained a Revenue, ſufficient to anſwer the Expences of the State, the Parliament was diſſolved on the 7th Day of *Auguſt* 1666, and no other Parliament was called during the remaining Part of the Reign of *King Charles* the Second.

It is not neceſſary to our preſent Subject, to point out the Diſtreſſes brought upon this Country, the Oppreſſions of its Inhabitants, the Neglect of encouraging Induſtry, Arts, and Sciences among them, even the Miſmanagement of the Public Revenue, which attended the Want of Parliaments. Every Perſon acquainted with the Hiſtory of thoſe Times,

muſt be convinced, that *Ireland* was in a moſt wretched Condition for want of a Parliament. That this was the Senſe of the Nation, appears from the following Reſolution, reported on the 19th of *September* 1695, from the Committee of the whole Houſe, for taking into Conſideration the State of the Nation, and which was agreed to by the Houſe *nemine contradicente*.

" Reſolved, that it is the Opinion of this Com-
" mittee, that the long Intermiſſion of Parliaments
" in this Kingdom, has been one principal Cauſe of
" the many Grievances this Nation has hitherto lain
" under."

It was therefore with the greateſt Joy imaginable, that the Friends of *Ireland* ſaw this Country reſtored to the Bleſſing of having a free Parliament called, ſoon after the happy Revolution, by King *William* (their great Deliverer) and Queen *Mary*.

This Parliament met on the 5th Day of *October* 1692. *Henry* Lord Viſcount *Sydney*, being then Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, and Sir *Richard Levinge*, their Majeſties Solicitor General, was choſen Speaker of the Houſe of Commons.

It may be preſumed, that many Perſons returned as Members of the Houſe of Commons, ſo ſoon after the Rebellion, were not very well affected to the *Engliſh* and *Proteſtant* Intereſt of *Ireland*. It is certain, that two Members were expelled for their noted Delinquency herein.

On the 22d Day of *October* 1692 Copies of two Bills tranſmitted under the Great Seal of *England*, were delivered to the Houſe of Commons, by Order of the Lord Lieutenant.

One Bill whereof was entitled, " An Act for an
" Additional Duty of Exciſe, upon Beer, Ale, and
" other Liquors."

The other Bill was entitled, " An Act for grant-
" ing to their Majeſties, certain Duties for one Year."

Which Bills were received, and ordered to lye on the Table.

On

On the 27th Day of *October* 1692, the following Reſolutions are entered in the Journals of the Houſe of Commons.

" Reſolved, that it was and is, the undoubted " Right of the Commons of *Ireland* in Parliament " aſſembled, to prepare and reſolve the Ways and " Means of raiſing Money.

" Reſolved, that it was and is, the ſole and un- " doubted Right of the Commons to prepare Heads " of Bills for raiſing Money.

" Reſolved, that notwithſtanding the aforeſaid " Rights of the Commons, this Houſe doth think " fit, upon Conſideration of the preſent Exigency of " Affairs, and the public Neceſſity of ſpeedily raiſ- " ing a Supply for their Majeſties, to order a Bill, " tranſmitted out of *England*, entitled, an Act for " an additional Duty of Exciſe upon Beer, Ale, and " other Liquors, be now read. Whereupon the ſaid " Bill was read the firſt Time, and ordered a ſecond " Reading To-morrow Morning at ten of the Clock.

" Reſolved, *nem. con.* That the receiving or read- " ing of the ſaid Bill, ſo tranſmitted as aforeſaid, be " not drawn into Precedent hereafter."

On the 28th Day of *October* 1692, " A Motion " being made, and the Queſtion being put, that a " Bill now on the Table, entitled, An Act for grant- " ing to their Majeſties, certain Duties for one Year, " might be read, it paſſed in the Negative.

" Reſolved, that the ſaid Bill be rejected by this " Houſe.

" Reſolved, that it be entered in the Journal of " this Houſe, that the Reaſon, why the ſaid Bill was " rejected, is, that the ſame had not its Riſe in this " Houſe."

The Bill, entitled, An Act for an additional Duty of Exciſe upon Beer, Ale, and other Liquors, was this Day read a ſecond Time, and ordered to be engroſſed. And on the 29th of *October* it was read the third Time, and paſſed *nem. con.*

On

On the 3d Day of *November* 1692, the Lord Lieutenant gave the Royal Aſſent to the ſaid Bill, and his Speech to both Houſes of Parliament is as followeth.

" My Lords and Gentlemen,

" Upon the opening of this Seſſion, I did acquaint " you, with the Motives which induced their Ma- " jeſties to call this Parliament, which were no other, " than what entirely regarded, a happy Settlement " of this Kingdom, upon ſuch Foundations, as might " not only ſecure the Peace, but bring you into a " proſperous and flouriſhing Condition.

" I am ſorry I cannot ſay, there hath been ſuch a " Progreſs made by you *Gentlemen of the Houſe of Com-* " *mons*, towards theſe Ends, as their Majeſties had " juſt Reaſon to expect; and I am the more troubled, " that you, who had ſo many, and ſo great Obliga- " tions to be loyal, and dutifully affected to their " Majeſties, ſhould, ſo far miſtake yourſelves, as to " intrench upon their Majeſties Prerogative, and the " Rights of the Crown of *England*, as you did on " the 27th of *October* laſt, when, by a declaratory " Vote, you affirmed, that it is the ſole, and un- " doubted Right of the Commons of *Ireland*, to pre- " pare Heads of Bills for raiſing Money; and alſo " again, on the 28th of the ſame Month, when you " rejected a Bill ſent over in the uſual Form, entitled, " An Act for granting to their Majeſties certain Du- " ties for one Year, you voted, that it ſhould be en- " tered in your Journals, that the Reaſon why the " ſaid Bill was rejected, was, that the ſame had not " its Riſe in your Houſe.

" Theſe Votes of yours being contrary to the Sta- " tutes of the Tenth of *Henry* the Seventh, and the " third and fourth of *Philip* and *Mary*, and the con- " tinued Practice ever ſince; I find myſelf obliged " to aſſert their Majeſties Prerogative and the Rights " of the Crown of *England* in theſe Particulars, in

" ſuch

" ſuch a Manner, as may be moſt public and per-
" manent: And therefore I do here, in full Parlia-
" ment, make my public Proteſt againſt thoſe Votes,
" and the Entries of them in the Journal of the
" Houſe of Commons, which Proteſt I require the
" Clerk of this Houſe to read, and afterwards to en-
" ter it in the Journals of this Houſe, that it may
" remain, as a Vindication of their Majeſties Prero-
" gative, and the Right of the Crown of *England*,
" in theſe Particulars to future Ages."

After which his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant delivered the Proteſtation to the Lord Chancellor, who delivered it to the Clerk of the Houſe, and he read it, and the ſame is entered in the Journal of the Houſe of Lords.

Then the Parliament was prorogued to the 6th of *April*, and notwithſtanding the Lord Lieutenant, had, by his Meſſage, delivered to the Houſe of Commons on the 22d of *October* (when he ſent Copies of the ſaid Bills to the Houſe) declared that their Majeſties intended, that the Parliament ſhould meet again ſometime the next Spring, yet it never afterwards met, but was on the 5th Day of *September* 1693, diſſolved.

The next Parliament met on the 27th Day of *Auguſt* 1695, *Henry* Lord *Capell*, being then Lord Deputy of *Ireland*, and *Robert Rochfort*, Eſq; his Majeſty's Attorney General was choſen Speaker of the Houſe of Commons.

The Lord Deputy in his Speech to both Houſes, on the 29th of *Auguſt*, declared, " that for raiſing
" ſome Part of the Supplies neceſſary for the Diſ-
" charge of the Debts due from the Crown, his Ma-
" jeſty had ſent to the Commons, a Bill for an ad-
" ditional Duty of Exciſe, and that he expected from
" them, that they would conſider of Ways and
" Means, for raiſing ſuch other Sums as are neceſſa-
" ry for his Service.

This Bill was received, and read, the firſt Time, on the 2d Day of *September*, and it was read a ſecond Time

Time on the 4th, and it was the ſame Day committed, and ordered, on the Report, *nem. con.* to be engroſſed. Which being done, it was on the 6th Day read a third Time and paſſed by the Commons, and ſent to the Lords, and on the 7th Day, the Royal Aſſent was given to it. And all this was done, before the Committee of Supply was cloſed, for the Supply was not voted, until the 9th Day of *September*, ſo deſirous was this Houſe of Commons, " *to* " *apply themſelves*" according to what they had promiſed in their Addreſs to the Lord Deputy, " *to* " *what ſhould be agreeable to his Majeſty's Expectation,* " *and for the Service of the Public,*" and ſo careful were they to avoid any Imputation of intrenching upon his Majeſty's Prerogative, and the Rights of the Crown of *England.*

Many other Inſtances may be quoted from the Journals of this Seſſion (which continued by ſeveral Adjournments, from the 27th Day of *Auguſt* 1695, when it was opened by the Lord Deputy *Capell*, to the 3d Day of *December* 1697, when it was prorogued by the *Lords Juſtices*, the Marquis of *Wincheſter*, and the Earl of *Galway)* to prove this moderate and prudent Behaviour of this Houſe of Commons.

Votes for continuing of Duties. Reſolutions of the Committee of Ways and Means for impoſing new Duties, when agreed to by the Houſe, were ordered to be laid before the Lord Deputy with the humble Deſire of the Houſe, that they might be drawn up in Form, and tranſmitted into *England.* So that it evidently appears, that the Method now practiſed of drawing up and ſettling *Heads of Money Bills*, before they are ſent to the Chief Governor, was not practiſed by the Houſe of Commons in the Year 1695. And that Houſe was ſo ſenſible of the Benefits received during the Adminiſtration of the Lord *Capell*, that in their Addreſs to his Majeſty, they expreſſed themſelves thus.

" We

" We muſt ever acknowledge the great Benefits " we do, and our Poſterity ſhall, receive by theſe " ineſtimable Laws, given us by your Majeſty in " this Seſſion of Parliament, held under your Maje- " ty's Deputy, and our excellent Governor, the Lord " *Capell*, whereby not only our Religion and legal " Rights are confirmed to us, but this Kingdom of " *Ireland* is firmly ſecured to the imperial Crown of " *England*."

It was by a Behaviour of this kind, in cheerfully granting Money to anſwer the Exigencies of the State, that this Parliament prudently acquired and cheriſhed the Favour and Protection of their Prince. However, it muſt not be forgotten, that there were, even then, ſome Members of the Houſe of Commons who did not reliſh, the giving to the Chief Governor, a Teſtimony of their grateful Acknowledgements, for his prudent Adminiſtration; for we find, that when the above-mentioned Addreſs was reported to the Houſe, a Queſtion was put, that the Words, *held under your Majeſty's Deputy, and our excellent Governor the Lord Capell*, do ſtand Part of the Addreſs, but it was carried in the Affirmative, for there was not at that Time, an Intereſt formed in the Houſe of Commons, by Connections, *&c.* for private Views, ſufficient to weigh down the true Intereſt of this Kingdom, which was, is, and ever will be, to cultivate the Favour, and Protection, of the Crown, by ſupporting its Rights and Prerogatives, and by treating its Vicegerents with Gratitude, and Decency, at leaſt.

The next Seſſion of Parliament began on the 27th Day of *September* 1698, under the ſame Lords Juſtices.

The Houſe of Commons continued in the ſame moderate and prudent Diſpoſitions they were in laſt Seſſion. They purſued the ſame Methods in granting Money. Their Reſolutions were carried to the Lords Juſtices, with the humble Deſire of the Houſe, that

that their Excellencies would be pleaſed to order that the ſame ſhould be put into Form, and tranſmitted into *England* according to *Poyning*'s *Law*. And, it is obſervable, that all the Reſolutions in this Seſſions, for raiſing Money were deſired to be put into Form, and tranſmitted into *England*, according to *Poyning*'s *Law*, which ſhews how much this Houſe of Commons had the Act of the 10th of King *Henry* the VIIth (mentioned in Lord *Sydney*'s Proteſt) in their Thoughts.

There is alſo an Inſtance during this Seſſion of Parliament, of a Money Bill tranſmitted from *England*, that was received by the Houſe of Commons and paſſed, altho' it had not its Riſe in that Houſe.

The next Parliament was called in the ſecond Year of the Reign of Queen *Ann*, and met on the 21ſt Day of *September* 1703, the Duke of *Ormond* being Lord Lieutenant, and *Allan Brodrick*, Eſq; her Majeſty's Solicitor General was choſen Speaker of the Houſe of Commons. The following remarkable Paragraphs are in their Addreſs to her Majeſty.

" We cannot, but with the deepeſt Concern, take " Notice to your Majeſty, that our Enemies, " have, by many groundleſs and malicious Calum- " nies, miſrepreſented us (the ſad and ſevere Effects " whereof, we too ſenſibly feel) and eſpecially, as if " we thought ourſelves, or deſired to be, Inde- " pendant of the Crown of *England*.

" In Duty therefore to your Majeſty, and to vin- " dicate ourſelves from ſuch foul and unworthy A- " ſperſions. We here declare and acknowledge, that " the Kingdom of *Ireland* is annexed and united to " the Imperial Crown of *England*; and by the Laws " and Statutes of this Kingdom, is declared to be " juſtly and rightfully depending upon, and belong- " ing, and for ever united to the ſame, and that it " never entered into our Thoughts to wiſh the con- " trary; the Happineſs of this Kingdom entirely

" depend-

" depending on a ſteady Duty paid to the Crown of " *England*, and a good Correſpondence with your " Majeſty's Subjects of that Kingdom."

The Behaviour of this Houſe of Commons was agreeable to their Sentiments expreſſed in this Addreſs.

On the firſt of *October*, a Bill entitled " an Act for " an additional Duty of Exciſe upon Beer, Ale, and " other Liquors," was received and read, and afterwards paſſed into a Law. And it is worthy of Obſervation, that not only then, but in the firſt Seſſion of every new Parliament ſince that Time, even in this now ſitting, a *Money-Bill* tranſmitted from *England* was received and paſſed into a Law, without any Objection to it by the Commons, for it's not having taken it's Riſe in their Houſe. So careful has the Repreſentative of the Nation been, ever ſince the Year 1692, to avoid pretending to the Right which the Houſe of Commons in that Year, aſſerted they had, of having all *Money-Bills* take their Riſe in their Houſe. And, it is not altogether foreign to our Subject to obſerve, that the Benefits which this Nation has obtained, and daily receives, by having Parliaments frequently held in this Kingdom, have been, and are of too ineſtimable a Value, to permit any true Friend of this Country, to think that they have been purchaſed at too dear a Rate, by the ſmall additional Taxes levied on the People.

It fully appears by the foregoing Abſtracts from the Journals, that the ſole Right claimed by the Houſe of Commons in the Year 1692 of preparing Heads of Bills for raiſing Money, was not only proteſted againſt, as an Intrenchment on their Majeſties Prerogative, and the Rights of the Crown of *England*, and as being contrary to the Statutes of the 10th K. *H.* 7. and the 3d and 4th of K. *P.* and Q. *M.* and the continued Practice to that Time, but that all ſucceeding Parliaments have behaved themſelves in a Manner directly contrary to this Claim.

The

The maintaining a Standing Army in *Ireland*, ſince the Revolution. The building of Barracks for the Eaſe of the Country, and Reception of the Army. The ſupporting of thoſe Barracks. The Increaſe of the Civil Liſt, and ſeveral other Exigencies of the State, having exceeded the Produce of the hereditary Revenue of the Crown, it became neceſſary to have frequent Parliaments in this Kingdom, in order to obtain Aids by additional Duties, which are generally granted for two Years, and therefore the Parliament aſſembles every ſecond Year. And, it has always been thought prudent, by the true Friends of *Ireland*, not to be over-ſparing of the Grants made by Parliament, for the Encouragement of Trade and Induſtry, and for the Improvement of the Country; nor to look with ſo grudging an Eye, on the Encreaſe of the Military Eſtabliſhment, Civil Liſt, and other Expences of the State, ſince they all contributed to make it neceſſary to call frequent Parliaments, which, perhaps, a more prudent OEconomy, and, a more careful Attention to the Improvement of the Hereditary-Revenue, would have rendered unneceſſary for the Service of the Crown.

Accounts are ſtated in every Seſſion, of the Expences of the Government, and of the Produce of the Revenue, as well Hereditary, as Temporary or Additional. And, Mr. *Burgh*, the then Accountant-General, having in the Year 1709, laid the publick Accounts before the Houſe of Commons in a Method which appeared to the Committee of Accounts, to be plain, juſt, and regular, and to their Satisfaction; the ſame Method has been ever ſince purſued, with very little Variation, altho' it is believed that ſome further Alterations, which are very proper, might be made in the Method eſtabliſhed by Mr. *Burgh*.

It were to be wiſhed that theſe Accounts had been all publiſhed in the printed Journals of the Houſe of Commons, but none of them are in thoſe Journals before the

the Seſſion held in the Year 1731, and this is not the only material Omiſſion in that very expenſive Work.

The Produce of the ſeveral additional Funds granted by Parliament, was ſo ſufficient to anſwer the Debts of the Crown, and the Expences of the State, that the Debt due of the Nation at *Michaelmas* 1715, was only about 16,000 *l.* But the unnatural Rebellion at that Time in *Great-Britain*, animating the noted Zeal of the Commons of *Ireland*, for the *illuſtrious Houſe of Hanover*, they on the 28th Day of *January*, 1715, paſſed a Vote of Credit, to enable his Majeſty to put the Kingdom into a Poſture of Defence, againſt the Invaſion, it was then threatened with, upon which Vote of Credit, the Sum of 50,000 *l.* was raiſed, and this was the Origin of the national Debt of *Ireland*.

The Debt of the Nation at *Midſummer* 1717, was 91,537 *l.* 17 *s.* 1 *d.* $\frac{5}{8}$, including therein the 50,000 *l.* raiſed on the Vote of Credit paſſed in the laſt Seſſion of Parliament, and in the Act paſſed this Seſſion of Parliament, whereby the additional Duties were continued to the 25th Day of *December* 1719, there are Clauſes for ſecuring the Repayment of the ſaid 50,000 *l.* with Intereſt.

The Debt due of the Nation at *Lady-day* 1729, was increaſed to 220,730 *l.* 15 *s.* 3 *d.* $\frac{2}{7}$, of which, 200,000 *l.* was converted into a Loan, and for paying Intereſt for the ſame at the Rate of 6 *l. per Cent. per An.* and towards the Diſcharge of the ſaid Principal Sum, the following Duties were granted to continue from the 25th Day of *December* 1729, to the 25th Day of *December* 1731.

	s.	*d.*
For every Tun of *Portugal* Wine imported — — —	13	4
For every Tun of all other Sorts of Wine imported — —	40	Shillings
For every Gallon of Spirits imported — — —		4 Pence

	s.	d.
For every Pound Weight of Silk Manufactures, except of *Great-Britain*, *China*, *Perſia* or the *Eaſt-Indies*, imported	2	6

Of all Sallaries, Employments, Fees, or Penſions of Abſentees, four Shillings in the Pound.

And by another Act, the old additional Duties were granted to his Majeſty from the 25th Day of *December* 1729, to the 25th Day of *December* 1731.

The Duties which are diſtinguſhed, in the late publick Accounts, under the Title of *old additional Duties*, are on,

Tobacco imported, 3 *d.* ½ *per* Pound Weight
Wine imported, 4 *l.* *per* Tun
Spirits imported, 8 Pence *per* Gallon
Muſlin imported, 6 Pence *per* Yard
Eaſt-India Goods, Silks, one Shilling and ſix Pence *per* Yard
Unſtatutable Yarn, one Half-penny *per* Pound Weight
Moloſſes, twenty Shillings *per* Hundred Weight
Cambrick, three Pence *per* Yard
Inland Exciſe, on Ale two Shillings on the Barrel, containing 32 Gallons
On Small-beer, four Pence *per* Barrel
On Strong Waters, four Pence *per* Gallon.

And there is granted to his Majeſty, as a further Aid, the Fees of Sixpence a Pound, payable to the Vice-Treaſurers, out of the additional Duties.

The groſs Produce of the old additional, unappropriated, Duties, without including the ſix Pence a Pound payable to the Vice-Treaſurers, was, at a Medium for twelve Years, ended at *Lady-day* 1741, 130,393 *l.* a Year, and, at a Medium for the twelve Years ended at *Lady-day* 1753, they produced 149,865 *l.* a Year, and this, with many Deductions thereout, for Parliamentary Grants, *&c.* is all the Nation

Nation pays for having the Benefit of frequent Parliaments.

The Debt due at *Lady-day* 1731, was, including the 200,000 *l.* Loan 335,466 *l.* 7 *s.* 4 *d.* ¼. The old additional Duties were continued to the 25th of *December* 1733, and the Loan was increaſed to 300,000 *l.* and towards Payment thereof, with Intereſt, at the Rate of 5 *per Cent. per Ann.* the following Duties, were granted for two Years from the 25th Day of *December* 1731.

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
For every Tun of Wine of the Growth of *Portugal* imported — —	1	13	0
For every Tun of all other Sorts of Wine imported —— — —	3	0	0
For every Pound Weight of Silk Manufactures, except of *Great-Britain*, *China*, *Perſia*, or the *Eaſt-Indies* imported	0	2	6

For every Pound Weight of Hops imported, half a Penny.

For all China, japaned or laquered Ware 5 *per Cent.* of the Value.

And of all Salaries, Fees, Penſions, and Employments of Abſentees, 4 Shillings in the Pound.

As there is very little Material to our Purpoſe, to be obſerved on the State of the Debt of the Nation, from this Time to the Year 1741, we ſhall paſs over the intermediate Years.

The Debt of the Nation at *Lady-day* 1741, is reported by the Committee of Accounts to have ſtood thus.

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
Due on the Loan after all Deductions, on the Application of the Surplus of the Loan Duties towards Payment of the Principal; as directed by the Acts of Parliament — — —	218758	9	9¼
And excluſive of the Loan	117850	17	2½
Total Debt of the Nation at *Lady-day* 1741.	£. 336609	6	11¾

It appears by the Report from the Committee of Accounts in this Seſſion of Parliament, that there were Savings to the Nation in the two Years ended at *Lady-day* 1741, *viz.*

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
On the Military Eſtabliſhment	178130	11	0½
On the Civil Liſt — —	1202	1	2
In all	£. 179332	12	2½

Which was a very great Eaſe to the Nation.

The old Additional Duties were granted to his Majeſty by one Act paſſed in this Seſſion, to continue to the 25th of *December* 1743. And the Loan Duties were, by another Act, continued for the ſame Term. And by the laſt mentioned Act, it is directed, that Intereſt upon 125,000*l.* Part of the Sum which ſhall remain unpaid of the Loan on the 25th of *December* 1741, ſhall be reduced to an Intereſt of 4 *per Cent.* and to continue the Remainder of the Loan at the Rate of 5 *per Cent.* till paid. And alſo to pay an Intereſt at the Rate of 4 *per Cent.* for the Sum of £. 125,000 to ſuch Perſons as ſhall advance the ſame, in order, it is ſuppoſed, to pay off the Arrear due on the Eſtabliſhments. And to apply the Surplus of the Loan Duties, after Payment of Intereſt, in the firſt place, to diſcharge the Principal of the Sum,

Sum which is to remain at an Intereſt of 5 *per Cent.*

The Debt of the Nation at *Lady-day* 1743, ſtood thus.

	£.	s.	d.
The Loan, including the £. 125000, borrowed, in Purſuance of the laſt mentioned Act of Parliament, amounted to —— ——	327,590	18	11¼
And excluſive of the Loan	3,849	13	6⅞
Total Debt of the Nation at *Lady-day* 1743. — ——	331,440	12	6⅛

It appears by the Report from the Committee of Accounts this Seſſion of Parliament, that the Savings to the Nation, in the two Years, ended at *Lady-day* 1743, were

	£.	s.	d.
On the Military Eſtabliſhment	111,374	11	8½
On the Civil Liſt — —	2,187	15	7½
In all £.	113,562	7	4

Which was a great Eaſe to this Nation.

The Loan Duties were, by one Act of Parliament, continued to the 25th of *December* 1745. And the old additional Duties were, by another Act, granted to his Majeſty for the ſame Term.

The Debt of the Nation at *Lady-day* 1745, ſtood thus.

On the Loan Duties there was reported due — — —	330,464	14	9¼

But the Report ſays, that the Hereditary Revenue, and the Produce of the additional Duties, exceeded the Payments made purſuant to Act of Parliament and King's Letters, the Civil Liſt and Military Eſtabliſhment, the Exceedings on the Concordatum, Military Contingencies, Barracks, Prizage, Bounty to the Linen Manufacture, *&c.* by the Sum of	71,947	4	3¼
Which being deducted from the Debt due on the Loan, leaves the Debt of the Nation at *Lady-day* 1745, to be — —	258,517	10	6½

But it appears, that the Nation paid Intereſt for 335,000 *l.*

It alſo appears by the Report from the Committee of Accounts this Seſſion of Parliament, that the Savings to the Nation, in the two Years ended at *Lady-day* 1745, were,

	L.	*s.*	*d.*
On the Military Eſtabliſhment	72,432	8	10½
On the Civil Liſt — —	1,551	18	00½
In all	73,984	6	11

Which was a further Eaſe to the Nation.

The old additional Duties were, by one Act of Parliament paſſed in this Seſſion, granted to his Majeſty for two Years from the 25th Day of *December* 1745, and the Loan Duties were, by another Act, continued for the ſame Term, and the Loan-Duty on Wine was raiſed to 40*s.* for every Tun of *Portugal* Wine, and to 4*l.* for every Tun of all other Wine to be imported.

And

And by the laſt mentioned Act it is directed, that Intereſt ſhall be paid, upon a further Sum of Money not exceeding 70,000*l.* to be borrowed for providing Arms for the Uſe of the Militia of this Kingdom, and for erecting a Battery, or Batteries, for the Security of the Harbour of *Corke*.

It may be here obſerved, that it was ſomewhat extraordinary, that an additional Loan ſhould be made of 70,000*l.* at this Time, when ſo large a Sum of Money as 71,947*l.* was allowed to be due to the Nation (abſtracted from the former Loans) after anſwering all the Demands on account of the Eſtabliſhments, and all other Charges whatſoever to the 25th of *March* 1745, and that it is well known that a conſiderable Arrear is conſtantly due on theſe Articles.

The Debt of the Nation at *Lady-day* 1747, ſtood thus.

	L.	*s.*	*d.*
Due on all the Loans — —	331,987	8	1
From which deducting a Sum of Money remaining in Credit to the Nation after anſwering all Demands on the Eſtabliſhments, *&c.* as before-mentioned — —	17,682	9	10
The Debt due of the Nation at *Lady-day* 1747, was ——	314,304	18	3

It appears by the Report from the Committee of Accounts this Seſſion of Parliament, that the Savings to the Nation in the two Years ended at *Lady-day* 1747, were,

	L.	*s.*	*d.*
On the Military Eſtabliſhment —	30,385	11	2½
On the Civil Liſt —— ——	929	12	6½
In all	31,315	3	9

Which was a yet further Eaſe to the Nation.

The Loan Duties were, by one Act of Parliament, continued to the 25th Day of *December* 1749, and the additional Duties were, by an other Act, granted to his Majeſty for the ſame Term.

The Debt of the Nation at *Lady-day* 1749, ſtood thus.

	L.	*s.*	*d.*
Due on the Loans, as by the Report from the Committee of Accounts — — —	383,321	18	0
From which deducting a Sum of Money reported to remain in Credit to the Nation, after anſwering all Demands on the Eſtabliſhments, *&c.* as before-mentioned, amounting to — —	178,203	19	6
The Debt of the Nation at *Lady-day* 1749 — — —	205,117	18	6

And yet the Nation paid Intereſt, at this Time, for at leaſt the Sum of 385,000*l.* And at *Lady-day* 1749 the Balance in the Hands of the Vice-Treaſurers was — — — £. 220,999 3 10½

And the Balances in the Collectors Hands, and the Arrears on the Hereditary Revenue and the old additional Duties were	136,455	3	10½
Making in the whole, in Caſh and in the Courſe of ſpeedy Payment, the Sum of —	357,454	7	9

It appears by the Report from the Committee of Accounts this Seſſion of Parliament, that the Savings

to

to the Nation in the two Years ended at *Lady-day* 1749, were

	L.	*s.*	*d.*
On the Military Eſtabliſhment	55,858	13	$8\frac{1}{4}$
On the Civil Liſt — — —	3,202	—	$3\frac{3}{4}$
In all	59,060	14	0

The old additional Duties were, by one Act paſſed in this Seſſion, granted to his Majeſty for two Years, from the 25th Day of *December* 1749, and the Loan Duties were by another Act continued for the ſame Term.

There are Clauſes in the laſt mentioned Act for paying out of the Money in his Majeſty's Treaſury the Sum of 70,000*l.* remaining due of the old Loan, at 5 *per Cent.* Intereſt, and 58,500*l.* Part of the new Loan, at 4*l. per Cent.* Intereſt.

Wherefore there is the following Paragraph in this Act, by way of Preamble to the enacting Clauſes, for paying off thoſe two Sums of Money.

" And whereas, on the 25th Day of *March* laſt, " a conſiderable Balance remained in the Hands of " the Vice-Treaſurers, or Receivers-General of this " Kingdom, or their Deputy or Deputies, unapplied, " and it will be for your Majeſty's Service, and for " the Eaſe of your faithful Subjects of this Kingdom, " that ſo much thereof as can be conveniently ſpar- " ed, ſhould be paid, *agreeably to your Majeſty's moſt* " *gracious Intentions*, in diſcharge of Part of the afore- " ſaid National Debts: We pray it may be enact- " ed."

We do not find, in the Journals, after what manner, *his Majeſty's moſt gracious Intentions* were ſignified to the Houſe of Commons. But, it muſt be preſumed, that they were ſome way made known, to, at leaſt, ſome of the leading Perſons in that Aſſembly, or thoſe Expreſſions would not have been inſerted in the Act of Parliament. It may be well remembred that

that, when his Majeſty's Attorney-General moved the Houſe, for this Application of Part of the Money in the Treaſury, towards diſcharging the Debt of the Nation, the Motion was received as a ſingular Inſtance of his Majeſty's *Attention to the Eaſe and Happineſs of his faithful Subjects*, who, at that Time, had it freſh in their Memory, that the great Redundancy of Money in the Treaſury, was occaſioned by the large Savings on the Military Eſtabliſhment, and Civil Liſt. And it is ſubmitted to the Judgment of every impartial Reader, whether thoſe Words, *agreeably to his Majeſty's moſt gracious Intentions* do not fully, imply his Majeſty's *previous Conſent, obtained.*

The next Seſſion of Parliament was opened on the 8th Day of *October* 1751, by a Speech made by the Lord Lieutenant, his Grace the Duke of *Dorſet*, to both Houſes, and we find, in the Part thereof addreſſed to the Houſe of Commons, the following Paragraph.

" I am commanded by the King to acquaint you, " that his Majeſty, ever attentive to the Eaſe and " Happineſs of his Subjects, *will graciouſly Conſent*, " and recommends it to you, that ſuch a Part of " the Money now remaining in his Treaſury, as ſhall " be thought conſiſtent with the Public Service, be " applied towards the further Reduction of the Na- " tional Debt."

The National Account at *Lady-day* 1751, is thus ſtated by the Committee of Accounts.

There remained in Credit to the Nation, after paying off the 128,500*l.* mentioned in the Act paſſed in the laſt Seſſion of Parliament, and after anſwering all Demands on the Eſtabliſhments, and all the other

	L.	s.	d.
other Expences and Exigencies of the State, the Sum of ——	253,044	17	8 1/6
From which deducting the Sum of Money reported to be due on the Loan at *Lady-day* 1751 —— ——	230,674	15	9
There remained in Credit to the Nation, beſides having a ſufficient Sum of Money to diſcharge all the Loans ——	22,370	1	11 1/8

It appears by the Report from the Committee of Accounts, this Seſſion of Parliament, that the Savings to the Nation, in the two Years ended at *Lady-day* 1751, were,

	L.	s.	d.
On the Military Eſtabliſhment	7,827	8	—1/4
On the Civil Liſt ——	4,419	2	5 3/4
In all	12,246	10	6

It is to be obſerved, that the Balance in the Treaſury at *Lady-day* 1751, was, by the Deputy Receiver-General's Account —— —

	L.	s.	d.
	248,366	17	4 1/2
And it appears by the Accomptant-General's Abſtract, No. I. that the Balances in the Collectors Hands at *Lady-day* 1751, was —— —— —	40,160	1	4 1/2
That the Arrears on the Hearth-money was —— —	32,310	0	0
On the Quit &c. Rents — —	31,431	0	0
So that the whole Sum of Money in the Treaſury, and under the Command of the Vice-Treaſurers, or their Deputy, and in a Courſe of ſpeedy Payment was not leſs than — —	352,266	18	6

And

And yet the Nation paid Intereſt on 242,500*l.* due on the Loans from *Lady-day* 1751, until ſome Part thereof was diſcharged by the Surplus Produce of the Loan Duties, and 120,000*l.* was paid, by applying ſo much of the Money remaining in his Majeſty's Treaſury, purſuant to the Act paſſed in this Seſſion of Parliament.

The old additional Duties, were by one Act of Parliament paſſed in this Seſſion, granted to his Majeſty for two Years from the 25th of *December* 1751, and the Loan Duties were, by another Act, continued for the ſame Term.

By the laſt mentioned Act 120,000*l.* Part of the Loan was directed to be paid out of the Money in the Treaſury, and it is allowed, that in the Heads of the Bill, drawn up in the Houſe of Commons for this Purpoſe, the Preamble to the enacting Part, for the Payment of the 120,000*l.* did not contain Words expreſsly acknowledging his Majeſty's *previous Conſent*, and the Bill tranſmitted into *Great-Britain* from the Council here, was agreeable thereunto. But when the Bill was conſidered in *Great-Britain*, it was thought proper to ſubſtitute another Preamble agreebly to the Lord Lieutenant's Speech in the Words following.

" And whereas on the 25th of *March* laſt a con-
" ſiderable Balance remained in the Hands of the
" Vice-Treaſurers, or Receivers-General of this King-
" dom, or their Deputy or Deputies. *And your*
" *Majeſty, ever attentive to the Eaſe and Happineſs of*
" *your faithful Subjects, has been graciouſly pleaſed to ſig-*
" *nify that you would conſent, and to recommend it to us,*
" *that ſuch Part thereof as ſhall be thought conſiſtent with*
" *the publick Service* be applied, towards the further
" Reduction of the National Debt: We pray it may
" be enacted."

When

When this Bill was re-tranſmitted into *Ireland*, ſome Objections were made, without Doors, to this Alteration, for about this Time Jealouſies had ſprung up, and been fomented among ſome great Men in the Kingdom. But what was ſaid about this Alteration, was looked upon to proceed, rather from a Deſire to make a Diſplay of Power, than as an Intent to exert it, by rejecting the Bill. For, as the Words in the Preamble in the Bill paſſed in the laſt Seſſion of Parliament more fully implied his Majeſty's *previous Conſent obtained*, than the Words now inſerted in this Bill, the Objections made to this Alteration, were conſidered as only a Diſpute about Words, which implied the ſame Thing, and therefore very little Notice was taken of them. And as there was not any Objection made to the Bill, in the Houſe of Commons, it ſoon paſſed into a Law.

Among other *Stories of the Day*, it has been, this Winter, reported, that the Lord Lieutenant had promiſed that if the Bill, altered, as is before-mentioned, were permitted to paſs, no Alteration of the ſame Nature ſhould be made, in any future Bill of this kind. And, however improbable this Story was, yet it was propagated with ſuch Art and Induſtry, as to obtain Credit with many. But the Perſons, to whom this Promiſe was ſaid to have been made, having been called upon, and they having denied the Charge, it has not now any Credit, but among the uninformed People.

As it is not our Intent to treat of *Conteſts* which are purely *Party*, we ſhall only obſerve, that the Animoſities, which ſprung up, during the laſt Seſſion of Parliament, among ſome great Perſonages, about engroſſing or dividing of Power, were afterwards fomented with great Induſtry, and Stories were invented and propagated with uncommon, and, indeed, indecent Licence, in order to captivate the Minds of the People. It muſt however be obſerved, that ſome of the

Perſons

Perſons who moſt warmly intereſted themſelves in theſe Conteſts, often took occaſion to declare, that the Buſineſs of the King, ſhould not be thereby delayed, nor the Rights of the Crown, or his Majeſty's Prerogative, be at all intrenched upon. And, it were to be wiſhed, for the Service of this poor, diſtreſſed Country, that they had adhered to theſe Declarations. We are indeed inclined to believe, that ſome of thoſe Gentlemen, intended to act conformably to them, but when Men give up the Uſe of their Judgments, in order to follow the Dictates of Party, they are too often hurried into Meaſures, which, if conſidered coolly, according to the Rules of Reaſon, they would deteſt and abhor.

The preſent Seſſion of Parliament was opened on the 9th Day of *October* 1753. And his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, has, in that Part of his Speech to both Houſes, which is particularly addreſſed to the Houſe of Commons, the Words following.

" I am commanded by his Majeſty to acquaint you, " that *he will graciouſly conſent*, and he recommends it " to you, that ſo much of the Money remaining in " his Treaſury as ſhall be neceſſary, be applied to the " Diſcharge of the National Debt, or of ſuch Part " thereof, as you ſhall think expedient."

We purpoſely omit mentioning, what was meditated to be performed, even in the firſt Days of this Seſſion. Want of Power, not want of Inclination, put a Stop thereunto.

We ſhall alſo omit taking Notice of any other Tranſactions, than what may conduce to the clear Knowledge of the Operation, propoſed for our preſent Obſervations.

It appears by a general State of the National Account laid before the Houſe of Commons, for two Years ended at *Lady-day* 1753, that after anſwering all the Charge of the Civil Liſt, and of the Military Eſtabliſhment, and the Payments made purſuant to

Act

Act of Parliament, King's Letters, *&c.* there remained in Credit to the Nation the Sum of

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
	205,173	19	1½
Out of which deducting what remained due of all the Loans at *Lady-day* 1753 — —	77,500	0	0
There remained in Credit to the Nation over and above what was ſufficient to pay all its Debts, the Sum of —	127,673	19	1½
It is to be obſerved that the Money in the Treaſury at *Lady-day* 1753, was — —	315,822	13	10¼
That the Balances in the Collectors Hands at *Lady-day* 1753, on the Hereditary Revenue and old additional Duties amounted to	48,036	11	10½
That the Arrear of Hearth Money was — —	34,410	0	0
Of Quit, *&c.* Rents ——	31,300	0	0
In all £	429,569	5	8¾

Which, may be looked upon, as Money in the Treaſury, the Arrears being in a Courſe of ſpeedy Payment, out of which the Arrears due on the Eſtabliſhments and on the other Charges of Government at *Lady-day* 1753, and the Debt due of the Loan might be diſcharged.

The old additional Duties are, by an Act paſſed in this Seſſion of Parliament, continued to the 25th Day of *December* 1755, but it being intended to diſcharge the Reſidue of the Loan, as recommended from the Throne, the Duties appropriated thereunto, were ſuffered to drop, from the 25th Day of *December* 1753. And thus the Creditors of the Nation, are deprived of the

the Fund, out of which the Intereſt of the Money due to them was to ariſe.

Leave having been, given by the Houſe of Commons, to bring in Heads of one or more Bill or Bills, upon the Reſolutions reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, and agreed to by the Houſe, the Right Hon. the Maſter of the Rolls, Mr. Prime Serjeant, Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Solicitor General, Colonel *John Bourke* and Mr. *John Gore*, were appointed to prepare and bring in the ſame. But it ſeems, they could not readily agree in the manner of purſuing the Inſtruction, given to them by the Houſe, to inſert a Clauſe or Clauſes in the ſaid Heads of a Bill or Bills, for applying ſo much of the Balance remaining in the Vice-Treaſurers Hands at *Lady-day* laſt, as ſhould be, for that Purpoſe, neceſſary to pay off and diſcharge the Sum of 77,500*l.* remaining due of the ſeveral Sums heretofore borrowed by the Public at Intereſt, with ſuch Intereſt as ſhould accrue due for the ſame, until the 25th Day of *March* next. For, although theſe Gentlemen, agreed to purſue that Inſtruction, by drawing up Heads of a ſeparate Bill for that Purpoſe; yet three of them were for having the Preamble thereunto, without Words importing his Majeſty's *previous Conſent*, and the other three were for inſerting Words, agreeably to the Act, which paſſed in the laſt Seſſion of Parliament, and conformable to his Majeſty's *moſt gracious Intentions*, ſignified from the Throne, to the whole Houſe. To prevent therefore the Delay, which it was apprehended might be given to the Money Bill, as well as to this Bill, it was thought proper to ſubmit to the drawing up of the Heads of this Bill, in the former Manner, and the ſame being tranſmitted into *Great-Britain* in due Form, the Bill was re-tranſmitted from thence, with a Letter from his Majeſty's moſt Honourable Privy Council there, ſigned by eighteen Members thereof, to his Grace

the

the Lord Lieutenant, and his Majeſty's moſt Honourable Privy Council of this Kingdom, wherein Notice is taken, " that the Words inſerted in the Pre-
" amble to the Bill, paſſed laſt Seſſion of Parliament,
" for Payment of Part of the National Debt, relat-
" ing to his Majeſty's *previous Conſent*, for the Ap-
" plication of Part of the Money then remaining in
" the Treaſury, are omitted in the Bill now tranſ-
" mitted for the Payment of the Reſidue of the ſaid
" Debt; which having been laid before his Majeſty,
" and taken into mature Conſideration, his Majeſty,
" with the Advice of his Privy Council, has judged
" it neceſſary to cauſe Words of the like import to
" be inſerted in the preſent Bill."

Their Lordſhips, " do therefore, by his Majeſty's
" Command, and in his Name, ſignify the ſame to
" his Grace, and to their Lordſhips of the Privy
" Council here, that the taking Notice of his Ma-
" jeſty's *previous Conſent*, in a Caſe of this Nature
" and Importance, is abſolutely neceſſary for the Sup-
" port of his Majeſty's *Prerogative and Dignity*, and
" for the preſerving the Regularity of the Proceed-
" ings of the Parliament of *Ireland*, *whoſe juſt Rights*
" *and Privileges his Majeſty is determined to main-*
" *tain*."

And their Lordſhips declared, " that they are
" further to ſignify his Majeſty's Pleaſure, that their
" Letter be entered in the Books of the Council
" here." Which is accordingly done.

This ſolemn Declaration of his Majeſty's Judgment on this important Caſe was, one would have thought, ſufficient to have opened the Eyes of all the true Friends of this Country, and have made them cheerfully accept this Declaration, that his Majeſty was determined to maintain the juſt Rights and Privileges of his Parliament of *Ireland*. But alas! ſuch was the Infatuation (let the Expreſſion be pardoned) of ſome Gentlemen, even of ſome who are of his

Majeſty's moſt Honourable Privy Council here, and of others, who hold Employments under the King, that, laying aſide the prudent Maxims of Policy, which ought always to be purſued, for maintaining the Favour and Protection of the Crown, they reſolved to employ all the Influence they had, in order to reject the Bill on Account of the Alteration in the Preamble.

Innumerable Stories were raiſed, and propagated through the Kingdom, of intended Innovations in the State, and of intended Incroachments on the Rights, Liberties, and Properties of the Nation, and the Fate of this Bill, was propoſed as the *Criterion* for diſtinguiſhing who ſhould be deemed the *Aſſerters and Defenders of the Liberties of the People*, and who the *Betrayers of them*. Thoſe who intended to reject the Bill aſſuming to themſelves the firſt Titles, and aſcribed to thoſe who ſhould oppoſe them, the other Title, with many opprobrious Epithets, to render them odious to their Fellow-Citizens.

The Arguments employed for rejecting the Bill, were raiſed, on the Pretence of the *ſole Right* of having *Money-Bills* take their Riſe in the Houſe of Commons, and that no Alteration ſhould be made in thoſe Bills after they are prepared by the Houſe. And they pretended to believe, that the Manner of inſerting his Majeſty's *previous Conſent* in the Preamble to this Bill, was an Admiſſion, that his Majeſty had an abſolute Right over all Money that ſhould come into his Treaſury, and that he could, by virtue of this new acquired Right, diſpoſe thereof, as he ſhould think proper, to other Uſes than for the Service and Benefit of this Kingdom. On theſe Aſſertions, the Preamble to the Bill was, on the 17th Day of *December*, diſagreed to in the Committee of the whole Houſe, to whom the Bill was referred, by 122 againſt 117, beſides two Tellers of each Side, and upon the Report, on the ſame Day, the Bill was rejected by the Houſe.

It

It is not denied, that the Houſe of Commons hath a Power to reject Bills. It was not againſt the Exerciſe of that Power in the Year 1692, but againſt the Reſolutions entered in the Journals of the Houſe of Commons, declaring the Foundations on which they claimed that Power, that the then Lord Lieutenant entered his Proteſtation. The late Operation, is not perfectly, although it is nearly, ſimilar, to the Tranſaction in the Year 1692. The Reaſons given for rejecting the late Bill, are very near the ſame; and the pompous tumultuary Oſtentations, upon its being rejected, very much aggravate this Caſe.

The Quotations, herein before given, from the Journals of the Houſe of Commons, ſufficiently expoſe the Weakneſs of the Aſſertion, that the Commons of *Ireland* have the *ſole Right* of drawing up Heads of Money Bills, and that when they are drawn up, the Privy Council in this Kingdom, or in *Great-Britain*, have not any right to make Alterations in them. And if there were Occaſion of more Evidence to prove the Weakneſs of this Aſſertion, many other Inſtances could be produced for that Purpoſe, out of the Journals of the Houſe of Commons. Nay, Inſtances could be given of more material Alterations, than was in this Bill, which were made in real Money Bills, and were ſubmitted to, by even the preſent Houſe of Commons.

We may be allowed to obſerve, that we think that this Bill cannot be properly called a Money Bill, for there is not one Clauſe therein for granting Money to the Crown. The Bill paſſed, with the Alteration before taken Notice of, in the Year 1751, was really a Money Bill, for by that Bill, the Loan Duties were continued for two Years, and yet it was then paſſed, without any Objection made to it, in the Houſe of Commons.

As to the Pretence, that the King would acquire a new Right to diſpoſe of the Money in his Treaſury

by inſerting the *previous Conſent* of his Majeſty, as it is, in the Preamble, we have already obſerved, that thoſe who made uſe of this Argument, *pretend* to believe what they ſaid on this Occaſion. But, to pay a juſt Deference to their conſummate Wiſdom, we cannot think that they did really believe what they ſaid, to be Law, and it is hoped, that every intelligent, impartial Perſon, who calmly conſiders this Matter, will be of our Opinion.

If the paſſing of the Bill in this Seſſion, would give his Majeſty the *new Right* they ſay it would, why has not the paſſing of the Bill in the laſt Seſſion of Parliament done ſo? and why was it not then oppoſed, if the true Reaſon for oppoſing it now proceeded from the Spirit of Patriotiſm, and the Love of their Country?

But it is an ungrateful Return to his Majeſty, for the parternal Indulgence he has, on all Occaſions ſhewn, to his Subjects in this Kingdom, to ſuppoſe that he would make uſe of his Prerogative, to diſpoſe of the Money in his Treaſury to improper Uſes. Can any Inſtance of this Kind be given? On the contrary, it appears, by what has been extracted from the Reports to the Houſe of Commons from their Committee of Accounts, that his Majeſty has greatly eaſed his Subjects of *Ireland*, when the Debt of the Nation lay heavy upon them.

Thus

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
Thus we find that the Savings to the Nation, on the Military Eſtabliſhment, and Civil Liſt, in the two Years ended at *Lady-day* 1741, amounts to the Sum of —— ——	179332	12	2½
And in the two Years ended at *Lady-day* 1743, they were	113,562	7	4
And in the two Years ended at *Lady-day* 1745, they were	73,984	6	11
And in the two Years ended at *Lady-day* 1747, they were	31,315	3	9
And in the two Years ended at *Lady-day* 1749, they were	59,060	14	0
And in the two Years ended at *Lady-day* 1751, they were	12,246	10	6
What they amounted to, in the two Years, ended at *Lady-day* 1753, we cannot ſet forth, as we have not ſeen the Report, from the Committee of Accounts, in this Seſſion of Parliament. — — — —			
But, the above-mentioned Savings to the Nation, without taking Notice of ſeveral intermediate Savings, which if added together, would make a very conſiderable Sum of Money, amount to — — —	469,501	14	8½

Which by much exceeds the largeſt Debt ever due of this Nation, and has been all ſaved by the gracious Favour of his Majeſty, towards this Country. This, one would imagine, ought to have received from his faithful Subjects, the warmeſt Acknowledgments of Duty and Gratitude, inſtead of ill-grounded Suſpicions and Inſinuations.

Can

Can it be denied that his Majeſty, if he be graciouſly pleaſed ſo to do, may, in Compaſſion to the Creditors of the Nation, who are now without a Fund for paying the Intereſt of the Money remaining due to them on the Loans, and in Eaſe of his Subjects, order, by his Letter, and give public Notice thereof, that ſuch of the Creditors as are willing to receive their Money, ſhall be paid out of the Money remaining in his Treaſury? If this can be done, doth it not prove his Majeſty's ſole Right to the applying of Money in the Receipt of his Treaſury, to public Uſes? And if this ſhould be done, how can thoſe, who plead ſo much Merit by this Operation of rejecting the Bill, anſwer to their Country, for having obliged his Majeſty, to this Exerciſe of his Prerogative, whereby the Lords and Commons of *Ireland*, are deprived of the Share they would have had therein, if the Bill had paſſed into a Law?

Upon the Whole, it appears, that the redundant Money in the Treaſury, did not ariſe, as ſome have vainly imagined, from Exceedings in the Aids granted to the Crown. It aroſe from Savings on the Military Eſtabliſhment, and Civil Liſt, which amounted, to above 100,000*l.* more than the higheſt Loan, and other Debt of the Nation, ever was at. When Part of this redundant Money was to be applied in Diſcharge of the Reſidue of the Loan, and that, by his Majeſty's Command, it was declared from the Throne, that he *would graciouſly conſent* thereunto, can there be any Reaſon aſſigned, on the Principles of *true Patriotiſm*, and *Love of this Country*, conſidered in the feeble Condition of her Conſtitution, for rejecting the Bill for having thoſe Words, inſerted in the Preamble eſpecially, when a Bill, with the ſame Words, was paſſed, without Oppoſition, in the Seſſion of Parliament, immediately preceding, and an other Act was paſſed in the Seſſion before that

again,

again, with Words implying more ſtrongly, his Majeſty's *previous Conſent*.

The Writer of this Paper, hath confined his Obſervations to Facts, that cannot be controverted. He has avoided, ſetting forth, or gueſſing at, the Motives for this moſt extraordinary, and moſt impopolitic Operation. And he believes, that the unprejudiced Reader, will find ſufficient Reaſon to judge, that the Fomentors of it, do not deſerve the much reſpected Names of PATRIOTS, and DEFENDERS OF THE LIBERTIES OF THEIR COUNTRY.

The END.

ERRATA.

Title-Page, in the Motto, after *ſepe* place a Comma.

Page 16. Line 16. *for* with ſo, *read* with too.

Page 32. Line 3. dele the Comma after been, and place it after given.

Houses of the Oireachtas

Houses of the Oireachtas