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National OECONOMY

RECOMMENDED,

As the only Means of retrieving our

TRADE

And securing our

LIBERTIES;

OCCASIONED

By the Perusal of the late *REPORT* of a Committee of the House of Commons relating to the *ARMY*; by which, many gross and important *ABUSES* appear to have been committed in that Article of the Publick Expence, for many Years past, as proved by Abstracts of the said *Report*.

In a LETTER to a Member of the said Committee.

L O N D O N:

Printed for M. COOPER, in *Pater-noster-Row*.
M DCC XLVI.

MEMORIAL
TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Presented to the House of Commons
in the Year 1746

By JOHN STURGEON
Esq; of the Middle Temple

Printed by J. BARNARD, at the
Sign of the Sun in St. Dunstons Church
Lane, near St. Dunstons Church, in
the City of London.

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National Oeconomy;

RECOMMENDED

As the only Means of retrieving our
TRADE, and securing our LIBERTIES,
&c.

September —, 1746.

S I R,

Return you Thanks in Behalf of this once
flourishing Corporation, which you represent
in Parliament, for the Share you have had in
setting on Foot an Enquiry into the State and
Management of the Army, and for your Vi-
gilance in detecting Abuses in that Article of the National
Expence. But let me observe to you, that it appears but too
evidently to me, on the Face of the Report you sent me,
that either your Committee were not arm'd with sufficient
Powers to compel Delinquents to an ample Aowal of their
Peculation, or that you were loth to sift things to the Bot-
tom: And in either Case, Gentlemen must excuse me if I
hold them not altogether blameless; for Enquiries, when
not extended and made to the Purpose, prove rather Incen-
tives than Restraints to the Abusers of Public Trust and
Confidence. These Sons of publick Rapine and Plunder
grow

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grow bolder in Iniquity, looking on all slight and superficial Researches into their Conduct as so many Earnests of the Impunity they are to expect from Men in Power, not only at the Time they are made, but ever after. Besides, that hasty or indulgent Researches have a fatal Tendency in regard to Futurity, it being but too well known that present Impunity hath often been construed into a Precedent injurious to Posterity. Need I illustrate, by Example, this Observation to you, who so often have lamented, in my Hearing, that the present Corruption and Misconduct of some M——rs was owing to the too great Indulgence shewn to Delinquents in the late Reigns?

But, to bring home this Point to the Committee under our present Consideration, is it not natural to conclude, that their present Indulgence to Delinquents will hereafter embolden military Men, and others concern'd in the Management of the Army, to abuse their Trust, and plunder the Public? For Instance, will not the unparall'd Indulgence shewn to *Edmund Jones*, Deputy and Cashier to the Paymaster of the Marines, be an Encouragement to Cashiers, in that and other Offices hereafter, to employ vast Sums of the public Money to their own Use? Mr. *Jones*, after flagrant Prevarication, is brought to own that he had lent out 90,200 *l.* of the Public Money, and that he divided the Interest-Money arising by the Loan, amounting at one time to about 1000 *l.* with one *Herbert* his Accomplice.

As I shall have Occasion, in the Course of my Remarks upon the Report, to consider this Matter more minutely, I shall observe here only that a little paltry Cashier, who durst have employ'd to his own Use near 100,000 *l.* of the public Money at one Time, was let down more softly than probably he would have been, if greater Men than himself had not been privy to this dangerous Insult upon the Nation. Has any Punishment been inflicted, or any Prosecution been order'd against this *Jones*, or his Accomplice *Herbert*? None, any more than against several others, who appear by the Report to have been equally reproveable.

Perhaps

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Perhaps it might not be thought expedient, while the military Gentlemen were so necessarily employ'd in quelling the late Rebellion, to call upon them personally, scrutinize their Civil Conduct, and punish their Delinquency; and if that was the Case, it had been better to have postponed the Enquiry to a more pacific Season; and I cannot but observe, that an unfitter Time could hardly be fix'd upon for enquiring into the Corruptions of an Army, than when it was of greatest Use and Necessity. But we will suppose the Abuses to be grown too notorious and enormous to be any longer borne with, which appears to have been the Case by this very Report, superficial as it seems; and this may be no incongruous Reason for the Enquiry, even in an unfavourable Season, it being always of Advantage to the Public to let Delinquents see that their Corruptions are not unobserved.

If I see the Enquiry renew'd next Session, as I doubt not we shall, because we are bless'd with Representatives distinguish'd for Integrity, Parsimony, and Penetration, I shall conclude that the Progress made in it the last, was only introductory to what we are to expect. But should the Inspection stop here, I shall conclude that the Gentlemen of the Army have greater Influence than our Constitution admits of, or an *Englishman* would wish they had.

The *English* Pay is the highest in the World, and no Army in *Europe* is more punctually or more regularly paid, and better supplied, than ours; yet, to take the Embezzlements, the Sinkings by false Musters, non-effective Men, Cloathing, Vacancies, Agencies, Recruiting, and other Articles, even on the Footing of this indulgent Enquiry, I believe no Nation in *Europe* so imposed upon in this Article; nor can properly arise any Doubt, that the like or greater Injustice is done to the Nation in the several other important Articles of the public Expence.

But we are not become Prodigals only in expending public Money, for in raising it we are no less extravagant; witness the Sum of 400,000 *l.* that might have been saved on the raising 3,000,000 *l.* for the current Service of the present Year, if Sir *John Barnard's* Proposal had not been rejected,

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rejected, to make way for *Jews* and *Foreigners* to fatten upon our Spoil. (a) " I am fully persuaded, says that worthy Representative of the greatest trading City in the World, in his *Defence of his Proposals*, that, in the Situation which this Nation is, so fully tax'd; that it is not practicable, by annual Taxes, to raise within the Year the Money which is necessary in Times of War. The Well-being of the Nation depends upon nothing more than a constant prudent Management both in raising and expending the Money. Mismanagement in either tends to plunge us into Debts, which may grow so excessive as that we may be neither able to bear them, nor honestly get rid of them."—And after observing upon the Injustice done to the old Creditors of the Public, by letting the new run away with exorbitant Premiums for the Advance of Money, he goes on:

" There is another Consideration, which regards both the Public and the Creditors; which is, that Mismanagement lessens the Opinion which Mankind have of the Funds, and so tends to raise the Rate of Interest. I conceive, that a Nation may lessen its Credit by the same Means a private Man may: A Man that sets out with a great Estate, and is known to mismanage his Affairs, will, in time, have much less Credit than another, who, altho' of small Estate, is observed to manage his Affairs with Prudence. These Considerations are, I conceive, abundantly sufficient to justify any Person in using his utmost Endeavours to have the Public supplied with the necessary Money on the cheapest Terms possible, and to make a Member of Parliament, who, in that Capacity, is no other than a Trustee for the People, think it his indispensable Duty to act accordingly."

But, how cogent soever these Considerations were with that disinterested Legislator, for raising and expending public Money with Economy, there are others which weigh much more with me, and I dare say with him, if he had thought proper to mention them. The first is, that without the utmost Economy we can form no Hopes of ever being able to retrieve our Trade, which the *French*, *Dutch*, *Flem-*

(a) Pag. 8.

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Flemmings, and others have ingross'd, by being able to undersell us at Foreign Markets, even with our own favourite staple Manufacture. 'Tis not enough that the principal Ingredient of this Manufacture, *Wool*, is of our own Growth, while our Taxes bear so hard on the *English* Manufacturer that he cannot work up this *Wool* by 20 per Cent. so cheap as the *French*, and other foreign Workmen. In vain shall we think to retrieve our Trade by a Peace, unless we can go to Market as cheap as others; for Trade is not to be forced, even had we a Superiority of Power; and Foreigners will ever buy of those that afford the best Penny-worths. So that Speculists may form what Schemes and Plans they will, for improving and extending our Commerce; but I say, and insist, that without a very considerable Reduction of those Taxes which affect the working Part of our People, our Foreign Trade will and must annually decay and grow worse.

Here, then, is a Reason affecting the whole Community, which should create among us all a Spirit of Parsimony and Economy; and yet there is still another, more urgent and interesting than this. 'Tis true, Trade is of public Utility, and no Nation, particularly Islanders as we are, can well subsist without it; but much less can we subsist without *Freedom*, which I apprehend is no less endanger'd than Trade, by the Weight and Continuance of our Debts and Taxes.

Much has been wrote by the Friends to Corruption and Venality, concerning the Diminution of the Prerogative of the Crown since the Revolution; but they have and must for ever fail of maintaining the Argument among a People, whereof each Individual can, from his own Experience, prove the direct contrary. Who saw not, and experienced, the Power of the Crown during the Administration of the late Earl of *Orford*? Who saw not the over bearing Influence of that Minister in the Senate, the Army, and, in short, every where but among Foreigners, where alone an *Englishman* should wish it exercised? And whence, but from the Receipt of a vast Revenue, and the Distribution of a Multitude of Places and Employments, created by our Debts

Debts and Taxes, did the mighty Influence of that arbitrary Minister spring?

But if the ministerial Power, a modern Phrase for Prerogative, has been so excessive, while yet our Debts were under Fifty Millions, and the annual Receipt of public Money did not exceed Four or Five, how much more formidable may we not dread its becoming now that the national Debt exceeds Seventy Millions, and the yearly Receipt is above Nine? The Debts and the ministerial Power, or Prerogative, must naturally, nay necessarily, grow up together; and this Power, or Species of Prerogative, is far more dangerous in the Hands of an ambitious Prince and corrupt Ministry, than any Stretch of Power in Consequence of any bare pretended inherent Prerogative of the Crown.

This Point being too well, and too generally understood and acknowledg'd to be controverted at present, it may be said that our Debts and Taxes have created such a Power in the Crown as was unknown before the Revolution; and that the Crown, in consequence of this Power or new Prerogative, would be an Over-match for the People, had it been worn by any Prince less virtuous, and more ambitious than his present Majesty. But as he is subject to the Laws of Nature as well as others, a wise People would guard against the Ambition of his Successors, and Corruption of future Ministers. Should the present Power of the Crown continue, by the Continuance of our Debts and Taxes, what shall hinder an ambitious Prince and a corrupt Ministry to over-turn the Constitution, if a Change of it suit the Temper of the Court better than the present Form? But, alas! may not the Constitution be alter'd, tho' the Form be preserved? Did not the Form or Appearance of the ancient Roman Constitution remain long after its Essence was no more? There was a Senate, at least the Shew of one, during the long despotic Influence of Augustus; but it was but the Shadow of that once august Assembly, which curb'd the Insolence of Ministers and Generals at home, and gave Laws to foreign Nations.

Forbid

Forbid it, Heaven! that ever our Constitution should be reduced to Form only, or our Senate to such a Shadow as was that of old Rome! But such it may be hereafter, if the Power created by our Debts and Taxes continues; nay, such it must be, if ever any of our Rulers of the present Royal Line should be so ambitious as to introduce the same Maxims of Government in their Regal as well as Electoral Dominions. What shall hinder them, if they have the Receipt and Payment of such a vast Revenue as the present, and the Disposal of such a prodigious Number of lucrative Employments as are created by our present Debts and Taxes? I defy the Art of Man to obstruct the Incroachments of future ambitious Princes and corrupt Ministers, if the Posture of our Affairs, as to Debts and Taxes, remains the same that it is at present. His Majesty's Virtues secure us at present; but what Security have we that his Successors, or some of them at least, may not inherit his Crown without his Virtues?

Now, therefore, is the real Harvest-season of an Englishman, who would preserve and perpetuate the Freedom of Posterity. While so benevolent a Prince as his Majesty rules, a Fence may be raised to secure our Liberties against the Invasions of future ambitious Rulers; but this Bulwark is only to be raised on the Reduction of those Debts and Taxes, which have thrown down that which had been erected by the Constitution. This never design'd that the Crown should enjoy a Power to tread under Foot the Liberties of the People. The Constitution took away actually any such injurious Power from the Crown; but our Debts and Taxes have imperceptibly communicated such an Increase of Power to the Throne, as enables it to throw down at Will all those Ramparts that had been set up by the primitive Constitution.

Therefore, if we would put it out of the Power of bad Men to hurt us hereafter, we should act like wise Men at present. If we take the Means from the Vicious, they will want the Power to injure us. The Receipt of a vast Revenue, and the Distribution of Employments grafted upon it, is this Means. Let us then, according to Sir John Barnard,

ward, be more prudent both in the *raising* and *expending* public Money for the future. Had we been as prudent as we might and ought, since the Revolution, we had accumulated no Debts, nor added to our Taxes; but being a clear and unburthen'd Nation was not the Business of the Court, tho' it was that of the People. Debts stood in the room of Pledges for their Fidelity, and Taxes added to the Power of the Crown. It was to this false Policy, which prevail'd as early as the Revolution, that we are to impute the present Exorbitancy of our Debts and Taxes, and the dangerous Increase of the Regal Power in virtue of them.

But how was this mortgaging Scheme executed in the Face of the Sun without general Murmur and Complaint? Shall I answer this Question by putting another, which, Sir, your own Memory will help you to solve? If 400,000 *l.* may be saved in the raising 3,000,000 *l.* by dealing with a Set of honest *Englishmen*, preferable to *Jews*, Infidels, and Foreigners, and so great a National Saving be neglected in one single Instance without Murmur, what Wonder is it that the present National Burden should have increased to its present cumberous and dangerous Weight, without any visible public Perturbation? Pretexts are never wanting on the Part of Courts and Ministers, who can never fail of stifling Complaints, when they have the Means to bestow Pensions and Employments, with which they are furnish'd by that very Cause, of which the People would or ought to complain.

But what signifies Murmur and Complaint in a Land of Corruption and Venality? Did not the public Complaint reach all *Europe* in the long *Walpolean* Administration, yet what did it avail? *Walpole*, it is true, was removed at last by the Force of Complaint; but was the Cause of Complaint removed? He was removed to make way for more hungry Statesmen, who pursued Measures which they had thought proper to explode in their Predecessor. Taxes were continued; Debts were increased, and consequently the Power of the Crown went on increasing as well since as in *Sir Robert's* Days. What have the People got by the Exchange? Or what can they hope from any Change of Ministers, unless there be more prudent Management for

for the future, both in *raising* and *expending* public Money?

The chief Articles of our Expence are those of the Army and Navy. All we know for certain of the Navy at present, is, that there is a monstrous Debt due upon it, (many Millions) as yet unaccounted for, or secured by Parliament. And as for the Army, this Report is too visible a Proof that the Money raised by Parliament for its Support, has not been *expended* with that prudent Management requisite in our present Circumstances, and intended by the Constitution. This appears but too evidently by almost every Page of the present Report, which, it is to be hoped, is introductory only to what is to follow.

The Committee sets out with great Order and Method in the Discussion of the Point refer'd to them; but I am sorry they set out likewise with promising that they would (b) *avoid all Observations, except such as render the various Accounts and Examinations intelligible.* I confess that this Introduction, which to me seem'd altogether needless, if it was intended to probe the Wound to the Bottom, gave me such a Concern as must necessarily affect every honest *Englishman*. But to proceed:

(c) "The Method, which your Committee think the most proper to avoid Confusion, is, to state first what relates to the Money granted by Parliament for the Pay; secondly, what regards the Number of effective Men; and, thirdly, the Method of mustering and recruiting the Land Forces and Marines.

"The Money for the Pay of the Land Forces and Marines being annually granted by Parliament upon Estimates, which contain only the total Number of Men, Officers included, and the gross Sum for each Regiment, it became necessary for the Committee to examine as many of the Establishments as could conveniently be laid before them, the Distribution of the Money granted for the Pay appearing only thereby." — I am sorry to see the Word *conveniently* made use of by

(b) Pag. 1. (c) Pag. 2.

those who had, or ought to have, Power to command any or all the *Establishments* that have been since the Restoration.

(d) “ The first Establishment laid before the Committee commences the 25th of *April*, in the twelfth Year of the Reign of King *William*, in the Year 1700; and the latest is that for the Year 1745, which took Place the 25th of *December* 1744, and continues still in Force, there being no Establishment for the present Year made out, as your Committee are inform'd.”—I can't again help expressing my Concern, that the Committee had not order'd the Establishments from 1660 to 1700 to be laid before them, being of Opinion that it might be of use to see how the public Expence did swell gradually down from that Period of Time.

“ These Establishments your Committee have consider'd, and carefully compared to a Number of intermediate Establishments for different Years, in all the different Reigns, from the Year 1700 to the present Time; and from these it appears, that altho' the Money, applicable for what is properly the personal Pay of the Officers and Men, has constantly continued the same, excepting only a small Addition to the Non-commission Officers and private Men in the Dragoons, and to the Serjeants and Corporals of the Foot Guards, which will be stated hereafter, yet there is a very considerable Increase in the Charge of the Land Forces and Marines to the Publick.

“ In order to discover and explain how and when this additional Charge took place, the Committee have proceeded upon the Number of Regiments voted by Parliament for the Service of the Year 1745, according to their Establishment of Officers and Men, and have computed what the Charge of so many Regiments, of the like Numbers, would have been to the Publick in the Year 1700, and at every Period where any Increase appear'd since; for by this Method the Difference can alone be fairly stated, because, through a Series of Forty-

(d) Pag. 2.

“ five

“ five Years, the Number of Regiments has not only annually varied, but the Number of Officers and Men in each Regiment has been frequently different; and, during most part of the first Twelve Years, which your Committee have included in the Comparison, the Nation being engaged in a great and expensive War upon the Continent, when the Forces were in actual Service, those Years seem more particularly to deserve our Attention; especially in our present Situation.

“ It is proper here to observe, that the apparent Charge of the Four Troops of Horse-Guards, and the Two Troops of Grenadier-Guards, having always upon the Establishments continued the same, these are omitted in the State of the increased Charge upon the Publick; which is computed only upon Five Regiments of Horse, Ten Regiments of Dragoons, the Three Regiments of Foot Guards, and Thirty Battalions of Foot; the total Charge whereof, at this Time, amounts to 999,941 *l.* 16 *s.* 8 *d.* per Annum; whereas the same Number of Land Forces, divided into Regiments, as they now are, according to the Charge from the Year 1700, during all the last War until after the Peace of *Utrecht*, would have cost the Nation only 871,042 *l.* 1 *s.* 8 *d.* per Ann. So that the Charge of the Number of Regiments above-mention'd is increased, since the Peace of *Utrecht*; 128,899 *l.* 15 *s.* yearly, which is above one Seventh of the whole Expence, &c. — And if to this Sum be added the Increase of the Charge of the present Ten Regiments of Marines, beyond what Ten Regiments of the like Numbers would have cost the Publick, during all the last War, that Increase is 15,086 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.* per Annum, the present Charge of the Marine Regiments being 201,753 *l.* 15 *s.* and the Charge in the last War, for the like Number, amounting to 186,667 *l.* 1 *s.* 8 *d.* So that the increased Charge on the Land Forces and Marines together, is 143,986 *l.* 8 *s.* 4 *d.* each Year; which is still above one Seventh of the whole publick Expence annually, for the Number of Land Forces and Marines before stated.

C 2.

(e) “ The

(e) " The Committee have compared the Charge of the respective Garisons, from the first time they appear upon any Establishment, which the Committee have seen, since the 25th of April 1702, with the Charge thereof for the Year 1745; and the Increase of the publick Charge for Garisons annually, amounts to 13,077 l. 5 d. Half-penny; which is above one Third of the Sum of 37,033 l. 15 s. 2 d. the total Charge of the Garisons per Annum. And thus the whole Increase upon the Land Forces, Marines, and Garisons, is 157,063 l. 8 s. 9 d. Half-penny each Year."

Here we may see, partly, why our Debts were not paid off in the Course of almost Thirty Years Peace. The exceeding in this single Article, from the Year 1715 to the present, is very little short of Five Millions; and, were we to take in the Whole of it, would appear much more. For, —

(f) " The Committee have not swell'd this Account with the increased annual Charge of the several Regiments at Gibraltar, Port-mahon, and the Plantations; the Highland Regiment, the Invalids, the various Independent Companies, and the Fifteen Regiments lately raised by several Noblemen; as the Committee have not had time, &c."

To what shall we impute this Indulgence to our Soldiery since the Accession? What shall we say of such large Douceurs given to our military Gentlemen, during a long, inactive Interval of Peace, more than they had during the glorious Reign of Queen Ann, when they were useful not only to their own Country, but all Europe! — Five Millions extraordinary to the Army, besides twice as much in Subsidies to Danes, Hessians, and Wolfenbutlers, for taking care of a People, secured by their Situation and Naval Force from all the World! Well may our Debts not only continue, but increase, when no greater Oeconomy is observed in the raising than expending the publick Money.

(e.) Pag. 3.

(f) Pag. 3.

Tho'

Tho' this Advance in the Article of Pay far exceeds what has ever been known or practised in this Kingdom, and that it be insufferable in our present unhappy Circumstances, yet does it seem that the Frauds committed annually exceeded this Article of surplus Pay. In the Article of *Musters* only, there seems to have been a prodigious Sinking upon the Publick; and I am sorry to say it, this vast Sinking seems to have been authorized, or at least connived at, by the Legislature ever since the Accession.

(g) " The Committee endeavour'd to discover whether any Checks were introduced, to secure to the Publick the effective Men, who seem intended to have been purchased by those Allowances; and, for that End, examined the several Acts of Parliament for punishing Mutiny and Desertion, from the first Year of the Reign of Queen Anne; and find that in all these, to the First of King George I. there was no Provision relating to Servants, but what is contain'd in one Clause in the following Words: — *And it is hereby further Enacted, that if any Officer shall muster any Person, that is a Servant, allow'd by her Majesty, in any of the Ranks, or shall muster any Person by a wrong Name knowingly, upon Conviction thereof before a Court-Martial, the said Officer or Commissary shall suffer such Penalties, and in such manner, as is declared and inflicted by this Act upon those who shall make false Musters.*"

" This Clause, which seems to have been originally intended as a Check against mustering, as Soldiers, Servants who were not Soldiers, and continued after the Allowances were made, to prevent Soldiers being taken from their Duty, and employ'd as Servants, was not alter'd until the first Year of the Reign of King George the First; where in the Act for punishing Mutiny and Desertion, the Clause is in these Words: *And it is hereby Enacted, that if any Officer or Commissary shall muster any Person by a wrong Name knowingly, upon Conviction thereof*"

(f) Pag. 4.

“ thereof before a Court Martial, the said Officer or Com-
“ missary shall suffer such Penalties, and in such manner, as
“ is declared and inflicted by this Act, upon those who shall
“ make false Musters.

“ So that the Words, *shall muster any Person that is a*
“ *Servant in any of the Ranks*, as well as the Words *allow'd*
“ *by her Majesty*, were left out, and have never since been
“ inferted in any of the subsequent Acts for punishing Mu-
“ tiny and Defertion to this Day.”

If the Committee had not unluckily set Bounds to their
Observations in the very first Page of the Report, there is
scarce a Doubt but they would have descanted amply on the
Motives that could have induced the Legislature to leave
out those *Essential Words* in the Clause of the Act of Parlia-
ment, which was design'd as a Check against false Muster-
ing, and other Frauds of Officers. But tho' this delicate
Point has been untouch'd by the Committee themselves,
they have left room enough for others, more at Leisure, to
employ their Thoughts upon it as a Matter of high Con-
cern and Consequence to this Nation. And, indeed, what
can affect a People more than *Omissions* of a public and ge-
neral Nature? We won't say that these were spontaneous,
but may, that the Publick would not have been worse served,
if there had been less of the military Gentlemen in former
P——ts.

The next Article in the Report, which occurs, is an In-
crease for Cloathing, from the Year 1717 down to the pre-
sent Time. (b) “ The next Article of the Increase,
“ which commenced in 1717, is the Allowance to Colonels
“ for Cloaths lost by Deferters, amounting annually to
“ 14,527 l.” — Here is another Douceur for the Colonels
of the Army, most of whom were *Representatives* of the
Community as well as Commanders; and this little left-
handed Bait amounted to no more, since first it was made
Part of the Establishment, than 435,810 l. A paltry Sum,
not worth saving by a Nation that is clear and unin-
cumber'd.

The

b) Pag. 8.

The Report goes on to shew what the Establishment is
in regard to Cloathing the Army; and Mr. *Guerin*, an
Agent, being examin'd as to the Fund for Cloathing,
which he said was the Off-reckonings, the Committee pro-
ceed thus: (i) “ Mr. *Guerin* being required to explain to
“ the Committee what is meant by the Off-reckonings,
“ he said, that the gross Off-reckonings consist of all the
“ Pay of the Non-commission Officers and private Men,
“ above the Subsistence; and that the neat Off-reckonings
“ are the Produce of the gross Off-reckonings, reserved
“ for the Cloathing of the Men, &c.

(k) “ This same Mr. *Guerin* being ask'd, whether the
“ Clothier has the whole Off-reckonings, if the Regiment
“ be not compleat; he said, that the Clothier provides a
“ Cloathing for a compleat Regiment as upon the Esta-
“ blishment, or at least as it is expected.”

The Committee might have spared themselves the
Trouble of examining an Agent as to the Cloathing, be-
cause that mysterious Article is generally known but to the
Colonel and Clothier, who are the only Gainers: And Mr.
Guerin says as much a little before; where saying, “ That
“ when the Clothier has compleated his Cloathing ready
“ to be deliver'd, a General Officer is appointed to view
“ the said Cloathing; who certifies in Writing, that he
“ has found it conformable to his Majesty's Instructions in
“ Quantity and Quality; which Certificate, together with
“ the Colonel's Assignment of the Off-reckonings, is pro-
“ duced by the Clothier to the Board of General Officers,
“ who pass the Assignment; but that the Contract between
“ the Colonel and Clothier is not laid before any Officer what-
“ ever; nor is any Account brought afterwards of the Ex-
“ pence of that Cloathing.”

We have seen what the Off-reckonings are; that they
consist of Pay stop't from the poorer Part of the Army for
their Cloathing; but I don't find that any Return is made
to these needy poor Men, of such Part of their own Money
as

(i) Pag. 12.

(k) Pag. 13.

as may not have been laid out for their Use. The whole Off-reckonings are at the Disposal of the Colonel, who pays as little of them as he can to a Contractor for cloathing the Regiment, and is sure never to account to the poor starving Creatures under his Command for the Surplus.— I have often heard it said, *That give a Man a Regiment, and his Fortune is made*; but, till I read this Report, could not see how a Man, who is obliged to live up to his Rank, or ought, could squeeze an Estate from poor Wretches that have but Six-pence a Day to live upon.—But most Colonels have *Seats*, where their Attendance may be of Use to Ministers and Courts.

We shall see presently the Amount of these Funds arising from Foot Regiments, which Colonels appropriate to themselves; but Mr. *Guerin* tells the Committee in this Place, (Pag. 13) that the Off-reckonings of the Warrant-men only of each of *Rich* and *Cope's* Regiment of Dragoons amounted to 4065 *l.* 8 *s.* 2 *d.*—But that he had no Concern in the Cloathing.—Why should he? Colonels and Agents have their different Spheres, wherein they bask and fatten at the Expence of the Poor.

“(a) Captain *Alexander Wilson*, Agent to the first Troop of Horse Grenadier-Guards, being examined as to the Account of the Off-reckonings, and the Charge of the Cloathing of this Troop, said, that the Assignment of the Off-reckonings, from *June* 1740, to *June* 1743, was for 2823 *l.* 5 *s.* 9 *d.* and the Payments for Cloathing amounted to 1946 *l.* 2 *s.* 1 *d.* Halfpenny, and that he (the Witness) paid the Ballance to the Colonel in Money.—The same Witness says, that being lately Agent to the Second Troop of Grenadier-Guards, the Assignment for the Off-reckonings was as above, 2823 *l.* 5 *s.* 9 *d.* but that the Payment for Cloathing was but 1872 *l.* 0 *s.* 2 *d.* and that he paid the Ballance to the Colonel.—For my Part, I see all the Reason in the World why Ministers should be fond of Colonels, and Colonels of Ministers. They are serviceable to each other without doubt, tho' it is not so very clear what Service

(a) Pag. 15.

Service Colonels do to Ministers, as what these last do to the former. We know that a Colonel, as in the Instance before us, is permitted to get near a *Thousand Pounds* by Cloathing a single Troop; but what Return is made to the Minister, is understood only.

Captain *Wilson*, proceeding in his Examination, (a) “ that the Off-reckonings of General *Hawley's* Regiment, from *June* 1743 to *June* 1745, amounted to 4065 *l.* 15 *s.* 0 *d.* and the Payments for Cloathing to 3006 *l.* 15 *s.* 0 *d.* including Interest at 5 per Cent. and Loss by Discount upon Tallies, &c.”

(b) “ With respect to Lord *Mark Kerr's* Regiment of Dragoons, the Witness said, that the current Assignment for the Off-reckonings, commencing the 25 *June* 1745, was 4059 *l.* 15 *s.* and the Cloathing amounted to 3875 *l.* 1 *d.* including Interest and Loss by Tallies, &c.”

The same Witness goes on in regard to this Regiment, saying, (c) “ That the next Assignment commenced in *June* 1737, for two Years, and amounted to 3454 *l.* 6 *s.* 2 *d.* and the Disbursements were 1953 *l.* 11 *s.* 4 *d.* including Interest, as before explained; and left a Balance to the Colonel of 1500 *l.* 14 *s.* 10 *d.*

“ That the next Assignment commenced in 1739. for two Years, and amounted to 3459 *l.* 2 *s.* 5 *d.* this being Leap-Year: That this Year, by Warrant dated *August* the 17th, one Serjeant and ten private Men were added to each Troop, for which Additional 198 *l.* at 3 *l.* per Man was allowed for Accoutrements, and a further Allowance of 235 *l.* 10 *s.* for Horse-Furniture, besides the Off-reckonings upon their Pay for two Years, which came to 606 *l.* 5 *s.* 8 *d.* the whole Off-reckonings and Allowances amounting to 4498 *l.* 18 *s.* 1 *d.* and that the Disbursements, including Interest, were 3719 *l.* 3 *s.* 9 *d.* Halfpenny, which left a Balance to the Colonel of 779 *l.* 14 *s.* 3 *d.* Halfpenny.

D

“ That

(a) p. 16.

(b) p. 17.

(c) ibid.

“ That the Assignment in 1741, was for 4059 l. 15 s.
“ the Regiment consisting of the same Numbers as in the
“ two preceding Years; and the Disbursements including
“ Interest, were 2342 l. 16 s. 7 d. and left a Balance to
“ the Colonel of 1716 l. 18 s. 5 d.

“ That the Assignment in 1743, was for the same Sum,
“ as in the former Year, and the Disbursements, including
“ 234 l. 2 s. 6 d. for Interest, and 101 l. 9 s. 11 d. The
“ Loss by Discount upon Tallies, in which the Off-rec-
“ konings from June 1744, to June 1745, are to be
“ paid, amounted to 2676 l. 14 s. 6 d. which leaves a
“ Balance to the Colonel of 1383 l. 6 d.

“ The Witness added to this Part of his Evidence, that
“ all the Regiments of Dragoons in Great Britain were
“ augmented in the manner before-mentioned, and at the
“ same Times; and as he supposed had the same Allowances.”
“ ’Tis very likely that so good a Man as Mr. Wilson is
reputed to be, might have told the Committee all he knew
of this Matter; but whether or no he had forgot any fur-
ther Increase of the Balances coming to the Colonel of this
Regiment; ’tis plain he remembers enough to shew that a
Regiment of Dragoons is no inconsiderable Favour on the
Part of a Ministry.

This Gentleman, Mr. Wilson, (a) “ Being required to
“ give the Company an Account of the Off-reckonings
“ and Charge of the Cloathing of a Regiment of Foot of
“ Ten Companies, consisting of seventy private Men,
“ three Serjeants, three Corporals, and two Drummers per
“ Company; he said, that the Off-reckonings amount to
“ 2173 l. 1 d. and he produced an Estimate of the Charge
“ of the Cloathing of such a Regiment.” Which Estimate,
as well as three others he gave in of Kerr’s and Bragg’s Regi-
ment of Foot in 1730 and 1731, and in 1742, &c. have an
annual Balance, still in favour of the Colonel, of near 400 l.
But let it be observ’d, that this Balance increases in Proportion
to the Numbers of Non-effectuals charged to a Regiment.

And

And we may be sure, from the Account given by this Re-
port of Musters, that these Numbers are not altogether so
inconsiderable, as the Gentlemen of the Army and those
concerned with them, would persuade the Publick.

(a) “ Mr. William Adair, Agent to Sir Philip Honey-
“ wood’s Regiment of Horse, and several Regiments of
“ Foot, being examined in relation to the Cloathing the
“ said Regiment, said, that the Assignments are generally
“ made to him, as a Matter of Confidence, but that he
“ gives Discharges to be answerable for the Money, and
“ has no Concern in the Cloathing, other than by paying
“ Bills drawn upon him by the Colonels, &c. That the
“ Off-reckonings of Honeywood’s Regiment amount to 3245 l.
“ 13 s. 4 d. per annum; those of the second Regiment of
“ Foot-Guards, to which the Witness is Agent, to 5938 l.
“ 13 s. 8 d. per Annum; and those of Major General
“ Howard’s Regiment of Foot, Major General Huske’s,
“ Major General Johnson’s, Brigadier Douglass’s, and Co-
“ lonel Graham’s, (to which Regiments the Witness is also
“ Agent) to 2173 l. 1 d. each, &c.”

“ Being asked what is in general the Profit arising to
“ the Colonel by the Cloathing of a Regiment of Foot;
“ the Witness said, that the Clothiers were the best Judges
“ of that Matter.”

“ And being particularly asked, whether he did not
“ think that the Colonel gains 753 l. by the Cloathing of
“ his Regiment; he said, he did not believe he does.”

There is no doubting that the Committee had their Rea-
sons for putting the Question, and for limiting the exact
Gains of the Colonel to the Sum of 753 l. being so much
as had appeared to them to be the Gain upon the Cloathing
of a Regiment of Foot. And Mr. Adair might be of
Opinion that it did not amount to quite so much. But
how came it that he could be now certain the Amount of
the Profit did not run so high; whereas, a little before he
knew nothing, or very little of the Matter?—The Clothiers,
he said, were the best Judges of the Profits of Cloathing.

D 2

“ Mr. Thomas

(a) " Mr. Thomas Paterfon, Agent for many Regiments, presented to the Committee an Account of the Off-reckonings and Cloathing of Colonel Murray's Regiment, for the Years 1744 and 1745.—By which it appears that the Sums gain'd by the Colonel were little short of the Computation of Gain made by the Committee.

(b) " Captain William Wilkinson, Agent to Lord Stair's Regiment of Dragoons, the First Regiment of Foot-Guards, and to Brigadier Mordaunt's, and Lord Loudon's Regiments of Foot, being examined, said, That the Off-reckonings only of the Men, allowed for Cloathing, are carried to the Assignment, their Subsistence being paid to the respective Colonels, as well in Regiments of Dragoons, as Foot. And he presented to the Committee a State of the Assignments for the Royal North-British Dragoons, for Twelve Years, from the 25th of June 1733, to the 24th of June 1745."—By which State it appears, that the Colonel's Profit on the Article of Cloathing only amounted to 7697 l. 1 s. 4 d. making about 641 l. 8 s. 5 d. per Ann.

The said Mr. Wilkinson subjoins to the aforesaid Estimate, one of the real Pay of a Colonel of Dragoons, which is well worth the Observation of an English Reader, who might wish that those who serve the Government, would be contented with the Allowance of the Establishments warranted by the Constitution.

(c) " Colonel's Income per Annum,	
" 365 Days Subsistence at 1 l. 6 s. 6 d.	} 483 12 6
per Diem	
" Ditto, for 6 Men, at 1 s. 2 d. per Ditto	127 15 0
	<hr/>
	611 07 6
" 365 Days Clearings	113 10 0
" Total personal Income for 365 Days	724 17 6

(a) Pag. 23. (b) Pag. 24. (c) Pag. 183.

By

By this Estimate, and the annual Benefit arising to a Colonel by Cloathing by that preceeding, the whole Income of a Colonel of Dragoons would not amount to 1400 l. per Annum: And very near the Moiety of this moderate Income is purloin'd from the private Men. But will it be said that the Income of a Colonel of Dragoons amounts to so little as twice this Sum? The World is better inform'd; 'tis known that a Colonel of Foot has as much, or near it, as this Estimate amounts to. But whence does this additional Income of Colonels arise? Is it not natural to suppose that it comes from Non-effectuals, which should be the Business of the Commissaries of Musters to prevent? What shall we say; what can we say, but that all who are concerned in the military Affairs of the Nation, are friendly and sincere to one another. It were to be wished, however, that Gentlemen would sometimes turn their Friendship and Sincerity in favour of the Publick.

To prove the Social Virtues of those concerned about our Army, we have but to read the present Report. There we may see the great Discretion of Agents, who so exactly agree in their Informations; and the same may be observed of Clothiers and others. I see but one Exception among those latter, where Mr. Galfridus Mann owns generously, (a) " That he had lost the Benefit of Cloathing a great many Regiments, because he would not contract at so cheap a Rate as other People propos'd." This Gentleman did no more in this Instance, than other rich Men, that would not stoop to a Colonel who would screw them down, and not for the Benefit of the poor private Men, whose Money was thus endeavoured to be saved, perhaps by furnishing them with Cloathing of inferior Quality.

Mr. William Rush, a Taylor who worked for the aforesaid Mr. Mann, and likewise for Mr. Wilson, another Clothier, says (b) " that the Cloaths he makes for Mr. Mann, are cut out at Mr. Mann's House; but that those, which he makes for Mr. Wilson, are cut out at his (the Witness's) own House"—I mention this trivial Particular only, as a Caution to young Tradesmen, who may perceive here one Means of growing rich. Mr. Rush may be as honest as a Taylor can be; but certainly he

(a) Pag. 26. (b) Pag. 27.

he would not be the less honest for being obliged to cut out the Cloathing at the House of his Employer.

The Committee finish this Part of their Report, relating to Cloathing the Army, by observing, (a) "That having examined the different Accounts laid before them by the several *Clothiers*, Tailors, and Packers, as aforesaid; found them not corresponding the Accounts produced by the Tailors, frequently differing from those of the Clothiers, and the Packers sometimes sending more, sometimes fewer Cloaths, than the Tailors made, &c."—The only Observation I shall make here is, that the inferior Class of People are not so *exact* as those of higher Stations of Life, who are more *understanding*. For instance, how much *exacter* and more *conformable* do the Gentlemen *Agents* appear by this Report, than these common Tradesmen? I won't say of *Honesty*, what is thought of the State of Religion in this Kingdom of late Years, viz. That if there be any, 'tis among the lower Class of the People. I wish *Religion* may be harboured by any of our People, but I fear *Honesty* is— I wish, Sir, you would send us, your Constituents, a little of it in a Frank along with Mr. *Foster's* Account of the beheaded Peers, if you can borrow any either at Court, or in the City among Jews and Stock-Jobbers; your Report shews how abundantly you may be supply'd among the Colonels of the Army, their Agents, and the Commissaries of Musters.

The Report goes on, (b) "Your Committee next proceeded to enquire into the other Advantages arising to Colonels, from the Regiments under their Command, by the vacant Pay of Officers and Men; as also by the Sale of Commissions, &c."

Mr. *Henry Taylor*, Agent, (c) being asked, what becomes of the vacant Pay, where an Officer dies in the Interval between two Musters, he said, the Case never happened to him; but that if it was to happen, he should pay the Subsistence to the Colonel, if the Vacancy was not respited: That all Vacancies are settled at the Clearing of the Regiment; and if not respited,

(a) Pag. 31. (b) Pag. 37. (c) *ib.*

go, as the Witness apprehends, to the Colonel, in consequence of his Commission, &c."

A Colonel of a Regiment, is, it seems, not unlike a Common-Shore, where all Sinks, Vacancies, Cloathing, Non-effectuals; all is Fish that comes to the Colonel's Net. But, see how delicately this String of Vacancies is touched upon in the following Paragraph of the Report, part of the Evidence of one examined to this Point.

(a) "With regard to the Savings upon vacant Commissions, the said Member informed the Committee, That he once calculated them for one Year, and found, that they amounted to less than 5000 *l.* but that he apprehended, it is impossible to know the precise Number."—It were to be wished this Gentleman had inform'd the Committee whether his Calculation had been since the War or before; nor can I apprehend, as he does, any Impossibility in knowing the precise Number of Vacancies. I am sure if the Commissaries would do their Duty, it would be out of the Power of Colonels to sink upon the Public in the Article of Vacancy. But the poor *Public*, is in the Nature of a Spendthrift, at whom each thinks he has a Right to have a Snap.—Let us not however forget, on this Occasion, to congratulate our Countrymen on the Prospect of a Reformation with regard to this Branch of the public Expence. The late Punishment inflicted on Mr. *J———*, Colonel of a Regiment, for a Suppression of Vacancies in the Corps under his Command, shews us already the good Effects of the Inspection of your Committee into the Management of the Army.

Captain *Leveit*, in his Examination, says, (b) that *Officers are frequently Mustered after they are dead*; which I apprehend was the Point proved in Mr. *J———*'s Case.

As for the Sale of Commissions, I should wonder that any could be sold, except such as the Colonels, the common Sinks of the Army, have the Disposal of. For to consider how many Men, both in and out of the Legislature, Ministers have to oblige, I should think few Commissions could be given away for Money. And yet Captain *Alexander Wilson* says, (c) "That he has heard of other Persons, besides Colonels, who receive Money for Commissions;

(a) Pag. 38. (b) Pag. 40. (c) Pag. 39.

“ Commissions; but never knew an Instance, and has
 “ heard of People, called Commission Brokers, who transact
 “ Business relating to Commissions; but does not know
 “ any of them.” Who would have thought, that so old and
 general an Agent as this Gentleman is known to be, should
 never know a single Instance of a Commission sold by others be-
 sides Colonels, or that such a Creature as a Commission-Broker
 never fell in his Way? You see, Sir, how we Country Puts
 may be imposed upon, who have been made to believe that
 all or most of the Bargains relating to the Sale of Commis-
 sions, were transacted by Agents. But be that as it will,
 I should have been glad if Mr. Wilson had named those
 other Persons, besides Colonels, that had received Money
 for Commissions. By his Silence, he leaves the World to
 guess, perhaps of Men in high Stations; whereas, if he had
 spoke out, they might have been acquitted

This experienced Gentleman, (a) “ added, upon this
 “ Head, that the Colonel cannot sell a Commission; but,
 “ if the King accepts of his Recommendation, he, (the
 “ Colonel) is understood to dispose of such a Commission;
 “ and sometimes he gives it away, and sometimes sells it,
 “ &c.”—That is to say, the Colonel cannot sell a Com-
 mission, but may dispose of his Recommendation. Well,
 see how many nice Distinctions there may be, which we
 plain Country Fellows would never dream of.

“ (b) Mr. John Winter, Agent to Lieutenant-General
 “ Guise’s Regiment of Foot, being examined, said, That
 “ he never knew any Money paid for vacant Commissions
 “ in this Regiment; but that General Guise received (tho’
 “ not by Warrant, as the Witness believes) the vacant Pay
 “ of some Officers, while the Regiment was in the West-
 “ Indies, and that there were no Returns, or Muster-Rolls
 “ sent, while the Regiment was at Jamaica; but that,
 “ nevertheless, it has been cleared off to June 1744.”—This
 Paragraph needs no Illustration; therefore I shall only ob-
 serve, that if ever the Colonels in our Army should misbe-
 have in the Field, it will not be for want of Douceurs
 on the behalf of Ministers.

“ (c) Mr. John Innes, late of Colonel Duncombe’s Re-
 “ giment being examined, said, That all vacant Pay of
 Officers,

(a) Pag. 40. (b) Ib. (c) Ib.

“ Officers, is by the Custom of the Army, and the King’s
 “ Warrant, the Perquisite of the Colonel.” I apprehend that
 this Custom, not of any great standing, may one Day or
 other prove fatal to the Publick, not only on Account of the
 Spoil committed by purlouning so much Pay, but by de-
 priving the Community of the necessary Safeguard in Times
 of Danger. For, does this Report so far blazon the Virtue
 of Colonels, as to induce us to believe they will fill up Va-
 cancies with Expedition whenever they happen?

(a) “ Your Committee, having thus stated the Evi-
 “ dence given to them, in relation to the vacant Pay of
 “ Officers, and the Sale of Commissions, have only to
 “ add, upon these Heads, that, by two Accounts presented
 “ to the House, and referred to the Committee, it appeared,
 “ that, in the Year 1741, the respited Pay amounted to
 “ 6855 l. 0 s. 11 d. and in the Year 1742, to 9578 l. 11 s.
 “ 7 d. Half-penny; and that both the said Sums, except
 “ the Sum of 50 l. 13 s. 0 d. Three Farthings, part of
 “ the said Sum of 6855 l. 0 s. 11 d. have been paid away
 “ by Warrants, between the 25th of January 1741-2,
 “ and the 20th of December 1744; but the Warrants, for
 “ taking of respited Pay, usually directing the Paymaster
 “ to issue the Money to the respective Agents of the sever-
 “ ral Corps; it did not appear to your Committee, how
 “ either of the said Sums have been distributed, except in one
 “ Instance, where the Sum of 73 l. 4 s. 0 d. being the re-
 “ spited Pay of the late Lieutenant General Whetham, from
 “ the 25th of April, to the 24th of June 1741, was di-
 “ rected, by a Warrant, dated the 5th of March 1741-2,
 “ to be paid to Colonel Duroure, the succeeding Colonel.
 “ It further appeared, by another Warrant, dated the 9th
 “ of February 1741-2, that the Sum of 33 l. 7 s. 4. being
 “ the respited Pay of the Ensign of Captain Knowles’s
 “ Company, in Lieutenant-General Barrell’s Regiment
 “ of Foot, from the 25th of December 1738, to the 24th
 “ of June 1739, was directed to be paid to the said Lieu-
 “ tenant-General Barrell.”

(a) ib.

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For

For my Part, I wonder how the *respited Pay of Officers* in the aforesaid two Years came to amount to so much as 16433 *l.* considering the modern Knack of *mustering Officers after they were dead.* But, I wish the Committee had informed the House, or could have procured Information themselves, what was become of 16350 *l.* the Residue of the respited Pay, after a Deduction of 50 *l.* and 33 *l.* dealt out by Warrants to two Colonels. One would think that the Publick had a right to the Distribution, or at least to an Account of Money granted by the People, by their Representatives, and not apply'd to the Use for which it had been granted. But how should the Expence of *secret Service* and *secret Pensions* be defrayed, if the Publick did inspect minutely and carefully the Application of publick Money?

(a) " The third Article, whereof the Increase in 1717 consists, in Money allowed to Captains for recruiting, being

" On 5 Regiments of Horse, to 36 Captains	2628	0	0
" 10 Regiments of Dragoons, to 60 Captains	2555	0	0
" 3 Regiments of Foot Guards, to 64 Captains	1344	0	0
" 30 Battalions of Foot, to 340 Captains	6205	0	0
	<hr/>		
	Total	12732	0 0

" The last Allowance made in 1717, is that to the Agent of each Regiment, which amounts yearly to the Sum of 6377 *l.* that is, to the Agent of"

5 Regiments of Horse	1340	0	0
10 Ditto Dragoons	1277	10	0
3 Ditto Foot Guards	657	0	0
30 Battalions of Foot	3102	10	0
	<hr/>		
	6377	0	0

Before the Year 1717, I remember to have seen Officers recruiting among us here in this Country; and I will suppose our Corps were kept as compleat before that Period of Time as since; why then this additional annual *Douceur* of near 13000 *l.* for a Service that had been always before performed

(a) Pag. 41.

performed with Success without any such additional Charge to the Publick? The same Question may be asked in regard to the additional yearly Allowance to *Agents, Gentlemen* who were supposed, before this Court-Plumb, to have had snug Places of it.—But I can't help observing the vast Disproportion between the Allowance to an *Agent* to a Regiment of Guards, and an ordinary Marching Regiment of Foot. The latter has about 500 *l.* per Annum allowed him, and the First but about 200 *l.*—One would think, that the Agency for three Battalions, of which the First Regiment of Foot-Guards consists, as being far more troublesome, deserved at least an equal Allowance with that for a single Battalion. But every Regulation in our Army since 1717, seems to be mysterious. I hope there are no more *Jobs* for *Agents* allowed in the Guards, than in Marching Regiments, and yet there seems to be a Mystry in the Diminution of the Allowance to the *Agents* of the Guards, which I wish the Committee had unfolded.

(a) " The next Article in the increased Charge before mentioned, consists of an Addition made, in the Seventh Year of his late Majesty's Reign, of 3*d.* per Day to the Pay of the Sergeants, Corporals, and private Men of the Dragoons, amounting, on Ten Regiments, to 20,969 *l.* 5 *s.* per Annum; and also an Addition made, after the Year 1717, of 4*d.* per Diem, to the Pay of the Serjeants and Corporals of the three Regiments of Foot Guards, amounting to 1752 *l.* per Annum, the Whole being 22,721 *l.* 5 *s.* 0 *d.* but at what particular Time this last Addition took place, the Committee have not been able to learn."

One sees, almost in every Page of the Report, the Informations of the Committee circumscribed. Why might it not be known, either at the *War* or *Pay* Office, or at both, when this additional Pay to the Guards took Place? Does not this, Sir, confirm what I said in the beginning of these Remarks, that the Committee were not armed with sufficient Powers, or that the Servants of the C—n, in

(a) Pag. 46.

in publick Offices, who are likewise those of the People, don't stand in so great Awe of the H— of C—s, as of Ministers?—But what shall we say of so great additional Pay, given during a Peace, more than had been known in the Course of a long and glorious War in Queen Anne's Reign? *Twenty-three thousand Pounds* is no such trifling Sum, as that a Ministry would add it annually to the Burthen of a bleeding Nation, without some cogent and extraordinary Reason. And yet it does not appear that there was any such for this vast additional Charge, at least no such appears by this Report. In Days of yore, the Navy was the peculiar Care and favourite Object of the Court and People, but of late the Army takes the lead in all Instances and Occasions. Surely, Sir, 'tis not because there are more Land than Sea Officers in the Legislature, or because our C—t are better acquainted with *Armies* than *Navies*?

(a) “ Mr. Robert Brigstocke, Ensign in Lieutenant-General Dalzell's Regiment, being examined as to the Method of paying the Men in the said Regiment, said, that they received six Bits each Bit being one Eighth of a piece of Eight, and valued in *Antigua* Currency at Nine Pence: That he, the Witness, drew for his own Pay, upon the Agent in *London*, and sold his Bills for about 160 *l. per Cent.* Sterling; that he has heard, the Men have been paid at 130 *l.* or 140 *l. per Cent.* though he never knew the Exchange less than 160 *l.* the Profit of which Difference in the Exchange, he said, he imagined went to the Colonel,——the Regimental Sink. But besides this Wrong of 30 *per Cent.* done to the common Men of Mr. Dalzell's Regiment, as here mentioned, we shall have Occasion, by and by, to make further mention of this cherished Colonel.

In former Days our Soldiers were mere Soldiers, knowing but little of the Arts of the World, or Money-getting; but our modern military Gentlemen have acquired a larger Stock of universal Knowledge. The Report proves this evidently, where it says, (b) “ That the apparent Charge of the four Troops of Horse Guards, and of the two

(a) Pag. 51. (b) Pag. 52.

“ Troops of Grenadier-Guards, has continued the same upon the Establishment from the Year 1700, to the present Time; but the real Charge being greater, as there are a Number of fictitious Names allowed upon the Muster-Rolls, by Warrant, called Warrant-Men, the Committee enquired into the Reason and Application of the said Allowance.”

'Tis very curious to see the Reason, assigned by Mr. Povey, Clerk in the Commissary-General's Office, for this Allowance of fictitious Names on the Muster-Rolls, which are no fewer than *twenty-nine* in one single Troop; (a) it was, says he, upon a Representation of the Officers, that their Pay was not sufficient. But why was not the Pay of these Representatives in 1722, when this vast Augmentation took Place, as sufficient as before down from the Restoration, and particularly, during the preceding Reign? I wonder the private Men did not take Example by their Betters, and represent the Insufficiency of their Pay. Nor should I admire if the Officers of other Corps would take the same easy Method of rendering their Posts more valuable, and themselves more dependent.——But the Manner, in which this Augmentation of Pay is granted, is extremely particular, and has so much the Air of an Imposition upon the Publick, that I wonder the Contrivers did not rather chuse to make a plain and specifick Addition to their Pay, than by this suspicious by-way of an Allowance of fictitious Men in the several Troops.——Captain Alexander Wilson very fairly told the Committee how these fictitious Names, lately invented, are disposed of in the First Troop of Grenadier-Guards, viz.

(a) *Ib.*

[30]

6 to the Colonel,
3 to the Lieutenant-Colonel,
2 to the Major,
2 to the two Lieutenants,
1 to the Guidon,
2 to the two Sub-Lieutenants,
1 to the Adjutant,
2 to the Riding-Master,
3 to the Agent,
6 for recruiting Horses,
1 to Widows.

29

I can't, from the Report, ascertain the *Quantum* of this additional Pay to the Officers of the six Troops of Guards; but, from the Number of 29 fictitious Men allowed in each Troop, I do not think it can amount to less than *one fifth* of the former whole Pay. It were to be wished the Committee had been as exact in this Article as in some others of less Consequence, that the People might have a clear view of the Publick Oeconomy.

The Committee seems to have taken uncommon Pains to come at the true Knowledge of the State of the Army, with regard to the Number of effective Men, then able to secure us from the bold Attempts of the *Scotch* Rebels. Their Zeal on this important Occasion was both necessary and laudable; but it is very odd, that in this necessary Research, they had not the Assistance that might be expected by a People in imminent Danger, as we were at the Time. This appears by what they themselves say in the Report. (a) "But here it will be proper to observe, that very little Evidence was given to the Committee, with regard to the Strength of the Regiments not mentioned in the said Abstract, the Returns not having been produced; and the Muster-Rolls in general, as will appear hereafter, being of no use at all in that Respect.

By

(a) Pag. 61.

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By an Abstract in the Appendix (No. 20) it appears, by the Returns made in Part of the last Year 1745, that the *Non-effectives* in only a Part of our Army, such as the Committee could procure the Returns of, amounted to 5567 Men. A great Number of Non-effectives, in time of need, on that allowed by Parliament, which did not exceed 43,767 Men, computing all the different Corps together mentioned in the said Abstract, at the Foot of which, the Committee have subjoin'd the following

"Memorandum. The Strength of the other Regiments, Troops, and Companies, in *Great-Britain*, and the Plantations, cannot be ascertained, the Returns not having been laid before the Committee."

But alas! how trifling is the *Imposition* by Returns, if compared with that by *Musters*, as will appear amply when we come to examine what the Committee report of the Conduct and Probity of the Commissaries of *Musters*.

In order to see the good Understanding between Colonels and Commissaries, one need only turn to what the Report says of *Dalzell's* Regiment of Foot in the *Leeward Islands*, which, by the late Establishment, should be 1000 strong, that is, to 70 Men a Company. Mr. *Mathew*, Governor of the *Leeward Islands*, being in constant Apprehension of a Descent by the *French* from *Martinico*, complained of the little Care Mr. *Dalzell* took to recruit and compleat his Regiment, then at *St. Christopher* and *Antigua*. (a) "I find my Complaint, relating to the Regiment, is before a Board of General Officers; and that General *Dalzell* denies the Facts.—If his Agent can be prevailed upon to deny them, or Mr. *Brigstocke*, I will, in vindication of my own Veracity, send home a Quire of Proofs, on Oath, and under the Great Seal, and add Forty Enormities to my light Charge, you delivered from me to his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*. Inclosed is the Major's Return of the five Companies here [*St. Christopher*]; those at *Antigua* are no better—

"Take

(a) Pag. 65.

“ Take 25 Sick and Lame out of 198, remains about
“ 173, that is, in the five Companies round, about 35 per
“ Company.”—I said 40 fit for Service, instead of 70.
“ Pray shew this Return to Mr. S——, or to the
“ Board.

Of this Regiment, or rather *half* Regiment, Mr. *Brig-*
stocke, one of the Officers, lately arrived from *St. Christo-*
pher, is forced to confess; (a) “ That the Men are sup-
“ plyed with *Shoes and Stockings*, according to their Ar-
“ rears; and that in general, they had those Necessaries;
“ tho’ the Witness acknowledged, *he had seen some Men*
“ *without them.*”——Thus are we exposed, in Times
of Danger; not only by a *Want of Men* allowed by Par-
liament for our Defence; but of the Service of even those
few Men thought proper by Colonels to keep up the Shew
of a Regiment, by the detaining from them common Ne-
cessaries, such as *Shoes and Stockings*.

But what does Mr. *Datzell* say in Mitigation of Go-
vernor *Mathew’s* Charge against him? Only, that the
State of the Regiment was worse before he had the Com-
mand of it. (b) “ Lieutenant *Datzell* desiring, and be-
“ ing admitted to be heard, in relation to the said Com-
“ plaint, (of Governor *Mathews*) said, that, about a
“ Month after the King gave him the Regiment (which
“ was in *November 1739*;) it appeared, by a Return
“ which was laid before the said Board of General Of-
“ ficers, that the Regiment consisted of 89 Men, called
“ fit for Duty, and 60 or 70 unfit for Duty.”—— It is
no Business of mine, at present, to inquire who had the
Carving of that Regiment before Mr. *Datzell*; but with-
out doubt some Difference should be made between Sea-
sons of War and Peace, of Danger and Safety.

The Committee, after setting forth the Clauses in the
Act for punishing Mutiny and Desertion, that regard
the Commissaries of the Musters, say; (c) “ The *In-*
“ *structions* to the Commissaries your Committee have
“ not seen; although the House was informed, upon the
“ 28th of February last, in Answer to their Address to
“ His

(a) Pag. 66. (b) Pag. 67. (c) Pag. 73.

“ his Majesty, of the 25th of the same Month, that his
“ Majesty would be graciously pleased to give Directions,
“ that the said *Instructions* should be laid before the
“ House.”——His Majesty can do no Wrong, by Law,
nor would if he could; but we may be allowed to suppose
otherwise of his Servants, who may have their Reasons for
not laying the Instructions to the Commissaries of Musters,
before the Committee, of which they here complain.

What the Committee say, immediately after, of these
Commissaries, whose *Instructions* could not be come at, is
very particular (a). “ The Committee finding, that, in
“ the Muster-rolls referred to them, the Forces were almost
“ constantly certified to be complete to the Number upon
“ the Establishment, notwithstanding it had been proved;
“ that they never were so, examined several Commissaries
“ relating to that Matter.

It would be endless to point out all the Instances of
Neglect and Collusion in the Commissaries of the Musters
and several Colonels and other Officers, as set forth by the
Committee, by this Report; but the following Paragraph
setting the Matter in a general Light, let me be indulged
to transcribe it at large, tho’ of the longest.

(b) “ A Member of the House, and one of the said
“ Deputy-Commissaries of the Musters, attending the
“ Committee, and submitting to be examined, said, (a-
“ mong other Things) That being sent abroad, since the
“ War, he used to call over all the Men by their Names;
“ but the General Officers observing that this Method
“ would subject them to Inconveniencies, he (the said Mem-
“ ber) was thereupon ordered by Lord *Stair*, to pass the
“ Rolls, as they were sent to him, from one Muster to
“ another, signed by two Officers of each Troop or Com-
“ pany, and had a Warrant from Lord *Stair* for his Ju-
“ stification: That he afterwards mustered the Troops in
“ the same manner, and had a like Warrant from Marshal
“ *Wade*, &c. for that Purpose; and that he never after-
“ wards, in Flanders, saw the Men, before he signed the
“ Muster-

(a) Pag. 73. (b) Pag. 76.

“ Muster-rolls, in order to check the Rolls sent by the Officers.”

Here we see a whole Army certified to be mustered complete, tho' the Commissary did not see, or rather was not permitted to see, a single Man.—But we shall see hereafter, that the Practice of signing Muster-rolls by Commissaries, without seeing the Troops, was as well in Use at home as abroad.—But what follows lets us into a Reason for the great Facility of Commissaries. (c) “ The said Member, being further examined, said, That the Commissary's Salary is 10 s. per Day, upon the Establishment; besides which, a general Gratuity of half a Guinea is given by the Captain of every Company of Foot, and a Guinea by the Captain of every Troop of Horse and Dragoons, at each Muster in England; and a Pistole for each Troop, and half a Guinea for each Company, abroad.—But that sometimes this Gratuity has been refused to him, when the Troops were complete.—Being ask'd, Whether he ever made any Remarks about the Condition of the Corps, with respect to Horses and Accoutrements, &c. he said, That he had done it, but that it was not well taken by the Officers.—And yet the Act of Parliament expressly obliges Commissaries to examine Men and Horses, and to sign no Rolls but what they shall have verified by View. But these Gratuities of half and whole Guineas, and good Entertainment with Plenty of Wine, provided by Colonels and other Officers, are sufficient to blind the most clear-sighted Commissary in the World.—What Man can live upon 10 s. a Day, without Perquisites? And pray, who the Devil would give a Perquisite if they produced no Benefit to the Giver? Thus wisely do these Givers and Receivers play into each other's Hands. But, all this while, the Publick, the great Giver of all, is but scurvily served.

Mr. Povey, Clerk in the Commissary's Office, says, among other Things, (d) “ That the Commissary for Annapolis Royal resided there, as the Witness believes; but that no Muster-Rolls have been sent to the Office, from

(c) Pag. 77. (d) Pag. 73.

“ from thence, for several Years, the Regiment there having been muster'd Complete by Warrant, in which no Musters are returned.”—Well, these Warrants for Complete Musters, when perhaps the Corps are not half Complete, are Things which we plain Country People know nothing of; but we must always suppose they are warranted by the Act for punishing Mutiny and Desertion.

Mr. Edward Newton, Deputy Commissary, being examined, says, among other Things much to the same Purpose, That he sign'd the Muster-Roll of Lord Mark Ker's own Troop, last Winter, without having seen either the Men or Horses,

(e) “ Being asked whether he saw the Men out, he answer'd in the Negative; and said moreover, that no Officers were present when he was there; but that they sent the Rolls, signed by themselves to him to London; and when he came off his Circuit sometime in January last, he signed them, and dated them of Course, &c.

On another Occasion, the last Winter at Windsor and Reading, the same Gentleman, being particularly urged, (f) “ he confessed that he believed some Men were sick whom he had return'd well; but said, that he was satisfied with the Word and Honour of the Officers.”—Without Doubt he may, as they were the only Persons who could be Gainets by a false Muster.

(g) But the Committee observing, that the Sick are not marked in the Muster-Rolls returned to the Commissary's Office, and in enquiring into the Reason of that Omission, the said Newton confess'd, that it was owing to his own Neglect: But he afterwards said, that the Practice of marking the Sick and Absent, has been disused for three or four Years past.

“ Being asked, what Evidence he had that those Corps were complete, he said, that he had only the Word of the

(e) Pag. 78. (f) Ibid. (g) Ibid.

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“ the Officers : But upon further Examination he confes'd,
 “ That he took it for granted, upon the Officers signing the
 “ Rolls, without asking any Question.” What Papist could
 have a more implicit Faith, or what Frenchman more Po-
 liteness and Complaisance?

Tho' many Pages of the Report be taken up with this
 Mr. Newton's Examination, very well worth the Examina-
 tion of all who would see the Shufflings of Commissaries
 and Officers, I shall only touch upon two or three of his
 Answers to the Committee.

(b) “ And he added, “ That till within these few Years
 “ he had Certificates of the Sick and Absent, but that, tho'
 “ it is as easy to have Certificates now, as it was formerly,
 “ yet that Matter has not been so much attended to, o
 “ late, at the Commissary-General's Office.

As for Perquisites, he says, (i) and believes, “ he was
 “ never deny'd the Perquisite, but by those Officers who
 “ had resolv'd to keep their Companies complete, and pay
 “ nothing : And he added, that he lately muster'd one of
 “ the additional Companies, who gave him nothing, the
 “ Company being complete ; and that in that Instance, he
 “ did not take the Word of the Officers.

Here, in a very few Words, may be seen the whole My-
 stery of the Commissarial Art, and the true Foundation of
 the good or bad Understanding between Commissaries and
 Officers. Are the Officers honest, and keep their Corps
 compleat, as they ought ; the Commissary may kiss their
 A—. But are they no better than Officers generally are,
 and make the Nation pay for compleat Corps tho' not half
 complete ; then indeed, are they forced to dance to the
 Commissary's Pipe. But the Piper is ever paid at the
 bubbled Nation's Cost.—One Word more with Commis-
 sary Newton, and I have done with him for ever. (k) He
 says, “ That the Commissary, by his Instructions, is
 “ directed to take notice of the Cloathing and Accoutrements
 “ of Men and Horses ; but that the Officers will not give the
 “ Commissaries Leave to meddle with that Matter.” —I

(b) Pag. 79. (i) Pag. 80. (k) Pag. 81.

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hope, Sir, our Army do not look upon themselves to be
 above the Law. I have heard of Pretorian Bands, in an-
 cient Rome, who made and unmade Emperors; and of an
 Army here at home that turned their Pay-Masters out of
 Doors ; I hope our Army or our Bands have no Intention
 of assuming any such dangerous Power.

By what appears by the Report, Commissaries are lit-
 tle used any where but in England. (l) “ For Captain
 “ Edward Johnson, of Brigadier Johnson's Regiment, be-
 “ ing asked, whether he ever knew any Troops muster'd
 “ in Scotland, said, That he was two Years in that King-
 “ dom, and never saw any Muster-Master there ; but that
 “ the Rolls were sent to Edinburgh, and the same Compliment
 “ allowed there as in England.” —For my part, I think
 the Government quite in the right not to be at the Ex-
 pence of Commissaries in Scotland ; and if there were none
 in England, I don't think it would be any Loss to the Na-
 tion. For the same Reason I am sorry that the Publick
 should be saddled with the Expence of two Officers, called
 Comptrollers of the Army, created in 1703, at no less a Sa-
 lary than 1500 l. per Annum. For the Report suggests,
 that tho' these Officers were created chiefly to be a Check
 upon the Commissaries of Musters, yet Mr. Nelson, their
 Secretary, who has a Salary of 300 l. per Annum, besides
 Perquisites, says, that for twenty-six Years he has been in the
 Office, (m) “ No Attempt had ever been made in his Time
 “ by the Comptrollers, to settle Methods for obviating
 “ Frauds in Musters.” —And yet by their Instructions,
 as set forth by the Committee, (n) “ They are to inspect
 “ all Musters, and Muster-rolls, to be taken of the said
 “ Forces, or any of them, and the Computation of Pay
 “ made thereupon, and to take such Methods in relation
 “ thereto, as may best obviate all Frauds and Abuses con-
 “ cerning Musters, &c.” — These Instructions were
 dated 26 June, 1703, and ought, we suppose, to continue
 the same down to the present Time ; but the Committee,
 it seems, could find none that were issued for many Years
 past. And, if the Comptrollers and their Clerks were laid
 aside as well as their Instructions, I am sure the Publick
 would be Gainers at least 1800 l. per Annum, besides Per-
 quisites, not to mention Gratuities for Secret Service, &c.

(l) Pag. 84. (m) Pag. 85. (n) Pag. 104.

It

It must be said, to the Honour of the Gentlemen of the Committee, that they took infinite Pains in their Researches, without which it had been impossible to detect the Frauds and Abuses of so dextrous a People as Agents, Commissaries, and Colonels. But we find that Frauds and Abuses are not confin'd to that Gentry only.

(o) "Your Committee, having considered and compared the Copies of the Establishments of General and General Staff-Officers in Great Britain, in Flanders, and in Ireland, for the Years 1743, 1744, 1745, together with the Lists relative thereto, referred to them upon Monday the 26th Day of May last, observe, that there are, first, several General Officers, who are allowed Pay, according to different Ranks, upon different Establishments, in different Countries, at one and the same Time; and some, who have an Allowance for different Offices, upon the same Establishment."

(p) "Besides what is already mentioned (the extraordinary Charge of which amounts to 5062 l. in the three aforesaid Years) there is a Saving of 3837 l. to be accounted for, arising in the Years 1744 and 1745, from Offices specified in the Establishment; which Offices, by the said Lists (set forth in the Report, the same Page) appear not to have been filled up; and a further Sum of 220 l. is stated due to an Officer for some Time after his Death. Which Sums amount together to 4057 l."

"Your Committee further observed, That in the General and Staff Officers in Great Britain, for the Year 1744, besides the Quarter-Master General, and his Deputy, there appears another Quarter-Master General, at 10s. a Day, and his Deputy at 5s. a Day, from 24th February to the 8th August, 1744. And for the same Time, a Deputy Adjutant-General was added, at 5s. a Day, who was continued upon the Establishment for the Year 1745, to the 1st of October: Which last Officer

(o) Pag. 104. (p) Pag. 106.

"was never mentioned before in any Establishment, which the Committee have seen. The Pay of these Officers, for the Time above specified, comes to 143 l. 7s. 6d. The Total of these three several Articles, which appear to me altogether superfluous and unnecessary, and seemed to have appeared so to the Committee, amount together to 9262 l. 7s. 6d. no trifling Article in the Expence of a Nation more taxed and incumbered than any in the World. But for many Years past, it seems to have been the Study of certain Men rather to enhance than lessen the National Expence in every Branch and Article, as if there had been a premeditated Design of humbling the People by impoverishing them.—But, to follow the Committee, we shall now descend from his Majesty's Land Forces, to his Marines.

I have before observed, from the Report, (Pag. 3.) that the Increase of the present Charge of our present Corps of Marines, more than the same was of the like Number in Queen Anne's Reign, amounts to 15086 l. 13s. 4d. per Annum, arising from Douceurs allowed by a New Establishment, dated 7th May, 1740. I shall not here examine, whether our present Corps of Marines are under better Management, or are rendered more useful to the Nation than those in that victorious Princess's Days; but am sure the Nation is at present in a worse Condition to bear this additional Expence. In this Establishment, wherein the Condition of this Body of Troops is so much better than it was while we were Conquerors every where, the following Clause is so much the more remarkable, that we find, by the Report, that it had been totally disregarded by the Paymaster to this Corps, tho' he be the Person intended to be the most strictly tied down by the same.

(q) "And whereas his Majesty thought it more convenient for his Service, and for the Ease and Convenience of the Officers and Men belonging to the said Regiments, that a particular Paymaster should be appointed, with Power to solicit the Pay of the Regiments, and

(q) Pag. 108.

“ to receive all such Sums of Money, as shall from Time
 “ to Time be issued or impressed for their Use; and the
 “ Commissioners of the Treasury, or the Lord High Treas-
 “ surer, should issue, or direct to be issued, the Money,
 “ as aforesaid, to him the said Paymaster, or his Deputy;
 “ His Majesty requires the said Paymaster, IMMEDIATELY
 “ upon Receipt of all such Money, to issue the same to the re-
 “ spective Colonels, or to their Assigns, for the Use of the said
 “ Regiments.”

But notwithstanding these strict Injunctions by his Ma-
 jesty to the Paymaster, to issue the Money he receives of
 the Treasury immediately to the respective Colonels for the
 Use of their Regiments, we shall find by and by, that no
 less a Sum than *One Hundred Thousand Pounds*, remain'd for
 a long Time, not only in the Paymaster's Hands, but in
 those of his Deputy's Deputy, who gamed with it, to his
 own Emolument, but at the Risque of the Public.

Mr. Thomas Paterfon, Agent to some Regiments of Ma-
 rines, being examined, said among other Things; (r) “ That
 “ the Pay of the Marines is issued regularly, a Month in
 “ Advance; but that no Balance has been stated since
 “ Christmas, 1740; nor have those Troops been ever re-
 “ gularly mustered.” — If no Balance be stated in the
 Course of *Six Years*, and no regular Muster made from the
 first raising these Troops to this Hour, well may the
 Nation become poor while the Colonels grow rich.

The said Witness goes on (as to the *Savings by non-ef-
 fective Men* in the Expedition to *America*) and said,
 (s) “ That when the Accounts come to be settled, those
 “ Savings will be very considerable, the 70 Men per Com-
 “ pany being reduced, as he believes, to 30, before the
 “ Expedition ceased; and that several Sums have been al-
 “ ready paid by Warrants out of those Savings, &c. —
 Ah! these Warrants, how useful are they to Colonels and
 other cherished Officers!

(r) Pag. 111. (s) Ibid.

(t) “ As to the Savings arising by vacant Commissions,
 “ the Witness said, that the Pay-office always issues
 “ complete Subsistence to the Agent for the Officers, as
 “ if they were in being; and the Colonels *Frazer* and *Wolfe*
 “ have had Credit from him for that Subsistence, during
 “ the Vacancy, tho' there has been no Warrant, authoriz-
 “ ing him to pay it to them; but that it has been cus-
 “ tomary to pay it, the Colonels promising, either to get
 “ a Warrant for it, or return it, if it should not be al-
 “ lowed: That when a Colonel has desired *this Money*, he
 “ (the Witness) has expressed some Unwillingness to pay
 “ it without a Warrant; but that he consented, not chusing
 “ to disoblige his Colonel, &c.”

(u) “ And he presented to the Committee an Account of
 “ vacant Pay, credited in Col. *Frazer's* and Major-General
 “ *Wolfe's* Accounts; whereby it appeared, that the former
 “ had had Credit for the Sum of 590 l. 6 d. and the latter
 “ for 1201 l. 6 s. 11 d.” — We see here how the
 Agents and Colonels play into each other's Hands; and if
 the whole Truth came out, perhaps it might be seen that
 they go Snacks in this Article of *vacant Pay*, as well as in
 many others. For is it probable that an Agent would
 pay away so large a Sum at once as *twelve hundred Pounds*
 without a Warrant, to a Person whom he knew had no
 Colour of Right, if he had not his *secret Reasons*? But indeed
 it matters not much to the Public into whose Pockets those
Savings sink, since they are sunk from the Nation.

If Colonels would be contented to live by the *Dead*,
 without worrying the Living, they might be less odious
 and detested than they are at present to those under their
 Command. But being often made Colonels by Interest, as
American Governors are, to patch up broken Fortunes,
 they think they have a Claim to the growing rich at any
 Rate or Hazard. There are a thousand Instances besides
 what appear in this Report, of the Rapaciousness of these
 puny Tyrants; but I shall confine my self to what the
 Committee say of them. The same Mr. *Paterfon* afore-
 said, who was at least privy, if not an Accessory, to the
 Wrong

(t) Ibid. (u) Pag. 112;

Wrong done to the Officers of some of the Marine Regiments, in the Stoppage of their *Clearings*, tells the Committee; (x) "That the Officers of these Regiments are in a very bad Condition through the want of their *Clearings*; and that he has heard, that they sell them at a great *Discount*." — And who can say that their *Clearings* are stopt from these meriting but necessitous Officers, purposely, that they may be under a Necessity of selling them at a great *Discount*? But it may be easily surmized who the *Buyers* are. (y) In another Part of the Report, Evidence is given by Captain *Edward Johnson*, that these injured Officers had been obliged to sell their *Clearings* at 50 per Cent. *Discount*.

Mr. *Paterfon* proceeds to inform the Committee, (z) "that he had heard it was a Practice, to buy the Cloaths back from the Men, when they have had more than one Cloathing delivered to them at a Time." — Several others confirm the like Practice; and that the poor Men had no more than (a) *twelve Shillings and Sixpence* for a full Cloathing, the which had been stopt from themselves at so exorbitant a Rate as (b) *one Pound seventeen Shillings and ten Pence*. — And yet Colonels need not thus screw down the poor Creatures under their Command, both in the selling their Cloathing to them, and buy them of them again, as will evidently appear by the following State of the Fact, by the foregoing Mr. *Paterfon*.

(c) "And, in order to state to the Committee the Amount of the *Off- reckonings* and *Charge of Cloathing* of the Regiments of Marines, he is, and has been, concerned for, he presented to the Committee Major-General *Wolfe's* Cloathing Accounts for the Years 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, and 1745; and also Lieutenant-General *Cornwall's* Cloathing Accounts, for the Years 1744, and 1745; and also Brigadier-General *Bing's* Cloathing Account, for the Year 1745; whereby it appeared, that the Balance to General *Wolfe*, in the said *five Years*, amounted to 7978 l. 13 s. 5 1/2 d. besides

(x) Pag. 113. (y) Pag. 130. (z) *Ibid.* (a) Pag. 126. (b) Pag. 19. (c) Page 113.

"the Sum of 654 l. 16 s. charged for Interest on the several Sums disbursed for Cloathing; to General *Cornwall*, in the said *three Years*, the Sum of 4955 l. 15 s. 0 1/2 d. exclusive of the Sum of 549 l. 4 s. charged for Interest as before; to Colonel *Frazer*, in the said two Years, to the Sum of 2897 l. 12 s. 3 d. besides the Sum of 288 l. 13 s. charged for Interest, as aforesaid; and to Brigadier *Bing* in the said Year 1745, to the Sum of 1556 l. 8 s. 8 1/2 d. besides the Sum of 134 l. 11 s. charged for Interest."

If the Interest Money be taken into this Account, as it ought, in as much as the Colonels have what reasonable length of Time they please from the Contractors for Cloathing, we shall find that these Commanders, who will appear by and by to be wholly useless in the Marines especially, do gain annually by cloathing their respective Regiments above *seventeen hundred Pounds*; a monstrous Sum to be spun out of the Entrails of the common Men, from whom it is stopt. But this is not one half of the Pay and *Emoluments* of a Colonel of Marines, who nevertheless, from the very Nature of the Service, can be of no Manner of Use, as such, to the Nation, as manifestly appears by the Report.

(b) "Lieutenant Colonel *Walsh*, of Brigadier *Pawlett's* Regiment of Marines, being examined, said, that the greatest Detachments, which at any Time go in one Ship, consist of a Captain, three Subalterns and one hundred Men; but that, sometimes, a much less Number is sent; and that Brigadier *Pawlett*, and himself (the Witness) presented a Memorial to the Admiralty, desiring they might command their Men at Sea; but that the Admiralty refused to comply with their Request, alledging that three Field-Officers were scarcely sufficient to take care of the Men ashore." — One would think that the Commissioners of the Admiralty were not the properest Judges what Number of Field-Officers were necessary to take care of a Regiment ashore. But so it seems, it happens, that the Nature of Things is often changed in our Service.

(b) P. 117. G 2 () The

The Usefulness of Field Officers in the Marines, is proved likewise by Lieutenant-Colonel *Leighton*, of *Frazer's* Regiment of Marines, who, said (a) "that he never had the Command of any Marines, at Sea, the Captains of Men of War refusing to take a Lieutenant Colonel on board their Ships."

By what appears then, Sir, the Colonels, Lieutenant-Colonels and Majors of our ten Regiments of Marines, are every whit as useless as their *General*, a Post contrived by some Courtier's prolifick Brain, to ease the Civil List Revenue of a Pension of 4000 l. per Annum, and throw as much more upon the poor Beasts of Burthen, the People. But if only the publick Service had been intended by raising a Corps of Marines, why might not they rather be divided into—Independent Companies, by which each Captain might be personally on board with his Company, than into Regiments, as they now are, when the Field-Officers are totally useless to the Publick, tho' a vast Charge to the Nation?

And it appears likewise that the *Field Officers* of a Regiment of Marines, are not less useless than their *Chaplains*, with this Difference only, that these last are permitted, if they please to act, and do sometimes, by their *Deputies*; whereas the former, if they may; never do part with a Shilling to any that act for them on board a Ship. Besides the Pay of a *Chaplain*, whether split or intire, is but a Mite, if compared to the Pay and Emoluments of the *Field Officers*.

Captain *John Murray*, of Colonel *Cockran's* Regiment of Marines, said (b) "With regard to the *Chaplains* of the Marine Regiments, that, when the Regiments went to the *West-Indies*, the *Chaplains* sent *Deputies*, who were allowed half the Pay."—It were to be wished the Captain had told us who those *Deputies* were that would go so hazardous a Voyage for half the Pay. For he has left us in doubt, whether the *Chaplains* had not delegated their

(a) Pag. 126.

(b) Pag. 129.

their Power of Preaching, Exhorting and Absolving to either the commissioned or non-commissioned Officers in the Regiments. Nor are we any better satisfied how these late-created Missioners were gifted.

I should have expected that the Muster-Masters of such Regiments of Marines as were prayed with by *Deputation* only, would have respited on the Rolls such *Chaplains* as did not attend personally; but I find that there are no such Things as *Respite* in use, or so much as known among the Marines. All the Corps are not only compleat ones, but continue always so, if Muster-Rolls be any Proof.—Captain *Edward Johnson*, of *Duncomb's* Regiment of Marines, said, (a) "that he did not remember, that he ever saw any *Respites* upon the *Marine Muster-Rolls*."—He might rather have said, that there are no Musters at all made of these Troops, the Officers having no sort of Check upon them as to the Numbers or Condition of their respective Corps.

(b) "Mr. *John Innes*, late Lieutenant of *Duncombe's* Regiment of Marines, being examined in relation to the Method of paying the Men in this Regiment, he said, he did not remember that any certain Sum was issued, but that the Commanding Officers received the Money upon Account, according to the Number of Men under their Command; and that the Pay-Master was obliged to take the Officers Word, that he really had the Number of Men, whose Subsistence he drew for; there being no other Check."—Mr. *Herbert*, the Deputy Pay-Master, owns (c) "that for three Years together no *Muster-Rolls* were come into their Office." One may perceive that a certain Spirit of Negligence or Indulgence spreads itself throughout the whole Management of our Land Forces and Marines, and particularly the latter, as appears but too flagrantly on the Face of the Report, but more especially the latter Part of it relating to the Pay and Pay-Master of that Corps. To illustrate this Matter more clearly, I shall set down from the Report, the Account of *Issues* from the Exchequer to the Pay-master

(a) Pag. 130.

(b) Pag. 150.

(c) Pag. 157.

Pay-Master of the Marines, from the Time they were raised, to *Christmas* 1745, and the Payments he made ; herein it is said,

(a) " That the Issues from the	
" Exchequer, to the said Pay-	} 1,110,340 15 8
" Master, during the Time afore-	
" said, amounted to	
And the regimental Payments to	885,386 14 7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Which left a Balance to the Marine	
Service, of	224,954 10 $\frac{3}{4}$

Thus the Account stood last *Christmas*, when the Pay-Master of the Marines had so prodigious a Sum in his Hands as the *One Fourth of a Million Sterling*. How long before this vast Deposite had lain in that single Hand, the Report does not set forth ; but it may be presumed, that it had been for some considerable Time, since, as I shall shew presently, the Pay-master's Deputy's Deputy could venture to put great Part of it out to Interest for his own and his *Secret Partner's* private Use and Advantage.

The Report proceeds to shew what Money was in the said Pay-master's Hands on the 2d of *April* last, to which Time the Accounts were laid before them. And here follows the Account of the Disbursements, not actually made, but mostly to be made, from the 25th of *December*, to the 2d of *April* ; and even after these Articles, most of which will appear as extraordinary as the most extraordinary Part of the Report, there will have remained above one Hundred Thousand Pounds in the Pay-master's Hands, supposing he had really parted with the Rest of the Balance of 224,954 l. 1 s. 0 d. three Farthings, which he certainly did not, as may appear by the Articles as set down in the Report.

(b) " From which (Balance of 224,954 l. 1 s. 0 d. three Farthings in the Pay-master's Hands on the 25th of *December* last) according to the said Account, were to be deducted the several Sums following, viz.

(a) Pag. 157. (b) Pag. 157.

" Payments to the several Regiments in	} 43,370 10 5
1746.	
" Levy Money	20,000 0 0
" For Widows	13,000 0 0
" Payments out of Poundage and Con-	} 47,032 7 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
" tingencies by Warrant for Exche-	
" quer Fees, Salaries, Marches, &c.	
	123,402 17 8 $\frac{3}{4}$

The First Article of this Account cannot well be objected to, because it is probable the Payments mentioned, have been made from *Christmas* to *April*, as the Troops could not subsist without their Pay. But, I confess, I do not understand the *Second Article*, or at least why it should be so large as *Twenty Thousand Pounds*.—*Levy Money* ! for what ? the Corps were raised long before last *Christmas* ; and sure the *Colonels*, who have so beneficial *Sine Cures*, may afford to keep their respective Regiments complete, without so vast an additional Expence, as *Twenty Thousand Pounds*, in three Months, to the Publick ?—The *third Article* seems to me no less extraordinary than the *Second*, *Thirteen Thousand Pounds*, I suppose in the Year 1745 only, because it appears so by the Report, to the Widows of Officers in Ten Regiments of Marines, is a prodigious Sum. And what makes it seem the more extraordinary to me is, that, I find by the Report, (*Pag. 6.*) the Fund for the Widows of Officers in *Thirty* Battalions of Foot, to amount but to 8273 l. 6 s. 8 d.—It must be considered too, that this great old Corps of Troops, may be supposed to have more Widows dependent upon them than new-raised Troops, such as the Marines are.—But the *Fourth* and last Article in this Account, seems yet more unintelligible than any of the others. *Payments out of Poundage and Contingencies* ! I would be glad to know, what this Means. *Out of Poundage, &c.* Was it *Payments for Poundage and Contingencies*, this Part of the Article might be in some Sort accounted for ; but as it stands, to speak the best of it, it bears no very promising Meaning.

ing.—But to proceed, the next Division in this *Fourth Article*, is, by *Warrant*. I own I never was very fond of *Warrants* before I read this Report, but ever since the Committee have here pointed out the ill Use that has been made of the Royal Bounty, by means of *Warrants to Colonels* and many others, I am quite sick of the Word.—But might it not have been insisted upon by the Committee, that the Pay-master of the Marines should be more specifick and minute than he has been in this *fourth Article*, so much in the Gross? For instance, ought not he to have specified the respective Sums paid away by *Warrant*, and to whom paid? Ought not he, likewise, to have particularized the different Sums paid for *Exchequer Fees, Salaries, Marches, &c.*

To say no worse of this *fourth Article* particularly, and indeed of all the *four Articles*, they are dark and mysterious; and by consequence, very improper to be laid in no clearer a Manner, before a Committee of the Commons of *Great Britain*. But it shews, and sorry I am to see it, that the Officers of the Crown do not stand in that Awe of P——s, which every good Subject would wish they did.

But these *four Articles* being admitted in the Pay-master's own inaccurate Form, there remained still a Balance in his Hands, on the 2d of *April* last, of 101,551 l. 3 s. 4 d. which by his own Confession in the following *Articles*, has been in his Hands for a long Time.

(a) “ Of which Balance of 101,551 l. 3 s. 4 d. the
 “ Sum of 64,102 l. is the *Arrears of Clearings* of the
 “ Years 1741, 1742, 1743, of Six of the Regiments,
 “ for the three whole Years, and of the other Four, for
 “ two Years and a half ————— 64,102 0 0
 “ For *Off-reckonings* due to the Ten Regi- }
 “ ments, from *Christmas* to *Midsummer* } 15,220 0 0
 “ 1745, which are to be paid *immediately*, }
 —————
 79,322 0 0
 I wish

(a) Pag. 157.

I wish, Sir, you had obliged the Pay-master of the Marines to have set forth his Reasons for detaining so large a Sum as 64,102 l. in his Hands for some Years past, from a deserving Set of Gentlemen, such as we must suppose the inferior Officers of the Corps of Marines to be, who, for want of that Money, have been obliged to sell their *Clearings* at *fifty per Cent. Loss*. Would it be uncharitable to suspect, that the *Detention* of this Money, might be with a View of laying those unhappy Gentlemen under the necessity of parting with their *Clearings* at so vast an Advantage to the *Buyers*, who, for any Thing we know, might have been P——rs as well as *Colonels* and *Agents*? But tho' the Payment of the *Clearings* was postponed, we find the *Off-reckonings* paid off *immediately*. And who does not see the Reason? The *Off-reckonings* go into the *Colonel's* Pocket to defray the *Cloathing, &c.* and *Colonels* have more Interest with Ministers, than Subalterns and simple Commanders of Companies, that have no *Seats, &c.*

In regard to these *Clearings*, for the Clearing of which the Paymaster had Money in his Hands since 1741, there is something very singular related by Mr. *Herbert* the Deputy-Paymaster. (a) He says, “ that some time last Summer (1746) a *Warrant* was sent to the Office, counter-signed by the Secretary at War, directing the Paymaster to make out *Debentures* for *Clearing* the Four last-raisd Regiments of Marines, notwithstanding the Want of *Muster-rolls*; but that the said *Warrant*, not being signed by the Treasury, was not complied with.” — I don't find throughout the whole Report, any other *Warrant*, except this one, that was required to be signed by the Treasury. And even in this Instance, the Examinants before the Committee, shew the Caution to be frivolous. But we shall soon see why the Objection was made to this particular *Warrant*. *Sixty-four thousand Pounds* was too great a Sum to be called in by Mr. *Edmond Jones*, the Paymaster's Deputy's Deputy, who had so carefully lent out that and other large Sums for the trifling Consideration of a little paltry Interest Money.

(a) Pag. 160. H Mr.

(b) “ Mr. *Edmond Jones*, Deputy and Cashier to the
 “ Paymaster General of the Marines, being examined,
 “ said, that he had been in the Office ever since its Estab-
 “ lishment, and was allowed a Salary of *about 300 l.* a
 “ Year; and *that he gave no Security*: That he always re-
 “ ceived the Money issued from the Exchequer, and some-
 “ times deposited it in the Bank, with whom he kept a
 “ Book in his own Name; in which Book were entered
 “ the several Sums paid into, and received, from the
 “ Bank; and that he had then upwards of *100,000 l.* in
 “ his Hands, belonging to the Marines, (and their inferior
 “ Officers starving) which Sum he, at first, declared, was
 “ Cash and Bank-Notes; but upon further Examination,
 “ he confessed, *after numberless Prevarications*, that Part
 “ of it was placed out at Interest, without the Paymaster’s
 “ Knowledge.

I don’t know, Sir, how you may have been affected on
 the hearing that *upwards of a hundred thousand Pounds* of
 the public Money, had been intrusted to a *petty Clerk*, that
 had given *no Security* for his Probity; but for my self, I
 trembled at reading this Part of your Report. What he
 says of his *Master’s Ignorance* of his gaming with this vast
 Sum of public Money, must certainly have had no more
 Weight with you than it has with me and all others, who
 have no Concern with *Welch Elections*; particularly that
 for the County of *M———b.* — But I must beg leave to
 keep Mr. *Jones* Company a little while longer.

(c) “ The Committee shall here take no Notice of
 “ the several Variations in this Witness’s Evidence, at
 “ the different Times he attended; but only state that
 “ part of it, which he insisted upon to be true, the last
 “ time he was examined in relation to this Matter; when
 “ being interrogated as to the particular Sums, and also
 “ the Times when, and the Nature of the Securities, up-
 “ on which they were placed out, as aforesaid, he said,
 “ that he lent *5000 l.* upon Land-Tax Tallies, in his own
 “ Name; and, sometime afterwards, another Sum of
 “ *6700 l.* or *7600 l.* upon the like Securities, in the
 “ Name

(a) Pag. 51. (b) Pag. 52.

“ Name of *Mary Tyrrell*, which was his Wife’s Maiden
 “ Name; but when these Sums were laid out, he said, he
 “ could not remember. (Poor Man! what Pity that his
 “ Memory should so have fail’d him!) That the next
 “ Sum lent was *20,000 l.* upon Land-Tax Tallies, of
 “ the Year 1744, in the Name of Mr. *John Hanbury*, (he
 “ recovers his Memory a little) who gave him leave to
 “ make use of his Name; (a Condescension which every
 “ Brother of a Paymaster might not stoop to) and that in
 “ March or April 1745, he placed out another Sum of
 “ *40,400 l.* upon the like Security, of which Sum
 “ *36,00 l.* was in the Name of Captain *Alexander Wil-*
 “ *son*, (an Agent to several Regiments) and the Residue in
 “ the Name of the said *Mary Tyrrell*: That, besides these
 “ Sums lent upon Land-Tax Tallies, he also lent, in Fe-
 “ bruary 1744, upwards of *10,000 l.* upon *East-India*
 “ Bonds; and two other Sums of *5,000 l.* and *2600 l.*
 “ upon Cloathing Assignments.

Here, Sir, I will take leave of you, and of the Deputy
 to the Paymaster of the Marines his Deputy, with this
 Observation, that the too great Lenity of former Parlia-
 ments, or their *Inattention* to the Spoils committed upon
 the Public; has been the whole Source of the black Scene
 of Fraud, Corruption and Neglect, in the *Management of*
 the Army, which your Committee have brought to Light,
 at least in part, as appears by this Report, which I return
 you with the Thanks of this ancient Corporation, for the
 Part you may have had in thus detecting the base *Pur-*
loiners of the Public. I have the Honour to be, &c.

F I N I S.

