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MR. PIT'T's BILL,

FOR

AUGMENTING THE ASSESSED TAXES,

EXAMINED.

[PRICE ONE SHILLING.]

0319

MR. PITTS BILL,

FOR

AUGMENTING THE ASSESSED TAXES,

EXAMINED UPON THE

PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE AND COMMON SENSE;

AND

THE CAUSE OF LANDLORDS,

AND OF THE

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX ESPECIALLY, PLEADED.

Truths would you teach, and save a sinking land,
Meanness evades what patriotism plann'd.

Quem Deus vult perdere prius dementat.

LONDON;

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

1797.

MR. PITT's BILL EXAMINED.

THE business of a vast increase in the Assessed Taxes which was brought forward by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, &c. submitted to the consideration of the House of Commons, resolved into a Committee, on the 4th instant, is of so momentous a nature, so fraught with consequences, so deeply affects the dearest interests of Englishmen, and so unprecedented in the history of this country, that it cannot fail of exciting the attention of every individual. Indeed the able Statesman, who, for fourteen years past, has enjoyed an unexampled confidence in conducting the finances of these kingdoms, professed a desire that the plan of taxation which he proposed for the House to adopt, as making the FIRST PART of the supplies which would be necessary for the year 1798, might be fully discussed.—A full discussion

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cussion it has met with in the House, and will doubtless be much scrutinized, however ineffectually, in its farther progress; but when canvassed by the public at large the Minister has been left in a very diminutive minority, however great his silent majorities have been in St. Stephen's Chapel.

The Minister dwelt, with appropriate emphasis, on the perilous state to which this country was reduced by its implacable enemy, whose avowed purpose it was to effect its entire overthrow; and as we were contending for every thing that was dear to man, among which our most happy Constitution was a most invaluable part, we ought to make large sacrifices of some of our property to save the remainder of it.

Fully admitting the truths here advanced, I shall beg leave to deliver a short comment on the Minister's text.

Our situation then is found to require large sacrifices; the obvious conclusions from which

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are, that those who have most to lose should be the first and largest contributors. Those who have least felt the grievances of this most profusely expensive war, and who authorized both its commencement and continuance, being most answerable for its consequences, should be most ready to pay for its support. These positions laid down, what class of people in this kingdom are distinctly pointed out? Is it those who occupy houses, considered merely as occupants, or those who own them, whether in fee simple, as copyholders, or under long leases? Most assuredly not. When this calamitous tax shall become a law, it will commence with oppressing the occupants of houses, but it will be soon thrown off by them, and become the burden of the landlord. Will any man have the confidence to ask an equal rent for an house to be let, after passing this Act, as has hitherto been demanded for it? Or, will he find a tenant ready to give him such a rent? What will happen may be inferred from what has happened in cases exactly similar. There are not wanting in this kingdom instances of towns once flourishing by manufactures, which maintained a large

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large population by profitable occupations, but which, either from the loss of a market for their staple commodity, or by the transfer of its manufacture to other places, have sunk into idle insignificance, and their poor been obliged to receive support from the parishes they were wont to enrich! Such is the city of Norwich, such is the town of Colchester. In each of these places the poor's rates have become enormous, from the loss of the manufactures which once flourished there.

The occupiers of houses indeed pay these heavy rates; but the landlords are compelled to reduce their rents in proportion, as every individual among them knows to his cost. To apply this self-evident fact to the case before us—The consequences must indubitably be the same, if the Prime Minister of England comes, *in forma pauperis*, to compel every occupier of a house to support him: the landlord can feel no difference whether he is to support a pauper of his parish, or a national pauper, who is passed to every parish, or, more properly, gains a settlement in all.

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By this scheme of raising a vast annual revenue by enormous additions to the Assessed Taxes, the counties of Middlesex and Surrey will contribute as much as, or perhaps more than all the rest of the kingdom.

This assertion is supported by the best authority; for by the papers containing an account of the Assessed Taxes, which were laid before the House of Commons in November last, in which the returns of each county in England and Wales, for the year ending 5th April, 1797, is given, it appears, that the two counties of Middlesex and Surrey, including the cities of London and Westminster, with the borough of Southwark, paid in the following manner for houses and windows:

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Total Receipts from England and Wales	Number of Inhabited Houses, by each Geo. III.	Total Inhabited Houses, by the Commu- nity Tax, 24th Geo. III. Oct. 1839	Number of Inhabited Houses, by each Geo. III.		Total Inhabited Houses, by the Commu- nity Tax, 24th Geo. III. Oct. 1839
			Houses and Win- dows, by each Geo. III. cap. 38.	Middlesex.	
3,794,960	11,979,188	11,979,188	11,979,188	11,979,188	11,979,188
34,370	10,612,151	10,612,151	10,612,151	10,612,151	10,612,151
60	15,841	15,841	15,841	15,841	15,841
42	16,408	16,408	16,408	16,408	16,408
10	16,758	16,758	16,758	16,758	16,758
6½	17,581	17,581	17,581	17,581	17,581
15	18,240	18,240	18,240	18,240	18,240
8½	18,763	18,763	18,763	18,763	18,763
15	19,084	19,084	19,084	19,084	19,084
7	19,530	19,530	19,530	19,530	19,530
13	19,840	19,840	19,840	19,840	19,840
10	20,367	20,367	20,367	20,367	20,367
3	20,884	20,884	20,884	20,884	20,884
7	21,401	21,401	21,401	21,401	21,401
13	21,918	21,918	21,918	21,918	21,918
18	22,435	22,435	22,435	22,435	22,435
9	22,952	22,952	22,952	22,952	22,952
18	23,469	23,469	23,469	23,469	23,469
13	23,986	23,986	23,986	23,986	23,986
6½	24,503	24,503	24,503	24,503	24,503
1	25,020	25,020	25,020	25,020	25,020
7	25,537	25,537	25,537	25,537	25,537
0	26,054	26,054	26,054	26,054	26,054
1	26,571	26,571	26,571	26,571	26,571
9	27,088	27,088	27,088	27,088	27,088
2	27,605	27,605	27,605	27,605	27,605
13	28,122	28,122	28,122	28,122	28,122
1	28,639	28,639	28,639	28,639	28,639
0	29,156	29,156	29,156	29,156	29,156
1	29,673	29,673	29,673	29,673	29,673
9	30,190	30,190	30,190	30,190	30,190
2	30,707	30,707	30,707	30,707	30,707
10	31,224	31,224	31,224	31,224	31,224
6½	31,741	31,741	31,741	31,741	31,741
1	32,258	32,258	32,258	32,258	32,258
7	32,775	32,775	32,775	32,775	32,775
0	33,292	33,292	33,292	33,292	33,292
1	33,809	33,809	33,809	33,809	33,809
9	34,326	34,326	34,326	34,326	34,326
2	34,843	34,843	34,843	34,843	34,843
13	35,360	35,360	35,360	35,360	35,360
3	35,877	35,877	35,877	35,877	35,877
10	36,394	36,394	36,394	36,394	36,394
6½	36,911	36,911	36,911	36,911	36,911
1	37,428	37,428	37,428	37,428	37,428
7	37,945	37,945	37,945	37,945	37,945
0	38,462	38,462	38,462	38,462	38,462
1	38,979	38,979	38,979	38,979	38,979
9	39,496	39,496	39,496	39,496	39,496
2	39,913	39,913	39,913	39,913	39,913
13	40,430	40,430	40,430	40,430	40,430
3	40,947	40,947	40,947	40,947	40,947
10	41,464	41,464	41,464	41,464	41,464
6½	41,981	41,981	41,981	41,981	41,981
1	42,498	42,498	42,498	42,498	42,498
7	43,015	43,015	43,015	43,015	43,015
0	43,532	43,532	43,532	43,532	43,532
1	43,949	43,949	43,949	43,949	43,949
9	44,466	44,466	44,466	44,466	44,466
2	44,983	44,983	44,983	44,983	44,983
13	45,499	45,499	45,499	45,499	45,499
3	45,916	45,916	45,916	45,916	45,916
10	46,433	46,433	46,433	46,433	46,433
6½	46,950	46,950	46,950	46,950	46,950
1	47,467	47,467	47,467	47,467	47,467
7	47,984	47,984	47,984	47,984	47,984
0	48,501	48,501	48,501	48,501	48,501
1	48,918	48,918	48,918	48,918	48,918
9	49,435	49,435	49,435	49,435	49,435
2	49,952	49,952	49,952	49,952	49,952
13	50,469	50,469	50,469	50,469	50,469
3	50,986	50,986	50,986	50,986	50,986
10	51,503	51,503	51,503	51,503	51,503
6½	51,920	51,920	51,920	51,920	51,920
1	52,437	52,437	52,437	52,437	52,437
7	52,954	52,954	52,954	52,954	52,954
0	53,471	53,471	53,471	53,471	53,471
1	53,988	53,988	53,988	53,988	53,988
9	54,505	54,505	54,505	54,505	54,505
2	54,922	54,922	54,922	54,922	54,922
13	55,439	55,439	55,439	55,439	55,439
3	55,956	55,956	55,956	55,956	55,956
10	56,473	56,473	56,473	56,473	56,473
6½	56,990	56,990	56,990	56,990	56,990
1	57,507	57,507	57,507	57,507	57,507
7	57,924	57,924	57,924	57,924	57,924
0	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441	58,441
1	58,958	58,958	58,958	58,958	58,958
9	59,475	59,475	59,475	59,475	59,475
2	59,992	59,992	59,992	59,992	59,992
13	60,509	60,509	60,509	60,509	60,509
3	61,026	61,026	61,026	61,026	61,026
10	61,543	61,543	61,543	61,543	61,543
6½	62,060	62,060	62,060	62,060	62,060
1	62,577	62,577	62,577	62,577	62,577
7	63,094	63,094	63,094	63,094	63,094
0	63,611	63,611	63,611	63,611	63,611
1	64,128	64,128	64,128	64,128	64,128
9	64,645	64,645	64,645	64,645	64,645
2	65,162	65,162	65,162	65,162	65,162
13	65,679	65,679	65,679	65,679	65,679
3	66,196	66,196	66,196	66,196	66,196
10	66,713	66,713	66,713	66,713	66,713
6½	67,230	67,230	67,230	67,230	67,230
1	67,747	67,747	67,747	67,747	67,747
7	68,264	68,264	68,264	68,264	68,264
0	68,781	68,781	68,781	68,781	68,781
1	69,298	69,298	69,298	69,298	69,298
9	69,815	69,815	69,815	69,815	69,815
2	70,332	70,332	70,332	70,332	70,332
13	70,849	70,849	70,849	70,849	70,849
3	71,366	71,366	71,366	71,366	71,366
10	71,883	71,883	71,883	71,883	71,883
6½	72,400	72,400	72,400	72,400	72,400
1	72,917	72,917	72,917	72,917	72,917
7	73,434	73,434	73,434	73,434	73,434
0	73,951	73,951	73,951	73,951	73,951
1	74,468	74,468	74,468	74,468	74,468
9	74,985	74,985	74,985	74,985	74,985
2	75,502	75,502	75,502	75,502	75,502
13	76,019	76,019	76,019	76,019	76,019
3	76,536	76,536	76,536	76,536	76,536
10	77,053	77,053	77,053	77,053	77,053
6½	77,570	77,570	77,570	77,570	77,570
1	78,087	78,087	78,087	78,087	78,087
7	78,604	78,604	78,604	78,604	78,604
0	79,121	79,121	79,121	79,121	79,121
1	79,638	79,638	79,638	79,638	79,638
9	80,155	80,155	80,155	80,155	80,155
2	80,672	80,672	80,672	80,672	80,672
13	81,189	81,189	81,189	81,189	81,189
3	81,706	81,706	81,706	81,706	81,706
10	82,223	82,223	82,223	82,223	82,223
6½	82,740	82,740	82,740	82,740	82,740
1	83,257	83,257	83,257	83,257	83,257
7	83,774	83,774	83,774	83,774	83,774
0	84,291	84,291	84,291	84,291	84,291
1	84,808	84,808	84,808	84,808	84,808
9	85,325	85,325	85,325	85,325	85,325
2	85,842	85,842	85,842	85,842	85,842
13	86,359	86,359	86,359	86,359	86,359
3	86,876	86,876	86,876	86,876	86,876
10	87,393	87,393	87,393	87,393	87,393
6½	87,910	87,910	87,910	87,910	87,910
1	88,427	88,427	88,427	88,427	88,427
7	88,944	88,944	88,944	88,944	88,944
0	89,461	89,461	89,461	89,461	89,461
1	89,978	89,978	89,978	89,978	89,978
9	90,495	90,495	90,495	90,495	90,495
2	90,912	90,912	90,912	90,912	90,912
13	91,429	91,429	91,429	91,429	91,429
3	91,946	91,946	91,946	91,946	91,946
10	92,463	92,463	92,463	92,463	92,463
6½	92,980	92,980	92,980	92,980	92,980
1	93,497	93,497	93,497	93,497	93,497
7	93,914	93,914	93,914	93,914	93,914
0	94,431	94,431	94,431	94,431	94,431
1	94,948	94,948	94,948	94,948	94,948
9	95,465	95,465	95,465	95,465	95,465
2	95,982	95,982	95,982	95,982	95,982
13	96,499	96,499	96,499	96,499	96,499
3	96,916	96,916	96,916	96,916	96,916
10	97,433	97,433	97,433	97,433	97,433
6½	97,950	97,950	97,950	97,950	97,950
1	98,467	98,467	98,467	98,467	98,467
7	98,984	98,984	98,984	98,984	98,984
0	99,401	99,401	99,401	99,401	99,401
1	99,918	99,918	99,918	99,918	99,918
9	100,435	100,435	100,435	100,435	100,435
2	100,952	100,952	100,952	100,952	100,952
13	101,469	101,469	101,469	101,469	101,469
3	101,986	101,986	101,986	101,986	101,986
10	102,503	102,503	102,503	102,503	102,503
6½	102,920	102,920	102,920	102,920	102,920
1	103,437	103,437	103,437	103,437	103,437
7	103,954	103,954	103,954	103,954	103,954
0	104,471	104,471	104,471	104,471	104,471
1	104,988	104,988</td			

Middlesex and Surrey 2,916,417,017,000 7,3

The other fifty Counties in the United States

England and Wales (bed) Atiwt 658,494 06.1.6

...and the people will be free.

£ 1,075,511 13 10

BY

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By another Act 37 Geo. III. cap. 105, a further duty was laid upon windows to commence on January 5th, 1797, which in houses with few windows is equal to one third of the Commutation Tax, and where there are larger numbers, somewhat more than one-fourth, the produce of which cannot as yet be ascertained. As the rents of houses in these two counties is considerably higher than in any other part of the kingdom, the proportion to be paid by this new tax will be augmented to an incalculable degree. It would therefore be difficult to assign a valid reason, why such as have their property vested in houses situated in those counties should have this weight of taxation imposed upon them peculiarly, when the holders of land in those counties feel no new impost?

From such reasoning it appears self-evident, that the class of men whose property is vested in houses ought not to be the objects of ministerial vengeance; their political conduct surely has not been so marked with the deadly sin of opposition, that they should be doomed to have their vitals

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sucked, to provide a future supply of millions never to be accounted for; supposing all the profits arising from the war, has been fairly taken into account. Is there not another class of men in the nation, who, though least inclined to come forward, have every characteristic to point them out, as in duty bound to be the primary and most liberal contributors of a handsome portion of their property, on such a pressing occasion as the present? Which is the class I allude to? Will not every one be ready instantly to pronounce THE LANDHOLDER, whether Peer, Knight, Citizen or Burgess in Parliament; not overlooking the class of country gentlemen at large? Who, it may be asked, would be the first to fall, should a revolution be brought about, either by internal insurrection, or the successful inroads of a foreign nation? It is a fact, not to be controverted, that the landed interest in this kingdom is the only interest that has not suffered by the war (unless placemen, pensioners, and contractors may, from their numbers and their weight, be considered as a newly created interest in the country). The farmer has brought his cattle and

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his grain to a better market than was ever known before, and is consequently better enabled to pay his rent punctually and cheerfully; which puts it in the power of the landlord to enjoy the mercenary delight of increasing his rents. The haughty Peer, who never knew a contradiction to his will, and the pampered commoner, equally accustomed to uncontrolled gratification, may, perhaps, exultingly say, have we not voted a million and half of money to build barracks for our soldiers, who are to keep our own rabble in awe; and have we not a victorious navy to scour the seas of paltry Frenchmen, should such enemies dare to attempt the invasion of our coasts? Then why should apprehensions of domestic or foreign attacks plague us with unpleasing sensations?— Such sensations as are to us unknown, except from jaded satiety in pleasures!—

I am aware that the advocates for the new plan of taxation will be ready to say, “The Minister has laid heavy taxes upon the luxuries of life; such as horses, dogs, carriages, and sumptuous houses;

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houses; and from these the contributions will be drawn from the higher ranks in life; but many questions must be satisfactorily answered before an unbiased man, of plain good sense, will be convinced by such reasoning; and although a supercilious prelate may avow his contempt of the *vox popularis*, yet surely, when such high encomiums on our glorious constitution are poured forth by the Minister and his adherents upon every occasion, no one will be hardy enough to deny to an Englishman what is his birth-right by that constitution, namely, the free discussion of political subjects, especially when they so essentially involve his property and his well-being; I had almost said, his existence as a happy and respected member of society. I shall endeavour to arrange my ideas upon this important subject by putting them in the following questionary shape: Does the augmentation of the Assessed Taxes levy a due proportion from the opulent land-holders?—Is it attended with no fatal consequences to industry and ingenuity?—Does it meet Mr. Pitt's declared wish to draw forth the wealth from the

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hoard of the penurious alike as from the purse of the liberal?—Is the principle on which it is founded just or unjust, as to its retrospective view?—The first of these questions may be resolved by examining how far the landholder is involved in the payment of these Assessed Taxes, and then compare his condition, when affected by this tax, with the landlord when subjected to it. Take the case of a gentleman possessing a freehold or copyhold estate of 300*l.* per annum, and resident on that estate. Suppose his house and windows to be now rated at five guineas per annum; by this tax he will be called upon to pay an additional fifteen guineas. On the other hand, see the condition of a man who possesses, for sake of example, a row of sixteen houses, held on lease for 99 years, and let at the rate of twenty guineas per ann. each house; his receipts will be allowing for the ground rent which he must pay, about equal to the landholder; and to make the instance exactly similar, we will suppose he resides in one of those houses, the present

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present rate of window and house tax, at the lowest statement, must be two guineas per annum for each such house, amounting in the whole to 331. 3s. Should this act pass, when the levy is next made, a farther duty upon each house will be demanded of six guineas, amounting in the whole to 1001. 16s. which, for the first half year, a respectable tenant may be supposed to pay, provided he continues in the house so long; but when warning is given by that tenant, the landlord must engage eventually to pay, by making a proportionable reduction in the rent, or comply with such terms as a new tenant will think fit to accept.

The instance here given is the most favourable one to the landholder and least injurious to the householder, but pursuing the income by hundreds, from four hundred up to a thousand a year, a very slight inspection will show how greatly the disproportion will increase upon houses of 30l. a year or under. I here confine myself to the tax upon windows and houses; horses, mules, carriages, and servants, when reasoning upon this principle,

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principle, are extraneous things, depending on the will of the individual; it is an equity in rating solid and ~~essential~~ property which is now under discussion.

The next question, "Is it attended with no fatal consequences to industry and ingenuity?" has already been pointed out by a Member in the House of Commons, and the consequences to all concerned in those branches of business and manufacture which consist in the construction of carriages, must be altogether fatal. The Legislature requires, by this bill, that every one is to be rated in futurity by his last year's levies; many, and very many, by being brought into such a predicament, will lay down their carriage, and by that saving indemnify themselves of the tax; as, to compare great things with small, many gentlemen who formerly paid four guineas a year to an hair-dresser, now pay a guinea to GOVERNMENT to support our glorious constitution, for a licence to put powder in their hair, on which account they become their own hair-dressers, and save three guineas per annum.

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"But Mr. Pitt is so greatly hurt when any insinuation is thrown out that the taxes which he brings forward affects the poor, as to find a difficulty in replying to such insinuations with calmness. He has not indeed taxed bread, cheese, or onions, and as the poor have nothing to do with luxuries, tobacco was deemed a fit object of taxation; and as they have every reason to be contented with their condition, it is highly improper for them to resort to the solace of drunken drinking, which ought only to be the refuge of the wretched, and is indeed to such, only a wretched refuge; therefore the Minister, in pure compassion, to check indiscretion and vice, has laid heavy duties upon spirituous liquors. It was not ill remarked by a gentleman in conversation the other day (by the way, a man who deals more in imagery than in alchymy) that "it was possible to transmute the sweat of the brow into drops of gold, but if the Minister of Finance interfered in the process, the whole would be immediately reduced to a *caput mortuum*." *Ex nihilo nihil fit*; Can a man gather grapes of

thorns,

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thorns, or figs of thistles? by no possible way.

Cantabit vacuus coram.—But Mr. Pitt, not having reduced the lowest classes of the people to a state of abject slavery, determines, by this measure, to level the middling classes of people with the poor. Ignition of the roof above has, among other things, the following effect:—Instituted The next question is, "does this mode of taxation meet Mr. Pitt's declared wish to draw forth the wealth from the hoard of the penurious, alike as from the purse of the liberal?" The Bill, in the form which it now bears before the House of Commons, goes indeed to establish a kind of court of inquisition in every parish throughout the kingdom, to which all are required to repair, and to deliver in upon oath the amount of their income, who wish to obtain a mitigation of their assessment; and this humiliating disclosure is to be repeated every year, so long as the Act shall remain in force; but it invests the inquisitors of that court with no powers to call upon a man who pays the full amount at which he is assed, to disclose the amount

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amount of his income. Should there be a man now living who resembles the late Mr. Elwes in habits of parsimony, would this affect his herds? If the Duke of Marlborough contributes largely of his princely revenues, will the patriotism of the Duke of Bridgewater lead him to part with a due proportion of his great and growing wealth? If the Duke of Wellington justly resists the demands of the Inquisitors, and sends his Calous must be the heart who could sit at a board where such business as is created by this Bill is to be transacted! The cries of the widow and the orphan must be ever sounding in their ears, for the Bill admits of no alleviation to the rate in consequence of a numerous family of children. How many, "once in fortune's lap high fed," are now compelled to study every mode of retrenchment in their expences in consequence of disappointments, losses, and the demands of a numerous offspring for maintenance and education? Can the addition of six or eight pounds a year in taxes be paid by a man who, although his economy is rigid, finds himself compelled to stretch

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stretch his credit to the utmost, and to whom all hopes of seeing better days are entirely vanished? Should such a man, by his utmost exertions, procure 150l. per annum, if he can urge any plea for alleviation, and can do such violence to his feelings as to deliver such a plea in upon oath before the Inquisitors, bearing the name of Assistant Commissioners of Taxes, from the amount of his income he may obtain permission to pay no more than the twenty-second part of that sum, or about 6l. 10s. a mighty matter obtained by an abject declaration!!!

How pitiable is the situation of such whose whole property was vested in the funds, eight or nine years ago, at more than double the present depreciated price, except only a snug house to which they retired from the toils of a bustling life, hoping to pass the evening of their days in peace. His accumulation of property enormous, he could wish a fit place to live in, and a quiet life to end his days in. The Members of this Tribunal about to be created, will, I should suppose, find many cases in

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in which they will be much puzzled how to proceed; for instance, a man comes before them and states that he pays the sum of 40s. per annum for the duty on the house in which he lives, and its windows; in consequence of which he becomes liable, in future, to pay three times the amount, beside the former sum; for so was the blank in the Bill filled up on the 5th of December; he therefore, in humble suit, entreats the Inquisitorial Junto to reduce his rate, he being unable to pay it.

Grand Inquisitor. What income have you?

Appellant. Why, by my troth, Sir, nothing but my good wits to feed and clothe me, my wife, and children.

Inquisitor. By what means do your good wits enable you to do it? *Appellant.* I write for a daily paper called the *** * * When business is brisk I sometimes make two or three guineas a week in inventing paragraphs to prove the prosperous state of the nation;

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nation; that the funded debt is a great blessing; that taxes are no evils; all except this d—d augmentation of the Assessed Taxes I mean, for my conscience will not suffer me to write a line in their excuse; I likewise make it appear that the French Republic is on the verge of bankruptcy; that Buonaparte is nothing of a general; that ——— *Inquisitor.* Stop, stop; you need not go farther; I clearly see that your livelihood depends entirely on casual circumstances. I must consult with my brethren.

A consultation ensues for a few minutes

Inquisitor. We are all clearly of opinion that as your income cannot be accurately ascertained; as it depends on the state of your health, the vigour of your mind, and accidental circumstances, you must be rated minus sixty, which exempts you from paying any proportion. You may withdraw: You seem a very honest, frank fellow.

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fellow: We respect learning and talents, and abhor the idea of fettering a vigorous mind.

After a variety of other cases which come under discussion, all tending to display the noble freedom and independent spirit of Englishmen, under the Pittified modification of our glorious constitution, which business may be supposed to occupy several days, let fancy exhibit another appellant, entering the awful hall, who, with down cast eyes and timid steps, approaches the tribunal.

Inquisitor. What is your name, residence, and income?

Appellant. Gentlemen, I have not a foot of land, no money in the funds, no bonds or book debts, no salary, nor any stock in trade except this pair of spectacles, this inkhorn, and this remnant of a quire of paper, which enable me to write occasionally political essays for the newspapers; but as I adhere strictly to what I think the interest of my country, I scorn to live by misrepresentation; and, though I am honest, I

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can support myself and family, and have hitherto paid my Assessed Taxes, which are between two and three pounds a year; but I must remove to a garret if these additional taxes are required of me; I have even made up my mind to do that, rather than refrain from censuring great knaves and wretches that live by the spoil of their country.

Inquisitor. Sirrah, we are not to sit here and suffer such language to be uttered before us.—

What? I suppose you call yourself a democrat; write letters and paragraphs to give the people notions of a parliamentary reform. Such incendiaries are better paid than honest men. You look in very good case, and are dressed so well, that you might be mistaken for a gentleman. If the house you live in is too large for you, get you to a garret, why should you be a breeder of sedition?

You can have no relief here.

To proceed to the last point to be discussed, namely, "Is the principle on which this proposed

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"tax is founded, just or unjust, with respect to its retrospective view?"
 Mr. Pitt deemed it expedient, in order to prevent retrenchments in the manner of living, or at least the consequences of such to Government, to make the rates which were settled at the early part of the present year, the standard at which to fix those of the approaching year; so that a man who had brought himself to the brink of ruin by living beyond his income, would find repentance come too late; and, if his creditors become importunate, the King would be no less importunate, and he sweeps every thing to the full extent of his demand. Beside the inconsiderate man, there are many discreet men engaged in commercial or manufacturing concerns, who, from the failure of their accustomed returns of profit, are compelled to make very considerable reductions in such of the gaudy appendages to living which the Minister selects for taxation, but in vain has prudence caused the plan to be carried to effect, an Act of Parliament

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ment puts its *veto* on the measure, and directs that the savings which the considerate man had appropriated to his children should be lodged in the Exchequer.

The proofs here brought, and arguments deduced, must surely satisfy every impartial man that the proposed augmentation of the Assessed Taxes are, in the whole of their operation, UNJUST, OPPRESSIVE, and, in an unqualified degree, PARTIAL; but when taxes are objected to, the common reply is, "can any better be pointed out?" Mr. Pitt, when remarking on the observations thrown out by Mr. Wilberforce Bird, and Alderman Lushington, in the House of Commons, on the 7th of December, spoke to this effect. "I should be glad to know how the honourable gentleman, or any other person will raise so large a sum for the revenue with more ease and advantage to the poorer orders." I will beg leave to point out a method, abhorrent indeed to the ideas of Lords and Commons, but devoutly wished by every real lover of his country, who contemplates its present state without a film before

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his eyes, occasioned by a disease for which no remedy is provided in any pharmacopœia, but which is extremely prevalent when truth darts its rays through the dense atmosphere of self-interest. The contribution I allude to is, **A VERY MODERATE RATE** to be levied by Parliament on the PRESENT RENTS PAID BY TENANTS TO LAND-LORDS FOR real or copyhold ESTATES, but apportioned to the degree at which each county or small district is now rated; or, **AN EQUALIZATION OF THE LAND TAX**, independent of and distinct from the tax now paid, the new rate to continue no longer than during the continuance of the war, or the time intended to be limited in the bill now depending in Parliament. Should such a measure be adopted with a good grace, what a lustre would it throw on the Peers and Commoners of this kingdom! How completely would it do away all the imputations of selfishness and meanness, which must, in the present state of things, attach to them! How would it extinguish the abhorrence now created in the middle class of the community against the higher! But if generous sentiments will not draw forth this equitable concession, let

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another picture be exhibited to them, which may influence the mean principles of action in the human mechanism.

My Lords and Gentlemen turn your eyes toward France, and let recollection place before you the state of that country a few years ago, I mean, at the close of the monarchical government. It will exhibit—a lavish expenditure of public money; places, pensions, and emoluments, profusely granted; the Princes of the blood examples of every thing they ought not to be; profligate, profuse and irreclaimable in mature years from the indiscretions of youth. Nobles haughty and oppressive; the people at large enduring all the evils imposed on them by such a government. What was the consequence?—The spirit of the people revolted.—All their strength was deemed impotence.—The noblesse reposed in security, relying on the military force which awed the kingdom.—When it was told that a design was formed to attack the Bastile it only excited derision.—I will not say how far the present state of this

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country resembles that which I have described, but I pour forth my most ardent supplications that my native land shall never exhibit such scenes as the pertinacity in error and blind security have produced in France.

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APPENDIX.

THE foregoing pages were printed and ready for publication on the 18th, when Mr. P. of Commons, various alterations in the resolutions entered into there on the 5th instant, tell Bill, even in its present form, although less terrific, is greatly to be dreaded, and as the are not weakened, the Author now lays them before the Public.

In the present stage of the Bill, the AUGMENTATIONS in the Assess-

Persons occupying Houses in which there are SHOPS, or which are usually let to Lodgers:

If the Amount now paid to the different House and Window Duties, Dog Duty, Clock and Watch Duty, is

L. s.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.
Under - - - - 3. 0.	— Exempted.	
From 3. 0. to 5. 0.	— $\frac{1}{10}$ or from 0. 6. 0. to 0. 10. 0.	
From 5. 0. to 7. 10.	— $\frac{1}{5}$ or from 1. 0. 0. to 1. 10. 0.	
From 7. 10. to 10. 0.	— $\frac{1}{4}$ or from 1. 17. 6. to 2. 10. 0.	
From 10. 0. to 12. 10.	— $\frac{1}{2}$ or from 5. 0. 0. to 6. 5. 0.	
From 12. 10. to 15. 0.	— $\frac{3}{4}$ or from 9. 7. 6. to 11. 5. 0.	
From 15. 0. to 20. 0.	— 1 or from 15. 0. 0. to 20. 0. 0.	
From 20. 0. to 25. 0.	— $1\frac{1}{4}$ or from 25. 0. 0. to 31. 5. 0.	
From 25. 0. to 30. 0.	— $1\frac{1}{2}$ or from 37. 10. 0. to 45. 0. 0.	
From 30. 0. to 35. 0.	— 2 or from 60. 0. 0. to 70. 0. 0.	
		and upwards.

Persons occupying Houses not having Shops, usually letting Lodgings:

If the Amount now paid to the different House and Window Duties, Dog Duty, Clock and Watch Duty, is

L. s.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.
Under - - - - 1. 0.	— Exempted.	
From 1. 0. to 2. 0.	— $\frac{1}{4}$ or from 5. 0. to 10. 0.	
From 2. 0. to 3. 0.	— $\frac{1}{2}$ or from 1. 0. to 1. 1.	
From 3. 0. to 5. 0.	— $\frac{3}{4}$ or from 2. 5. to 3. 1.	
From 5. 0. to 7. 10.	— 1 or from 5. 0. to 7. 1.	
From 7. 10. to 10. 0.	— $1\frac{1}{2}$ or from 11. 5. to 15.	
From 10. 0. to 12. 10.	— 2 or from 20. 0. to 22. 5.	
From 12. 10. to 15. 0.	— $2\frac{1}{2}$ or from 31. 5. to 37. 1.	
From 15. 0. to 20. 0.	— 3 or from 45. 0. to 60.	
From 20. 0. to 30. 0.	— $3\frac{1}{2}$ or from 70. 0. to 105.	
From 30. 0. to 40. 0.	— 4 or from 120. 0. to 160.	
From 40. 0. to 50. 0.	— $4\frac{1}{2}$ or from 180. 0. to 225.	
From 50. 0. and upwards	— 5 or from 250. 0. and upwards.	

Liberty to obtain Abatement according to Declaration of Income, to remain according to the

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my most ardent supplications that
shall never exhibit such scenes as
an error and blind security have pro-

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is written, this to day did not
the following to the publick

FINIS.

THE foregoing pages were printed and ready for publication on the 18th, when Mr. Pitt proposed, in a Committee of the House of Commons, various alterations in the resolutions entered into there on the 5th instant, tending to meliorate its operation; but as the Bill, even in its present form, although less terrific, is greatly to be dreaded, and as the general reasonings which are here advanced are not weakened, the Author now lays them before the Public.

APPENDIX.

December 20th.

In the present stage of the Bill, the AUGMENTATIONS in the Assessed Taxes are as follow:

Persons occupying Houses in which there are SHOPS, or which are usually let to Lodgers:

If the Amount now paid to the different House and Window Duties, Dog Duty, Clock and Watch Duty, is

L. s.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.
Under - - - - 1. 0.	— Exempted.	
From 1. 0. to 3. 0.	— $\frac{1}{4}$ or from 0. 6. 0. to 0. 10. 0.	
From 3. 0. to 5. 0.	— $\frac{1}{5}$ or from 1. 0. 0. to 1. 10. 0.	
From 5. 0. to 7. 10.	— $\frac{1}{7}$ or from 1. 0. 0. to 1. 10. 0.	
From 7. 10. to 10. 0.	— $\frac{1}{10}$ or from 1. 17. 6. to 2. 10. 0.	
From 10. 0. to 12. 10.	— $\frac{1}{12}$ or from 5. 0. 0. to 6. 5. 0.	
From 12. 10. to 15. 0.	— $\frac{1}{15}$ or from 9. 7. 6. to 11. 5. 0.	
From 15. 0. to 20. 0.	— 1 or from 15. 0. 0. to 20. 0. 0.	
From 20. 0. to 25. 0.	— $1\frac{1}{4}$ or from 25. 0. 0. to 31. 5. 0.	
From 25. 0. to 30. 0.	— $1\frac{1}{2}$ or from 37. 10. 0. to 45. 0. 0.	
From 30. 0. to 35. 0.	— 2 or from 60. 0. 0. to 70. 0. 0.	
	and upwards.	

Persons occupying Houses not having Shops, or usually letting Lodgings:

If the Amount now paid to the different House and Window Duties, Dog Duty, Clock and Watch Duty, is

L. s.	s. d.	s. d.
Under - - - - 1. 0.	— Exempted.	
From 1. 0. to 2. 0.	— $\frac{1}{4}$ or from 5. 0. to 10. 0.	
From 2. 0. to 3. 0.	— $\frac{1}{2}$ or from 1. 0. to 1. 10. 0.	
From 3. 0. to 5. 0.	— $\frac{3}{4}$ or from 2. 5. to 3. 15	
From 5. 0. to 7. 10.	— 1 or from 5. 0. to 7. 10.	
From 7. 10. to 10. 0.	— $1\frac{1}{2}$ or from 11. 5. to 15. 0.	
From 10. 0. to 12. 10.	— 2 or from 20. 0. to 25. 0.	
From 12. 10. to 15. 0.	— $2\frac{1}{2}$ or from 31. 5. to 37. 10.	
From 15. 0. to 20. 0.	— 3 or from 45. 0. to 60. 0.	
From 20. 0. to 30. 0.	— $3\frac{1}{2}$ or from 70. 0. to 105. 0.	
From 30. 0. to 40. 0.	— 4 or from 120. 0. to 160. 0.	
From 40. 0. to 50. 0.	— $4\frac{1}{2}$ or from 180. 0. to 225. 0.	
From 50. 0. and upwards	— 5 or from 250. 0. and upwards.	

Persons keeping any Male Servant, Pleasure Horse or Carriages, to pay in all Cases a Sum equal to Three Times their present Payment on those Articles:

If they pay

L. s.	L. s.	L. s.	L. s.
From 25. to 30.	— $3\frac{1}{2}$ or from 87. 10. to 105.		
From 30. to 40.	— 4 or from 120. 0. to 160.		
From 40. to 50.	— $4\frac{1}{2}$ or from 180. 0. to 225.		
From 50. and upwards	— 5 or from 250. 0. and upwards.		

Horses in Husbandry to pay a Sum equal to Twice the present Payment.

Liberty to obtain Abatement according to Declaration of Income, to remain according to the Scale inserted in the Original Bill.

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