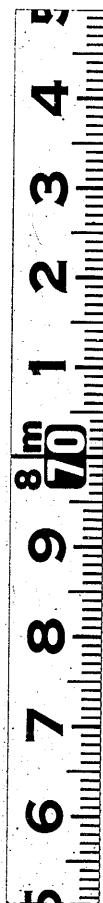


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OBSERVATIONS

UPON

Mr *Fauquier's* ESSAY

ON

Ways and Means for raising Money  
to support the present War without  
increasing the Public Debts.

To which is added,

An Account of several National Advantages  
derived from the Nobility and Gentry of  
the present Age living in *London* a  
greater Part of the Year than  
their Ancestors used to do.

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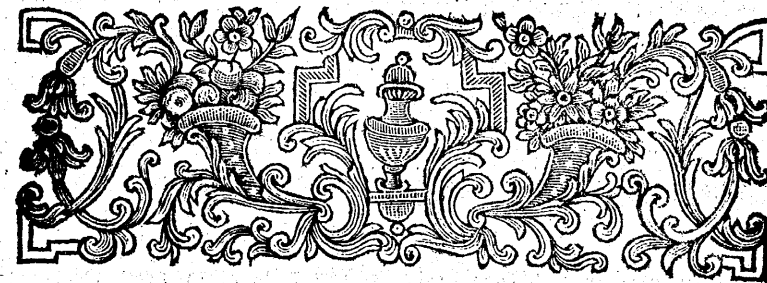
By J. M.

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# OBSERVATIONS

UPON

Mr *Fauquier's* ESSAY

ON

Ways and Means for raising Money  
to support the present War, with-  
out increasing the Public Debts.



AS the three general Wars in  
which this Kingdom hath  
been engaged, hath brought  
upon it a Debt of Eighty  
Millions of Money; and the  
vigorous and just Measures which His  
Majesty and the whole Nation have en-  
tered into, seem to make an Increase of  
this vast Debt unavoidable: It cannot fail  
of giving great Pleasure to every one who  
B wishes

( 2 )

wishes well to *Great Britain* to see a Scheme published for supporting and continuing these vigorous and just Measures, without increasing the National Debt, or laying a greater Burthen of Taxes upon the Nation than it can well bear; and this is a Pleasure for which the Public is obliged to Mr *Fauquier*, who hath given his Thoughts upon this important Subject, with such Candour and Modesty, as cannot fail of procuring them a favourable Reception, even with those who may differ from him in Opinion, of which Number I am one.

Mr *Fauquier* supposes that Three Millions of Money will be wanted to complete the annual Supplies during the War; which, for Argument's sake, he calculates to last seven Years, though he and every body else wishes and hopes that an honourable Peace may be much sooner obtained: But this being uncertain, we must proceed upon Probability; and therefore I will suppose, as he hath done, that the War may last seven Years, and that during each of those Years it will be necessary for the Government to raise Three Millions

( 3 )

Millions of Money, over and above what is to be raised by the Taxes which at present subsist, making in seven Years Twenty-one Millions.

Every Man knows that these additional Three Millions must either be raised upon the Subjects within the Year; or borrowed upon Taxes appropriated to pay the Interest, till peaceable Times, the Surplus of the Sinking Fund, and future good Oeconomy, shall enable the Government to pay the Principal.

The last of these Methods Mr *Fauquier* disapproves of, as he thinks Taxes cannot be laid that will be sufficient to pay the Interest of these Twenty-one Millions, without entailing a grievous Burthen upon the Manufactures of this Kingdom (pag. 8.) and therefore he gives the Preference to the other Method of raising the Money within the Year; from whence he seems to apprehend no other ill Consequences, but some little present Inconvenience, which he calls a short-lived Tax upon Extravagance (page 34).

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There

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There is very great Reason to wish that the raising of these additional Three Millions within the Year, and for seven Years together, would be attended with no worse Consequences than what Mr *Fauquier* hath mentioned; for then I am sure it would be a much more eligible Way of raising this Money, than borrowing it upon the Credit of new Taxes, which must unavoidably affect not only the Produce and Manufactures, but likewise the Labourers and Manufacturers of this Kingdom; all which have been, and will undoubtedly continue to be looked upon with a very favourable Eye by the Legislature; for they are the Honey and the Honey-Bees of this and every other trading Nation.

But if a Country is attacked by a powerful Enemy, and the public Expences are too heavy to be borne, without the joint Assistance of every one who is capable of giving any, it would be preferring the temporary Interest of a Part, before the Safety and Good of the Whole, not to lay some small Proportion of the Burthen, even upon this deservedly most favoured

( 5 )

voured Part of Society, the Labourers and Manufacturers.

Whether the Public Expences will or will not be too weighty to be supported without laying some further Taxes that may affect these valuable Members of the Community, must be left to Time and the Wisdom of the Legislature to determine; but it is certain that if the War continues, very great Sums of Money, over and above what are to be raised by the present Taxes, will be wanted to carry it on, and therefore I will proceed to consider Mr *Fauquier's* Scheme for raising these additional Three Millions annually and within the Year.

There are three Things necessary to be considered before this or any other proposed Tax is laid; and these are,

- 1st, Whether it can be paid or not.
- 2d, What Effect the Payment of it will have upon other Taxes.
- 3d, Whether the Money to be raised by such Tax can be raised in any other Manner that will be less prejudicial to

( 6 )

to the landed and trading Interests of the Nation.

When these three Things have been duly attended to in the present Case, we shall be able to form some Judgment of the proposed Tax: But if we neglect to make these necessary previous Inquiries, and take for granted that the Tax can be paid; that it will not materially decrease the Produce of other Taxes; and that it is the most eligible Way of supplying the Exigences of the Public, because the industrious Manufacturers and Labourers seem to be exempted from paying any Part of it, and those who are to contribute, are rated so moderately, that the richest Subject in the Kingdom is to pay no more than Forty Pounds a Year; I say, if we take all these Things for granted, we are raising a vast Superstructure without knowing whether the Foundation will bear it or not, which is a Degree of Imprudence that few Men in private Life are guilty of; and certainly, in an Affair of public Concern and such great Importance, all possible Care ought to be and will undoubtedly be taken, to thoroughly

( 7 )

thoroughly examine the Foundation upon which this great Superstructure, so fair in Appearance, is proposed to be raised.

I call this Scheme fair in Appearance, because it really is so; for every Man must allow that People of very moderate Fortunes may pay Five Shillings without Hurt to themselves or Families, and that People of great Estates or Fortunes may pay Forty Pounds a Year without much Inconvenience: From whence it will follow, that all People who are of any Rank or Degree between the two I have named, will be equally capable of paying proportionable Parts of this Tax; and consequently, that there is no apparent Objection against raising Twenty-one Millions of Money in this Manner.

But it is not safe to rely upon Appearances, especially in Things of great Importance; or to conclude that such a Tax may safely be laid upon the Nation for seven Years, because every Man is convinced that he can easily pay his Share of it for the first Year, unless it can also be made

( 8 )

made appear that he will be able to pay his Share of this, and all other Taxes, for the six following Years: And that by far the greatest Part of the Nation will not be able to do this, is what I shall now endeavour to shew. But before I proceed to do this, I think it necessary to say, it is my Opinion that these Twenty-one Millions of Money, or a greater Sum if wanted, may be raised in seven Years, without undoing the Nation, or burthening the Land or Trade of it beyond what they will be able to bear.

As the proposed Tax is to be paid in Money as the present Taxes are, it will be necessary to inquire what Quantity of Coin there is in *England*; how it is at present distributed; and what Alterations would be made in the Distribution of it, if this Tax was to be laid upon the Nation.

The Coin of *England* is estimated by some People at Fourteen Millions, by others at Sixteen Millions, and by some at Eighteen Millions; but I have not yet heard it rated so high as Twenty-one Millions,

( 9 )

Millions, however, I will suppose it amounts to the last mentioned Sum, as that will be most favourable to Mr *Fauquier's* Scheme.

I will likewise suppose that these Twenty-one Millions of Money are distributed in the following Manner;

In each of the Forty Counties

in *England* £ 300,000

amounting to - - - £ 12,000,000

In the Twelve Counties in

*Wales* - - - - 2,000,000

In *London* - - - - 7,000,000

Total £ 21,000,000

This Distribution may possibly be objected against, as it assigns to *London* a greater Proportion of Money than it pays of Taxes, and puts all the Counties in *England* upon a Level, though perhaps no two of them are alike in Wealth or Extent; but these Objections are easily answered; for the last of these Disproportions can neither help nor hurt Mr *Fauquier's* Scheme, and round Numbers are the easiest to add or divide; and as to the first

C of

( 10 )

of these Disproportions, it makes much in favour of his Scheme, for it puts the Country's Proportion of the Three Millions at less than it really is.

These necessary Preliminaries being settled, let us now suppose this Scheme, which at first Sight appears so practicable and easy, to be carried into Execution; and then I think we shall soon be convinced that this Practicability and Ease is only superficial, and no more than a gilded Coat to such a bitter Pill, as I hope *England* will never be obliged to take.

By the preceding Distribution of the Coin of the Kingdom, Seven Millions are assigned to *London*, and Fourteen Millions allotted for the Country; so that two of the Three Millions to be annually raised would be to come from the Fifty-two Counties in *England* and *Wales*; and their Stock of Money being put at Fourteen Millions, would just pay the proposed Tax for seven Years; at the End of which, I am of Opinion, that above Ten of these Fourteen Millions of Money now in the Country would be in *London*.

I be-

( 11 )

I believe that this Opinion will have as many Opposers as Mr *Fauquier's* Scheme hath Advocates; and I apprehend many People will say, that these additional Two Millions proposed to be annually drawn from the Country, would be laid out in purchasing the Produce and Manufactures of it; and so the Money would return in some Shape or other, to the Places from whence it came, as the Money raised by Taxes hitherto hath done; but I must beg Leave to say, that this is making such a Use of past Experience, as past Experience does not warrant.

For the Number of People to be fed and cloathed in *London*, will be much the same as it is at present; or, if it undergoes any Alteration on Account of this proposed Tax, I think it is most likely to be a Decrease: However, I will suppose it to continue in the State it now is, and if it does this, it is very plain, that whatever Taxes may be raised upon the Country, *London* neither will nor can want or take more of the Produce or Manufactures of any Part of the Kingdom than it does at present;

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( 12 )

present; and consequently, cannot be the Means of sending back into the Country any Part of the additional Two Millions to be annually drawn from it according to this Scheme.

And as to our foreign Trade, it is certain that the Number of People in *Spain*, *Portugal*, the *British* Colonies, or in any other Country with which *England* now carries on any Trade, can neither be increased nor diminished by any Taxes now laid or to be laid upon the Subjects of this Nation; nor will the Inhabitants of these different Countries, eat, drink, or wear more than they do at present, or be more able to pay for what they want than they now are: And though from the great Superiority of the Naval Power of *Great Britain*, and her being at Peace with *Spain* and War with *France*, an Increase of Trade with *Spain* and *Portugal* may reasonably be expected, and of course a greater Importation of Specie from those two Countries; yet, if we consider that these are Advantages common to the last and present Wars in respect of *Portugal*, and that there were several Millions of Specie taken from *Spain* during

( 13 )

during the last War, and some Trade carried on with her *American* Dominions, I cannot see any great Reason we have to expect that upon the Whole, more Specie will be brought into this Kingdom by Trade and Captures in the present War, than was imported into it during the last War.

However, if there be only an equal Quantity of Specie imported, and more of it by Trade and less by Captures, it will be more beneficial to the Nation; for Wealth acquired by Trade flows into all Parts of the Kingdom, and, like the Food we eat, strengthens and invigorates the whole System: But Money got by War is confined to a small Number of People in respect of the Whole; it is an unequal Acquisition of Strength, and much like what Men get by Fencing or Rowing, both which Exercises make the Arms stronger in Proportion than the other Parts of the Body. And so great is the Difference between a Country's growing rich by War or by Commerce, that the one destroyed the Power and Liberty of *Rome*,



( 14 )

*Rome*, and the other hath founded and raised the formidable Power and envied Liberty of *Great Britain*.

But to return. I cannot see how the City of *London*, the foreign Trade of the Kingdom, and the Prizes that may probably be taken from the *French* in the Course of this War, are likely to be the Means of sending into the Fifty-two Counties in *England* and *Wales*, more Money than they did the last War: And therefore I shall proceed to inquire, whether the State of the Country at that Time, or the Circumstances wherein the last and present Wars differ, furnish us with any Reasons for thinking that the Country can pay a further Tax of Two Millions of Money a Year, and for seven Years together, over and above all the Money that is to be annually drawn out of it by the Taxes at present subsisting.

In order to form a Judgment of the Ability of the Country to pay Two Millions of Money in new Taxes, it will be necessary to inquire, whether the Nobility and landed Gentry in general had their  
Rents

( 15 )

Rents as regularly paid, and as many Shillings in the Pound (allowing for the Difference of the Land Tax) clear to themselves, towards the Close of the last War, as they had before it begun; whether Tradesmen and the middle Classes of People in general, maintained themselves and Families as well and saved as much Money; and whether Manufacturers, Labourers, and working People in general maintained their Families as comfortably in the Years 1747 and 1748, as they did in the Years 1738 and 1739.

If the last War produced no Alteration in any of these important Particulars, it will prove that the Country was able to continue paying the Money then raised upon it, without Inconvenience; for the Payment of the then Taxes does not amount to a Proof in this Case, as they must be paid by all who had Money to pay them, without Regard to Convenience or Inconvenience: But if the Rents of Land in general were not quite so well paid towards the Close of the last War as they were before it begun, we may from thence  
justly

( 16 )

justly conclude that it made some Alterations in the several Particulars before-mentioned; for if the Generality of People had as much Money in the Years 1747 and 1748, as they had in the Years 1738 and 1739, they must have been able to pay as much Money for what they bought, to live as well, and save as much for their Families, in the two latter Years as they did in the two former ones; and if this was generally done, Tenants in general must have been able to pay their Rents, as well at the one Time as the other.

Whether the Rents of Land were or were not in general quite so well paid towards the Close of the last War as they were before it begun, must be left to the Nobility and landed Gentry to determine; but from what I have heard on this Subject, Rents in general were rather better paid before that War begun than they were towards the Close of it: And though the Distemper which then raged among the Cattle in many Counties, must have contributed much towards producing such an Alteration, and this Distemper hath for  
some

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some Time been exceedingly abated; yet, I think it would be Presumption in any one to conclude from this, that the Nation will not be again visited with this Calamity.

As to the Difference between the last and present Wars, every Man knows it is very considerable, and that this Difference is much in favour of the present War, but we should not build more upon this than it will bear.

The Nation hath happily a very powerful Navy at present; but this is no more than what it had during the last War: And the same Quantities of Beef, Pork, Biscuit, &c. which then maintained Fifty thousand Seamen and Marines a Year, will do it now; and consequently, the Navy is not likely to be the Means of sending back into the Country more Money in this War than it did in the last.

The most important Circumstance wherein the last War differs from the present one is, in the Payment of much  
D greater

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greater Subsidies to foreign Princes, than are at present paid; but we should remember that during the last War, very considerable Sums of Money were lent to the Government by Foreigners, and of Course either brought into the Nation, or sent to pay those Subsidies: So that unless all the Money then paid in Subsidies, exceeds all the Money then lent by Foreigners, and all the Money now paid in Subsidies; I humbly apprehend, that, whatever Saving there may be made to the Nation by paying less Subsidies in this War than were paid during the last War, no part of this Saving can be reckoned upon in the present Case, either with regard to the Nation in general, or in respect of the Country in particular.

As I am intirely unacquainted with the State of these important Concerns, I shall not presume to say any thing about it; but I hope I may without Offence explain the preceding Paragraph in suppositional Sums as it is not so easy to comprehend in Words.

Suppose

( 19 )

Suppose that the Subsidies or Aids granted by *Great Britain* to support her Allies during the last War, amounted *per Annum*, to - £600,000

Suppose likewise, that the Subsidies paid in this present War, amount to no more *per Annum*, than - - - - - 100,000

It is very plain that in this Case the Nation will every Year save - - - - - £500,000 and yet the Quantity of Money in *England* might or might not decrease any faster when £600,000 a Year was paid in Aids or Subsidies, than now that only £100,000 a Year is paid in them; the Reason of which, seeming Paradox, is, that if when the Kingdom paid £600,000 a Year, £500,000 of that Money was lent to the Government by Foreigners, the remaining £100,000 is all that went out of the Kingdom, for the other £500,000 is the Property of Foreigners: So that though the Nation pays the whole £600,000, yet the Decrease in the Quantity of the Current foreign Coin, or Bullion of *Great Britain*, is only

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£100,000;

( 20 )

£100,000; but if instead of this, the whole supposed Sum of £600,000 was paid by Bullion or foreign current Coin that were in the Nation, and the Property of *British* Subjects, then it is certain that not only the Nation will now save this £600,000, but it will also be saved in the Coin or Bullion of the Kingdom.

I humbly apprehend it is of some Consequence to have the State of these weighty Affairs inquired into; but it is not at all necessary to be known in order to form a Judgment of the Ability or Inability of the Country to annually pay Two Millions of Money in new Taxes, and for seven Years together: As this must of Necessity depend upon the Quantity of Money circulating in the different Counties of *England* and *Wales*, and not upon the Quantity of Money in *London*; for though the many Millions of Specie constantly kept in the Bank of *England*, are of the highest Importance to the Nation in general, yet, they cannot pay the Taxes of private People in the Country; for this is and ever must be done by the Money circulating among them, at the Time the Taxes are paid.

I shall

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I shall now proceed to consider another important Circumstance wherein the present War differs from the last, to the great Joy of the whole Nation, as it will be attended with a very considerable saving of Blood and Treasure: It will also be the Means of returning into different Counties very considerable Sums of Money, and consequently of enabling their Inhabitants to pay with more Facility their Quotas of such further Taxes as the future Expences of the War may make necessary, and the Wisdom of the Legislature enact to have raised.

In the last War about Twenty thousand *British* Troops were employed in *Flanders*, whose Subsistence and contingent Expences (for they were cloathed and recruited from hence) might probably amount to about £500,000 a Year; which Sum will now be saved to the Nation, as all His Majesty's *British* Land Forces are employed in his *British* Dominions, and the greatest Part of the Money will be spent in the Country: But I will suppose that the Whole  
of

( 22 )

of this Money, and £200,000 more, will be so spent, as some of His Majesty's Electoral Troops are to come, and some *Hessian* Forces are already arrived in *England*; and these two Sums will make £700,000.

Of this £700,000, I think £200,000 should be appropriated to preserve the Current Money in the Country in nearly the same State it now is, for upon this depends the regular and easy Payment of the present Rents and Taxes; and that some Allowance of this Kind is necessary, I think is evident from what I have said in regard to the less regular and easy Payment of Rents towards the End of the last War: It is true that £200,000 is a large Sum, but it is only a seventieth Part of Fourteen Millions, and therefore I think it is the least that can be allowed to keep the Current Money now in the Country upon nearly the Footing it is at present; so that of this £700,000, only £500,000 can be considered as applicable towards returning into the Country, the Two Millions of Money proposed to be annually drawn out of it, according to Mr *Fauquier's* Scheme,

( 23 )

Scheme, the Consequences of executing which I shall now proceed to consider in particular, as I have already done in general.

There are very few People but what have either read or heard, that Three or Four hundred Years ago, Men used to work for a Penny a Day in *England*; that a Quarter of Wheat was then sold for Two or Three Shillings; and that Meat, Drink, Cloaths, Land, and all Things in general were proportionably cheap: The Reason of which Cheapness is as evident as the Fact is certain, for there was then very little Money in the Nation in Comparison of what there is at present; and when Men in general have but little Money to go to Market with, they can pay but little for what they want; and those who have Corn, Flesh - meat, Butter, Cheese, Cloth, or any other Thing to sell, must either sell them accordingly, or not at all, as it is the Ability of Buyers in general, and not the Will of the Sellers, that fixes the Prices of the Necessaries and Conveniences of Life.

This

( 24 )

This is a Truth so clear and evident, that no Man of common Sense can doubt about it; and from hence it follows, that the Rent of Land and the Prices of such Parts of its Produce as are included in the Necessaries and Conveniences of Life, must of Necessity be so far governed by the Quantity of Current Coin, that they cannot be sold for more Money than Men in general are able to pay for them, not only for a Week or a Month, but all the Year round; for People must and will have Meat, Drink, and Cloaths, when they are to be had, and at such Prices as the Generality of them can pay and continue to pay: If, therefore, the Quantity of Money now circulating in the different Counties of *England* and *Wales*, be drawn out of them by new Taxes much faster than it is returned to them by the Navy, Army, and the general Balance of Trade; the Rents, Taxes, Produce and Manufactures of those Counties, must of Necessity sink in Value, that is, produce less Money to the Government and to the Nobility and Gentry of *England*, than they now do; for  
People

( 25 )

People must live, Taxes must be paid, and the Lands of *England* will be to support the Burthen, for nothing else can do it.

According to this Scheme there is to be drawn out of the Fifty two Counties in *England* and *Wales*, at least Two Millions of Money a Year more than they paid during the last War, and for seven Years together; making in all £14,000,000

And it is probable that there may be returned into these Fifty two Counties by the Means I have mentioned, Five Hundred Thousand Pounds a Year more than was returned to them in the last War; which in seven Years will amount to — £3,500,000

So that if this Scheme was to take place, I humbly apprehend there would be less current Money in the Country at the End of these seven Years than there is at present, by — £10,500,000  
E and

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and this is just three Parts in four of all the Money supposed to be now in it, according to the foregoing Distribution of the Coin of the Kingdom.

This is a very melancholy Prospect, and such a one as I am persuaded neither Mr *Fauquier* nor those who think his Scheme easily practicable, have yet figured to themselves: But that this or something very like it, must attend the raising of two additional Millions of Money upon the Country within the Year, and for seven Years together, appears to me, and I apprehend will appear to many others, too evident, from the less regular and easy Payment of Rents towards the Close of the last War.

For if at that time People in the Country felt some Inconvenience from paying their Rents and the then Taxes; what must they do if two Millions more are to be annually drawn out of their current Money, and only Five Hundred Thousand Pounds a Year more spent among them; and this not equally, but chiefly in Five or Six Counties, where the greatest

Part

( 27 )

Part of His Majesty's Land Forces serving or to serve in *England*, are or probably will be collected, in order to more effectually secure this Kingdom against any Attempts that may be made to invade it.

Can any Thing be more evident to Persons who are at all acquainted with Things of this Sort, than that the Splendor, Affluence, and Wealth of the Nobility and landed Gentry of this Kingdom, are all derived from and depend upon the Rents of their Estates continuing to be paid as they have hitherto been? No.

Is it possible that any Nobleman or Gentleman whose Estate in Land now brings him in Ten or One Thousand Pounds a Year, should continue to receive so much Money from it any longer than his Tenants can sell their Corn, Cattle, Butter, Cheese, Wool, &c. at or for near so good Prices as they now sell them? No.

Will these Tenants be able to get such Prices for their Corn, Cattle, &c. as they now do, any longer than Tradesmen, Manufacturers, Labourers, and the Generality

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( 28 )

of middling and lower Sorts of People continue to receive as much Money as they now receive? No.

Is it possible that these several Sorts of People can continue to receive so much Money as they now receive, while the proposed Tax is every Year carrying out of the Country one Shilling of every nine Shillings that are now circulating there, and will at the End of seven Years have carried out three Shillings of every four Shillings that are now employed in carrying on the Trade and paying the present Taxes of the Country? No.

Can it be proved that if a ninth Part of the current Money now in the Country be yearly and for seven successive Years carried to *London* by this proposed Tax; the Corn, Cattle, Butter, Cheese, Wool, &c. produced and consumed in the Country will not sell for a ninth part less Money than they do now, and that at the End of seven Years those Commodities will not be sold for only a fourth Part of the Money they now sell for? No.

Can

( 29 )

Can it be made appear that the Rents of those Lands upon which this Corn was grown, these Cattle fed, &c. will not keep pace with the falling Prices of these Commodities, and yield yearly one ninth Part less Money to the Noblemen and Gentlemen who own those Lands, so that at the end of seven Years they would receive only One Thousand Pounds for a Year's Rent of the Land which now annually produces Four Thousand Pounds? No.

Can any one demonstrate that every Tax is not easy or difficult to pay according to the Proportion it bears to the Incomes of those who are to pay it; or that the Nobility and landed Gentry of *England* who now pay four Shillings in the Pound out of the Rents which their Lands at present produce, could continue to pay such a Land-Tax when their Estates produced only a fourth Part of the Money they now yield? No.

Or can anyone think that the Manufacturers, Labourers, and poorer Sorts of working People of *England*, for whom Mr *Fauquier* hath very justly shewn great Tenderness

( 30 )

dernefs and Regard in the Formation of his Scheme, would not suffer extremely by the Execution of it, without paying one Shilling of the Three Millions of Money proposed to be annually raised this Way? or that some hundred Thousands of these valuable People who now subsist comfortably by the various kinds of ingenious Arts which provide the luxurious Parts of Dress, &c. for the Nobility and Gentry, would not then want Employment, and become a Burthen to their respective Parishes? No.

I have taken the Liberty of answering these several important and interesting Questions in the Negative, for they are all Links of one and the same Chain; which primarily depends upon this single and obvious Truth, *that when the Inhabitants of a Country have but little Money among them, they cannot pay a great deal for Meat, Drink, Clothes, or Taxes:* We are as well assured as we can be of any Thing long since done or past, that there was formerly very little Money in *England*, and that all Things then sold proportionably cheap; and as the same Causes must always produce

( 31 )

duce the same Effects, there will be no Possibility of keeping up the Rents of the Lands of *England*, if the Quantity of Money now current in the Country be considerably decreased.

I wish that Mr *Fauquier's* Scheme may really be as practicable and easy as he and many others think it is; but if it cannot be made appear that I am most egregiously mistaken in the Principles I have proceeded upon, I am humbly of Opinion that the Execution of this, or any other Scheme of the same Kind and Extent, will produce the many Calamities of which I have only given the Out-line, as the Picture is too affecting to be seen complete without exciting a deep Concern; which I think it would be highly blameable to attempt moving, when there is no real Occasion for doing it; and therefore have only said what appeared to me necessary to have my Meaning understood.

Mr *Fauquier* ingenuously acknowledges that this Scheme is not his own, but taken from Sir *Matthew Decker* Baronet; in whose Favour

( 32 )

your he says much, and I take it for granted very justly; but I apprehend, that if Sir *Matthew Decker* was now living, he would be apt to say that Mr *Fauquier* had extended his Plan further than he himself meant it should be extended.

Sir *Matthew Decker* wrote to shew that the Taxes paid in his Time were very detrimental to the Nation in general, as well as to the Trade of it in particular; and to point out a Method of lessening the National Debt and Taxes as fast as possible, by collecting the Money raised upon the Subjects in the most frugal Manner; but I think no Man can from thence infer that Sir *Matthew Decker* could then think it right, or would now (if he had been living) say it was either adviseable or consistent with his own Plan, to raise Three Millions of Money within the Year, and for seven Years together, over and above all the Money that is to be raised by those Taxes (and a few others) which he himself thought a Burthen to the Nation; and yet the doing of this is what Mr *Fauquier* calls applying in Part Sir *Matthew Decker's* Scheme (page 25) which is strictly true in a literal Sense;

( 33 )

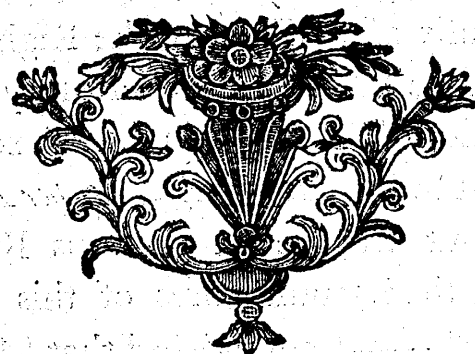
Sense; but if we consider Things and not Words, I apprehend that this Part exceeds the Whole of what Sir *Matthew Decker* intended.

I have only one Observation more to make, and this is upon what Mr *Fauquier* hath put by way of Question for The Right Honourable the Board of Treasury, or whoever pleases to answer it in their Behalf. Page 8, he says, "Now I would seriously ask, Whether the Right Honourable the Board of Treasury are of Opinion that they can lay Taxes sufficient to produce £840,000 *per Annum*, without entailing a grievous Burthen upon the Manufactures of this Kingdom?"—I am satisfied that Mr *Fauquier* does not expect The Lords of the Treasury will publicly answer this Question, and therefore I cannot help wishing that their Lordships had not been mentioned on this Occasion, as it probably hath been and will be the Means of creating in many People, Apprehensions of a

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disagreeable Sort, which no private Man's Opinion, nor any Authority less than that appealed to, will be able to effectually remove.



A N

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# A C C O U N T

O F

*Several National Advantages derived from the Nobility and Gentry of the present Age living in London a greater Part of the Year than their Ancestors used to do.*

AS there are many People who think that the Country is greatly impoverished by the Nobility and Gentry of the present Age living in *London* a greater Part of the Year than the Nobility and Gentry formerly used to do; I think my Time will not be ill employed in shewing that the Country is not impoverished by this Alteration, but on the contrary enriched, and the Nation in general greatly benefited by it.

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The principal Reason for thinking that the Country is impoverished by the Nobility and Gentry living more in *London* of late Years than they formerly did, is, their spending more Money in it and less in the Country; all which is undoubtedly true: But we should consider that though more Money be spent in *London*, yet, if it neither goes out of the Kingdom, nor stays in *London*, but returns again into the Country, the People who live there cannot be impoverished by the increased Expenses of the Nobility and Gentry in Town; and to shew that the Country is not a Loser, but on the contrary a Gainer, and the Nation in general greatly benefited by this Means, is my Design in writing what follows.

There is no one Necessary or Convenience of Life, nor any one Article of Luxury upon the Face of the whole Earth, that can be brought to *London*, but what is to be found in it; and yet notwithstanding all this, *London* only provides People with Houses to live in: The very  
Materials

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Materials of which Houses, as well as the Cloathing and Provisions of the People who are employed in building them, are provided in the Country; so that whatever Money is brought to *London* to lay out in building, purchasing, renting, or furnishing of Houses, it must sooner or later go back into the Country; for Labourers, Artificers, and all the different sorts of Manufacturers, Tradesmen and Artists, who are concerned in providing the various Parts of useful or ornamental Household Furniture, must have Meat, Drink, and Cloaths, and these must be brought from the Country.

I would not by this be understood to mean that every Shilling of this or any other Money spent in *London*, stays in the Nation, or goes back to the particular Counties from whence it was brought; for most People know that the Fact in both those Cases is otherwise: But this will not affect my Argument, which is National, and intended to shew, that the Country in particular and the Kingdom in general, are greatly benefited by the  
Nobility

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Nobility and Gentry living more in *London* than they did formerly; and as to particular Exceptions and Cases, the Nation in general is no more concerned in them, than it would be if the Manufacturies now carried on at *Birmingham*, *Manchester*, and *Halifax*, were removed to *Warwick*, *Lancaster*, and *York*; for these and such like Advantages are local, and owing to a greater Fertility of the Land, greater Plenty of Coals, Vicinity to the Sea or navigable Rivers, peculiar Articles of Produce, or a greater Spirit of Industry among the Inhabitants of some Places than others.

These Things being premised, I shall now proceed to inquire what Loss or Gain arises to the Country from the domestic and other Expences of the Nobility and Gentry by their living in *London*; and this I think will be best done by stating the Difference it makes to the Country, whether any one particular Family resides in *London*, or at the Family-Seat: It is not very material whether this Difference be stated upon an Income of One, Five, or Ten thousand Pounds; however, I will state

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state it upon Ten thousand Pounds, and suppose that a Nobleman or Gentleman who hath so much a Year in Land, comes to *London* for Six Months, with his Family and Servants, making in Number Twenty Persons.

It is certain that the same Quantities of Provisions which maintained this Family Six Months in the Country, will be wanted to support it Six Months in *London*; and consequently, that the Family's being in Town cannot much decrease the Consumption of the Produce of that County in which the Seat of the Family is situated, because the Number of People in the County is only Twenty less than it was before: And even this small Decrease in Consumption is not all lost to the County, for Families which have great Estates have generally Fish, Fowl, Roots, and Fruits, &c. of their own, and whether they are eat or not is quite indifferent to the County; but when the Family is in *London*, these Things must all be bought, and so must the Beef, Veal, Mutton, Lamb, Bread, Cheese, Butter, Malt-Liquors, &c. consumed

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sumed by it, all which Things are produced in the Country; and though the particular Neighbourhood in which the Family-Estate lies, may or may not have its Proportion of Advantage from this increased Expence, yet, the Country gains the Whole.

And as to Wines and several Articles of Luxury of Foreign Growth, whatever Expences such a Family is at for Things of this Sort while it stays in Town, it will be apt to continue in the Country, for the Advantage of great Wealth consists chiefly in procuring what the Possessors of it like best; and if these Things were not liked they would not be bought, and if they are liked, they will be had when the Family is in the Country, as well as when it is in *London*: It may perhaps be said, that frequent coming to *London* hath introduced or increased some of these Articles of luxurious Expence, but I apprehend there is less in this than many People imagine, for as the necessary Expences of a Family are greatly increased by living in *London*, there is the less Money for Luxury, and the

Legislature

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Legislature hath taken Care to make the most pernicious Sorts of Luxury very expensive; and it may not be amiss to observe here, that though *London* was much less frequented in the Reign of King *Charles* the Second than it hath been of late Years, yet, Luxury then spread so fast, that *England* lost almost a Million of Pounds Sterling a Year by her then Trade with *France*, as appears by a State of that Trade for the Year 1674, inserted in the first Volume of *The British Merchant*.

The next Thing to be considered is, the Expence of such a Nobleman's or Gentleman's Family in Cloaths, and this is considerably increased by living in *London*; but not to the Prejudice of any particular County or Part of *England*: For Woollen and Linnen-drapery, Velvets, Silks, Laces, and Embroidery, &c. are not manufactured in every County, nor all of them in *England*, but in particular Places and Countries, from whence they must be had, or not at all; and as most of the luxurious Parts of Dress are now of *English* Fabric, and the providing of them

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gives Bread to many thousand Families, whatever they gain by their Industry or Ingenuity, is all gained to the Country, by the Produce and Manufactures of which, those Families are fed and cloathed.

And as to the increased Expences of such a Nobleman's or Gentleman's Family, in splendid Equipages, rich Liveries, Diversions, and Amusements; whatever Money is employed in these several Particulars, must also go back into the Country, for the Reasons before given.

I apprehend it will be needless to say any thing more to make it appear, that though the Nobility and Gentry now spend more of their Rents or Incomes in *London* than they did in former Times, yet, there comes a proportionably greater Quantity of Money back from *London* into the Country at present than formerly did; for which Reason I shall now point out the national Advantages derived from this Alteration, though several of them will occur upon reading what I have said:  
And

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And the doing of this will oblige me to specify Numbers and Quantities which may possibly not be very near Truth, but if they are in general not far from it, they will answer my Design in mentioning them, which is, to shew the Importance of these Advantages, and not to fix the Extent of them, as that will not be less impracticable than it is to trace the Diffusion of Nourishment in the Human Body; for though the greater Canals by which Nourishment is conveyed appear plain, yet the least elude the Eye, and so do the Streams of Wealth in their smallest Divisions escape Observation.

I think it will not be much, if at all, over-rating the Increase of *London* (including *Westminster* and *Southwark*) to say, that Ten thousand Houses have been added to it since the Year 1700, by means of the Nobility and Gentry; for though a very considerable Number of these Houses are inhabited either by Artists, Tradesmen, Manufacturers, &c. or lett in Lodgings, yet they are a necessary Appendage to the others, and built in consequence of them.

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These Ten thousand Houses with their Furniture may probably, upon an Average, be worth One thousand Pounds each, and this amounts to Ten millions of Money for the whole Number.

The Materials out of which these Houses were built and furnished, being chiefly Earth, Wood, Iron, Wool, Flax, &c. might probably, in the Places of Production, and before they received any Degree of Manufacture, be worth One million of Money.

So that of this vast Sum of Ten millions of Money, Nine millions have probably been paid for bringing from the Places of Production the abovementioned Materials, for manufacturing them, or for building these Ten thousand Houses.

These Nine millions of Money the Nobility and Gentry have been the Means of distributing chiefly among the Manufacturers and Labourers; who have returned it to the Nobility and Gentry again, by  
paying

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paying for the Meat, Drink, and Cloaths consumed by them and their Families, which must otherwise have been maintained at the Expence of the respective Parishes to which they belong.

Of these Nine millions of Money, I think Eight may be appropriated for the Manufacturers and Labourers; and if we divide this Money among them at the Rate of Twenty-five Pounds a Family, it will maintain for one Year Three hundred and Twenty thousand Families: But as it is to be divided upon Fifty-six Years, the Number of Families annually supported will be Five thousand Seven hundred and Fourteen; and this being again divided among the Fifty-two Counties in *England* and *Wales*, there will fall to the Share of each County One hundred and Nine Families; but I will strike off the odd Nine to make some Allowance for the Manufacturers and Labourers who may have come from *Scotland* or *Ireland*, and have been employed in building these Houses, and then there will remain for the Fifty-two Counties of *England* and *Wales*, One  
2 hundred

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hundred Families each, or rather, some more and some less than that Number, according to the Extent and Populousness of the Counties, and the more or less flourishing State of their Manufacturies, &c.

This is a vast Advantage to the Country as well as to *London*; and such a one as every Man who pays any thing towards the Support of the Poor in any Part of *England* will presently be sensible of, if he will consider, that by this Increase of *London* the Poor's Rates for Fifty-six Years past, have, upon an Average, been less every Year than they otherwise would have been, by Two thousand Pounds in some Counties, and Three thousand Pounds in others; and we must not forget to add something more for the keeping so many Houses in Repair, for the Time past, as well as for the Time to come.

I know it may be said, that if *London* had not increased in Buildings, these Manufacturers and Labourers would have been otherwise employed; but I am at a Loss to find out from whence this Employment

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employment could come: For I do not recollect having heard that any Branch of the foreign Trade of this Nation hath been at a Stand or obstructed for any long Time, for want of People to carry it on; and I know of no other Means of employing more People than have been employed in *England*, within the Time before mentioned.

From these temporary but great Advantages, I shall proceed to the constant and lasting ones which are derived from these Ten thousand Houses being built and inhabited.

The Consumption of Coals in *England* will be rather increased by this Means, as more People can pay for them, and will consume more as they live better than they could otherwise have done; but this is an inconsiderable Advantage to the Nation in Comparison of what it receives from the vast Increase in the Consumption of Coals in *London*; because whatever Coals are burnt there are brought by Sea, and consequently increase the Seamen and Shipping of the Kingdom.

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It is probable, that the annual Consumption of Coals in these Houses may upon an Average be Five Chaldrons a House, and this makes Fifty thousand Chaldrons for the Ten thousand Houses: The bringing of Fifty thousand Chaldrons of Coals from *Newcastle*, &c. to *London*, will employ, for a Year, about Twenty Ships of 400 Tons Burden, and maintain about One hundred and Fifty Seamen and their Families; to which must be added, the Families which are supported by building and keeping in repair these Ships, and by loading and unloading them.

The bringing of Corn, Cheese, and other bulky Commodities by Sea from the coasting Counties to *London*, likewise gives Employment to a Number of Vessels and Seamen; and so does the supplying of the Nobility and Gentry with Sea and River Fish: To which must be added the Watermen who are employed upon the *Thames* to carry Goods and Passengers; all which Things being considered, we may upon the

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the Whole say, that the Increase of *London* hath made a considerable Addition to the Naval Power of *Great Britain*, which is the more valuable as the Support of it depends upon ourselves, and the Seamen bred and maintained by these Means are always at home and ready for the Defence of the Nation in Case of any sudden Attack or Emergency: And something must be added for the increased Consumption of Mahogany and Deal brought from the *West-Indies* and *Norway*.

To enumerate all the other Advantages which the Nation receives from the Increase of *London*, is a Thing I shall not attempt; but any Person may have some Idea of them from the following Heads of Expence which have been greatly augmented by this Means.

Coaches, Post-Chaises, and Chairs of the Nobility, Gentry, &c. Hackney-Coaches and Chairs, Carts, &c. employed in *London*; Stage-Coaches, Post-Chaises, and Waggons, employed in carrying Persons and Goods between *London* and most of the considerable Towns in *England*:

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Waggons

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Waggon and Carts employed in bringing to *London* Cheefe, Butter, Poultry and other Provisions, from all the neighbouring Parts of the Country :

Coach-makers, Wheelwrights, Smiths, &c. employed in making and keeping in repair these different Sorts of Carriages ; Coachmen, Chairmen, Waggoners, &c. employed in driving and carrying them ; and Horses employed in drawing them :

The Inns supported by these Carriages, and the Persons who travel in them, in all Parts of the Country as well as in *London* :

The Labourers employed in improving and keeping in repair all the great Roads in *England*.

By the vast Increase of these several Sorts of Expence many thousand Families are maintained, and in general by Labour of the harder Sort, that strings the Nerves of the Body natural and the Body politic at one and the same Time ; and in some Degree diminishes the fatal Effects of that slow Poison, *Geneva* ; a Liquor that first destroys the Strength of the Body, and then

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then makes Villany a Sort of Condition for preserving in Misery those Lives it hath before made wretched ; it is an avowed Enemy to Industry and Honesty, and strikes at the Roots of Wealth and Power, by enervating the common People, who are Riches in Peace and Strength in War.

The Advantages derived to the Nation from the increased Expences under the Heads before mentioned, will serve as Clues to lead to other Advantages, which it will not be necessary, nor, as I said before, practicable to point out the Extent of ; for the Interests of Men are so closely connected and interwoven, that if one Class of People or one Part of a Country is enriched, the others are sure to be the better for what their Neighbours in general get ; for what comes to the one in fruitful Showers, spreads among the others in refreshing Dews.

It is extremely probable that I may be mistaken in some of the Particulars I have mentioned ; however, I think that upon the Whole, this vast Increase of *London*,  
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occasioned by the Nobility and Gentry living more in it of late Years than they formerly did, hath been a great Advantage to the Country in particular, and to the Nation in general; But to leave as little room for Doubt as may be, in relation to a Thing of such general Concern; I will now inquire, Whether the Nobility and Gentry, by living mostly in the Country, could possibly be the Means of producing so many Advantages to the Country in particular, and to the Nation in general, as are derived from their living chiefly in *London*.

If the Nobility and Gentry were to live mostly in the Country, it is probable that such Parts of the Incomes of many of them as they might think proper to devote for doing Good, would be spent in very hospitable House-keeping; and this would be sure to gain them great Affection from their Tenants and Neighbours, and to promote the Consumption of those staple Commodities, Roast Beef and Oyster: All which Things afford a most agreeable Entertainment to the Mind, so long as we keep

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keep in View Charity, Benevolence and Generosity, and think how happy it is for Mankind when these Virtues accompany Wealth and Nobility; but we must in this Case go further, and see what Effects the exercising of these Virtues in great Hospitality produces to Society in general, for I apprehend they are of a Sort very different from what we paint to ourselves when we think of Charity, Benevolence, and Generosity.

This Custom, which is in itself so highly worthy of Praise, formerly did a great deal of Good; when the Trade of the Nation was inconsiderable in Comparison of what it is at present, and People were not obliged by Law to maintain the Poor; but it was great Hospitality that then made many People poor, and kept the Nation from being rich, by making the Farmers neglect the Improvement of their Lands, and encouraging Idleness and Drunkenness in the common People: The Consequences of which were, that the Nation had very little Trade, not much Money, nor even Plenty of her own Produce; the Truth of which

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which last Particular any one may be satisfied of by looking into Bishop *Fleetwood's Chronicon Preciosum*, wherein it appears that a Quarter of Corn was in some Years sold for five, six, or seven Times as much Money, as it was sold for in other Years; so as to be sometimes even dearer in those Days than it is at present, that is, sold for more Silver though not for so many Shillings a Quarter.

These Scarcities of Corn were frequent; and as the Course of Nature is in general uniform, I see no Reason for attributing more to the Badness of Seasons formerly than now; nor can these Scarcities be accounted for by the Exportation of Corn, for that was prohibited (except to *Calais* and *Gascoigne* formerly possessed by *England*) by a Law made in the Thirty-fourth Year of King *Edward* the Third, that continued long in Force; and though, by subsequent Laws, the carrying of Corn abroad was permitted, yet it was generally under such Restrictions as to prevent Scarcity at home: Some Allowance must however be made on Account of the frequent Wars in those

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those Times; but the Civil War, in the Reign of King *Charles* the First, scarcely raised the Price of Corn to double what it generally sold at for Twenty Years after the Restoration of King *Charles* the Second; so that Corn being sold in earlier Times for five, six, or seven Times as much Money in some Years as it was sold for in others, must have been principally owing to a general Neglect of Agriculture, and sowing no more Corn than would produce enough to subsist the People when the Year was tolerably fruitful; and if the Crop fell short of what was expected, as the frequent and vast advanced Prices of Corn shews it did, it is extremely probable that Thousands of poor People died for Want in some of those Years of Scarcity, which Historians have not mentioned.

I hope no one will so far mistake what I have said, as to think that I am arguing against Charity, Benevolence, and Generosity; or mean to prove, that every Degree of Hospitality is detrimental to the Public Welfare; for these are Things very far from my Intention: But I think the

Good



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Good of Hospitality consists in supporting such People as are poor and either cannot labour, or find Employment: And not in making Poor, by maintaining People in Idleness who are capable of working, and for whom Employment may be found, or in discouraging Diligence and Industry in Farmers and Country People; the certain Effects of which are, that less Corn and other Commodities are produced, and the Farmers having less to sell will have less Money to receive, and be less capable of paying their Rents; but the Injury does not stop here, for as the Commodities of *English* Growth or Manufacture are the Means of bringing Money into *England*, when less of these Commodities are produced there must be less exported to other Countries, and of course less Money brought into the Nation, so that Rents will fall as Trade decays, and in the End a general Poverty will prevail throughout the Nation.

When all sorts of People are fed by Bounty in this indiscriminate Manner, the ill Consequences I have mentioned will be  
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sure to follow; and though the Nobility and Gentry, by thus extending their Goodness to all, will be universally beloved; yet this will never raise in other People that Veneration and Awe which naturally result from a judicious Choice of proper Objects for Charity and Liberality: For the one may be the Effect of Good-nature; but the other gives the most striking Proof, that what is bestowed flows from a good Heart, and a truly noble Mind; and is not given because the Donor is rich, but to relieve the Receiver from Poverty or Distress.

Benefits received from such a Hand, acquire a Value that Good-nature alone cannot give, for they are Balm to the Mind, as well as Food for the Body; all Men have an Interest in the Life of such a Benefactor, and when it shall please Providence to call him hence, the Day of his Burial will not be a Day of Feasting, marked with the outward Appearances of Grief, but of real Mourning and Sadness: The Good he hath done will be remembered in Tears, and his Funeral Oration  
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spoke in a Language more pathetic than Oratory can teach, or any thing but true Greatness inspire; his Name will be mentioned with Honour, and his Memory fragrant as a sweet-smelling Flower to Posterity.

The Improvement of Lands is certainly a much better Way of employing Money set apart for doing Good; but this being the Interest of Tenants, will of course continue to be their Care so long as they are left to themselves: And that they have not neglected their Interest in this respect, is evident from the great Improvements which have been made in the Lands of *England* since the Year 1660, when a Law was passed to prevent any Lands from being held by the antient Feudal Tenure or personal Services.

The Importance of this Law may in some Measure be guessed at, from its being made in the very Year that King *Charles* the Second was restored, and in the first Session of the Restoration-Parliament: By this Statute was completed  
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what was done in part by the Statute against Retainers made in the Third Year of the Reign of King *Henry* the Seventh, who is spoken of by Lord *Bacon* as a King excellently skilled in the true Interest of a Country.

However that Matter may be, I think, these two Laws have very much contributed to raise the Wealth and Naval Power of this Kingdom to their present flourishing State; and my Reasons for thinking so, together with some Observations on the Utility, &c. of Marine Forces with respect to Naval Power and Commerce, will probably be made the Subject-Matter of a future Essay.

But there is another sort of Improvement that is highly worthy the Attention of the Nobility and Gentry, and this is, the planting of Oaks; the Consumption of which sort of Timber is universally known to vastly exceed the Quantities grown of that valuable Article of Produce: The national Importance of planting more Oak hath been pointed out to the Public by several Persons, at different Times, for  
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near a hundred Years last past; and the Necessity of doing it increases every Year.

As to other sorts of Timber, the planting of them is also necessary, but a Scarcity of them can never be attended with any such Consequences as a Want of Oak must be; and People will naturally have some Regard to raising such sorts of Timber as are wanted for the common Uses of the Neighbourhoods in which they live, unless they can be supplied with what they want for these Purposes by Water-carriage: Where this can be done, and be made the Means of increasing the Shipping and Seamen of the Kingdom, I think it is the best Method of supplying the common Sorts of Timber; but it is not safe to depend upon any Country for Oak, the planting of which is absolutely necessary for supporting the Naval Power and Commerce of the Kingdom; and as to the Expence attending it, whatever Money is laid out this Way will thrive faster in Oak than at Interest.

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What a Pleasure must it give to a Nobleman or Gentleman of great Estate, to think that, by being at the Expence of planting a Hundred Thousand Acorns, he will be the Means of raising a Hundred Thousand Pounds in Money for his Descendants, and at the same Time lay the Foundation of a Monument to his own Memory, that Nature herself will raise and perfect; every Year will bring it Increase, and deck it with Verdure that fades but to be renewed; it will be conspicuous to the Traveller, and every *Briton* who passes by will have a Pleasure in asking whose Name it perpetuates: When it ceases to feast the Eye, it will add Wealth to the Family; and after being an Ornament to the Country for one Century, it will be employed in wafting the Riches of *Peru* and *Mexico* to *Britain*, or in maintaining her Sovereignty of the Seas.

The Condition of being remembered by Posterity is to do something remarkably great, good, or useful; and it is in vain to think of escaping that speedy Oblivion which

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which is common to the Bulk of Mankind by any other defirable Means; for a Monument of Marble, erected merely to Name and Title, is only gazed at by a Few and soon forgot; or becomes a Monument of the Statuary's Skill, and is only admired for the Excellency of the Workmanship, without any Regard to the Person represented: But when the Chissel or Pencil are employed to animate Marble or Colours into the Likeness of the Great and Good, the Virtues of the Person represented will command Attention from Posterity; and the Skill of the Artist be eclipsed by the Lustre of the Character.

We are not pleased with the Monuments of *Shakespeare*, *Milton*, and *Newton*, because Men of those Names once existed, for there are Men of those Names now living: But there is not a *Shakespeare* who, by a Language peculiar to himself, can move every Passion in the Human Breast, and paint Nature in Colours which Nature only can excel! — There is not a *Milton*, whose Muse can range *beyond the visible diurnal Sphere*, and sing so sweetly  
of

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*of Things invisible to mortal Sight!* — There is not a *Newton* to explain the secondary Causes of the Order of the Universe; to tell us by what fixed Laws the Planets revolve in infinite Space, without digressing from the trackless Paths in which they are appointed to move; to account for the ebbing and flowing of the Sea, and the Inequality of Tides; to give us a Reason for the variegated Face of blooming Spring, and tell us why the Daisy is white; the Pink red; the Cowslip yellow; the Grass of the Field green; and the Violet blue: Or by wonderful Sagacity and deep Penetration into the Laws of Nature, to find out that the Earth must necessarily be of that Figure which it hath since been found by Observation to be of.

But to proceed. The Strength of the Nation, the future Interests of private Families, and the Desire that Men of Rank and Fortune have of transmitting their Names as well as Estates to their latest Descendants, all plead for this Improvement of planting Oaks; and as His present Majesty, among the many Felicities of his  
Reign,

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Reign, hath happily a more powerful Navy than any of his Royal Predecessors had; and the Necessity of maintaining, if not of increasing this Power, is so glaringly apparent to the whole Nation: What less can be looked for from the present Nobility and Gentry, after their shewing so much Zeal for His Majesty, his illustrious Family, and the Honour and Rights of his Crown and Subjects, as well in their private as legislative Capacities, than that this seasonable Zeal will be extended to after Times; and a Foundation now laid for preserving to the latest Age that Superiority of Naval Power, which, under Providence, is the Guardian of the Religion, Liberties, Honour, Commerce, and Wealth of *Great Britain*?

It must give vast Pleasure to every one to think, that there is a Prospect of this great and necessary Work of Planting being carried on under the Sanction of an express Law, in which no doubt especial Care will be taken to provide for planting most Oaks near to Rivers or to the Sea Coasts; for by this Means the Timber will

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will be of greater Value when grown, as the Expence of conveying it to the Royal Dock-yards, and to the different Sea-ports of the Kingdom, will be much less than it must be if the Timber is grown many Miles from the Sea or any River: The Nobility and Gentry will no doubt in their private Capacities forward this national and important Undertaking; for it must be their own Choice if it interferes with their living most of the Year in *London*; and whatever Part of the Year they may be pleased to reside at their Country-Seats, it cannot fail of passing more agreeably for the Sight of a Plantation of young Oak-Trees, as the richest Landscape is the most beautiful, and without Oak an *English* Landscape can never be complete.

From what I have said in relation to very hospitable House-keeping, the Improvement of Lands, and the Planting of Timber, I think it is very apparent, that if the Nobility and Gentry were to live mostly in the Country, as they did in former Times, they could not possibly be the Means of producing so many Advan-

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tages to the Nation in general, and to the Country in particular, as are derived from their living chiefly in *London*.

All I have to add on this Subject is, to make three Inferences from what I have said.

1<sup>st</sup>, That the regular Payment of the Rents and Taxes of *England*, since it hath been a general Custom for the Nobility and Gentry to reside in *London* a considerable Part of the Year, is not at all surprizing, as this very Custom hath enabled the Country to make those Payments with more Ease than it otherwise could have done.

2<sup>d</sup>, That in judging of the Ability of the Country to pay new Taxes, we should not have any Regard to the regular Payment of the Rents of Estates whose Owners spend all their Incomes in *London*; for this will prove nothing in Favour of the Wealth of the Country, beyond what the Payment of the present Taxes proves.

3<sup>d</sup>, That

3<sup>d</sup>, That People who live in the Country have no Reason to be out of Humour with the Times on account of this Custom of the Nobility and Gentry, as the Country hath gained a great deal by it; and therefore may with more Chearfulness contribute towards supporting the Expence of the present War, in such a Manner as the Legislature shall think most proper.

## F I N I S.

## E R R A T A.

PAGE 1, Line 3, for *bath*, read *have*.  
 P. 5, l. 5, for *that*, read *which*.  
 P. 14, l. 6, for *that*, read *which*.  
 P. 20, l. 7, for £600,000, read £500,000.  
 P. 27, l. 5, for *that*, read *which*.  
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