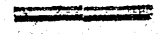


0317

220-29



A
NEW SYSTEM
OF
FINANCE,
Etc. Etc.



25

Price TWO SHILLINGS & SIXPENCE.

0318

A
NEW SYSTEM
OF
FINANCE:

PROVING

The Defects of the Present System;
That a Saving may take place in the Public Income and Expenditure to the Amount of near Ten Millions annually!
Exposition of the Consequences to the Public through their Connection with the Bank of England;
The baneful Consequence of Stock-jobbing;
Astonishing Losses sustained by the Public, that have enabled the Minister to carry on the Deception of lessening the Public Debt;
The unparalleled Advantages given by the Minister to the Loan Mongers for Paper Credit, in order to support the present ruinous War;
One Hundred Pounds Securities in the Three per Cents. given by the Minister to

receive 4l. 10s. 8d. to be sent to Germany for the Support of the Emperor's Loan.
Together with a REPLY to Messrs. MORGAN and VANSITTART on the Subject of Finance.
Some Remarks on Simon the Stock Broker's Letter to Mr. Alderman Curtis, late Lord Mayor of London.
On the Iniquity of Private Tontines.
Schemes for the Benefit of Age, on the most reputable Establishments.
A reasonable Compromise between Debtor and Creditor.
A perfect Establishment for National Credit in future;
And THE PEOPLE RELIEVED FROM THE MOST BURTHENSOME OF THEIR TAXES.

By *THOMAS FRY*,
AUTHOR OF THE GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC CREDIT,

LONDON:

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And sold by J. S. JORDAN, No. 166, Fleet-street; and
C. CHAPPEL, No. 66, Pall Mall.

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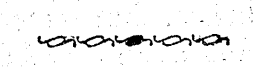
THE HISTORY OF THE
REIGN OF
GEORGE THE THIRD

of the British Empire, and the
state of the Nation, at the
beginning of the present
Century. The Author has
endeavoured to give a
true and impartial
Account of the
Reign of George the
Third, from the
beginning of his
Accession to the
 Throne, to the
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History is divided
into three Parts,
the first of which
contains the
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the Third, from
1760 to 1789.
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AN
EXPOSITION, &c.



THE present alarming state of public credit, the consequent failures of houses of the first respectability, in a word, the ruin upon which the nation is verging—while the authors of the public afflictions and dangers are pursuing their career, and wallowing in the wealth acquired by sacrifices which they have made of the constitutional freedom of the British empire—cannot be too ardently urged, nor too minutely enquired into, by every man who wishes to maintain the least pretensions to public virtue, or regard for the national prosperity.

Private interest, it has been lately asserted, obtains that predominant regard, which, in former times, Englishmen bestowed on liberty alone. Certain recent laws, perhaps, establish the fact; but it is left to him who preserves the ancient spirit of the country to offer such information as may open men's eyes to their pecuniary interest, since every other principle holds a subordinate place.

The funding system may be considered as the fountain from which the extravagant and sanguinary wars that have for a century disgraced this country, derive their strength and nourishment; wars that have impeded the course of national happiness—which, instead of contracting, would have increased and extended with the natural progress of manufactures, trade, and refinement.

B
Though

Though I have given my opinion respecting the contrast between peace and war, numbers may differ from me respecting the necessity of it; but when I claim justice for the public debtor of a nation as well as the public creditor, (which is the intention of this work) with all sensible and honest men I am certain I cannot have a single negative. It is a conduct that hath been reversed in this country ever since the commencement of funding in order to raise supplies for the public expenditure, but at no former period so wickedly extravagant as in that of the present administration. I therefore now find myself under the necessity of producing the facts that will prove my assertions in this important business; and as I have no party to support, shall candidly state the progressive conduct of the different administrations respecting finance from the year 1745 down to the present time. The particulars are taken from the Commissioners' Accounts, stating the publick income and expenditure, published by authority of Parliament, 21st of March, 1786.

Abstract of Appendix No. 1, page 70.

“ MEMORANDUM.

“ The subscribers of 100l. to the lottery 1745 were allowed an annuity for one life of 9s a ticket, which amounted to 22,500l. but is now reduced by lives falling in to 12,383l. 12s.;—and the subscribers of 100l. to the lottery 1746 were allowed an annuity for one life of 18s. a ticket, which amounted to the sum of 45,000l. but is now reduced by lives falling in to 22,821l. 10s.;—and the subscribers for 100l. to the 3l. per Cent. Annuities 1757, were allowed an annuity for one life on 1l. 2s. 6d. which amounted to the sum of 33,750l. but is now reduced by lives falling in to 25,213l. 7s. 6d.;—and the subscribers for 100l. to the 3l. per Cent. Annuities 1761, were allowed an annuity for 99 years for every 100l. of 1l. 2s. 6d. amounting with charges of management to the Bank
of

of England, to 130,053l. 10s. 3d.;—and the subscribers of 12,000,000l. for the service of the year 1762 were intitled to an annuity of 1l. per cent. for 98 years, which, with charges of management to the Bank of England, amounted to 121,687l. 10s. which annuities for 98 and 99 years were consolidated by act of 4th Geo. II. 3 R. S.;—and the subscribers of 5,000,000l. for the service of the year 1777, were allowed an annuity of 10s. for every 100l. contributed, for 10 years, from the 5th of April 1777, which amounted, with charges of management to the Bank of England, to 25,351l. 11s. 3d.;—and the subscribers for 6,000,000l. for the year 1778, were allowed an annuity of 2l. 10s. for every 100l. contributed, for thirty years, from the 5th of January 1778, which amounted, with charges of management to the Bank of England, to 152,069l. 6s. part of which sum hath been by the subscribers changed for life annuities, amounting to the sum of 2849l. 13s. but is now reduced by lives falling in to the sum of 2769l. 13s.;—and the subscribers of 7,000,000l. for the service of the year 1779, were allowed an annuity of 3l. 15s. for every 100l. contributed, for 29 years, from the 5th day of January 1779, or for life, which with charges of management to the Bank of England, amounted to 266,116l. 12s. 2d. part of which sum hath been by the subscribers changed for life annuities, amounting to the sum of 5,318l. 18s. 7d.;—and the subscribers of 12,000,000l. for the service of the year 1780, were allowed an annuity of 1l. 16s. 3d. for every 100l. contributed, for eighty years, from the 5th day of January 1780, which amounted, with charges of management to the Bank of England, to the sum of 220,558l. 11s. 10d.;—and the subscribers of 13,500,000l. for the service of the year 1782, were allowed an annuity of 17s. 6d. for every 100l. contributed, for 78 years, from the 5th of January 1782, which amounted, with charges of management to the
Bank

Bank of England, to the sum of 119,786l. 2s. 9d;— and the subscribers of 12,000,000l. for the year 1783, were allowed an annuity of 13s. 4d. for every 100l. contributed, for 77 years, from the 5th of January 1783, which amounted, with charges of management to the Bank of England, to the sum of 81,125l;—and the subscribers of 6,000,000l. for the service of the year 1784, were allowed an annuity of 5s. 6d. for every 100l. contributed, for 75 years and six months, from the 5th of July 1784, which amounted, with charges of management to the Bank of England, to the sum of 16,732l. 16s. 7d¹/₂. All which annuities are an increase to the annual interest, but cannot be added to the national debt, as no money was advanced for the same.”

These are the express words of the Committee for liquidating the accounts for the year 1786.

This makes a total in annuities of 1,193,674l. 7s. 3d.

which sum in itself contracted, for which no more was received, would have been more than sufficient to have discharged the whole of the debt, prior to Mr. Pitt's funding.

The following extract is separated with a view of rendering more apparent the particular charge of management by the Bank of England, on the different sums there specified; and which will be seen to be carried out in the column after the bare interest is subtracted from the gross charge in the middle column, the first column containing the principal, with the rate per cent. from the Commissioners' Public Accounts 1786. Appendix No. 1, page 70.

Principal

	<i>Principal Debt.</i>			<i>Manag. & Interest.</i>			<i>Manag. only.</i>		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
	1,836,275	17	10	136,453	12	8			
	67,155	8	2	8,195	12	0			
	2,200	0	0						
	18,000	0	0	0,540	0	0			
3 per Cent.	3,200,000	0	0	97,285	14	4			
				96,000	0	0	1,285	14	4
Ditto	1,000,000	0	0	30,401	15	8			
				30,000	0	0	401	15	8
Ditto	3,200,000	0	0	100,000	0	0			
				96,000	0	0	4,000	0	
Ditto	500,000	0	0	15,000	0	0			
				50,000	0	0			
Ditto	4,000,000	0	0	121,898	3	5			
				120,000	0	0	1,898	3	5
Ditto	1,250,000	0	0	37,500	0	0			
				37,500	0	0			
Ditto	1,750,000	0	0	52,500	0	0			
				52,500	0	0			
Ditto	986,800	0	0	29,604	0	0			
				29,604	0	0			
Ditto	107,399,696	5	1	3,282,247	8	10			
				3,221,990	17	8 1/2	60	5	11 1/2
Ditto	37,340,073	16	4	1,141,206	0	0			
				1,120,202	4	0	21,003	15	9
4 per Cent.	32,750,000	0	0	1,328,421	17	0			
				1,310,000	0	0	18,421	17	6
5 per Cent.	6,879,341	19	6	347,830	0	0			
				343,967	0	0	3,869	12	6
Ditto	10,990,651	10	4	549,500	0	0			
				549,593	11	0			
3 per Cent.	24,065,084	13	11 1/2	735,970	0	0			
				727,952	10	0 3/4	14,022	3	1 1/2
Ditto	1,919,600	0	0	58,607	13	0			
				57,588	0	0	1,079	15	6
Total	£.239,154,879	12	4						
	Funded Debt 1786.								
Page 28 Commissioners' Accounts, Charges on Aggregate Fund							64,600	0	0
By omission in Management, page 69, carried to page 28, Commissioners' Accounts							8,329	0	0
							£.199,658	3	11
Amount of Management on a Debt accumulated by Mr. Pitt, funded and unfunded, which when converted into 3 per Cents. will be 211,000,000l. Management at 450l. per Million							94,500	0	0
							10,000	0	0
							£.304,108	8	11

New Aggregate Fund: £.304,108 8 11

Charge of Management	(Brought over)	£.304,168	8	11
Liberal allowance (say 30 Clerks at 500l. per Annum)		15,000	0	0

Amount of the extortionate Charge made by the Bank of England for Transfers and Payment of Dividends		£.289,168	8	11
--	--	-----------	---	----

The arguments in favour of the Bank of England can be only in this kind of language, 'that there is a great deal of work, and that a great deal of money ought to be paid.' But to bring this business home to the nearest certainty, I refer the reader to the next page, where he will find the days of transfer, and that the whole time of attendance is in some of the departments but five hours in the week, and in others not more than two hours, by the time allowance is made for the forty holidays; a clear proof how trifling the real money transfers are, comparatively speaking, with that business done almost every day by the blood-sucking hounds in the Alley. But the fact is, when these villains see it their interest to extend their game, we are amused by our government with the idea of flourishing times, increase of money, increase of trade, &c. when in fact it is increase of paper credit, increase of swindling in the den of thieves—and poor John pays the piper!

Transfer

Transfer Days, Payments of Dividends, and proper Hours for transacting each Day's Business.

<i>Names.</i>	<i>Days of Transfer.</i>	<i>Hours.</i>	<i>Dividends when due.</i>	<i>Hours for rec. Div.</i>
Bank Stock	Tuefd. Thurfd. Friday	11 to 1	Lady-Day and Mich.	9 to 11 and 1 to 3*
5 per Cent. Navy Anns.	Monday, Wed. Friday	Ditto	Midsum. and Christ.	Ditto
4 per Cent. Consolidated	Tues. Thurs. Fri. Sat.	Ditto	Lady-Day and Mich.	Ditto
3 per Cent. Consolidated	Tues. Wed. Thur. Fri.	Ditto	Midsum. and Christ.	9 to 3
Reduced	Ditto	Ditto	Lady-Day and Mich.	9 to 11 and 1 to 3
1726	Tuesday and Thursday	Ditto	Midsum. and Christ.	Ditto
Long Annuities	Tuesday, Wed. Satur.	Ditto	Lady-Day and Mich.	Ditto
Short Annuities 1777	Wednesday and Saturd.	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
Short Annuities 1780	Mond. Wed. Friday	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
South-Sea Stock	Ditto	12 to 1	Midsum. and Christ.	9 to 12
3 per Cent. Old Annuity.	Ditto	Ditto	Lady-Day and Mich.	Ditto
New Annuities	Tuefd. Thur. Saturday	Ditto	Midsum. and Christ.	Ditto
1751	Tuesday and Thursday	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
India Stock	Tuefd. Thur. Saturday	Ditto	Ditto	9 to 2
Annuities	Mond. Wed. Friday	Ditto	Lady-Day and Mich.	Ditto

* Saturdays after One excepted.

There

There is not any business transacted at the Bank of England on the following days:—January 1, 6, 18, 25, 30. February 2, 24. March 25. April 25. May 1, 29. June 4, 11, 24, 29. July 25. August 12, 24. Sept. 2, 21, 22, 29. October 18, 25, 28. November 1, 4, 5, 9, 30. December 21, 25, 26, 27, 28;---and if any of these days happen on a Sunday, they are kept on the Monday. Ash-Wednesday, Good-Friday, Easter-Monday and Tuesday, and Whit-Monday and Tuesday are also kept as holidays.

Having stated the consequent effects of funding, prior to the year 1786, I come now to explain what hath been the conduct of our present heaven-born Minister, as a financier for the country.

Abstract from the Commissioners' Public Accounts, published 21st March 1786, page 72.

Bank of England, March 2, 1786.
Account of Navy, Victualling, and Transport Bills, and Ordnance Debentures, converted into 5 per Cent. Annuities at the Bank of England, agreeable to an Act of the last Session of Parliament:

	Amount of Bills			5 per Cent. Stock		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Navy	6,401,423	0	9	7,131,181	1	3
Victualling	2,925,804	4	4	3,259,343	1	4
Ordnance	0,538,714	13	3	0,600,127	7	9
	<hr/>			<hr/>		
	£.9,865,941	18	4	£.10,990,651	10	4
A. NEWLAND, Chief Cashier.	Amount of Bills paid			9,865,941 18 4		

Total Amount £.1,124,709 12 0

Which sum is, by the extortion of the corporation of money-locusts, saddled immediately as a mortgage on the labour of industry, bearing an interest of 5l. per cent. for ever.

State

State of the public debt prior to Mr. Pitt's funding, including the first 10,990,651l. 10s. 4d. funded by himself:

	Amount of Stock Debt 1786.		Amount of Stock Debt reduced to Sterling, at the price current of the day.	
	£.	£.	£.	s. d.
3 per Cents.	188,534,877	at 55 $\frac{1}{4}$	104,165,625	0 9
4 Ditto	32,750,000	at 75	24,562,500	0 3
5 Ditto	17,869,992	at 93 $\frac{1}{4}$	16,753,117	0 0
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	£.239,154,869		£.145,481,242	0 9

This may be supposed to be the utmost amount of money received for the above funded securities — £.145,481,242 0 9

As I would wish the money-lenders to have justice done them, as well as the public, I would allow, to make good to such as may have purchased at higher premiums, and holders of real property, the sum of — £.20,000,000 0 0

£.165,481,242 0 9

Hence it plainly appears, that after doing the strictest justice to all the parties, no more than the above sum of 165,481,242l. 0s. 9d. is due from the public, exclusive of 1,193,674l. 7s. 3d. on annuities; and if the present stock be reduced to sterling, and an interest paid of 4l. per cent. the whole amount of annual interest would have been no more than 6,619,249l. 14s. 0d. $\frac{1}{4}$

Subtracting this sum from our present expenditure in interest, which is £.8,073,265 19 11
6,619,249 14 0

If this reformation had then taken place, the annual saving would have amounted to £.1,454,016 5 11

In

In the Guardian of Public Credit, published in 1788, there is a table of figures that proves that the above sum will produce in the 4l. per cents. with compound interest, in 43 years £.168,145,678 13 11 Sterling amount of the Debt, as it then stood -

165,481,242 10 9
 £. 2,664,436 3 2

From this reasonable compromise, the whole debt would have been discharged in 43 years with a peace establishment, without an additional shilling in new taxes. But the case is now altered; as Mr. Pitt's funding and debts unfunded, if the whole were converted into the 3l. per cent. would amount to at least £.211,000,000! which causes an additional expence in the management (at the usual rate of 450l. per million) of 94,950l. and no addition for aggregate.

But notwithstanding all this, the author is furnished with such new information respecting the extravagant abuse in the public income and expenditure, that a suitable reformation taking place, the people may be restored to their natural rights respecting the price of provisions, and still a more rapid progress may be made in liquidating the debt.

In these two departments alone no man can deny my assertion, when I said the debt had been once paid prior to Mr. Pitt's funding, with a reasonable interest of 4l. per cent. per annum. I allude to the annuities, for which no money was received.

A sum annually extorted by the Bank of England for management. I say extorted, because 10,000l. would have been an ample reward

£.1,193,674 7 3
 189,668 8 1
 £.1,383,242 15 2

Hence

Hence it appears, that the above annual payments were made out of the public purse, for which no money had been received; for proof of this, look at the Commissioners' Accounts page 70, published in 1786. This is a fact that cannot be denied even by such as insist on the justice and necessity of wars; so that it is a clear case that the enormous debt was needless, and established by the means of crafty swindling.

No plan can be framed to support the extravagancies of Mr. Pitt in the publick expenditure, as he hath so enormously exceeded all others. I shall in a future page state the increase of the burthens occasioned by the monopoly of the Bank of England, which may be avoided in future by establishing a Bank or Banks for the benefit of the publick, instead of leaving them in the jaws of these devouring locusts. Some people (whose ideas are very short of the fact) have asserted, that Government Banking would be the greatest of all monopolies; but that I deny—for in the case of the government of a country banking to support the public expenditure, every man is a banker, and shares in the profits; therefore it cannot be a monopoly. The present Bank of England obtains considerably more than three millions annually for the loan of paper!

As the clearest proof of the practicability of banking for the benefit of the public, I refer to a statement of an establishment of this kind in one of the provinces of America; taken from the Sunday Monitor, 31st Jan. 1796:

"The Assembly in Pennsylvania was opened the 4th of December, by a very luminous speech from their Governor, Mifflin, wherein he describes their situation as flourishing beyond the example of any country on record. So far from being under the necessity of imposing taxes on the people, or borrowing money, he states, that in a very short period the money in their Bank will amount to such a sum, that the interest alone will

will not only pay all the expences of Government, but go a great way in making their public roads, bridges, and canals."

This, I have reason to believe, took its foundation in consequence of my publishing the Guardian of Public Credit in the year 1788: for when I heard they were upon a proposition of funding money, I sent a copy of my work to an eminent character, forewarning them of the evil tendency of funding money.

And as a further information to my own countrymen, I see it necessary to bring forward a statement I have made, by converting the Stock Debt into sterling; by which I shall prove another increase of the public debt, for which no money was received.

Brought forward amount of Stock Debt, 1786, as stated in a former page.

Stock Debt converted into Sterling, agreeable to the price of the day.

	L.		L.	S.	D.
3 per cents.	188,554,887	at 55 $\frac{1}{4}$	104,165,625	0	9
4 do.	32,750,000	at 75	24,562,500	0	0
5 do.	17,869,992	at 93 $\frac{1}{4}$	16,753,117	0	0

239,154,879

Total amount of Sterling, 1786 145,481,242 0 9

The following statement will prove the increase of the debt from the year 1786 to 1794, and for which no money was received.

Amount of Stock at the present price converted into Sterling

	L.	now worth	L.	S.	D.
3 per cents.	188,554,887	94	177,222,783	15	4
4 do.	32,750,000	103 $\frac{1}{4}$	33,814,375	0	0
5 do.	17,869,992	120	21,443,990	8	0

Original

Amount of

Stock Debt 239,154,879

Amount

Amount of Stock Debt converted into Sterling, 1794, ——— 232,481,49 3 4

Amount of Stock Debt converted into Sterling, as it stood 1786; and which may be estimated to the full value of the money received 145,481,242 0 9

86,999,907 2 7

Amount of debt increased on the public on account of stock-jobbing, and for which no money was received, say eighty-six millions, nine hundred ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and seven pounds, two shillings and seven pence.

But we are told by the crafty stock-jobber, that it is the increase of national credit. Will he prove an additional guinea being brought into the kingdom? No: but a considerable decrease is the fact; as the Dutch and other foreigners in the interim took the advantage, and sold out of our funds to the amount of 900,000l. and on which they procured a profit of 400,000l. at least, that never can return to this country. And all this might have been avoided, provided the advantage of paper circulation had been secured for the benefit of the Public instead of the Directors of the Bank of England and other monopolizers. Note, a principal reason why the increase in the debt to this enormous amount took place, was because from the year 1786 to the year 1792 little or no money was borrowed; which must appear strangely paradoxical to such as have not the ability or the will to investigate: but from the above circumstance the loan mongers had money to receive, and as soon as the change took place in consequence of the war, the Minister wanting money, they had to advance twenty times the sum, and stocks tumbled down nearly to the price they were at on the conclusion of the American War.—I think I may venture to say that the present war is nearly at an

an

an end, as the money has been all exhausted for some time; and that paper credit is rapidly coming into that contempt it deserves. The sooner the better; as from its present operations in the increase of plundering the most distressed part of the community. I would advise the few that may have cash to spare, to be cautious how they deal in the rotten fabric of the funds, that they may avoid purchasing stock at advanced prices: for, depend upon it, the eyes of the people will soon be open; if not, the peace will by no means ease the public burthens; for what has been the fact will soon follow, an extravagant increase of the debt at the rate perhaps of 40 or 50 per cent. increasing a capital of at least one hundred and fifty millions, for which no money has been received: therefore the patience of the people will not continue to bear it. And let me further inform you, that what hath been advanced, hath been seven-eighths at least in new coinage of paper

Now, my Fellow Citizens, let me intreat you who have abilities, to investigate, and you will be able to convey such facts to the plundered public, as no doubt will rouse them from their present lethargy.

It was remarked, that soon after Mr. Pitt got into administration he made twenty thousand pounds by a single lift in the funds: and no doubt but he has continued his stock-jobbing pursuits with equal success. Lord Charles Catchpenny, now Earl of L——, King Harry of Scotland; all this in addition to their lucrative places and pensions. It has been remarked, that Boyd and Benfield, the noted loan-mongers, a few years since were men of very narrow capitals, now in possession of immense tracts of the finest lands in the kingdom, and hold their whole neighbourhood in subordination to them; and all this acquired by loan mongering and stock jobbing. I could single out many more objects of this kind, wallowing in the public plunder; but shall content myself at present with

with saying, there are but few of the bankers and fat aldermen that have not greased their sides with this kind of plunder. Playthings are created, unnecessary horses and dogs innumerable, and on which no restraint is laid on their feeding.

The new project of payment of the funded debt never entered the heart of any man in this kingdom, nor perhaps the universe, till it entered into the head of our immaculate minister. I have therefore now to proceed to prove Mr. Pitt, as I have before stated, borrowed of the Bank of England, in the year 1786, 9,865,941l. 18s. 4d. and for which he gave securities in the 5l. per cent. for 10,990,651l. 10s. 4d. as under you have the particulars of his proceedings in the purchase of stock. Copied from the Sun, 13th February, 1794.

An Account of the present State of the Money laid out to reduce the National Debt.

	Sums bought in.		Sums paid.	
	L.		L.	S. D.
Consols, 3 per cent.	4,943,755		3,819,395	19 6
Reduced —	3,575,100		2,848,585	19 3
Old South Sea	1,939,650		1,540,650	8 9
New South Sea	1,506,000		1,207,017	11 9
South Sea —	452,000		362,596	7 6

Amount of the Fund-

ed Debt bought in 12,416,505
 Total amount of sums paid 9,778,246 6 9

The foregoing statement seems intended to prove to the public the wonderful operation the minister hath made in lessening the funded debt by discharging in the 3 per cents. — 12,416,505
 with the sum only of sterling money
 to the amount of — 9,778,246 6 9

2,638,258 13 3

There, say the advocates for the immaculate minister, there is a financier for you; notice that he hath saved for the public 2,638,258l. 13s. 3d. Consistent with Mr. Pitt's invariable practice, here is another bit of backstairs work—another sample of his deception: he borrowed in the 5 per cents. and paid in the 3 per cents. In order to set the public right respecting this important deception, it is necessary to put this plain question in common arithmetic—If 10,990,651l. 10s. 4d. secured an annual interest of 549,532l. 11s. 6d. what securities must have been given in the 3 per cents. to have obtained the same annual interest?—The answer is — 18,317,752 10 7

Now I come to the real fact, as to progress in lessening the debt

Cash to buy	9,778,246 6 9
	87,695 11 7

Remains	9,865,941 18 4
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sterling, with which 12,416,505l. is bought up in the 3 per cents. But there still remains in the hands of the Minister a balance of 87,695l. 11s. 7d. Now I shall give him credit at the rate of 78l. 15s. per cent. which is the rate he has been paying 111,334l. 18s. 11d. making a total of — 12,527,839 18 11

Total loss 5,789,912 11 8
in the 3 per cents. of the minister's new project of buying and selling money.

Note, that 9,865,941l. 18s. 4d. was borrowed and expended in the payment of 12,527,839l. 8s. 11d. and by this buying and selling of money Mr. Pitt created an additional debt in the 3 per cents. to the amount of 5,789,912l. 11s. 8d. from the circumstance alone of his buying and selling money; and that by the time

time every expence is added to this singular transaction, the public loss will be more than six millions sterling: and provided he, Mr. Pitt, is suffered to go on in his mad career of buying and selling money, more than sixty millions will be lost to the public on account of money borrowed by himself.

The average paid by Mr. Pitt in the 3 per cents. was	—	—	—	l. s.
				78 15
The proportion of his 5 per cents. when converted into 3 per cents. was no more than				54 0
				<u>24 15</u>

Cost of Premiums for the borrowing and paying

54l.	is	24 15 0	what is the cost of
do. on 27	is	12 7 6	100l. sterling
do. on 13	is	6 3 9	
do. on 4l. 10s.	is	2 1 3	
do. on 1 0	is	9 2	

Sterling 100 0 45 16 8 Amount of premiums paid by Mr. Pitt on every hundred pounds sterling, exclusive of 5l. 11s. interest; as it appears that the foregoing sum of 9,865,941l. 18s. 4d. cost more by 1l. 10s. than if it had rested in Navy, Victualling, and Transport Bills, it is but fair to charge the additional expence accumulated by additional interest. Note, that 1l. 10s. per annum on 9,865,941l. 18s. 4d. is 147,984l. 8s. 4d. But as this annual charge has a gradual decline as the payment takes place, in order to avoid loading the reader as much as possible with too many figures, I will average the additional loss for the two first years, which will amount at least to 270,000l. and the sum the minister paid took at least eight years in the prosecution. It is speaking within compass to say that 900,000l. sterling was the additional expence incurred by additional interest; and that this sum, when converted into the
C 3 per

3 per cents. will, allowing the proportion the minister received, amount to as under.

L.	L.	S.	D.
54 0	900,000	0	0
27 0	450,000	0	0
13 10	225,000	0	0
4 10	75,000	0	0
1 0	16,666	13	4

100 0

Amount of the above sum of 900,000l. when converted into 3 per cents. 1,666,666 13 4

Amount of the loss in premiums in the proportion to what Mr. Pitt had been paying, that is to say, 45l. 16s. 8d. per cent. 5,789,912 11 8

Additional debt incurred by premiums 7,456,579 5 0

As under, the above stock is converted into sterling, in order to give the reader a more accurate view of the sum wasted to carry on the deception, at the same proportion the minister had been paying 78l. 15s. per cent.

L. s.	L.	S.	is	L.	S.	D.
50 per cent. on	7,456,579	5	is	3,728,289	12	6
25 do. on	do.		is	1,864,144	16	3
3 15 do. on	do.		is	93,206	4	10

Total amount at 78l. 15s. per cent. 5,685,640 13 7

This, with commission, brokerage, &c. cannot be less than six millions sterling total loss, in order to carry on the deception of lessening the funded debt. But it does not end here, as some considerable loss must have taken place since the 13th February, 1794.

I am

I am not informed as to particulars, but recollect that Mr. Pitt, winding up his financial career in the last Parliament, said that he congratulated the country on the circumstance of his having 2,400,000l. for the continuance of liquidating the debt. If this was really the case, why not borrow 2,400,000l. the less? as the expence then in borrowing and paying was 14l. 11s. per cent. the average of the expence, including the loan for the Emperor. *Quære*, What is the amount of 14l. 11s. per cent. on 22,800,000l?—*Answer* 3,317,400l. Now the fact is, that if he had stated the circumstance in plain English, he might have given a glance on his brother loan-mongers, and told them by this conduct that he had swindled the country out of another sum to the amount of 343,700l. which was identically the fact.

When I published the Guardian of Public Credit in 1788, I alluded to the usurious contract signed March 2d. 1786, in which securities were given in the 5l. per cents. for £.10,990,651 10 4
To pay Navy and Victualling
Bills, and Ordnance Debentures, to the amount of £. 9,865,941 18 4

Bank of England's profit by this

one Contract with the Public £.1,124,709, 12 0
In addition to this nearly 200,000l. per annum charged for the management of the debt, which could not cost them a twentieth part of that sum, as it is only for payment of dividends and transfers, (for which latter refer to the table that states days of transfer, page 7 in this work, and you will find that not more than five hours in the week is occupied by that part of the business) I proved the inconveniency of money being monopolized by the Bank of England, and that it had the same effect on the people respecting usury and extortion, as the price of grain would be affected, provided the whole crop grown in one parish were in

C 2

the

the hands of one farmer. The Bank of England, fearing that this kind of information would come into general knowledge, stopped their former mode of proceeding, and have not appeared openly in any one contract for a loan since my former work; but have increased that part of their business that may be called pawn-broking, for which I believe this honourable Company have never taken out a licence, therefore I should suppose them liable to pay the several penalties.

This pawn-broking business I find is carried on in the following manner:—As the loans are always made good by instalments, when a single payment is made of 10l. or 15l. per cent. the memorandum acknowledging the payment is called Scrip, and is by the Bank of England deemed a security for the sums that have been paid. The loan-monger takes this scrip to the Bank of England, and in part or in all makes an exchange for their paper, and for which the Bank of England charge an interest of 5l. per cent. This enables the pawners of scrip to make their second payments, which intitles them to a second scrip; and so they may go on making their deposits, and constantly pawning up home to the payment of their last dividend that completes the contract.

There being no more at the present period than fifteen millions of specie in the kingdom, I cannot give credit to the Bank of England and private bankers for more than 6,000,000l. When 22,800,000l. is funded, is there a possibility of completing this contract, without the help of 16,800,000l. Bank of England paper? Who then are we to suppose to be the masters and commanders of the interest and premiums for the loan of a little money and a great deal of paper, but these Directors of the Bank of England; as not a single loan can be completed without the aid of their paper, at least three-fourths? And can we suppose that they do not take the advantage of so much

much of the profitable loans as they find convenient for themselves, though they never openly appeared in any one contract since the year 1786; though more than sixty millions have been contracted for in about the space of one year, by an individual who but a few years since did not possess property to the amount of a ten thousandth part of the sums contracted for?

From the circumstance of such immense sums contracted for by Boyd and Benfield, the craft of the Bank of England may be easily perceived; that it is in order to hide from the public eye their being so deeply concerned in the iniquitous practice of usury and extortion, which must be added to the advantages they make of their immense circulating paper; which, by a moderate computation, cannot be less than from sixty to seventy millions, producing them an annual profit of between three and four millions.

Terms of the Loan of 22,800,000l. of which the Emperor was to have a part.

The subscribers were to have

3l. per cents. at 75 producing an annual interest of	-	-	-	L.	s.	D.
				2	5	0
4l. per cents. at 25	-	-	-	1	0	0
	0	6	4½	0	6	4½
	20	16	8	0	12	6
2l. 1s. 5d. per annum, for 25 years, equal to a perpetuity of	-	-	-	0	17	6
				5	1	4½
5l. 1s. 4d. annual interest bears a proportion of 59l. in the 3 per cents. of course (the 3 per cents. being at 63l.) the price of the day produced a profit of	-	-	-	4	0	0
Commission allowed to the subscribers 2l. per cent. interest bearing date before the payments were completed				4	0	0
2l. 0 0	-	-	-	8	0	0

The 3 per cents. were then at 63l.
Profit to the subscribers 8

Amount paid into the Exchequer 55l.
If 55l. produce a profit of 8l. what will 100l. produce?

L. s.	L. s.
55 0	8 0
27 10	4 0
13 15	2 0
3 15	0 11
<hr/>	<hr/>
100 0	14 11

profit on one hundred pounds sterling, if the stock had been sold the day it was contracted for at the then price current.

If 100l. produce a profit of 14l. 11s. what will 22,800,000l. produce? The answer is 3,317,400l. profit of one day to the loan-mongers.—It has been positively asserted that there were several individuals who made each of them a profit of 100,000l. by this single loan! Is not the paradoxical parable in the scripture verified, that even the poor man who hath nothing shall have it taken from him? Every one of these loans being an additional mortgage on the profits of his labour, of course made a sacrifice before he has obtained it.

It appears that the above loan was not carried into effect, and that the following advantages were placed in favour of the English loan; from which it may be easily conceived that it was never intended to be repaid by the Emperor.

The subscribers were to have 83l. 6s. 8d. in the 3 per cents. and 5l. per cent. per annum for 25 years.

Payment

Payment to be made as follows:

1st November 1794	10l. per cent.
17th April 1795	10l. ditto
10th June	10l. ditto
17th July	10l. ditto
28th August	15l. ditto
23d October	15l. ditto
27th November	15l. ditto
15th January 1796	15l. ditto
	<hr/>
	100l.

The interest of this loan was said at one time to take place the preceding May, but there have been so many shiftings and changings taking place, that it is difficult to say when; but in all doubtful cases I shall lean in favour of the contract. As I do not mean to exaggerate the amount as to the causes of complaint, I shall only charge the commencement of the interest from the 1st of November 1794, which is the time the first payments take place; and as the time from the 1st of November 1794 to the 15th of January 1796 is fourteen months and 15 days, the interest to the subscribers from the proportion of cash in their hands, advantages will accrue to the amount of 6l. per cent. they being in the receipts of 7l. 10s. per cent. per annum, as the above different periods commence before their payments are completed.

Proof that the annual interest bears 7l. 10s.

83l. 6s. 8d. in the 3 per cents. is	2 10 0
Annuities for 25 years, at	5 0 0
	<hr/>
	£.7 10 0

Amount of the annual charge for this extraordinary loan.

C 4

Brought

Brought over proof of profits obtained by this loan, by the interest taking place before the payments were completed	L. s. D.
Usual commission 2l. per cent.	6 0 0
Discount 2l.	4 0 0
	<hr/>
	10 0 0

Hence it appears, that before the payments were completed there was a profit to the subscriber of 10l. per cent. of course no more can be received into the Exchequer than 90l. per cent. Quere, what then is the annual charge on the above 99l?

Stock in the 3 per cents. 83l. 6s. 8d.	L. s. D.
annual interest	2 10 0
5l. on 90l. per cent. being equal to a perpetuity of 4l. per annum	4 0 0
	<hr/>
	6 10 0

Quere, If 6l. 10s. per annum be worth 90l. what is 3l. per annum worth?—Answer 41l. 10s. 8d.

To estimate the expence of the payment of this loan: Agreeable to Mr. Pitt's practice of lessening the funded debt, the 4,800,000l. lent the Emperor will cost nearly double, exclusive of the extravagant interest; and as we may suppose it to be received as the price of blood, who then is to pay it, the Emperor, or poor broken-backed John Bull?—Now suppose Mr. Pitt had been a subscriber to this curious loan, with the 2,400,000l. he boasted to have in his hands, instead of buying up in our 3 per cents. at 63l. what would have been the difference to this country?

	L. s. D.
	63 0 0
	41 10 8
	<hr/>
Profit obtained by the Emperor's Loan	21 9 4

Profit

Profit by purchasing in the Emperor's Loan.

	L. s. D.	L. s. D.
On	41 10 8	21 9 4
	41 10 8	21 9 4
	10 7 8	5 7 4
	5 3 10	2 13 10
	1 7 2	0 13 2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	100 0 0	51 13 0

It now clearly appears that if Mr. Pitt had been a contributor to the Emperor's loan, instead of buying up in our 3 per cents. at 63l. the saving would have been 51l. 13s. on every hundred pounds. The next thing I have to prove is the total amount of savings on the 2,400,000l.

L. s.	L.	L.
51 13 per cent. on 1,000,000	is	516,500
Ditto on 1,000,000	is	516,500
Ditto on 400,000	is	206,600
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,400,000	1,239,600

From this statement it clearly appears that there was a double choice for Mr. Pitt to have made; in the first instance he might have saved 343,700l. by funding a less sum in our 3 per cents. or if he had been a contributor to the Emperor's loan to the amount of the above 2,400,000l. he might have saved 1,239,600l. This would have been the saving in either case, whether the money be repaid by the Emperor or this country.

Contracts composed of such complex sums, whose value perpetually fluctuates, through the arts of the avaricious gambler or stock-jobber, the ignorance or indifference of interested Ministerial agents, or the perplexed and improvident conduct of the financial administration, must naturally lie out of the immediate address of persons who do not bestow much labour and time on the study of a very dry subject;

subject; but it requires no further argument to prove that if dealings were meant to be conducted fairly, and for the public advantage, they would naturally be divested of this perplexing complexity, which can answer no other end than to veil the wasteful transactions from the public eye.

Effects of the Emperor's Loan, continued:—

Though I consider precision an ornament to every public performance, I wish to curtail as much as possible that dull part of my work figures; though I have now an estimate by me that proves what I have to say respecting this extravagant and unparalleled loan. It is a fact commonly understood, that one hundred pounds, or any sum of money, in the situation of compound interest, will double itself in fourteen or fifteen years. The following short explanation I imagine will satisfy my readers respecting the further effects of the loan in this country nick-named the Emperor's loan:—I have proved clearly that no more than 90l. for 100l. can be received into the Exchequer, allowing 7l. 10s. annually for the first twenty-five years on the sum of 4,800,000l. taking it at the rate of 4 per cent. interest, the principal and interest is paid the first fifteen years and a half.

Note, that the surplus of 4 per cent. on compound interest is sufficient to discharge the principal; quere, at the end of fifteen years and a half, how stands the case with the public? they are still indebted 83l. 6s. 8d. per cent. in the 3 per cents. on the whole amount of the sum borrowed 4,800,000l.

Quere, What is the proportion of 83l. 6s. 8d. per cent. on 4,800,000l? the answer is 4,000,000l. bearing an annual interest of 3 per cent. with the additional annual interest of 5 per cent. for 9 years and a half; so that the commissioners may say, in liquidating the debt in the year 1812, as they did in the year 1786, that no money was received for the following annual charge; that is,

On

	L.
On 4,800,000l. at 5 per cent. is	280,000
On 4,000,000l. at 3 per cent. is	120,000
	400,000

This is an annual charge from the first fifteen years and half to the twenty-fifth year, leaving then a further incumbrance of 400,000l. in the 3 per cents. to be discharged, or an annual interest to be continued for ever on it, until such time as the principal is paid.

Left I should have been too short in my explanation, I now repeat that the above sum of 400,000l. annually will be paid for nine years and a half, and a further sum of 4,000,000l. in the 3 per cents. for which no money was ever received either by the Emperor or the people of this country.

Will not posterity startle, and say, 'What, nothing done for all this money?' I think there was enough done;—between two and three hundred thousand French and Austrians were murdered in Germany, for the support of the Christian religion! If England should at that period be governed by monks and friars, no doubt but Billy Pitt will be canonized for the part he took in the holy crusade.

Now let me ask my countrymen whether there is an instance of any young profligate having through the excess of gaming, drinking, whoring, and all the vices that could be collected together, ever made more rapid strides in the destruction of his own paternal estate, than Mr. Pitt hath had the impudence to do with the public estate of this country.

Now

Now for Mr. Pitt's general funding. First was the peace establishment in 1786, at 5 per cent. —	L.	S.	D.
	10,990,651	10	4
To carry on the iniquitous war			
1793, sterling amount	4,500,000	0	0
1794, Ditto —	11,000,000	0	0
1795, Ditto —	18,000,000	0	0
Ditto for the Emperor	4,800,000	0	0
Ditto English	18,000,000	0	0
1796, Ditto for the Navy	3,536,422	0	0
Ditto 16th of April	7,500,000	0	0
	<hr/>		
	78,327,073	10	4

Mr. Morgan at this period by calculations converted the whole of the funded debt into the 3 per cents. which he said produced a capital of 410,944,685l. and for which I can see no other reason than that of making the calculation more easy for the reader. It is strange that Mr. Morgan or any other person in the character of a sensible gentleman, should talk of saving by converting one stock into another; as every man that will investigate this important business must see that no reduction can take place in the funded debt, unless you bridle the stock-jobbers by a consolidated compromise with the funded creditor.— Referring again to Mr. Pitt's expenditure, he is now in want of

According to the general practice of funding, there will be then unprovided for at the least	40,000,000	0	0
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	<hr/>		
£.128,327,073	10	4	

Brought over, expended by Mr. Pitt, sterling amount —	128,327,073	10	4
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Mr. Pitt's expenditure converted into the 3 per cent.

Average at the most he received.

	L.	S.	D.
56 per cent.	128,327,073	10	4
28 do.	64,163,536	15	2
14 do.	32,081,768	7	7
2 do	4,587,100	15	4½

Total amount 100 in 3 per cent.	229,159,488	8	5½
Vanfittart's estimate of Mr. Pitt's having paid in ditto —	18,001,685	0	0½

Created, and to be created, by the time all the money is funded that hath been expended by Mr. Pitt — —	211,157,833	8	5
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Amount of annual interest on the new debt created by Mr Pitt at 3 per cent.	6,334,735	0	1
Additional charge of management by the Bank of England, at the rate of 450l. per million, on the new capital created — —	94,500	0	0
	<hr/>		
	6,429,235	0	1

This is the progress of our immaculate minister, in order to ease the burthens of the people: he hath brought an increase of expenditure on interest alone to the above amount of 6,429,235l. os. 1d.

The enormity of this wickedness could not have arrived to such a pitch if he had not persuaded our lazy landholders that they had no right to call gentlemen to account that were high in office. Thus they were

were from their conduct supposed to believe: but I think the very reverse; and that a Minister of State is as liable to be called to account for the embezzlement of public money as any other officer under the Crown; and I am ready to bring forward the impeachment. But at present shall leave the enormous capital of 211,157,853l. 8s. 5d. and refer to that part of the swindling business of buying and selling money, by which the Public were tricked out of six millions sterling; and in another single and more recent instance to the amount of 343,700l. This last, in point of conviction, is exactly similar to the proof brought against the sheriff's-officer for the stealing of two ducks from a person that he had arrested at Belfont. The officer boasted of this wickedness as he was coming to town in a coach with another person, and this was the means of bringing him to trial and conviction; and he was sentenced to transportation for seven years. Similar to this Mr. Pitt boasted of his wickedness openly in the House of Commons, declaring positively that he had 2,400,000l. to lessen the funded debt. As sure as the person at Belfont lost his ducks, so sure the public were swindled out of the 343,700l. by the transaction of Mr. Pitt funding 2,400,000l. more than was wanted. That this boasted declaration took place can be proved, I suppose, at least by one hundred honourable gentlemen then in the House of Commons.

The officer, I have observed before, was sentenced to transportation for seven years for stealing the two ducks, and poor Isaac Moore was hanged in the year 1793 for stealing a 10l. bank-note out of a letter: What then must be done with our heaven-born minister for taking the active part in that transaction that swindled the public out of 343,700l.? If the minister has his reward on conviction, all other impeachments against him will be needless, and considerable expences saved.

Two

Two writers have lately taken up the discussion of the financial operations of the present minister on opposite grounds—Mr. Morgan, who reprobates, and Mr. Vanfittart, who defends, the minister's measures. Since these pamphlets have come abroad, the public mind seems to have been much divided upon the merits of their respective assertions and arguments. But the extraordinary circumstances of the Bank of England, and the late failures; others so much to be apprehended; the consultations of the minister with several opulent, commonly called monied, men, more properly circulators of paper medium; and the measures said to be in agitation for an extravagant increase of this kind of specie; has proved too clearly the full truth of Mr. Morgan's calculations, although he has not reached to the extremity of those evils and abuses which he professed to expose in his present tract.— I mean to touch upon some of the leading points of those gentlemen, and to shew how far short of the reality Mr. Morgan has estimated the extravagance and waste of the minister; and to expose the delusive, artful, and unfair reasoning and calculations of Mr. Vanfittart. The loans of the present compared with the most extravagant of past wars, the state and management of the national debt and sinking fund, and their effects on the country, are the topics of Mr. Morgan's serious lamentation and just apprehensions. Mr. Vanfittart attempts to argue away his conclusions, and contemn his well-grounded fears. It is meant here to examine the leading facts of both writers, and offer such reasoning as must prove that though Mr. Morgan has calculated too much in favour of the minister's measures, he is correct in stating them to be the most ruinous of any that this country or all history can produce. His proof of new debt being funded, considerably more than one hundred million, in so short a period, is a proof of his assertion, that the extravagant expence has been the most

most ruinous that this country ever experienced; tho' he has not once mentioned the new, blindfolded, swindling bonus of the capital bearing interest before the money is paid; and this upon investigation appears to be from 3 to 4 per cent. on the capital on the Emperor's loan: I have proved it to be 6 per cent.

I have in a former page remarked that short-sighted idea of Mr. Morgan, where he is planning to reduce the debt by converting one description of stock into another. Let any man reason fairly on the subject, and I will ask him where the difference can be, whether the debt be in the 3, 4, or 5 per cents. provided each stock bear a proportionable interest; and to effect this will be always in the power of the stock-jobber, stock-holder, &c. as long as the debt shall be suffered to fluctuate, and of course remain a game. The recent fact must be an undoubted proof of Mr. Pitt's having wasted six millions in the operation of discharging twelve millions in the 3 per cents. And what difficulty will there be in keeping the present enormous debt at bay, provided no reformation takes place in this department? For, as the twelve millions took eight years in the payment, how easy will it be in the course of every eight years to strike out an artificial pretence for war, either with the French, Spaniards, Dutch, or Americans, and spend more money in six months preparations than was saved in the preceding eight or ten years peace? So that not only the present age, but posterity must for ever remain in the same or a worse situation, except a compromise between debtor and creditor, and a solid reformation in the management of the public income and expenditure.

But there is an additional confirmation of Mr. Pitt's profligacy. He contracts a loan in the 5 per cents. subjecting the inhabitants of this country to a fluctuating loss of 40 or 50 per cent, at the very time the

the Irish agent contracted a loan with this country in the 5 per cents. reserving the liberty of paying at par; is not this a proof, in addition to Mr. Morgan's charge of error, misconduct, wickedness, and incapacity?

Mr. Vanfittart seems to place himself in a kind of security that few or none will investigate, otherwise he would not have gone such lengths in false and unfair reasoning, with delusive arguments. In his 31st page he says the public are indebted to Mr. Pitt for his savings, by a mutilation of Dr. Price's plan to a perpetual annuity of 585,812l. worth at 4 per cent. a capital of 14,646,312l. The reverse of this statement is the truth; and the plain fact is, that had the debt been suffered to remain in its original state, instead of the above stated sum, the savings would have been six millions, equal to a saving in perpetual annuities of 300,000l. annually, for the proof of which I refer back to page 11. Admitting that savings had taken place, how ridiculous it is to say that the public are indebted to Mr. Pitt; as they could only have been indebted to their own industry in raising the same.

In Mr. Vanfittart's third table, a statement is given of several loans during the present war, in order to display the moderate rate of interest at which the Minister hath made his contracts; but the table exhibits a palpable evidence of the want of sincerity, of regard for truth, and the spirit of delusion which characterizes the whole of the pamphlet. In page 17, the average of the loans of the present wars are at 4l. 10s. 9d $\frac{1}{2}$ annual interest; in the preceding page sufficient evidence has been given of that misstatement, even independent of the Emperor's loan. In that table the following account appears:

	<i>Borrowed.</i>	<i>Capital created including Anns. Consolidated.</i>	<i>Interest.</i>
	L.	L.	L. S. D.
1795	18,000,000	25,828,876	4 14 10
1796	18,000,000	27,351,336	4 14 0
		D	Navy

Navy debt funded 1794 £.3,398,098
 For which a capital was creat-
 ed in the 5 per cents. of 3,536,422

£.138,324 bonus

over and above 5 per cent. an advantage of 1l. 15s. on account of interest bearing date before the payments were completed. A new-fangled deception of Mr. Pitt's Mr. Vanfittart hath thought fit to leave out; indeed, it would not answer his purpose to have added to the interest from 3l. at 4 per cent. on account of the capital bearing date so many months before the payments were completed, commission and discount making altogether in interest considerably more than ten shillings per cent. which swells the interest at least to 5l. 5s. on a capital advanced of at least four-fifths paper.

The circumstance of the account delivered by A. Newland, the 2d of March 1786, to pay navy and victualling bills, and ordnance debentures, for which securities were given in the 5 per cents. to the amount of - £.10,990,651 10 4
 Amount of bills paid 9,865,941 18 4

Bonus for this day's contract £.1,124,709 12 0
 Capital borrowed bearing an interest of 5l. 11s. for ever. The Emperor's loan (page 28 of this pamphlet) carried a capital into the Exchequer, at 4l. 10s. 8d. in the 3 per cents.—Bonus for the day on every 100l. subscribed, sterling money 5l. 10s. or an annual interest of 6l. 10s. per cent. These are circumstances that correspond so little with Mr. Vanfittart's statement, that he has thought fit to leave them entirely out of the question; but they certainly prove want of sincerity and regard for truth, and a spirit of delusion.

Now for the glorious advantages that have been acquired by this country on account of this immense increase of public plunder. Notwithstanding the failure

failure or frustration of every scheme of ambition and conquest which the Minister hath undertaken in the course of the present war, still it is asserted, that at no period was the glory or prosperity of this country (under all the existing circumstances) at a greater height; and Mr. Morgan, who hath charged them with error, misconduct, wickedness, and incapacity, is affectedly censured for not entering into minute proofs of these plain facts; as though his declared object was to expose those which related to financial operations only.

What then are the blessings which this country has derived from the present Minister, and where are the proofs of his capacity, his patriotism, or his virtues? Melancholy and deplorable will be the prospect of that vast volume of miseries which he has created. The mind is perplexed to fix upon a period less fatal or destructive than another in the whole career of the present war. Of the prior part of his strange and extravagant course, there is the same difficulty to discover one act of public policy or legislative conduct, which can claim a title to candour, manliness, openness, or dignity; the early part of his administration would seem to be a kind of experimental course in all the arts of tergiversation, political chicanery, and public delusion, preparatory to the grand scene of wantonness and profligacy exhibited within the last four accursed years.

Is the project of the conquest of France a proof of capacity? Have the conduct exhibited at Toulon and at Dunkirk, and the fate of the gallant Sombrueil and his companions at Quiberon, nothing of error, wickedness, misconduct, or incapacity in them? Is not that Stadtholder who made so many sacrifices to this country, against the voice of his own, during the American war—is his independence no proof of the minister's error, misconduct, wickedness, and incapacity? Is not the triple alliance, and the partition of Poland,

the subsidies to Prussia, and the subsequent counter-alliance of that country with France, proofs of the Minister's error, misconduct, wickedness, and incapacity? Have we not at sea 110 ships of the line, 18 fourth rates, 132 frigates, and 86 sloops of war, besides many armed Indiamen, in all more than 426 ships of war; and have not the enemy, with scarce the vestige of a navy, taken nearly two thousand sail of merchantmen more from us than we have taken from them; and are these no proofs of the Minister's error, misconduct, wickedness, or incapacity?

Have we not a standing army of 300,000 men, and have we not more generals and other officers than all our allies and enemies together; and yet have not our troops been obliged to retreat from the field, and what remained alive to return home? Were there not seventy ships and five thousand men lost by the failures of the West-India expedition?—and have not the enemy, with a handful of adventurers, and without any regular force, ravaged and captured those distressed colonies, in despite of our generals, our immense expenditure, and our numerous and well-appointed naval equipments?

Has not the Minister connived at the perpetuation of the slavery of the unfortunate Africans, and thereby given them new incitements to rage, revenge, and destruction; and has he not brought over our philanthropic Mr. Wilberforce to assist him in his diabolical plan, and to go hand in hand with him in the enslaving and starving the people of this country?

MAGNA CHARTA.

In the reign of William Pitt has it not been forbidden by law to discuss the constitution of these realms; and has not the immaculate Minister dared any man to call gentlemen to account that are high in office? But I am in hopes that the noise of the grunting swinish multitude, and the roaring of John Bull, will awaken the understanding of the people, and convince

convince them that there is no description of men in any free country, who are not liable to be called to account for constantly adding house to house, field to field, and fund to fund, with the produce of the public plunder.

NOOTKA-SOUND.

This was another project of our Minister to enrich this country! This business is of too recent a date to need my entering into any particulars, more than that a British merchant had been insulted by a haughty Don, prevented from fishing in Nootka-Sound; for which, and some other insults, damages were rated against the Spaniard at twenty thousand pounds. Mr. Pitt, on hearing this, tacks on the Manilla ransom, and of course had a legal claim on the Spaniards for 3,020,000l. and how manfully he supported his claim by warlike preparations. Expresses were sent to and from Madrid, by messengers as busy as poor boys employed in fetching farthing candles; till at length 4,000,000l. was spent in the pursuit, of course the demand was increased to 7,020,000l. No doubt men of the best abilities were employed in this important business; at length Mr. Pitt was successful, and for the honour of the country (not much to his own) damages were recovered to the amount of twenty thousand pounds—so that (including the Manilla ransom, and the money spent in the pursuit of recovering) Mr. Pitt's disappointment and the loss to this country was only seven millions!—We are not to forget that Mr. Pitt was successful; twenty thousand pounds were received, and I believe the whole of this sum was sent by three different instalments, and it was inserted at three different times in the Treasury papers that money was arrived in a ship from Spain to pay the damages recovered against the Spaniards at Nootka-Sound.

I wish our heaven-born Minister had read the history of Oliver Cromwell. He settled a similar

insult received from the French, without a shilling expence to this country. An honest Quaker having been robbed of his ship and cargo at sea by a Frenchman, went to Oliver, and made his complaint, who ordered him to make out the estimate of his loss; which he did, and carried to the Protector. "Is this a just account?" said Oliver. 'Yes,' answered the Quaker. "Will you carry a letter for me to Paris?" 'Yes.' Which letter Oliver immediately wrote, and directed it to the minister at Paris, who was frequently waited on by the injured Quaker, but he could obtain no interview. After waiting at Paris till his patience was exhausted, he returned to England, and waited on the Protector. "Are you paid?" said Oliver. 'No,' answered the Quaker. The immediate consequence was, that an English frigate was ordered to sea, to take the first French ship he met with that would be likely to pay the Quaker's expences. The business was soon done; the ship and cargo was brought into port and sold, the injured subject was paid, and the balance was sent to the French ambassador then in London, which he thought fit to receive, and the matter ended.

After all, I think Mr. Pitt must have read the history of Oliver Cromwell, and that he was well informed as to this circumstance; then what can he say for himself relative to the expenditure of four millions to recover twenty thousand pounds! But the times are now altered; it was then the swinish multitude were in the habit of enjoying the fruits of their labour—stock-jobbing and ministerial swindling had not then made their appearance.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

It is the general idea of the people of this country, that this Bank hath one and the same interest in support of national credit and national prosperity, but the facts will prove the very reverse; as no one circumstance can be proved so injurious to this country for monopolizing money. The extravagance of

Charles the Second, and the political intrigues of the Revolution in 1688, involved the government in expence to a considerable amount beyond the public revenue of the state; and among the devices of that period for supporting the measures of the ruling party, was the institution of the Bank, commonly called the Bank of England. Before the reign of the Stuarts, the expences of the government rarely exceeded the annual income; on the accession of King William the practice of loans for the public exigencies commenced, the interest of which was provided by annual taxes.

In July 1704 the Bank was incorporated by act of parliament, and empowered to receive subscriptions for 1,200,000l. upon which government agreed to pay 8l. per cent. per annum, besides 4000l. per annum for management, and here commenced the great evil of the present enormous funded debt; the whole of which would have been provided for prior to Mr. Pitt's funding, had government reserved the profits of banking for the benefit of the public, but Mr. Pitt having exceeded all others to such an astonishing degree in the public expence, that no means could be devised to support his extravagance. By several further advances to the Bank of England in 1709 and 1742, the capital of the Bank (that is, the sum that government stood indebted to the corporation) was increased to 3,200,000l. and the interest reduced first to six, and on the 1st of August 1743 to three per cent. which has been usually called the original stock of the Bank. By subsequent financial operations at several periods to the present day, the Bank stock or debt of government has augmented the capital to 11,686,800l. upon which sum the government pay interest quarterly, but the dividends to the proprietors is made half-yearly. The profits of the Bank arise from the use of the public money, acting as private gentlemen's bankers, and to the Exchequer, receiving the proceeds

ceeds of all the public taxes from the several collectors, without any charge for the use thereof, and advancing when required the supposed amount of the land-tax, and other sums for the use of government, for which an allowance is made by government, exclusive of the annual allowance by charter, and the sum of 450l. per million for the management of the public funds. Which last sum, prior to Mr. Pitt's funding, amounts to the sum of 200,000l. annually, exclusive of 5,898l. 3s. 5d. for the management of their own capital; and will at the present day, or as soon as the money is funded that hath been spent by Mr. Pitt, amount to the sum of 300,000l. annually, for management alone. The use of unclaimed dividends is a resource of vast profit. Government pays the Bank for their circulation of exchequer bills, and agency or commission for receiving subscriptions for their public loans. The profits of the Bank in the early part of their institution were very considerable for their trade in bullion, and the discounting of private bills; which they have been able to carry on to great extent and the utmost advantage, by the capitals of those who lodge their property in the Bank as a place of security, and for which they pay no interest. But the great and incalculable riches of the Bank arises from its notes forming the principal medium of its circulation in the capital to an immense amount, and considerably throughout the kingdom; and it is not to be forgotten, that in all issues of whatever kind to government or individuals, that paper forms the most considerable part of the issues, and the profits paid for the use and loans of money, is equally derived by the Bank for the use of that paper.

Of this species of profit an example may be satisfactory here, though it is stated before in this work; and as the financial capacity of the present Minister hath been extolled, among his other heaven-born qualities, the following contract of his in 1785, after three years of peace, and when the French Revolution had not formed a ladder for his wild ambition.

Amount of Bills funded 2d of	L.	S.	D.
March 1786, at 5 per cent.	9,865,941	18	4
Capital created	10,990,651	10	4

Profit by a single Contract 1,124,709 12 0
 being the amount of a bonus to the Bank for a peace loan, exclusive of 5l. per cent. per annum for interest on the amount of the gross capital.

From the above general account of the Bank of England, it appears that its credit is established on the security of the government, and that its stability must be the same. It appears also, that its stock is the capital of the public debt created by government, by various contracts with the proprietors of the Bank, and the Bank holds the exclusive privilege of public banking, besides various immense allowances for employing that capital. They trade for their own select advantage; and the institution exhibits this peculiarity, that with these privileges and profits the capital of the Bank alone is accountable for its debts; and the property of those who compose the body of Bank Proprietors is not responsible for any deficiency that may arise from any sudden failure of its funds, or from any circumstance whatever.

Adam Smith, in his Wealth of Nations, says the Bank of England cannot hurt their creditors till they have lost the whole of their capital of 11,800,000l. If they have lent their securities for 100,000,000l. on a rotten foundation, and on the support only of the above 11,800,000l. what have they done but lost it? Quere; How are they reimbursed the immense securities that they have given? By nothing more than the profits of the labours of the people, for which no proof can be found of its stability; nor even is it the will of the people to part with that proportion of their earnings which they have been accustomed to do. It may be argued also, that the land-tax is bound; but they can have no aid from that quarter, as the whole

whole produce does not amount to two millions annually, therefore is not sufficient to support his Majesty's civil list, with Mr. Pitt and his friends.

We will now suppose, for example, that a mercantile or any trading house had begun a business with 11,800l. and obtained a credit of 100,000l. and entrusted insolvent people, that could make but a miserable dividend; what then must be the situation of their creditors, unless they could obtain an act of parliament to pay them in paper? What dividend could be expected from the Bank of England paper, supposing their notes were sent in rapidly upon them? Are we to suppose that the nation is 200,000,000l. the richer, because Mr. Pitt hath spent so much? No—but to a certainty from ten to twelve millions the poorer, he having sent so much specie out of the kingdom. What security then can the Bank of England have received for the immense paper medium, but a mortgage of the profits of the labour of the people?

It appears a most extraordinary circumstance, what they can have done with their immense profits; as we have no public information of their having divided more of late than from eight to nine, or at the very utmost, ten per cent. when their profits, if fairly estimated from the following circumstance, cannot be less than forty per cent. For example, their profits for one day have amounted to 1,124,907l.; annual profit by stock-jobbing not less than 1,000,000l. interest on the capital (for which they pay no interest themselves) 500,000l.; interest by government securities for the loan of their circulating notes, at least 70,000,000l. which must produce them at least a profit annually of 3,500,000l.; for the management of the public debt, 300,000l.; besides the profits of unclaimed dividends, and notes lost, that of course never return into their Bank for payment. Certainly they cannot have increased their capital without the consent

of parliament; then what account can be given for what they have done with their astonishing profits, when it never has appeared openly that they have divided more than ten per cent. and their profits appear to be more than forty per cent. per annum. They have lent all their capital and their securities, (together not less than one hundred millions) for which government has secured to them the profits of the labour of the people; and they have hitherto received the full interest, even before it was due.

Admitting there were one million of working people, and each man earned ten shillings per week by his labour, which certainly is the utmost extent, allowing for holidays, the whole amount of their labour could not be more than twenty-five millions annually; and of this, in time of peace, fifteen millions will be swallowed up to pay interest of money. A principal part of this sum is divided among Bank Directors, a set of men who cannot prove of the least utility, further than at a time of public corruption for filling seats in parliament. They can talk of a few thousands with as much indifference as of a few halfpence. So much for the balance of corruption being in favour of men who formerly thought it an honour to serve their country without fee or reward. To the above must be added at least from three to four millions annually for navy, army, placemen, pensioners, and stock-jobbers, who are in the habits of receiving unlimited profits.

In the present case it appears clearly, that from these circumstances, and the increased price of the necessaries of life, the people have not more than the last farthing out of their penny. This will be proved by the difference in the price of the necessaries of life, within the memory of the author; and this is the only security Mr. Pitt can give to pay the interest of his additional securities, and on which he is ready to receive another hundred millions of paper circulating medium,

medium, if the people should be fools enough to continue the war to gratify his ambition. However this influx of paper circulation is the riches that Mr. Pitt hath so much boasted of, as having exceeded that of all other nations in the world; and truly there is nothing more wanted to add stability. But what hath our heaven-born Minister done, but mistook the shadow for the substance, and sent nearly one half of the real specie out of the kingdom;—does not this conduct in finance demand an immediate reform? And what have the Bank of England done, but lost their capital, by suffering it to be sent out of the kingdom? This could not be done without their consent, and with mercenary views of increasing the value of their paper circulation.

Our heaven-born Minister tells us, that our merchandize, exports, and imports, exceeds all other nations in Europe or the world. But what does he allude to? What are the most considerable of our importations? Saltpetre, brimstone, and other naval stores, for fitting out ships, manufactures, soldiers' clothes, swords, firelocks, and great guns; which, if carried on for a thousand years, will never add a shilling to the riches of the kingdom, or a bit of bread—these are the advantages of a heaven-born Minister. If we give him credit for a balance of the conquest of the Cape, and the Dutch men of war taken, it will not pay a penny in the pound on the money spent by himself; and then we are at a loss to make up for two thousand of our merchant ships taken by the enemy over and above the number we have taken from them.

PAPER CIRCULATING MEDIUM.

I am far from thinking the trade of this country could be carried on, without paper circulation, but who then is the best entitled to the advantages arising from it but the public, who will take such kind of payments instead of cash? If a proper use had been made of the increase of paper circulation, well secured by

by an honest government, it would have answered the purpose so far as to have saved at least twelve hundred thousand pounds annually; which is sent out of the kingdom to pay the Dutch and other foreigners, for the interest of the stock they hold in our funds, in addition to the advantages they take by buying in when our funds are low, and selling out when they are high. In the year 1792 it was said the Dutch sold out of our funds to such an amount as produced them a profit of upwards of six hundred thousand pounds; this was a sum that never could be reimbursed to this country, and of course, with all other sums craftily purloined from the inhabitants of this country by stock-jobbing, must be made up by taxes. That the price of the necessaries of life must be increased by taxation, is so clear a case, that I almost think it needless to produce any proofs; but for the information of the few that may not be so well satisfied as to the fact, I will state Soame Jenyns's judicious remarks on taxation, published 1767.

Thoughts on the causes and consequences of the present High Price of Provisions, by Soame Jenyns.

Every new tax does not only affect the price of the commodity on which it is laid, but that of all others, whether it be taxed or not; and with which at first sight, it seems to have no manner of connexion. Thus, for instance, a tax on candles must rise the price of a coat or a pair of breeches; because out of these all the taxes on the candles of the wool-comber, the weaver, with a number of others in the woollen branch, the taylor must likewise be paid in proportion. A duty on ale must rise the price of shoes; because from all the taxes upon ale drank by the tanner, leather-dresser, and shoemaker, (which is not a little) must be refunded. No tax is immediately laid upon corn, but the price of it must necessarily advance, because out of all the innumerable taxes paid by the farmer on windows, soap, candles, malt,

malt, hops, leather salt, and a thousand others, must be repaid; so that corn is as much taxed, as if a duty by the bushel had been laid upon it. For taxes are like the various streams that form an inundation by separate channels; they separately find admission, and unite at last, and overwhelm the whole. The man, therefore, who sold sand upon the ass, and raised the price of it during the late war, though abused for an imposition, most certainly acted upon right reason; for though there were then no taxes imposed upon the sand or asses, yet he found by experience, that from the taxes laid on almost all other things, he could not maintain himself, his wife, or his ass, as cheap as formerly; he was therefore under the necessity of advancing the price of the sand, out of which alone the taxes he paid must be refunded.

Taxes created to support the credit of paper coinage is a circumstance that no more proves the wealth of the country, than the rich equipage of the Lord Mayor of London; or that because the first magistrate of the capital can afford to give a dinner at an expence of five thousand pounds, from the profits of small bread, poverty and wretchedness are unknown in his jurisdiction. Palaces may lift their heads, velvet may spread to the basis of the mountains, but it is in the humble cottage and the furrowed fields, among the busy hum of men, that prosperity is to be recognized.

The indifference or interestedness of men, and the perplexed and improvident conduct of the financial administration, must naturally lay out of the immediate address of persons who do not bestow much labour and time on the study of a dry subject; which I mean to prove by the short reasoning of men in other respects possessing the first abilities. I consider that Opposition as well as the Treasury have their paragraph writers; though I suppose the latter may have six to one in their favour, and their hirelings have their own terms to make.

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As I profess myself to be a well-informed man respecting the important business of finance, I applied to one of the proprietors of a morning paper, in hopes to be introduced to a high character in opposition.—The nature of my business was enquired into, which I answered; and the reply to me was, that no information of that sort could be useful either to Mr. Fox or Mr. Sheridan, for that they were both the first calculators in the world. But to prove the mistake of this gentleman, I shall not only take some extracts from a morning paper, but likewise some parts of the speeches of those gentlemen who were said to have such excellence as calculators and financiers; and clearly prove their short reasoning on these important objects—to which we may partly attribute the great length Mr. Pitt hath run in the destruction of the credit of this country; in fact, he hath completed it, for it will bear no more paper circulating medium.

From the Morning Chronicle, April 9th, 1796:—
‘The charter of the Bank of England has still eleven years to run, and those eleven years of monopoly are as much their estate, as any private property in England; to incroach upon it in any way, would be such a violation of faith as would be the death blow to our credit as a nation. We are not ignorant of Mr. Pitt’s partiality to innovation; he abhors the beaten track, as unworthy of a genius so inventive; but let him practise his experiments in any thing but finance. There is but one means of preserving the credit of a nation and an individual; and it is become an English maxim to be open and fair in your dealings.’

From the Morning Chronicle, Oct. 15, 1796:—
‘At length Mr. Boyd’s committee for circulating medium have digested their plan, and it is regularly to be proposed to the Minister, and if they gain his consent, to parliament. The outlines of it is that the Corporation of the Bank of England shall be permitted to increase their capital 2,000,000l. each proprietor

prietor having leave to subscribe the sum in proportion to his present stock, and which he will be eager to do, we suppose, on account of the advantage it will present to him; and from the enlarged capital it is expected they shall increase their advantage in favour of trade. Whether the Committee mean to demand from Mr. Pitt, in order to give efficiency to this measure, that he shall not drain the Bank, or inundate the market with paper, we know not; but it is certain without some restraint upon Ministers of this kind, or without a change of Ministry all these expedients will only be to furnish him with new resources to go on in a wasteful expence without estimate. Nor is it merely that his new system opens the door to uncontrolled dissipation, but it disappoints the very end which this committee has in view; for how can trade expect to borrow money at 5l. per cent. when the Minister makes the nation pay 15l.? The Bank may be liberal, and we believe they have been so; but it is obvious, that all the aid they give is swallowed up in navy bills, and every spirit of commercial enterprise checked, except the contracts for the state, where the discounts are added to the price of the commodity.

From the Morning Herald, Oct. 22, 1796.

COMMERCIAL REGULATION.

A committee of merchants, we are informed, waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Directors of the Bank, regarding the want of an increased quantity of circulating medium to aid the commercial concerns of the kingdom. The following plans have been proposed, viz. That the navy and victualling bills, and other floating paper, be funded immediately; that the Bank increase their capital two millions, and issue six millions extraordinary in discounting fair mercantile bills; that any person may mortgage to the Bank, estates, public funds, and any solid securities, and during the existence of such mortgage shall have fair mercantile bills discounted

discounted to such amount, over and above the usual sum employed by the Bank in discount; that the bankers of London, Westminster, and parts adjacent, shall be authorized by parliament to form a company for a limited time, and in consequence of each mortgaging to the body of bankers solid property, each shall issue notes of that firm to such amount, in discount of fair mercantile bills, and that such shall for a limited time be deemed in law good and proper payment of any kind or sort whatsoever.

From Mr. Pitt's speech in the House of Commons, 29th October, 1796.—The Chancellor of the Exchequer rose to make the motion that a proposal had been made at a meeting of the merchants and bill holders two days ago, when the 3 per cents. were at 58l. the 4 per cents. at 75l. and the 5 per cents. at 88l. The nature of the proposals was, that all navy, victualling, and transport bills, which were dated August, September, and October, should be funded in the 3 per cents. at one half below the price of stock upon the day when the proposal was made; the 4 per cents. at 75½l. and the 5 per cents. at 85½l. He would not trouble the committee by going through a particular statement of the difference of the bonus, but it was somewhat higher than in proportion to the difference in the funds; the average price was a bonus of 1¼ on the 3 per cents. 1¾ on the 4 per cents. and 2¼ on the 5 per cents. Besides these, he had provided for 2,500,000l. exchequer bills, by allowing them to fund in the 3 per cents. at 56l. 10s. The committee was to observe his plan was to relieve the public credit, and give a free circulation of money.

Mr. Hussey remarked, that navy and transport bills had been always considered as so much ready money given; the discount on them was from 14l. to 15l. per cent. Now if we look into and take the 3 per cent. consols at 57½l. the loss to the public would be 6l. 2s. If they were invested in the 5 per

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cents.

cents, Mr. H. hoped the Minister would state what the public were to pay for these twelve millions.

The Chancellor declared that Mr. Hufsey had taken him on unfair ground, taking the rate of discount as if the whole had accrued a discount. He lamented that any of them should be at so high a rate of interest. In future it would be desirable to adopt some method to avoid the accruing of such interest; but since it was done, it must now be paid. It was not right to injure the original plan on which these bills were issued; but what plan would produce the most advantageous consequences to the public? Mr. Hufsey wishes to know what the average price the Chancellor now proposed would cost the public. Mr. Hufsey says, that such navy bill holders as obtained them at 14l. per cent. discount would fund their money at 49l. nearly nothing but paper being advanced. What he complained of was, that such a debt had been incurred, without provision being made for the payment of it, so that a loss so very considerable to the public might not have happened.

Mr. Fox's remarks on Mr. Pitt says, that he says the flourishing situation of the country. Mr. Fox says that it was impossible for every gentleman, whether in or out of Parliament, not to fix their attention to the general situation of the country, which, since the late regulations, had produced such enormous discounts on navy bills as 14l. or 15l. per cent. Mr. Fox then proceeded to animadvert on the different classes of the bills, according to the proposed regulation and agreements, and observed, that with regard to those bills which would become payable on the 12th of December, and which might be funded in the 5l. per cents, that, besides the interest accruing, they would receive 100l. capital for what was worth about 86l. the discount to which being added, it appears they would receive for that short period a bonus of 6l. 10s. which, upon the whole, he calculated

lated would amount to the enormous interest of 103l. per cent. per annum.

I cannot follow Mr. Fox, as I do not know the time the bills had to run. It is sufficient to say the country had got into such a situation. Parliament had no right to force the bill-holders to any other terms than they themselves approved of. Mr. Fox declared that, for one, he was much inclined to enquire how the country came into such a situation. He acknowledged the nature of the debt was changed by funding from 4l. per cent. to 3l. 18s. per cent. circulating medium. *Morning Chronicle, 31 October, 1796.*

Mr. Pitt has at last condescended to attempt an explanation of his novel and extraordinary proposition, that our national prosperity is the real cause of our national embarrassment; or, as he more minutely explains it, that the national wealth, owing to the late rapid increase, has become so, that there exist not in the country means of circulating it; the sharks have swallowed so many of the small fish, that they cannot digest them, and yet are wanting more; and this deficiency in our circulating medium is the cause of our present difficulties. Of this supposed increase of riches he stated two proofs; first, the flourishing state of our revenue, secondly, the extent of our commerce, and consequent opulence of our merchants. That the reader may have an accurate view of the ratio in which our revenue denotes, by the increase, the augmentation of our capital, we extract from the papers before Parliament the annual produce of the old taxes since the year 1792:

From 1792 to 1793	£ 14,284,295
1793 to 1794	13,813,290
1794 to 1795	13,674,892
1795 to 1796	13,138,727
1796 — 1797	12,798,327

With respect to the prosperity of our commerce, and the extended opulence of our merchants; if we are rightly informed concerning the contents of the addresses to his Majesty's privy council from the merchants from Exeter, and other places, the energy of their complaints creates a very different impression; but indeed we know of no extension of any branch of our commerce, except that which is carried on in Change Alley, and occasioned by Mr. Pitt's increased and increasing manufacture of three, four, and five per cents. navy, victualling, transport, treasury, and exchequer bills.

Can he really be so blind, as not to see in this the real source of our calamities and embarrassments? Can he be ignorant that this derangement in the natural order of our expences, is the obvious cause of our difficulties; that the circulating medium drawn from the natural implements, the circulation of raw materials and manufactures, and engrossed by the forced circulation of the securities he has thrown into the market, is the foundation of the scarcity of which he complains? This is a calamity that must daily increase our difficulties, and accelerate the diminution of our riches, for there is no parallel to be drawn from the circulation of other commodities to that of omnium or exchequer bills. Where a manufacturer has a quick sale for his goods to the merchant, the merchant to the shopkeeper, and the shopkeeper to the customer, this enlivens industry, gives new encouragement to the first dealer, and makes him produce more and better commodities of the same species; but what are the productions we owe to Change Alley, or even what consumption, except that of coffee, pens, ink, and paper, we have not yet learned.

We have often experienced Mr. Pitt's presumptuous confidence in his talents of persuasion, but we cannot believe that even he fancies that by a few vapouring sentences he can have persuaded any order of

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men that the capital of the country has increased in its riches of late. Will the stockholder who recollects in his books a capital in the 3 per cents, amounting to 96,000l. and now sees it reduced in a few years to 58,000l. become with ease a profelyte to this new doctrine; or can any man believe it, who looks at the following plain statement of the diminution of one branch of our capital? Hence comes the calculations in which the writer says he proves a loss of 95,647,648l. As to the statement of figures proving the difference, no doubt but the writer is right; but it is not an object of consequence enough to examine, as he is totally wrong in his reasons on the subject, which I mean to prove in a future page.

'Again,' says the writer, 'It is to us a more serious object of regret than so strong a proof of the diminution of our national wealth, at such a moment to have a minister of finance so ignorant and uninformed as not to be ashamed of having recourse to such an old refuted subterfuge as this paradox about his circulating medium. Did the compass of our paper permit, we could trace the pretence to the mouth of every adventurer in finance, from the time of Law to the present moment, and we could refute it in such a manner as to exhibit to the public in a strong and lamentable point of view the folly of those who have now brought it forward, consistent however, with the narrow limits in which we are forced to treat the question, we cannot do it more justice than by quoting the following passage from a work long ago published, by one of the most celebrated writers on political economy.' This quotation being in the French language, it would be but a stumbling-block to nineteen readers out of twenty, or even the readers of newspapers; but to continue the plain English, the writer says: 'We have dwelt so long on his ministerial whim, because there are many who begin to think that as Mr. Pitt despairs after his numerous experiments of augmenting the circulating

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medium

medium, so as to render it adequate to the proper distribution of the supposed increased riches of the country, he has it in contemplation to restore the proportion by a judicious diminution of the capital; and that as the last confiding parliament added 100 millions to our debt to support the minister's old prejudices, the confidence of the present will be exerted to a similar extent in maintaining his new conceits; so that the nation have ultimately to regret, that betwixt the complimentary sacrifices of their representatives to the minister's aversion to practical experiments abroad, and the love of new theory at home, it positively will be loaded with an additional payment of 10,000,000l. —

Quere, I suppose he meant annually.

We have said, that the most lavish bargain ever Mr. Pitt made, from the first moment that he commenced his career in finance, by conciliating the money-lenders in 1784 in the funding of navy bills, came infinitely short of the job with which he is now striving to make his court to the directors of public corporations, and other capitalists in the city. Not to fatigue our readers with long calculations, we will put it into a short and perspicuous point of view. In September last a person for 85l. bought a navy bill of 100l. and for this bill with its interest up to the 12th of December, he is to receive in the 3 per cents. for ever $\pounds 175$ 15 0

Suppose he had bought in the 3 per cent. consols, taking them at the same time, his 85l. would have produced him only $\pounds 147$ 13 0

Bonus to the holder of navy bills on 85l. for three months $\pounds 28$ 0 0

It is certain, that this bonus does not apply to all the four classes, but the average of the discount for the last seven months is somewhat above $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from the following prices:

In

In April the discount was	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
May	— 4 $\frac{3}{4}$
June	— 6 $\frac{3}{4}$
July	— 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
August	— 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
September	15
October	13

Now taking the amount of navy bills to be issued at that time to be 7,000,000l. only, the discount alone to be shared amongst the holders, will form an addition to the capital of our debt, besides the interest of 4l. per cent. up to the 12th of December of 600,000l. which converted into 3 per cents. at 57l. (which is also the average) will form a capital with the interest of more than one million, and this is the transaction of seven months only. The objections of Mr. Boyd to funding the navy only until the 15th of December, had their force with the minister; and the public thus pay an additional interest from the 18th of October to the 12th of December next of 70,000l. on twelve millions of navy, making a capital of 120,000l. in the 3 per cent. consols for ever. The fact is, that what is funded in the 3 per cents. bears interest from July last, and the navy holder receives interest on his bills till the 12th of December next; so that they receive, and the public pay a double interest.

It is a curious and remarkable fact, that the navy debt, through the whole American war, up to the year 1782, amounted only to the sum of 11,318,450l. and we find that Mr. Pitt's navy debt amounts in one year to 11,093,167l. 19s. 6d.; so that in one year Mr. Pitt squandered above six hundred thousand pounds more than Lord North spent in seven years. Yet this is the economical minister, of whom Mr. Burke says, that if ever the finances of this nation can be retrieved, Mr. Pitt is the man to retrieve them. We knew not how Mr. Burke had made up

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his mind to this assertion; until Simkin, in his poetical version of the pamphlet, solved the difficulty:

“Indeed, says friend Simkin, if there liveth a man
Of talents sufficient, our Minister can
Provided his powers of saving and mending
Correspond with his powers of destroying and
spending.”

The foregoing extracts are taken in order to prove the weak reasoning of Opposition to the minister's measures respecting finance, and the folly of wishing their leader to be at the head of that precipice, where the foundation is so narrow and rotten as to be expected every moment to tumble into a Pitt? What then can be done by Mr. Fox, or any other minister, without an entire new system of finance?

The editor of the Morning Chronicle of the 16th of April 1796, tells us that ‘the Bank of England has eleven years to come of their charter, and that the least incroachment on it would be the death-blow to our credit as a nation.’ Indeed he might as well have talked of giving the death-blow to a man, by firing a shot through his head, seven years after he had been nailed up in his coffin. When the Bank of England commenced contracts that were usurious and extortionate, it was then that the death-blow was struck to the nation's and their own credit.

In the next instance, he blames Mr. Pitt for not following the beaten track. Though it is true that any track was better than Mr. Pitt's, yet what would have been the difference in following the old beaten track? The destruction of the national credit, to which we are now arrived, would have taken a little more time. I recommend the writer to look into the Commissioners' Accounts, published in the year 1786, and my remarks on the same subject, in the Guardian of Public Credit, published in 1788, and he will there see what destruction was made on the national credit by the Bank, by pursuing the old beaten track.

He

He remarks in the same paragraph, that there is but one way of preserving the credit of a nation and that of an individual. Does he not know what care an established law of the land has taken to protect and save the individual, by severe penalties on usury and extortion? yet he does not think the public entitled to the benefit of those laws; the destruction was effected for the want of it.

Again, the 15th of October 1796, he says ‘the Bank of England shall be permitted to increase their capital two millions.’ As the cry from this bulwark of national credit, and all the opulent bankers, is the want of cash, how is this addition to take place, but by a new coinage of two millions worth of paper?

Again, he says, ‘No doubt but they will readily come into it, on account of the advantages, the proprietors are each to have a share, in proportion to their present stock.’ Admitting this addition of stock to take place by paper coinage, and the stock worth 150 per cent, the subscribers immediately increase their own fortunes one million in consequence of this new coinage of paper being added to their capital. The writer wishes to know whether Mr. Pitt wants to inundate the market with paper. What market can he mean—a pig-market, or paper-market? as there can be no money-market without cash. Can he be so blind as not to see there is no such thing as money for the market he speaks of? This market differs as much from a money-market, as a market of fine new linen would from a market of rags; but if parliament will continue to vote such supplies, how is the minister to go on with the accursed business of the war, but with additional paper coinage?

Surely it is wrong for Mr. Fox's friends to advise him to take upon himself the management of the finances of the country on its present foundation, to ease Mr. Pitt of a burthen of which the country can never be relieved without an entire new system. Most assuredly

uredly Mr. Fox had better be any thing than Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the present insupportable foundation. His friends must be insane to persuade him to it, as no doubt but the rotten fabric must soon give way, without an entire new system; as the circulating cash will not be sufficient to pay the extended army and navy that is now proposed; and though Mr. Fox was not the original instrument or cause of the approaching disaster, he had better be any thing than Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The paragraph writer gives Mr. Boyd credit for having in his views the relief of trade. Let him look at Mr. Boyd's conduct respecting contracts for loans, and compare with his own opinion respecting Mr. Boyd's views, and he will find himself a short reasoner; and when he said the minister makes the public pay 15 per cent. if he had included principal and interest, he might have as well said 50 per cent.—The Bank of England (he says) may have been liberal, and we believe they have been so; but before he had ventured on this assertion, he should have looked into the Commissioners' Accounts published in 1786, and my remarks in the Guardian of Public Credit, published in 1788, and I have no doubt but he would have formed a better judgment of their liberality.

Is it possible that Mr. Fox or his friends could be so short-sighted, as to suppose he could be supported by all the aid he could obtain from the Bank of England? I wish them to be convinced;—and suppose the Bank of England to have a run of a shilling in the pound on all their notes in circulation, we should find that not only their own coffers would be drained, but every drawer through Lombard-street, the city, and environs—even Mr. Boyd, the contractor for waggon loads of guineas. How can it be otherwise, when we know that a capital of cash of ten millions, the utmost that hath been in circulation for any one time, hath accumulated to five hundred millions of stock.

Mr. Fox, supposing he takes the lead in financing, has a debt of five hundred millions to provide for, which has burthened the labours of the people to the very utmost, and will want new funding, to pay the interest every year. How then is it possible that he or any other minister can go on, without a radical reform in finance? The whole of the land in the kingdom is worth no more than five hundred millions. Taking the annual land-tax at an average of two millions, and the average per cent. at two shillings in the pound, at twenty-five years purchase, it is worth no more than five hundred millions. The two millions annual land-tax is not sufficient to pay his Majesty's civil list, and Mr. Pitt and his friends. The whole burthen of annual interest, amounting to fifteen millions, must come out of the profits of trade, and the labour of the people; of which the present taxes swallow up three farthings out of every penny, nine pence out of every shilling, and fifteen shillings out of every pound; so that the labouring people are now starving on the produce of the fourth and last farthing. Yet on the credit of this Mr. Pitt is attempting to make new mortgages to an astonishing amount, and considerable new funding must take place every year in a peace establishment, to pay arrears of interest for sums unprovided for, and nothing to increase the revenue, but paper coinage.

What a Don Quixote windmill-fighting piece of business has Mr. Fox to engage in! Let them consider but for a moment, and they must see that nothing can be done to support the credit of the country, but a new system of finance, a compromise between debtor and creditor, and an annihilation of the winding practice of stock-jobbing. But how does Mr. Fox treat the subject, I mean the circumstance of Mr. Pitt's having added near two hundred millions?—Just as though the creditor had lain down guineas for these enormous contracts. It is astonishing that the

the very idea should be imposed on the public; not ten millions of specie could have gone through the hands of the loan-monger in any one year, notwithstanding all this, twenty millions are contracted for, and another twenty millions in another six months, if called upon by the minister; and no doubt, if the paper-market was not so glutted, twenty millions might be brought forward every month. For this straw-like security the people have an extravagant interest to pay, and if Mr. Pitt could possibly screw so much out of the people, from 50l. to 100l. per cent. premium, witness his conduct, as money borrowed by himself in the year 1785 produced no more at the rate of 3 per cent. than 55l. a profit of 70l. on 100l. sterling, as has been fairly proved in this work.

As I pledged myself to the public that this should not be a party pamphlet, I have again to charge Mr. Fox and his friends for short reasoning on this important business, I mean the support of national credit; I am sorry to find too much reason to doubt their sincerity. Did Mr. Fox or his friends ever complain that the fluctuating money funding system was a bad one, or did they ever enter into the merits of this important business, so as to prove that the involvement of the nation respecting its extravagant debt prior to Mr. Pitt's funding, was occasioned by extortionate and usurious contracts; and that the Commissioners' Accounts in the year 1786 proves a debt contracted for the public in long annuities to the amount of 1,193,674l. 7s. 3d. This sum is to be paid annually, the principal part of it from 70 to 98 years, and for which the Commissioners say that no money was ever received? Did they ever complain of near 200,000l. being paid annually to the Bank of England for management, and that the said charge for management is now increased to 300,000l. though the same business might be done and handsomely paid for at the expence of 15,000l. and the sums or saving, including the above 1,193,674l. 7s. 3d. with its com-

pound interest, prior to Mr. Pitt's funding, would have been sufficient to have discharged the whole of the then principal debt in the course of forty-three years, and without an additional shilling in new taxes. Did Mr. Fox or his friends ever complain of Mr. Pitt's first usurious contract with the Bank of England, that securities were given by Mr. Pitt in the 5 per cents for 1,124,709l. 12s. as a douceur, and for which neither money nor paper was received?

Did they ever complain that six millions had been wasted of the public money by Mr. Pitt, from the year 1786 to the year 1794, in order to continue the deception of lessening the funded debt, and that if the rotten fabrick of national credit could be supported, eighty millions must be paid on a debt funded by Mr. Pitt, for which no money had been received? Did he ever complain of Mr. Pitt's subterfuge in changing the nature of the Emperor's loan in that new-fangled form that it would produce no more than 4l. 10s. 8d. per cent. when converted into the 3 per cents. which were then at 63l. making a douceur of 50l. per cent. to the subscribers; and that if ever it was intended the Emperor should pay, would not the nature and enormity of the contract be a sufficient reason for his refusing to pay? for if he had the benefit of our own laws, he certainly would be justified in refusing to pay.

The terms of the two loans, when connected together, produced a profit of 14l. 1rs. Provided the stock had been sold at the price of the day, the total profits would have amounted to considerably more than three millions sterling; but our cunning man, in order to make the loan more palatable for this country, allows the subscribers to the Emperor's loan for every 100l. in the 3 per cents! 83l. 6s. 8d. and an annuity of 5l. per annum for 25 years, profits by interest bearing date before the subscriptions were completed 6l. by commission and discount 4l. so that no more than 90l. per cent,

cent. could be received into the exchequer. It hath been proved in page 24, that if the whole of the contract for the Emperor's loan had been converted into the 3 per cents. no more than 41l. 10s. 8d. was received in lieu of the securities for 100l. in the 3 per cents. Quere, then, what securities must have been given in our 3 per cents. to raise 100l. for the Emperor?

For 100	41	10	8	3 per cents.	100	0
For 100	41	10	8	Ditto	100	0
For 100	16	18	8	Ditto	40	17
					100	0
					240	17

So that a subscriber for 100l. in the Emperor's loan obtained securities in our 3 per cents. to the amount of 240l. 17s.

Total amount of securities in the 3 per cents. given by this country to raise 4,800,000l. for the Emperor:

100	0	4,800,000
100	0	4,800,000
40	17	1,960,000
240		17

11,560,000 proportion of securities in our 3 per cents. and for which this country is bound to pay, in order to obtain 4,800,000l. for the Emperor. Most assuredly an appeal to our own laws would exonerate the Emperor from ever paying a shilling. But what cares the loan-monger and stock-jobber, when he thinks he has got John Bull by the horns to this extravagant swindling business? Have Opposition ever entered into the merits of the business, or even complained?

Mr. Burke endeavours to support these practices, by saying that if ever the finances of this nation can be retrieved, Mr. Pitt is the man to retrieve them. It is

is a pity that Mr. Burke's friends do not persuade him to stop writing; unless he believed his own assertions, or could persuade any body else to believe them. This Mr. Burke is the man that spoke and wrote so brilliantly in the praise of religion; what a pity he should, at the decline of life, have bartered his opinion for the sake of the additional luxury he may have probably to enjoy for a few years.

Opposition have omitted to notice that a capital of fifteen millions of specie hath acquired mortgages on the profits of industry to the amount of five hundred millions, and chiefly by shuffling paper from hand to hand; of this bonus we may charge the Bank of England with a profit of four millions annually, for notes they have in circulation. No notice of this has been taken by Opposition. After all this what a poor prospect must we have of their sincerity!

I have an instance to produce of penalties on usury and extortion in individual cases. I lived in a neighbourhood in the west of England where a man began business in the sale of grutts and salt, with a capital of one thousand pounds; with his surplus profits he lent his distressed neighbours on usurious contracts, which soon increased his capital to an incredible amount, and of course brought his distressed neighbours to a state of beggary. An instance and a proof of his usury came across me, and I immediately commenced an action on the statute, and recovered damages. The late Judge Nares, who tried the cause, (a gentleman as much famed for rectitude as any other man in his high station) addressed the special jury nearly in the following words:—Gentlemen, I consider the subject before us as of the utmost importance to the most opulent and trading part of this great commercial country. You are not to consider the trifling amount of the usury, but that it is opening a field for the indulgence of avarice; which would be likely to know no bounds. In the natural course of business

business there are frequently men that have a solid property, but it is not always in their power to turn their merchandize into cash; of course, necessity drives him to the monied man, and he must be supplied. If this man was left to the mercy of the usurer, the production of all his toil would be swallowed up; and in a short time the whole of his property together; and notwithstanding industry, and even penury, the industrious man must become a poor man. But the wisdom of the legislature hath thought fit to step in, and lay such restraints between the monied man, the merchant, and the tradesman, that each shall have a reasonable share in the profits.

How reverse hath been the conduct of our leaders, between public debtor and creditor; by their injudicious conduct, during the whole of the present reign in particular, the kingdom is absolutely ruined, on account of no regard being paid to the salutary laws against usury and extortion. What can a profligate Administration say in their own defence? or what can Opposition say, to vindicate their short reasoning on so important a business?

When the present King came to the crown the following was the amount of the debt and annual interest: Total of the debt 75,137,926l. 14s. 2d. Annual interest 2,419,313l. 17s. 10d. By the time the whole of Mr. Pitt's incumbrances are brought in, the debt will be increased at least to 500,000,000l. bearing an annual interest of 15,000,000l. and upwards; so that a capital increase of the principal has taken place of considerably more than 400,000,000l. and an increase in interest of considerably more than 12,000,000l. Can we be surprized at the increased price of all the necessaries of life? 20,240,000l. was funded in the second year of the present reign; how much of this debt was contracted before the present reign I do not know, but this I do know, that the capital debt hath been increased more than four hundred

hundred millions, and the annual interest more than twelve millions, and all in the reign of the 'best of kings.' Since William the Conqueror we have had thirty-three crowned heads, twenty-nine of whom were males; and what a happiness it was the former twenty-eight were not all 'the best of kings!' Sir Robert Walpole was pretty right, when he said the nation would not bear a greater burthen than one hundred millions, for it was really the fact, provided the paper circulating medium had not increased so rapidly.

TRADING COMPANIES, 1795.

DIRECTORS OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

Giles, Daniel, Governor	Mathew, Job
Raikes, Tho. Dep. Gov.	Melluish, William
Beauchamp, Samuel	Neave, Sir Richard
Bochim, Roger	Nutt, Joseph
Boddingham, Thomas	Osborn, Isaac
Bosanquet, Samuel	Peters, George
Champion, Alexander	Simon, Edward
Coney, Bicknell	Thelluffon, Peter Isaac
Darrell, Edward	Thornton, Godfrey
Dorrien, George	Thornton, Samuel
Harman, Jeremiah	Weyland, Mark
Lewis, Thomas	Whitmore, John
Long, Beeston	Winthrop, Benjamin

26 Bank Directors.—24 East-India Directors.

BANKERS IN LONDON.

Anderson, John and Alexander, 17 Philpot-lane
 Ayton, Brassey, Lee, and Strathwaite, 71 Lombard-street
 Brassey and Tritton, 56 Lombard-street
 Barnett, Hoare, Hill, and Barnett, 62 Lombard-st.
 Biddulph, Cox, and Ridge, 43 Charing-Cross
 Birch, Chambers, and Hobbs, 152 New Bond-street
 Bond, John and Son, 2 Exchange-Alley

F.

Boldero,

Boldero, Addington, Lushington, and Boldero, 30
Cornhill
Botham, Peter, 8 Old-Jewry
Castle, Powell, Summers, and Wilson, 66 Lombard-
street
Child and Co. 1 Fleet-street
Couch, Thomas and Co. 59 Strand
Cox, Merle, and Co. 2 Cox's-court, Little-Britain
Croft, Devaynes, Dawes, and Noble, 39 Pall-Mall
Dennis, Snow, Senbys, and Co. 217 Strand
Devesnie, Cuthbert, Marsh, Creed, and Co. 61
Berner-street
Dimfdales and Barnards, 50 Cornhill
Dorrington, Mellow, Martin, and Harrison, 22
Finch-lane
Dorset, Johnson, Wilkinson, and Berners, 68 Bond-
street
Down, Thornton, Free, and Cornwall, 1 Bartholo-
mew-lane
Drummonds and Co. 49 Charing-Cross
Edwards, Smith, and Templar,
Eldaile, Wright, Hammet, and Co. 21, Lombard-str.
Foster, Lubbec, Bosanquet, and Co. 11 Manchester-
street
Fullers and Chaltree, 24 Lombard-street
Fullers and Vaughan, 84 Cornhill
Glover, Edwards, Cross, and Benbow, 79 Lombard-
street***
Glynn, Mills, and Mitton, 12 Birchin-lane
Goslings and Sharp, 19 Fleet-street
Hankeys, Chaplin, and Hall, 7 Fenchurch-street
Harcourt, Blake, Sanson, Coastalwaite, and Tanner,
65 Lombard-street
Harley, Cameron, and Son, George-street, Mansion-
house
Herries, Sir Robert and Co. 16 St. James's-street
Hoares, Fleet-street
Jones, Daniel, Baker, Lloyd, and Co. 43 Lothbury
Ladbrook,

Ladbroke, Rawlinson, Ladbroke, Parker, and Wat-
son, Bank-Buildings
Langston, Towgood, and Amory, 29 Clement's-lane
Lefevre, Currie, Yellowley, and Raikes, 29 Cornhill
Lockharts, Maxton, Wallis, and Clark, 34 Pall-Mall
Martin, Stone, and Foot, 68 Lombard-street
Masters, Dawson, Brooks, Kirton, and Dixon, Chan-
cery-lane
Middleton, Johnson, and Wedgwood, 18 Stratford-
place
Masterman, Peters, Walker, and Middleton, 2 White-
Hart-court, Gracechurch-street
Maddox, Hodfell, and Michael, near Catherine-
street, Strand
Moffat, Kennington, and Styer, 20 Lombard-street
Newman, Anderson, and Lynn, 83 Cornhill
Newman, Havert, Drummond, and Tibbets, 9 Man-
sion-House-street
Nightingales, 70 Lombard-street***
Ransom, Morland, and Hammersley, 57, Pall-Mall
Roberts, Curtis, Ware, Hornihold, Berwick, and
Co. 35 Cornhill
Saunders, Harrison, Pricket, and Newman, Mansion-
House-street
Prescott, Grote, Colverden, and Hollingsworth,
Threadneedle-street
Pybus, Cole, Grant, and Holl, 148 Old-Bond-street
Sykes, Smith, and Smyth, Mansion-House-street
Smyth, Paine, and Smyth, George-street, Mansion-
House
Smyth and Co. 6, Old-Broad-street
Smith, Son, and Co. 73 Lombard-street
Staples and Co. 79 Cornhill***
Stephenson, Batson, Remington, and Smith, 69
Lombard-street
Taylor, Lloyd, Bowman, Hanber, and Co. 60 Lom-
bard-street
Wilpole, Walpole, Clark, and Siffon, 28, Lombard-st
F 2 Walwyn,

Walwyn, Petrie, Ward, and George, 150 New-Bond-street

Welch, Rogers, Holding, and Rogers, 3 Freeman's-court, Cornhill

Whiteheads, 5 Basinghall-street

Wilkinson, Wilks, Dickinson, Goodall, and Fisher, 33 Poultry

Wilkinson, Polhill, Bloxham, Pinhorn, and Bullock, Southwark

Williams, Son, and Drury, 20 Birchin-lane

Wells, Wood, Percival, and Clark, 76 Lombard-str.

Wright, Selby, and Robinson, 5 Henrietta-street, Covent-Garden

Vere, Luccadore, Troughton, Luccado, and Smart, 77 Lombard-street

It appears from the foregoing list of Bank-Directors, India Directors, private bankers in town and country, pensioners, and stock-jobbers, that not less than three thousand families are supported in every luxury, at the same time amassing the most enormous fortunes, on the spoils of the industrious part of the community; and their only utility is in shuffling paper from hand to hand! It is a most extraordinary circumstance to be considered, what can have become of the enormous profits obtained by the Bank of England; as no man that investigates the subject can say it is less than 40 per cent. per annum, and which is proved in page 42 of this pamphlet. What then becomes of the surplus—where is the vortex—in what channel does it run—where does it empty itself, and where are the locusts that swallow it? Who can tell so well as the Bank Directors?

The consequences of East-India merchandize being monopolized by a Company, are the commutation tax and an additional window-tax. The duties on tea were lowered, as a compensation for the above tax, which enabled the Company to lower the price to the consumer; but tea being an article so much in consumption,

sumption, they soon saw what effect their powers of monopoly must have on the necessitous public, and have brought it nearly to its original price; so that the additional duties on windows, instead of supporting the state, is swallowed up by this monopolizing Company. That necessary food rice, being an entire and an excellent substitute for bread in the East-Indies, and sold there at the moderate price of 6s. per hundred weight, or $\frac{3}{4}$ per pound, and in England at the Company's sales at 23s. per hundred weight or $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound, is another proof that none of the necessaries can be obtained on reasonable terms, when monopolized by an opulent Company. Among our new conquests we are boasting of the great additions to our spice-islands; but instead of the price of spices being lower, a nutmeg that used to be sold for three halfpence, now sells for sixpence.

There are sixty-nine private banking houses in London, three of which are become bankrupts within these two last years, (equal to thirty failures in twenty years) which must distress and deprive many respectable families of their property; a circumstance that cannot happen, provided the new system of finance takes place. It appears that the profits of banking are so extravagant, that the principals take no active part in the business, and have nothing more to do than study luxuries to spend their profits on. That this kind of conduct tends to increase the prices of the necessaries of life is too obvious for me to enter into particulars, but it is a fact that there are at least three thousand families rolling in gilded carriages drawn by high-fed horses, whose provisions, or the produce of the same land, would support great numbers of the industrious poor that are now wanting the necessaries of life. This mischief is supported by what Mr. Pitt calls the immense property of the country, paper circulating medium, which was scarcely known here, till within the present century. It commenced with

the Bank of England, and from thence it remained a long time in its infancy; for in the year 1743 bankers were of so little consequence, that they were not even mentioned in the court calendar for that year. It is since that period that we have had so much reason to complain of the intolerable increase of the price of every necessary of life; for without the extravagant increase of paper circulating medium, so much boasted of by Mr. Pitt, the merchants would not have ability to monopolize.

A General View of the Progress of the Public Revenue since the Conquest. By Sir John Sinclair.

William the Conqueror	—	£.400,000
William Rufus	—	350,000
Henry I.	—	300,000
Stephen	—	250,000
Henry II.	—	200,000
Richard I.	—	150,000
John	—	100,000
Henry III.	—	80,000
Edward I.	—	150,000
Edward II.	—	100,000
Edward III.	—	154,140
Richard II.	—	130,000
Henry IV.	—	100,000
Henry V.	—	76,643
Henry VI.	—	64,976
Edward IV.	}	100,000
Edward V.		
Richard III.		
Henry VII.	—	400,000
Henry VIII.	—	800,000
Edward VI.	—	400,000
Mary	—	450,000
Elizabeth	—	500,000
James		

James I.	—	£. 600,000
Charles I.	—	895,000
Commonwealth	—	1,517,247
Charles II.	—	1,800,000
James II.	—	2,001,855
William III.	—	3,895,205
Anne, at the Union	—	5,691,803
George I.	} including Scotland	6,762,643
George II.		8,522,540
George III.		15,572,971

Statement of the Sums laid out on Great Britain and Ireland.

Nett produce of the revenue	—	£. 17,000,000
Charges of management and collection	—	1,379,822
Counties and allowances	—	536,180
Poor rates and county expences	—	2,100,588
Charitable donations	—	258,710
Public Hospitals, including Greenwich	—	250,000
Turnpikes in Great Britain	—	500,000
Parochial assessments and statute labour	—	100,000
Income of English incorporate towns	—	500,000
Ditto of Scottish	—	100,000
Navigable rivers, canals, &c.	—	150,000
Lighting, watching, and paving the streets	—	200,000
Civil establishment in Scotland	—	100,000
Income and taxes of Ireland	—	2,000,000
Income of the clergy & lay impropriations	—	5,000,000
		30,175,300
Additional annual interest on the next peace	—	6,000,000
Considerable addition in army expences	—	
Management charged by the Bank of England, for payment of dividends, &c.	—	300,000

36,475,300

A General

A General View of the Number of Inhabitants and Public Revenues of the Principal States in Europe.

	Number of Inhabitants.	Revenue.
		£.
Turkey	18,000,000	5,000,000
Russia	24,000,000	5,800,000
Prussia	(I can't learn)	3,600,000
Sweden	3,300,000	1,000,000
Denmark & Norway	2,300,000	1,000,000
Holland	3,200,000	4,000,000
Austria & Netherlands	21,500,000	12,400,000
Emperor's German dominions		
Hanover		900,000
Saxony		1,100,000
Bavaria and Palatinate		1,100,000
France, before Revolution	26,000,000	18,000,000
Spain	7,400,000	5,000,000
Portugal	6,000,000	1,800,000
Sardinia	—	1,100,000
Sicily	—	1,400,000
Venice	—	1,000,000
		<u>66,200,000</u>
	Great Britain	36,425,300
Papal Revenue,	Roman Crowns.	
From the clergy	—	£. 100,000
Peter's pence	—	100,000
Subsidies	—	100,000
Ship money and customs	—	400,000
Horse tax	—	300,000
Post	—	6,000
Public pledge office	—	52,000
Chancery, &c.	—	600,000
Quadering de carn	—	160,000
Lights of Talfa	—	185,000
Bologna	—	720,000
Spoletto	—	10,000
Various others	—	1,717,000
		<u>4,500,000</u>

Simon Pope's Letter to Curtis, late Lord Mayor of London.

The whole of this letter is replete with flattery, want of information, want of sincerity and truth. Mr. Pope arrogates to this country the title of the emporium of the world, without a single proof of his knowing the situation of any other kingdom or state. If we are the richest, how is it that we find such immense wealth in Dutch and Spanish ships, when taken as prizes? And to what an astonishing increase is the trade of America, on account of their being so lightly loaded with taxes! Mr. Pope is most wonderfully liberal in his plaudits of his Lordship's generosity in entertainments, exceeding all others in public magnificence; he says his Lordship has been instrumental in lowering the price of bread; but he does not tell us, whether the extravagant expence was paid by his Lordship, or from the overflowing treasury of the corporation; who are now considering the most frugal means of borrowing 100,000l. to lend to Government; nor does he tell us in what way he has been instrumental in lowering the price of bread. Does he wish to refer us to his monopoly? Or can he prove that he was bountiful in rewarding the night-workers employed in emptying damaged corn into the Thames, occasioned by monopoly? Or can he prove that his Lordship ever sold three halfpenny cakes for a penny? His plaudits of the Minister are easily accounted for. An additional 200,000,000l. to the funded debt brings a pretty parcel of half crowns amongst the storks. This Mr. Simon finds to be a ready penny, though the principal be never paid. He charges Mr. Paine with a miserable detail of Dr. Price's errors; but how does he account for the heaven-born Minister's making use of the very worst of them? People that complain of a debt of 500,000,000l. he compares to croaking vermin; but, Simon may depend on it, the eyes

eyes of the people are opening, and the day is not far distant, that, when your stock-brokers and stock-jobbers will look as much like toads upon pitch-forks as the present oppressed multitude that he now treats with so much contempt. He says, the supplies are amply provided for; but he does not tell us the provision is paper. He tells us of the licentiousness of the press, because we complain of this swindling iniquity, which draws from the profits of the people's labour 15,000,000l. annually in hard cash to support the table of Faro. This, with a peace establishment, is a sum equal to three farthings in the penny of the amount of all the profits of their labour, on which Simon and the stock-jobbing swindlers riot in every luxury; and, no doubt, like the liberal fat rector from the pulpit, recommend to the hands of industry bread, water, straw, and contentment, though neither bread nor straw are easily obtained. He insults the public, by saying that the resources are more productive than the expenditure. He says, if there was any deficiency, individuals would soon see. Individuals have seen, and do now see. Witness the late Dr. Price, Mr. Paine, and myself, with many others. But where is the use of foresight, when the hands of fraudulent chicanery are so numerous and powerful? But I hope and believe this race of iniquity is nearly run down.

Why did the French insolvency take place, which Simon treats with so much contempt, but because the multitude, during their absolute monarchy, would not suffer themselves to be swindled out of the profits of their labour by stock-jobbers? At the present time, I am told, they have inflicted the punishment of death, at least passed a law, that the gallows is to be the portion of stock-jobbers. Simon should consider a law in England like this may soon bring him and some of his fraternity to croaking.

In his 12th page he says, 'Look into the transfer books, and you will find that 19,125,300 l. by an overflow

overflow of the revenue, purchased by a sum of '14,350,847 l. 6s. 6d.' How dares he insult the public with such an impudent falsity! Let us look into the stock books, and we shall find that at the rate of 200,000,000l. on the average of 3l. per cent. have been funded, or must be so, before Mr. Pitt's expenditure is provided for. (Master Simon should be told that this is additional.) And if we examine the price of money bought and sold by the Minister, we shall find that 7,000,000l. have been wasted of the public money, in order to carry on the deception of lessening the debt. Note, that 45l. 16s. 8d. per cent. was paid by premium on all the money borrowed and paid by Mr. Pitt, from Jan. 1786, to Feb. 1794. This is the effect on the public of political chicanery. Look at the estimate in his pamphlet. And yet he has the audacity to say that Mr. Pitt hath relieved the people by his care. Wicked Simon! there is not a grain of modesty or truth in his assertion. He says, it is much to be lamented that the lower orders of the community have not a capacity to discover fallacies imposed on their senses. It is to be lamented; and the only circumstance that caused the stock-jobbing chicanery to have run such an extensive course. Our intelligent stock-broker tells us, that we may content ourselves, that a great part of our earnings is spent in luxury and extravagance, and therefore we may easily reconcile the impositions. Now every thinking man must know that every description of wasteful extravagance is an additional cause of scarcity. If wasteful extravagance was sufficient to excuse the plunderer in high life, why not the thief in low life? Few of them would find any difficulty in proving their extravagance, if it would save them from the gallows.

He says, that every member of the state is bound, in common justice, to contribute proportional to his situation. Does the stockjobber or loan-monger, do those that make their 100,000l. the profit of the day, who, to the end of his life, from that day's work alone,

alone, may roll in his gilded equipage, and feed himself with every luxury, at the expence of the labour of the starving poor? Simon seems to extend his ideas relative to the increased riches of the country, on account of the great profits arising from goods imported from India. He may prove the India Company's importations are immensely great, and their profits are extravagant; but as they are sold to, paid for, and consumed by, the inhabitants of this country, how does it appear that the riches of this country are increased by importations from India? But from this circumstance alone he values the increased riches of the country, to the amount of hundreds of millions. In his 43d page he says, 'The minister brings forward his loans, and, whatever their magnitude, they are amply provided for.' But how are they provided for? By the loan-monger, with new coinage of paper, (Master Simon should be taught this is no proof of stability) but new mortgages on the labour of the people, as the people must find hard cash to pay the most extravagant and usurious interest.

In the same page he says, there are four hundred and eleven banking-houses, in town and country; that each must have a capital of 100,000l. to carry on their business, without which they could not exist, and he estimates their property to be 41,100,000l. But if he wishes to strike a fair balance, the whole of this extravagant increase of property will be found wanting.

Respecting the property of bankers, which you estimate at 41,100,000l. of this estimate, you must give up the total, as the whole of the country business in banking is carried on by the bankers notes and their customers cash; and I believe the town business much by the same means. I knew a house in the country that were in the habits of making profits to the amount of sixteen thousand pounds per annum, and their principal clerk acknowledged the proprietors had not a guinea of their own money employed in it these last twenty years—the discounts,

con-

consisting of the cash of their customers, and their own notes, coined for the purpose of discounting. Such circumstances as these are general throughout the kingdom. So that if Mr. Pope can be guided by facts, he must give up the 41,100,000l. that he claims as the riches of the nation, as the property of the bankers.

Thus Mr. Pitt's funding 200,000,000l. and the unaccountable riches of the merchants, Mr. Pope values at 4,000,000,000l. which, by a just estimate, will be found no more than one fourth part of the sum; as the land-tax of the kingdom, when you average the tax at two shillings in the pound, and at twenty-five years purchase, is worth 500,000,000l. Cash and chattels are not likely to exceed that sum. Therefore one thousand millions must be the extent of the value of this kingdom.

Mr. Pope says that twenty millions annually is pregnant with no alarm, and that it is only one shilling in the pound, on eleven millions six hundred and sixty-five thousand four hundred and forty pounds, paid annual interest. Mr. Pope might as well have charged us with the whole we have to pay, which cannot be now less than fifteen millions annually for interest.

But, Master Pope may be asked, how comes it that the poors' rates are as much complained of, though the annual amount is but a little more than two millions. The payers complain that it amounts to four shillings, some say five, and others as much as six shillings in the pound; and yet Mr. Pope says, that 11,665,440l. is not more than one shilling in the pound. Are stock-jobbers and stock-brokers so much ashamed of the truth, that they will mix none with their writings? I have been told that our heaven-born Minister spoke the truth for once. It has been reported that he should say, he would spend every guinea in the kingdom rather than the war should

should end. In fact it hath been spent more than once.

Simon might have congratulated his Majesty on being the richest prince in Europe, or the world—for I believe he is so. I can account for his being worth twenty millions. In the year 1760 his grandfather left him four millions, which alone must have produced the sum I give him credit for, by compound interest.

In 15 years 4 millions must amount to	£. 8,000,000
In 15 years 8 millions, compound inter.	16,000,000
6 years 16 ditto, considerably more than	4,000,000
36 years accumulation, with compound interest on four millions	20,000,000

This statement must be admitted, supposing his Majesty has made no profit by stock-jobbing, and has spent every shilling of the sums annually granted him by Parliament, which is not likely to be the case. Quere, to what amount may we rate his Majesty's present income?

Interest of his fortune, at 5l. per cent.	£. 1,000,000
Civil list	900,000
Forfeitures, fines, &c.	600,000

Annual income ———— 2,500,000 nearly equal to 50,000l. per week, equal to 7000 pounds per day. This we may call the richest prince in Europe, or perhaps the world. These are the immense riches of a prince, when hundreds of thousands of his subjects have not more than 3d. per day to live on; so that his Majesty's income is full as much as 560,000 of his poor, half-starved subjects.

In the present little tract I mean to take but little or no more notice of Simon Pope, only, that however it may be out of the habit of stock-jobbers, I would

would advise him once more to mix some facts, if ever he intends another address to the public; which, perhaps, he means to leave until he finds another such liberal chief magistrate as Citizen Curtis.

In the early part of Mr. Pitt's administration I was ready to have joined in the common cry of "Pitt for ever." But first I had made up my mind, and determined to be better informed: and I soon found that our young cherubim kept bad company, and such as I thought more likely to bring him to the gibbet, than to produce him any substantial credit as a statesman. One of the persons alluded to is Charles, surnamed Catchpenny. This Mr. Catchpenny Mr. Pitt was loading with honours, places, and pensions, to an enormous amount, though a halter would have been a more suitable reward. During Lord North's administration, Mr. Catchpenny was paymaster in this, that, and almost every lucrative department that was worth notice: the usual commissions I am told produced from forty to fifty thousand pounds annually. But all this would not do for Mr. Catchpenny. In the short interim of a change in administration Mr. Catchpenny was called upon to make up his account, and pay the balance. But what was the defence of this swindle-cap senator? Two hundred thousand pounds was on mortgage, and owing to the distressed situation of the landholders, Lord Mansfield would not admit of foreclosures, and therefore he could not pay the balance. Thus had this man drawn from the treasury 200,000l. more than he could use in the line of his employment, and made use of it, placing it to interest, as I am told, for his own private emolument, which produced him a profit of 10,000l. per annum. But note, that this sum, in the way it was borrowed, cost the public at least 10l. per cent. which created a loss of 20,000l. per annum. This was one of our heaven-born minister's favourites, whom he receives with open arms, takes him to St. James's to be in-
culated

culated with noble blood—and this lump of corruption, this rotten sheep, he turns into the herd of lordly lambs; of course spreads the infection to such a degree; that the price of mutton, with every other necessary of life, has been extravagantly dear ever since.

Executions opposite the Debtors' Door, Newgate, from December 12, 1792, to October 30, 1793.

1793	Philip Davey and John Bone, for Forgery and Felony	2
	John Brown, Wm. Graham, and Thomas Folkes, for Felony and Robberies	3
Feb. 20,	Wm. Bateman	}
	George Hobbard, alias Lord Massey	
	Thomas Healy	
	Thomas Montague Glover	
	George Ranken	
	Abraham Mayhew	
	Francis Pope	}
	Isaac More, for stealing a 10l. Bank-note out of a letter	
April 10,	James Field	1
May 29,	Alexander Elder	1
	James Banner	1
June 26,	John Patterfon	1
	Total number executed	17

Suppose the amount of each of the above felonies had been equal to that of Isaac More, 10l. total 170l. Mr. Catchpenny at the rate of 10,000l. per annum, but I do not know the length of time: a part of it may have continued to this day. Was Mr. Catchpenny hanged? No, no: Mr. Pitt will not consent to the hanging of men that are high in office, nor the calling of them to any account. The proprietor of Holwood

Holwood-House might be the next. Mr. Catchpenny enjoys a number of places under Government, and titles in abundance.

It was not my intention to have troubled my readers again with Mr. Pope's complimentary letter to Citizen Curtis, but Mr. Pope says that the profits of the Bank of England are about 300,000l. annually. What could be his motive, I am at a loss to account for, unless the Bank of England were ashamed of their extravagance, and had hired master Pope to bury nine tenths of it, in hopes to conceal it from the eyes of the public. Their profits are four millions annually, nearly forty per cent. on their capital, which has been proved in this work; but Mr. Pope says their pond is always full of cash, for that it runs in as fast as it runs out—but this he cannot possibly prove, unless he proves that the cash returns into the Bank as fast from Prussia, Sardinia, and the Emperor, as it ran out. Mr. Pope is boasting of three hundred millions, as an overflow of riches to this country, and gives credit to Mr. Pitt for the spending two hundred millions, just in the same way as though the nation had acquired so much riches from his wasteful extravagance.

One of the dangers Mr. Pope complains of is that if Mr. Pitt had not run the nation so much in debt, the influx of property must have been laid out in land. Now any man that will investigate must know that no such property is in existence as three hundred millions, nor a twentieth part of that sum; and that the holders of the immense paper circulation have acquired their nominal riches by shuffling paper from hand to hand. As a proof of this assertion, let me refer you to the opulent Corporation of the city of London, who have determined to lend Government one hundred thousand pounds, but whose first object must be how to borrow it on the most frugal terms. The opulent East-India Company are also about to lend Government two millions without interest, on the following liberal conditions;

ditions; viz. ' You must allow us to increase our capital two millions, by which we shall clear a profit (at the present low price of 170l. per cent.) of one million four hundred thousand pounds—in that case we will lend you two millions (perhaps of their bonds for six months) without interest.'

It seems that the India-Company have sold goods unpaid to the amount of £.2,250,000
Value of goods in England unfold 5,629,926
£.7,879,926

But what are the richest goods worth in a country where there is no money to buy them? If they were to send them to Germany, no doubt but the Emperor or his subjects could buy them; and what a comfortable balance it would be in favour of England!

In answer to Mr. Pope. The value of land has dropped in England from the circumstance of there having been little or no money to purchase it for these last thirty years, but no abatement of rental has taken place, so as to enable the farmer to have brought his produce to market on better terms, but the very reverse; though the lands have lost in their sales near fifty per cent. such as sold formerly at thirty years purchase, will not now yield more than twenty years purchase. Can Simon Pope persuade any man that Government have imported 450,000 quarters of wheat at 5l. 5s. the quarter, at the expence of 13s. 1d. the Winchester bushel? or that five hundred ships have arrived in England with nine hundred quarters each of foreign wheat, for which he knows Government have paid 2,362,500l. and that this money hath been borrowed at an extravagant interest, with a chance of 100l. per cent. premium, which is only similar to what Mr. Pitt hath been paying? Mr. Pope tells us there are innumerable private boards of cash in this country; private I suppose they may be, and so much so as never to make any public appearance.

Mr.

Mr. Pope says it would be unjust as well as ungrateful not to bestow the highest commendations on the very judicious and successful efforts of Administration; so that, according to Mr. Pope's account, the highest commendations must arise to Government, equal to the height they have been the means of advancing the price of that necessary article for the support of life, wheat, by prohibiting the importation, when it was advanced from 5s. the Winchester bushel to 11. 6s. 3d. Though the whole of the extravagant price of wheat does not fall immediately on that article, yet such hath been the expence of procuring it, which must be made up on other taxes. This is the effect of our virtuous Administration prohibiting the importation of wheat, unless it bore a higher price than 6s. 8d. the Winchester bushel. Were not the members of this virtuous administration the first importers after the price became exorbitant? and was it not sold for the utmost farthing it would bring in all the markets of the kingdom? What became of the profits, must be best known to our virtuous administration.—So much consistency is there in our public writer Mr. Simon Pope, that after toiling over forty-eight pages for the particular purpose of abusing Mr. Paine, he tells Citizen Curtis that 'it would be paying too great a compliment to Mr. Paine to appear angry with him.'

Soame Jenyns says that wheat is as much taxed as though the taxation fell upon the article itself: but Simon Pope says, the wisdom and humanity of Government are to be admired, on account of their having provided against a scarcity of wheat. Now let me explain what hath been the conduct of this virtuous Government. When wheat was at the moderate price of five shillings the Winchester bushel, our virtuous Administration thought it too cheap; and Lord Sheffield and Mr. Pitt said the poor would live

G 2

live too well: though, by the bye, I have known it fold in England for one-half of the money.

It is now but fair to state what effect the prohibition has had on the price of corn. Wheat rose from five shillings the Winchester bushel to an enormous price never before heard of in this country. The virtuous Administration began to think they should want bread themselves; and then, to prove their wisdom and humanity, Mr. Pope says that Government hath sent 2,362,500l. out of the kingdom, to pay for 450,000 quarters of wheat, at the rate of five guineas the quarter of eight Winchester bushels.

Price of the Winchester bushel, at 5l. 5s per quarter, is

0 13 1 1/2

The next thing to be remarked is, how the money was obtained for the purchase of this corn. The money was borrowed, and at the rate of 100l. per cent. to the subscriber, even if paper answered the purpose for payment, in the end the price must be double to the consumer

0 13 1 1/2

1 6 3

Cost to the consumer, at eight gallons the Winchester bushel, or the quatern loaf, allowance for baking, &c. — 0 1 9 in the stead of 5d. which would have been most probably the case if our virtuous Administration had taken no part in prohibiting the importation of wheat when it was at the moderate price of five shillings the bushel. But if Simon Pope should take it in his head to insult the public a second time, I have no doubt but he will say that through the wisdom of Mr. Pitt the public are indulged with time for payment; but Simon, let it not be thought an indulgence, while the public have near six per cent. annual interest to pay on the sums so advanced for the purchase of wheat.

I do

I do not reflect on Administration for the importation of wheat; but that part of it which was landed at Liverpool and several other ports, was sold at a most extravagant price for their own emolument. — The mayor of Liverpool, in his letter to the virtuous administration, hoped to have the price lowered, but was answered that the broker was to abide by his orders in the sale, which I think was fifteen shillings the Winchester bushel—another instance of the humanity of our virtuous administration! Mr. Pitt says that charity begins at Holwood-House. I am told that the heavenly minister having three or four of his guardian angels about him, viz. Charles Catchpenny, Harry India-House, and a brother secretary, prior to the last additional duty on wine taking place, candidly opened his mind to them respecting the tax; they all wisely took the hint, and, notwithstanding their extravagant emoluments, they and a few friends who were in the secret, can for seven years to come, get drunk 25 per cent. cheaper than any other men in the kingdom.

The Contrast. Poor Humphry Bowering, who lived at Cullumpton, in Devonshire, from his birth to the age of about sixty years, and I believe was charged with no other crime than honest poverty, died for the want of the common necessaries of life; whose habitation was within one hundred yards of that of Robert Baker, worth a hundred thousand pounds, (I mistake, he was only in the possession of a hundred thousand pounds, though in fact worth nothing)—Cullumpton is a place very badly situated for fuel, so that the poor inhabitants can purchase nothing but wood, which is sold to them by this Cullumpton Dives, the wood-land in the neighbourhood being chiefly his own property, lest his poor neighbourhood should get too great a bargain for their penny. I have no reason to doubt the fact as to poor Humphry Bowering. When I was in that town about three

G 3

years

years since, I called to see an old friend, where I met a poor man who told me that he was in the habit of doing errands for that family, which kept him from starving, as the parish would allow him no more than sixpence per week. Cullumpton has a numerous poor, and the payers in general are not rich. If this was the case in the country, what a number of inhabitants might there not have been in the metropolis lying on bare boards with craving appetites, whilst the Lord-Mayor was rolling in his gilded chariot towards his brilliant illuminated mansion, to meet his august and Right Honourable friends, loaded with every luxury, at the expence of five thousand pounds for the night's entertainment—which sum amounts to one shilling in the pound of the profit of one day's stock-jobbing. The expence of the night is said to have been five thousand pounds, exclusive of the following charges. (See the Address to the Freemen of London, here introduced.) This could not be the case when the Lord Mayor's expences were limited to twenty pounds. It was then that the cottager enjoyed the use of his own brass kettle, his bushel of malt for 2s. and a fine leg of mutton for 1s. 6d. but this cannot be the case again till stock-jobbing makes its exit, or while a hundred thousand pounds profit is made by a Lord-Mayor or by a Theluffon on the profit of a single loan!—this can only be prevented by an entire new system of finance.

The following are copies of two letters on the iniquity of private tontines, addressed to the Editor of the Corresponding Society's Magazine, and which were inserted in the Numbers of that work for June and July 1796:—

Perceiving the disadvantage under which the public gamed in these tontines, it was my design to expose the case by suitable calculations, but other employments intervned. The managers of one of these
schemes

To the FREEMEN of the CITY of LONDON.

WHEN it is known that a Balance of ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED POUNDS only remains in the Chamber of London; that considerable Works, already begun, cannot be carried into Effect for Want of Money, and at the same Time the Corporation vote as a Loan to the Minister ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS, towards carrying on the present just and necessary War, it will appear a Paradox to many; and every thinking Man, not in the Corporation, will be at a Loss to know the extraordinary Manner in which they conduct their Business. For the general Information of the Citizens of London, the following Copy of the Bills (as reported by the Committee to the Court of Common Council, and ordered by them to be paid) during the Mayoralty of Alderman Curtis, with the Surveyor's Estimate opposite to each Bill, is presented to them.—This does not include the Repairs now going on in the Egyptian Hall, see Mr. Dance's Estimate.

Table with columns for bill numbers, descriptions, amounts in pounds/shillings/pence, and total amounts. Includes entries for Mr. Rolfe, Mr. Pinder, Mr. Wilmot, Mrs. Row, Mr. Neuenberg, Mr. Phillips, Matting Egyptian Hall, Mr. Patrick, Mr. Eades, Mr. Bullman, Mr. Dance, and Mr. Croucher.

The two Glazier's Bills were thought absolutely necessary, that of cleaning Win-

27	6	0	By Order of the Committee, putting up Chandeliers				77	7	0
156	10	0	Mr. Phillips, Upholsterer's Bill				488	16	8
			By Order of Committee	164	15	2			
20	0	0	Matting Egyptian Hall, by ditto	104	5	2			
63	10	6	Dilapidations, by Ditto	54	6	0			
			Sundries, thought necessary	36	5	3			
			Works thought necessary by Mr. Dance	20	10	6			
			By Order of Mr. Newman, Clerk to Lord Mayor	6	4	0			
			By Order of Lord Mayor, for Furniture, &c.	102	10	9			
15	10	3	Mr. Patrick, Tinman's, Bill				52	7	8
			By Order of Committee	9	4	0			
			By Order of Lord Mayor	43	3	4			
31	15	0	Mr. Eades, the Smith's, Bill				226	2	10
			By Order of Committee	31	15	0			
60	19	0	By ditto, Dilapidations	60	19	0			
			Thought necessary by Mr. Dance	89	18	9			
			By Order of Lord Mayor	44	0	1			
63	10	0	Mr. Bushman City Labourer's, Bill,				29	16	2
50	0	0	Mr. Dance's Bill				182	7	3
120	10	0	Mr. Croucher, City Glazier's, Bill				3	2	10
			Mrs. Harrington, ditto's				22	14	4
			The two Glazier's Bills were thought absolutely necessary, that of cleaning Windows, previous to the Lord Mayor's dwelling at the Mansion-House.				30	0	7
			Mr. Poynder, Bricklayer, by Order of Committee				89	18	0
64	14	0	Mr. Poynder, Plumber's, Bill						
			By Order of Committee	64	14	0			
			Works thought absolutely necessary	25	4	0			
			Mr. Southan, Brazier's, Bill, by Order of Committee				33	9	0
			Charcoal used in wiring the Egyptian Hall, by ditto				17	2	0
			Mrs. Williams's Bill, for Matting				5	10	6
830	7	8					2524	17	5 1/4

The Committee were likewise presented with the following Bills, which were ordered to be paid, for fitting up the Tables, and various other Work done for the Accommodation of the Company on his Lordship's Birth-Day.

			Mr. Rolfe, Carpenter's, Bill				335	6	7
			Mr. Croft, for 649 Yards of Canvas, and fitting up				71	6	6
			Mr. Thorne, for ornamental Painting the same				42	18	0
							2974	7	6 1/4

One of the standing Orders of the Court of Common Council is, "That every Question proposed which in its Consequences may affect the Estates or Cash of this City, shall be adjourned to the next Common Council, and then be taken into Consideration." The Payment of these Bills was voted without any Notice, in direct Violation of the above standing Order, and was opposed by only four Members, Messrs. Dixon, Waitman, Hodgson and Fisher. Next Court they objected to confirming the Minutes, urging the Impropriety of paying Charges so extraordinary, and likewise the Irregularity of the Proceedings, by dispensing with the standing Order of the Court, when about fifteen Hands only were held up against it.

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No doubt an advance must have taken place in the price of labour since the period at which Dr. Smith (in his Wealth of Nations) states the price of wheat; of which I infer a few abstracts.

Years.	Price of the quarter of wheat each year.			Bushel, 9 gallons.	Price of the quarter of flour, or loaf, exclusive of the expence of baking.	
	L.	s.	D.			s.
1202						
1204	0	12	0	1	6	1 penny half-farthing
1205	0	13	4	1	8	1 penny half-farthing
1237	0	15	0	1	10 1/2	1 penny half-farthing
1243	0	3	4	0	5	1 farthing
1244	0	2	0	0	3	half-farthing
1246	0	2	0	0	3	half-farthing
1287	0	16	0	2	0	3 pence
	0	3	4	0	5	1 farthing
	0	0	8	0	1	half-farthing
	0	1	0	0	1 1/2	half-farthing
	0	1	4	0	2	half-farthing
	0	1	6	0	2	half-farthing
1294	0	16	0	2	0	3 pence
1302	0	4	0	0	6	1 farthing
1309	0	7	2	0	11	3 farthings
1315	1	0	0	2	6	2 pence

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schemes having however, divided their capital, at the expiration of seven years and a half, I have nothing to do now, but to state the facts relative to that scheme, in order to shew how greatly the subscribers were wronged by it.

Each subscriber paid 6s. 6d. per quarter, together with 6d. per quarter to the managers for their trouble, which together, in seven years (the term for which the tontine was established) amounted to 9l. 16s.

Each of the surviving subscribers received, on the division of the capital, 10l. 2s. So that 6s. only was received by each subscriber for the interest of his money, and the benefit arising from survivorship.

Let us now endeavour to calculate the sum drawn from the public by the projectors of these schemes, for the trouble of management. I knew of six of these plans; two in London, two in Bristol, and two in Yorkshire. There might be more, but the evil will appear sufficiently extensive if there were not. The agent of one of the societies in Bristol boasted, by public advertisement, that its subscribers amounted to more than 120,000; but taking the average of the six societies to be 80,000 each, the whole of the subscribers to these plans would be 480,000 persons. These paid each 2s. per annum for management, which in seven years would produce 336,000l. But to this sum must be added six months interest of the whole capital produced by the subscriptions; because the managers did not divide till six months after the expiration of the term, on the pretence of settling their books. The produce of 480,000 subscriptions, at 9l. 16s. each, is 4,704,000l. the half year's interest on which, at 5 per cent. is 117,600l. making, with the money received by the projectors for the article of management, the enormous sum of 4,821,600l.

I need not dwell on this statement. It is accurate; and no words can add to its eloquence. I shall be happy if this paper save a portion of your numerous

readers, who may be tempted to subscribe to some of these schemes, from being a prey to their delusive promises.

June 14th, 1796.

THOMAS FRY.

Citizen Editor,

July 20, 1796.

When I wrote my former letter to you on the subject of private tontines, I thought that a statement of the probable amount of the sums *divided by the managers*, would be sufficient to save your readers from *the imposition of that species of taxation*. But the schemes in question are addressed so powerfully to the passion of cupidity, that I think it right to expose other parts of this evil; and I hope you will spare me, for this purpose, a page or two of your magazine for this month.

I have stated the sum received on the whole subscriptions for management at 453,600l. But this is not the whole of the money (enormous as it is) of which the industrious are plundered in this way. I have made calculations, grounded on the bills of mortality) of the probable profit of survivorship, including compound interest, to each subscriber, and I find it to be 2l. 17s. 2d. Your limits will not permit me to expect that you should state these calculations. They are made with candour, and, I believe, with as much accuracy as the subject will admit of; nevertheless, I invite any person who thinks I misapprehend the matter, to make calculations for himself, and meanwhile I proceed on my calculations as data in the case.

The amount of the benefit of survivorship, on the whole subscriptions, I calculate (on the same data) to be 980,408l. 6s. 8d. Let us see how much of this is accounted for by the managers. They received 453,600l. for management, and they paid 6s. to each of the surviving subscribers; that is to say, they paid 102,900l. to the whole of the surviving subscribers, reckoning the number to be 343,000, which I take to be a fair average; and these sums together make 556,500l. Let this

this

this be deducted from 980,408l. 6s. 8d. (the produce of survivorship, as above stated) and there will remain 423,908l. 6s. 8d. unaccounted for by the managers.

What became of this sum? Was it sunk by the difference in the price of the funds at the respective times of buying in, and the time of selling out, in order to divide the capital? Perhaps that was the case, as the funds fell greatly during that period. But my complaint is, that enormous sums of money are transferred from the pockets of the subscribers into those of men who give no equivalent for those sums; no less than the sum of 453,600l. to the managers, in every case, whatever is to become of the subscriber's profit (which we have seen was 6s. for seven years and a half on 9s. 16s.) and 423,908l. 6s. 8d. lost by the mode of managing the business, although one of the lures thrown out to the public has been a promise of great profit from the management, by buying into the funds, over and above the profit of survivorship, and of compound interest.

But this is not all: there still remains another point to be cleared up. The subscribers are amused with an opinion of possessing securities for their capital, which they have not. They are told of sums being invested from time to time in the Bank, in the names of respectable persons, and they believe *those persons* are security to them. Whereas they have no security *but the projectors and managers of the respective plans*. It is true, the managers are not likely to become defaulters, while they draw such a *prodigious revenue* from their schemes; for that would be to kill the goose for her eggs. But if the management of any of these tontines should fall into the hands of desperate men, who should lose the whole, or the greater part of the capital in speculations, there would be no remedy for the subscribers; and in these times of very general desperation, there is no great security that this may not happen.

THOMAS FRY.

In the new-fangled scheme for the present lottery, a circumstance of deception is practised that never entered the brain of any other person but our heaven-born minister, by which the adventurers are deprived of one hundred thousand pounds on the value of their prizes. It is said in the bill, that 60,000 tickets amount to 500,000l. The usual and fair mode used to be to mention the intrinsic value of each, (usually 10l. but now reduced to 8l. 6s. 8d.) and the following ought to have been the statement: 60,000 tickets at 8l. 6s. 8d. each, amount to 500,000l. so that the most illiterate adventurer would have been informed what he had to game for.

I have now by me bills of mortality and calculations for the benefit of age, which will prove the following trifling subscriptions equal to its support; and by which mankind in the lowest situations in life, at a trifling expence, may secure an independence when they become aged. But the limits of this little tract, on account of a variety of new matter, will not admit of it, nor is there any necessity or even utility in bringing it forward, while Mr. Pitt's solid securities (as he calls them) are in existence. The different funded systems that for the present form the rotten foundation, require two for one for its support.

Terms to Subscribers for the benefit of Age.

Every parent or other friend subscribing for an infant under two years of age, the sum of eight shillings annually, or 2s. per quarter, (about a farthing per day) such person will be entitled after they have attained the age of fifty years, to the sum of thirteen pounds annually, or five shillings per week, during their natural life.

Age	Yearly	Quarterly	Yearly	Weekly
2 to 5	10s. or	2s. 6d.	13l.	or 5s.
5 to 10	15s. or	3s. 9d.	13l.	or 5s.
10 to 20	1l. 5s. or	6s. 9d.	13l.	or 5s.
20 to 30	2l. 10s. or	12s. 6d.	11l. 10s.	or 4s. 6d.
30 to 50	3l. 10s. or	17s. 6d.	10l. 8s.	or 4s.

Note, that the annual or quarterly payments must increase after two years, in the following manner:— third year, 2s. 2d. quarterly; fourth, 2s. 4d. fifth, 2s. 6d. and every class must add the trifling increase, in proportion to the sums advanced; but no higher premium will be required than 17s. 6d. quarterly, and from those only who neglect subscribing till they arrive at thirty-six years of age.

As a proof of the stability of the foregoing plan, I will state what capital each subscriber will have in the fund to support his annuity, from compound interest and benefit of survivorship:

An infant subscriber under two years of age, paying 2s. quarterly, will at the time he arrives at the age of fifty, have a capital of

Age	Rate	L.	S.	D.
5 years	paying 2s. 6d. quarterly	186	0	8
10	3s. 9d.	179	4	3
20	6s. 9d.	152	14	0
30	12s. 6d.	134	6	7
36	17s. 6d.	101	0	10

It is impossible to enumerate the vast variety of advantages of this plan, but it is sufficient to say for the present, that it is proper for clergymen with small livings, officers in the navy, army, excise, customs, &c. with a multitude of the lowest orders of society, and the parish poor would be greatly relieved.

Terms of Mr. Pitt's last curious loan for eighteen millions; payment by instalments; interest to commence 13th of October 1796.

1st payment	13th January 1797	10l. per cent.
2d	17th March	10l.
3d	21st April	10l.
4th	2d June	10l.
5th	21st July	15l.
6th	25th August	15l.
7th	28th September	15l.
8th	31st October	15l.

Bonus

	L.	S.	D.
Bonus	12	10	0
Prompt	3	0	0
Interest from 13th October to 13th January, at 6 per cent.	1	10	0
Ditto from 13th Jan. to 17th Mar. 2 months 4 days on 90l. at 6 per cent.	1	0	0
Ditto from 17th Mar. to 21st April, 1 month 4 days on 80l. at 6 per cent.	0	9	0
Ditto from 21st April to 2d June, 1 month 11 days on 70l. at 6 per cent.	0	9	5
Ditto from 2d June to 21st July, 1 month 19 days on 60l. at 6 per cent.	0	10	0
Ditto from 21st July to 25th August 1 month 4 days on 45l. at 6 per cent.	0	5	1
Ditto from 25th August to 28th September, 1 month 3 days on 30l. at 6 per cent.	0	3	4
Ditto from 28th September to 31st October, 1 month 3 days on 15l. at 6 per cent.	0	1	8
	19	18	6
Expence of buying up, or Commission for Repayment by the Bank of England	0	2	6
Amount of Bonus	20	1	0
Money subscribed	100	0	0
	£.120	1	0

If 100l. in the 5 per cents. be worth 120l. what will be the cost of 100l. in the 3 per cents.?—Answer 50l. So that Mr. Pitt is now borrowing paper, in the proportion of 3 per cent. receiving at the rate of 50l. for every hundred; so that this last loan of eighteen millions to have been borrowed in the 3 per cents. at the same rate of interest, 6l. 1s. would have created a new debt to the amount of 36,009,000l. or for every 100l. a new debt of 200l. 16s. 8d.

The

The circumstance of Mr. Fox declaring to God that he had no money to subscribe to this lucrative loan, is ominous to me; for Mr. Fox certainly could not be so ignorant as not to know that loans of Mr. Pitt's could not be filled up without money: nor are we to suppose that Mr. Fox wanted zeal for supporting the credit of his country in so just and necessary a war, for which he hath been so often and so ready in voting the supplies. I cannot conjecture but that Mr. Fox declined from a principle of liberality, as I am told that a number of the lower orders of the clerks to the Bank were dropping in with their ten thousands to fill up—Mr. Fox declined, because he would not deprive a set of men of the bonus, that might want it more than himself.

From the estimates of funding in the Emperor's loan, which must be a money transaction, the annuities converted into three per cents. it appears that Mr. Pitt gives a hundred pounds security to receive 41l. 10s. 8d. But it appears, however, from the last loan of eighteen millions, that paper is to be had on somewhat better terms; for he gets very near 50l. for 100l. securities in the three per cents. As Mr. Pitt hath been in the habit of paying 96l. in the three per cents. it appears that the subscribers are now in the receipt of 61. 10s. per cent. for money lent in the name of the Emperor, with the prospect of 230l. for every 100l. advanced; and for the loan of paper 6l. 1s. per cent. and for every 100l. advanced the prospect of 190l. And the prospect to be sure must be very great, as Mr. Pitt rates them amongst the solid securities. Mr. Pitt hath certainly undertaken more than he can perform, as steward for the whole kingdom. It is only monied men, paper men, placemen, pensioners, stock jobbers, and stock brokers: but he has thought nothing of the Swinish Multitude.

Simon

Simon Pope declares, that we are the emporium of the world for riches:—surely Simon must mean for valuable paper. Paper, in England, will buy ten thousand sheep, as many fat oxen, a coach and six for my Lord Swindle-cap. But under these circumstances it is impossible the lower orders of the people can exist, without the privilege of coining paper: therefore, in order to help out the Swinish Multitude, I propose myself as a partner with our heaven-born minister, though I do not know that it will be a pleasing connection. I must have the indulgence of coining paper for the use of my herd: I do not mean bills of magnitude, but such as will buy quartern loaves, legs of mutton, turnips, &c. with every other necessary of life. And when this paper coinage comes into general circulation, we shall find that Crispin Heeltap's note in favour of Mother Wapping will be as good as the Bank of England's. Now as I only wish to continue my paper coinage as long as the exigencies of the state are provided for with Bank of England paper, I think my partner cannot refuse me; for if, during our present wants, between rage and despair, the devil should enter into my head, and I should take my herd up to a high cliff, and we should run into the sea and be drowned, what is to become of your titled lordlings, placemen, pensioners, stock jobbers, &c. you would soon get dirty, ragged, and Egyptian like, have lice in all your borders.

Our burthens have increased during the reign of the best of kings. In the year 1760, the whole of our funded debt amounted to no more than 75,237,926l. 14s. 2¼d. bearing an annual interest of 2,419,313l. 17s. 10½d.

Present

Present amount of the funded debt, when the outstanding debts are funded and converted into the 3 per cents.	—	500,000,000 0 0
Principal debt, 1760	—	75,237,926 14 2
<hr/>		
Additional principal debt, in the proportion of 3 per cent.		424,762,073 5 10
<hr/>		
Annual interest of debt, 1794		15,000,000
Charges of management by the Bank of England	—	300,000
<hr/>		
Annual interest of debt, 1760		2,419,313 17 10
<hr/>		
Additional annual interest and management	—	12,880,686 2 2
<hr/>		

As this change hath taken place in the reign of the best of kings, we certainly must have had corrupt Parliaments. As they have acknowledged it themselves, it can be no treason to tell them so. Upon the whole, it is astonishing that in the little distance from St. Stephen's Chapel to the House of Commons, honourable gentlemen should in so short a time empty their mouths of their prayers, and immediately fill their hearts with corruption: the ground ought to be consecrated every foot of the way from the chapel to the honourable house, which may in future have the wonderful effect of keeping them virtuous. I shall say nothing more of the present members than pray that God may make them more virtuous, and Simon Pope a better man than his father.

PEACE

P E A C E.

But there seemed to be no peace intended. It is my opinion, that if Lord Malmsbury had gone to the French Convention with something like the following proposition, it would be nearer at hand than it seems to be at present.

To the President of the French Convention.

I am come from the King of England with overtures of peace and good will between the two nations. We want not to hold a foot of your territory, nor will we give up any of our own: we wish for mutual friendship, a general intercourse of trade, merchandize on both sides to be unincumbered with taxes, and of course mutual advantages.

Answer of the Convention.

All hail, Citizen Malmsbury! Welcome, Peace!

There certainly cannot be a more honourable peace, or likely to be more lasting, than when one nation does not attempt to take the advantage of another. But before terms like these can be expected to be proposed, we must get rid of our present ministers, loan mongers, and stock jobbers, or no terms will be likely to be produced that will be mutually advantageous, manly, or open.

Mr. Pitt's conduct in retrieving the distresses of the nation hath operated like that of an involved spendthrift attempting to redeem his paternal estate by adding another harlot to his seraglio.

It is extraordinary, but a fact, that most nations in Europe seem to be better acquainted with the true characters of our heaven-born minister and his connections than their own countrymen. We seem to have no sincere alliance but the Emperor, who keeps snug to the English guinea; but we shall find soon that

that the dearest friends must part. The Duke of Bedford approves of sending another 500,000l. to the Emperor, as it may shew our strength. His Grace puts me in mind of an historical account of the city of Exeter, which, after a long and tedious siege by the Danes, was reduced to half a sheep in their garrison, which they politically threw over the wall to their besieging enemy, and the men wrapping themselves up in their sheep-skins, crept round the ramparts; this had the desired effect—the enemy were deceived, and the siege broke up. But his Grace should consider the French have a better knowledge of the strength of our finances than the Danes had of the provisions in the castle of Exeter; they know we are paying nearly 100l. per cent. for the loan of paper as well as we do ourselves.

Reply of the honest Turk to our ambassador at Constantinople, when Mr. Pitt offered to assist them in chastizing the late Empress of Russia:—
‘Your vizier or minister must have some project of deception in view, some oppressive scheme, to amuse your nation, who, we are told, are credulous, servile, and adorers of money. Avarice, if we are well informed, is your characteristic; you will sell and buy your God; money is your deity, and all things is commerce with your ministry; it has been your practice to embroil all mankind, and thereby profit by your perfidy.’ Have we not embroiled other nations, and do we not to this day support the bone of contention, by supplying the crowned heads of other nations with cash, while the people of this country are drained of their last guinea, to provide for the interest of usurious contracts, and for which foreign princes barter the blood of their subjects. I should not wonder, if at a future day the Emperor should offer to pay us in human carcases, as he knows the Elector of Hanover makes thirty pounds a head of his subjects.

H

FRENCH

FRENCH CODE OF LAWS, February 1792.

The committee of legislation reported on the mode of enforcing responsibility of ministers, and of proceeding against them when accused of misconduct; the purport of which was for neglect of duty, or actual violation of the constitution, they were to be punished with death; or for incapacity, or error of judgment, with the loss of their places; and that both these cases were provided for by the spirit of the constitution and the penal code. If there is any spirit left in the British constitution; or it was ever necessary to hang a British minister, what must become of our present heaven-born minister?

MONIED MEN,

Their rise, progress, and present situation.

It is about one hundred years since these locusts, these Bels and Dragons of our age, commenced their operations; which, for the first fifty years, made very little progress. Indeed, it is the last thirty-five years, in the reign of 'the best of kings,' that the practice of swindling hath operated so much, to the destruction of the honest and industrious part of the community; and during the last three years, in the reign of William Pitt, the grievance has operated to an equal amount of what was done in threescore years before him—and yet the eyes of the people are not quite open! To give credit for an original capital employed for the public service would be too liberal, say 10,000,000, and those monied men are now in the possession of 500,000,000, without any considerable additional riches to the country. Indeed, the land of the kingdom that forty years back was worth thirty years purchase, is not now worth more than twenty years purchase; of course not worth the former price, by at least one hundred and fifty millions! and yet we abound in riches—monied men adding to their property by the cart-load.

But how comes all this to bear? The money has been all lent these fifty years, and this immense nominal property

property has been acquired by shuffling paper from hand to hand, by the first-rate national swindlers. The minister having on every new loan added a new mortgage on the profits of the labours of the people, in order to pay the interest of these iniquitous contracts, without any additional riches to the country. Can we be possessed of so much stupidity as to suppose that because Mr. Pitt hath run the nation two hundred millions in debt, that the nation is two hundred millions the richer for it? It is much the poorer, from his having sent ten millions of specie out of the kingdom, more than one half of its real strength. Simon Pope tells citizen Curtis that the Bank of England saved all Europe from bankruptcy, by furnishing them with 1,600,000*l.* It is a pity that a less sum than ten millions would not support the Emperor and his connections. Step in, Simon, and try if you can be of any use in putting the Bank of England in a way to save themselves.

It seems, from the original tenor of our constitution, that the landed interest of the country was placed as guardians over the property of the trading and lower classes of the people; but such hath been the conduct of the blind or lazy land-holder, the profits of the labour of industry is as much the estate of the opulent swindler, as the land is that encompasses their own mansions. It is to be hoped that this description of men will not always continue in a state of blindness, as it is certainly in their power to rescue the plundered multitude from a set of men whose moral characters were better calculated to be the keepers of E. O. Pharo, or any other game governed by private chicanery, than they were qualified as senators for an opulent trading nation.

Thursday December 22, in the House of Commons Mr. Pitt, agreeable to notice, rose to bring forward his bill for the relief of the poor. His plan did not differ from that which he proposed last year; it was

his intention to have the bill committed before the recess, in order that gentlemen might have an opportunity of considering the measure during that time; he then moved the introduction of the bill. Mr. Sheridan approved of the measure, and hoped as Mr. Pitt had taken the plan out of the hands of an honourable gentleman (Mr. Whitbread) last session, who would have expedited it, that the bill would not meet with any farther delay; the bill met his hearty concurrence, and he hoped the House would adopt it. It is much to be feared, as Mr. Pitt hath been in the habit of making every thing worse, that he will make no amendment by taking it out of the liberal hands that first introduced it. Necessary as an act of this kind must appear, it is hoped no additional burthens will be levied on the handicraft tradesman, little shop-keeper, or cottage publican; by all means let us wish Mr. Pitt to avoid that kind of relief to the poor that he has produced in his extraordinary management of the public debt, which of course must increase their distress, instead of relieving them; as the money he hath wasted in that way is more than sufficient for ample provision for all the poor in the kingdom for ever.

Mr. Paine's Downfal of the English Funds.

Notwithstanding I am ready to acknowledge the abilities of Mr. Paine, as well as other eminent writers, on the subject of finance, yet I have to declare that I have investigated none of these writers, but have made some principal errors in their calculations. For example; Mr. Paine says that the proportion of time differs as much as from twenty to one as to the existence of credit, whether paper be payable on demand or funded. This must certainly prove an error to every man that will investigate; for how can the funding of paper last twenty times as long, when the rate of interest of that paper has been continued at five and a half per cent. and the compound interest will

will accumulate in such a way that not more than one in thirteen can be the difference? Again, it is impossible to draw any kind of average where a debt is so irregularly contracted; for example, Mr. Pitt hath contracted nearly as much new debt in three years as the average contracted before his time amounted to in threescore years; therefore, to a certainty, no probable line can be drawn that will ascertain the duration of the credit of this country on its present funding system. That new paper may be coined to any amount is certain, and from that circumstance no line can be drawn as to the length of the existence of national credit; and as the interest in the first instance produces hard cash, the existing credit will depend on the will and ability of the people to pay that interest, of which they seem so heartily sick, that I think it high time the potter's field was consecrated, that it might be ready to receive the innumerable herd of stock-jobbers and stock-brokers.

Again, Mr. Paine says the funded debt is four hundred millions, and the Bank notes sixty millions, and he supposes Mr. Pitt will fund them; in this Mr. Paine is also mistaken, for they are funded, and not now the debt of the public, but the debt of the Bank of England; and the public are by no means accountable for these notes, other than making good their payments of their funded securities; which if ever paid, it is most likely the Bank can pay their notes, amounting to at least eighty millions, without which it is impossible they can pay. For these notes no doubt but the Bank hath received funded securities, but who can estimate their value? However, it is a clear case that Government is not indebted to the public for the immense quantities of those notes in circulation, which is a circumstance every holder of a Bank note ought to know. Again, Mr. Paine says before the war in 1755 there was no Bank notes lower than 20l. during that war Bank notes of 15l.

and of 10l. were issued, and now since the commencement of the present war, notes are issued so low as 5l. These 5l. notes will circulate chiefly amongst the little shopkeepers, butchers, bakers, market-people, renters of small houses, lodgers, &c. All the high departments of commerce, all the affluent stations in life, were already over-stocked (as Smith expresses it) with Bank-notes; but this was not the case amongst the class of people I have just mentioned, and the means of doing them service could be best effected by issuing 5l. notes. This conduct, Mr. Paine says, has the appearance of an unprincipled insolvent, who, when on the verge of bankruptcy to the amount of many thousands, will borrow as low as five pounds of the servants in his house, and break the next day; for whatever momentary relief or aid the Minister or his Bank may expect from this low contrivance of 5l. notes, it will increase the inability of the Bank to pay their higher notes, and hasten the destruction of all; for even such as used to be paid in money will now be paid in these small notes, and the Bank will soon find itself with scarcely any other money than what the hair-powder tax guinea brings in. Mr. Paine was also mistaken relative to the small notes shortening the existence of the Bank. On the contrary, it will lengthen the time of their existence, though the shock will be greater in the end. For the 5l. notes are in this way accommodating to the Bank, as without this contrivance, when the more opulent brought in their notes of 50l. and 20l. they must have been under the necessity of giving the value in cash; but in the present case three notes and 5l. in specie may answer the purpose.

The

The following is the extravagant ratio paid more by Englishmen to the revenue of their country than is paid by other subjects in the different states of Europe, as under.

- 1 Englishman pays as much as 6 Frenchmen did before the Revolution, perhaps as much as 10, at the conclusion of the peace.
- 1 Englishman as much as 12 in Turkey
- 1 ditto ——— 14 Russians
- 1 ditto ——— 10 Swedes
- 1 ditto ——— 3 Hollanders, *Stadtholdrian*
- 1 ditto ——— 6 Austrians
- 1 ditto ——— 5 Spaniards
- 1 ditto ——— 9 Portuguese

My countrymen justly complain that they find themselves heavily burthened, and, after all, seem at a loss how to state or identify their grievances. Therefore, in order to set them right in these important points, I shall state as under the difference in the prices of the necessaries of life within my own memory, that the most uninformed may know what they have to contend for.

Price of wheat, the Winchester bushel, between the years 1742 and 1748, 2s. 6d. now 9s. from the circumstance of Mr. Pitt's prohibiting, with the assistance of Lord Sheffield, the importation of foreign wheat, because it was no more than 6s. 8d. By this conduct the price hath been advanced from 5s. the Winchester bushel to 25s. This is proved in page 84, taken from Simon Pope's estimate in his letter to Citizen Curtis, late Lord Mayor of London. Mr. Pope is a principal advocate for Mr. Pitt.

Price

*Price of Bread and other Necessaries of Life,
from 1742 to 1748, with some little Va-
riation.*

	Present Price.
Bread, 3d. the Quartern Loaf	0 0 8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cheese, 2d. per lb.	0 0 8
Butter, 3d $\frac{1}{2}$	0 1 2
Beef 2d	0 0 8
Mutton 1d $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 7
Lamb, 15d the Quarter	0 7 6
Veal, 1d $\frac{1}{2}$ per lb.	0 0 8
Pork, 2d	0 0 9
Bacon, 3d $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 10
Turkey, 1s 6d*	0 7 6
Fat goose, 1s 2d*	0 6 0
Two ducks, 1s*	0 6 0
Two fowls, 8d*	0 6 0
Two ditto, half grown, 6d*	0 4 0
Sope, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 9
Candles, 4d	0 0 10
Barley, the Winchester bushel, 1s	0 4 6
Oats, ——— 8d	0 3 0
Oatmeal in proportion	
Malt, the Winchester bushel, 1s 6d	0 7 6
Rice, 1d $\frac{1}{2}$ per lb.	0 0 3
Wine, at taverns, 1s 4d the bottle	0 3 6
French wines, that may be sold in England at 4d the bottle, and every cordial at the lowest mechanic's price.	
Prohibited brandy, the glass, 1d	0 0 4
———— rum, 1d	0 0 4
———— gin, $\frac{1}{2}$ d	0 0 2
Good amber ale, 2d $\frac{1}{2}$ the pot	0 0 6

The same quantity could then be brewed by the cottager for one penny; at a time when he could afford to buy a brass kettle, and brew his own bushel

* These were the prices at country markets; of course some little expence must be added for bringing to Town.

of

of malt. Most of these last articles, says our heaven-born minister, are unbecoming the Swinish Multitude. And why? Because Mr. Pitt hath more pride and impudence than is to be found again amongst the human race. None of these blessings are prohibited by the all-bountiful Creator, but only by the wicked craft of our rulers.

On the 31st of December, 1796, I was introduced to a respectable character who I found had been upon the continent to receive some property, and returned to this country the latter part of November; and from whom I learnt, that on his return through the French territory (towns such as Thionville, Metz, Strasburg, &c. &c.) the following were the different prices of provisions.

Best pieces of Pork	5d per lb. 18 oz.
Beef and Mutton	4
Veal	— 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Two Fowls	8

Wine at the inns at the extravagant price of 8d. the bottle, on account of the failures of several of the vintages; but not so dear, by more than one half the difference, in other parts of the country, where the crops were more productive.

Coffee	— 2s per lb. 18 oz.
Butter	— 6d
Bacon	— 6 $\frac{1}{2}$

All these articles dearer now than before the war.

Price of wheat 15s the sack, containing four Winchester bushels, at 3s 9d

This article is now importing at the rate of 13s. the Winchester bushel, according to Simon Pope's account, who says, that our virtuous Administration has been ransacking all the granaries in the world to procure it; and it comes home to the consumer at no less a price than 25s the Winchester bushel, as Mr. Pitt is in the habit of paying two for one for the loan of the money to pay for this grain, the amount being

being upwards of two millions: and whether it be raised by a tax on the article, or on any thing else, the effect is the same to the country in the end.

Price of Hay 15d the cwt. or 25s the ton.

Oats 7s 6d the sack, containing four Winchester bushels, at 1s 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d

Beans, two sacks, 10s 6d eight Winchester bushels, 1s 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d the bushel

Expences for a man and horse for one night at an inn for the following accommodations—a fowl for supper, a pint of wine, coffee for breakfast, hay and two feeds of corn for the horse—total expence 2s 4d

I wish my deluded countrymen to read and consider which Mr. Pitt is likely to starve first, the French or the English. But alas! such is the credulity of Englishmen, that they will sing a song about the roast beef of Old England, though they never taste it but once in seven years, and that at an election.

A most serious topic, to fulfil my engagement to the public, is the five hundred million funded debt. How Mr. Pitt hath borrowed two hundred millions in the last three years, in a country that doth not possess more than ten millions that can possibly come into public use, is the most paradoxical business we shall ever hear of. Surely the black art must have been at work in Downing-street or Holwood House. He must have engaged Devils and Doctor Fosters in abundance. I think I could guess at a few of these demons that have had long fingers in the pie—Right Honourable Harry Scott, Earl of Shark Pool, with my Lord Green Park. Is not suspicion asleep? Is not Opposition asleep? Have not my countrymen nodded away their reason to the wink of the heaven-born minister? After all, how can it be possible that Mr. Pitt can have borrowed two hundred millions in a country that does not contain more than ten millions at any one time for the public service, nor nearly so much? But give me the hammer,
and

and I'll hit the right nail on the head. Ye virtuous and most penetrating Opposition, call upon the directors of the Bank of England to produce an account of the amount of their outstanding notes; then we can come to a certainty as to the sums paid by the industrious part of the country for the loan of paper, to these liberal feeds of Shylock, these uncircumcised Jews.

Peace being so consistent with the object of economical finance, I find myself under the necessity of introducing it a second time. Every liberal minded Englishman cannot have forgot, that twenty-seven millions of Frenchmen and good soldiers were humiliating enough to have continued in peace, and that the war was and is Mr. Pitt's darling object; and he will continue it as long as he possibly can.—Was it the intention of Brunswick to level the city of Paris with a view of rebuilding it? or was it to cause distress, and the desolation of that city?—If the latter, is it not sound policy in the governors of Paris to keep to the extent of their ramparts, to save their city from destruction? Why then is Mr. Pitt to expect that the Netherlands will be given up to the Emperor?—No: Mr. Pitt does not expect it. The object of peace I consider to be at his will; and that it will be left till he thinks he has sufficient strength to cut up his injured countrymen. Quere—May not Billy be mistaken?—No doubt but he thinks that there will be no difficulty in setting twenty thousand young heroes on horseback, who will be more likely to have their grandmothers to fight against for grumbling about taxes, or quite children crying for the want of bread, than an invading foe. But in the mean time may it be remembered, that twenty thousand horses will require as much land to support them as would find one hundred thousand poor children with every necessary of life. But as the money is so nearly exhausted, and soldiers and sailors must
be

be paid with guineas, I wish some honourable gentleman would ask Mr. Pitt what he intends to do with these men.—Is it his intention to offer them as presents to the nobility, for cultivating their lands? Certainly the poor men ought to know what they have to expect.

A fair question—Mr. Pitt, was Lord Malmesbury sent to Paris with a view to obtain a peace? or was it in order to raise supplies to carry on the war?

Now for my New System of Finance and Compromise, though I think that some hundreds that stand in the list of creditors deserve a halter as the best recompence: but it is a pity that the innocent should suffer for the guilty. My views are, to have the dreadful catastrophe avoided that hath attended a neighbouring nation, and secure the property of the widow and fatherless; to find the means of bringing the necessaries of life to the industrious part of the community on reasonable terms, and to avoid a degree of resentment that may be equal to madness; to prevent the massacre of the inhuman plunderers of their country, as innocent victims may fall with them, and to establish public credit as firm as the Persian laws, that cannot alter. But I am confident that no substantial root of reform can take place without a change in the Administration of our country, and a peace establishment: and when that is happily effected, the following is my plan for the New System of Finance.

The first material object will be, the establishment of National Banks. And in order to avoid as much as possible any check on the trade of the country that it may be subject to, let an account be delivered into a well collected Administration of all the Bank-notes now

now

now in circulation, and an equal number and value be coined. Let the new notes be headed with the king's head, or any other conspicuous figure, so that the most illiterate holder of a bank-note may at first sight discover the difference; and let the same now nominal Bank of England notes be brought into the public treasury, and exchanged for new notes of equal number and value; and as they come in, pay the said bank in their own coin, and take up the securities they now hold of every description in the public funds. This, supposing them to be no more than about eighty millions, will produce annual savings to the amount of

4,000,000

Profits of the banks throughout the kingdom, on a very low computation

1,500,000

Sums paid annually to the Bank for management

300,000

Five hundred millions in the 3 per cents. reduced to 50l. which is about the proportion of what the minister is now borrowing, and pay 4 per cent. interest, which will produce annual savings to the amount of

5,000,000

10,800,000

But as the saving cannot operate in both cases, relative to the securities cancelled by the Bank, it is necessary to deduct one-third from the above 4,000,000l.

1,333,333 6 8

9,466,666 13 4

Add to this, profits on the funds for the benefit of age

Benefits of all other legal societies

Total

Total amount of savings brought forward	9,466,666 13 4
Benefits arising from the turnpikes throughout the kingdom, calculating 100l. profit on every gate, will bring a profit of	500,000 0 0
<hr/>	
It will be useful for the governors to take every description of idle money into this treasury	9,966,666 13 4

A few years since an additional charge took place on the toll gates at Bath, to the amount of fifty per cent. when it must appear to be almost impossible fairly to spend the former income. From interest of money and expence of repairing, with the above proposed alteration in the funds, I imagine there will be much quirking by and by for the monied men. I answer, that there are no such objects in existence as monied men, if you deal fairly by the people, and they will act wisely for themselves. There being no more than fifteen millions in the kingdom, and not more than ten millions to be spared for public use, it is but fair to explain to whom it belongs. The manufacturer that sells his woollen or linen cloths, manufacturers of gold and silver, and metals of every description; the farmer for hay, corn, and cattle; the shopkeeper, taylor, shoemaker, publican, and every handicraft tradesman, give solid value, and turn two or three times in the year the value of the whole of the specie, and certainly can demand cash in the stead of bank-notes, which they are now glad to receive: of course the Bank of England drains all the cash; and as a liberal return look at Mr. Pitt's contract for money and paper with that virtuous company. A most convincing proof—witness the Emperor's loan. Mr. Pitt obtained

41l.
10s.

10s. 8d. and for every such sum he bound this country to pay 100l. in the 3 per cents. I would wish to ask the industrious part of my countrymen whether they can possibly continue so blind as to give a preference to that paper nick-named the Bank of England paper, as the country is no more bound to make good any deficiency that may accrue to the Bank from the misconduct of its directors, than they would be from the failure of a bank in Jerusalem: therefore it is not the Bank of England, but a Bank in England, supported in the most extravagant degree of usury and extortion at the expence of the public. No doubt but I shall be told by the director, stock-jobber, &c. that the present bank is the best security for money; as for example, they have been always punctual in their payments: and no doubt they will continue so, as long as they can find an annual profit of 40 per cent. on their capital; for in fact it is more their interest to continue punctual in their payments than it would be to run away with the capital. As to the bank I have been speaking of, it is impossible it can be an additional security to the public creditor, but on the contrary an additional risque; for if the directors of this bank do not in the first instance receive from the exchequer, it is impossible they can pay; and if they do receive, it is possible they may not pay. And I would ask my countrymen to which they would give the preference as a private security for their thousand or their ten thousand, that on an estate burthened with a heavy annuity, or that on one nearly free? Of course they would take to that estate that had the least incumbrance. And if this be prudence in a private transaction, it must be so in a public one. And are not the savings so conspicuous in this New System and Reform, as to prove it an object worth the attention of every thinking man of property, or a man barely in existence by means of his own industry. It is a clear

clear case, that by taking paper you give your money to the bank; and as a public debtor you put the means of usury and extortion into the power of these people; by which reason you are compelled to pay extravagantly for the use of your own money. It is like putting a pistol into the hands of a highwayman to blow your brains out.

My motive for laying these facts before you is, that you may see the utility of that part of my new System of Finance, by your giving a preference to national banks. And have you not, as another instance, a recent proof of the happy consequences of public banks? Governor Mifflin, in his declaration to the Assembly at Pennsylvania, states that the profits of their bank are more than sufficient to pay the expences of the state: from the interest of their money alone, they have a surplus to make public canals and to repair the public roads.

It is but now I hear the principal obstacle to a peace, which is, that the French refuse to give back to the Emperor the Netherlands. Should we not act in our public capacity the same disinterested part as we would in a private capacity—do as we would be done by? Do we not hold from the French the islands of Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney, and Sark, for the very same reason—as a prevention of the annoyance of our coast? And have not the French the same reason to wish to hold the Netherlands, as a safeguard for the city of Paris? Did not the Duke of Brunswick threaten and attempt to enter Paris with an army, and with a view to destroy it, and make a sacrifice to his ambition of every soul in that populous city? Therefore how can such caution be thought extravagant or unreasonable, and which is so exactly similar to the part we have been acting ourselves relative to the neighbouring islands? Do not our rulers know, that an application to a successful antagonist would bid fairer for success through any other channel than
from

from Mr. Pitt, a man justly detested by every nation in Europe; a man, as the Turks say, that hath been embroiling all the nations in Europe, in order to profit by his perfidy. And when can we be better convinced of this fact, than when we find we are destitute of every powerful ally except the Emperor, who still continues kindly to salute the English guineas, of which he is now in possession of at least twenty waggon loads. Peace is the grand object with every rational man, who must think the greater the distance the terms will be the worse, and that better terms may be made with France through any other channel than the starving Mr. Pitt.

Amount of annual savings from New System of Finance, brought over £.9,666,696 13 4

From this extraordinary saving the following taxes may be annihilated with the strictest justice to debtor and creditor, and the people find almost immediate relief. The duties may cease on malt, hops, wine, spirits, and cordials of every description; salt, soap, candles, leather, and every other article in common consumption with the poor: and with a peace establishment a handsome surplus will remain for the purpose of discharging the debt, especially if a free intercourse of trade should take place between the two nations, freed from the burthen of taxes.

After easing the people from the above, the numerous taxes remaining will be found to answer every reasonable purpose, though perhaps not to gratify the opulent and avaricious swindler. If circumstances should happen to require a more than common demand, what can be done better than adding a per centage to such of the taxes as shall appear the least burthenfome?

It is a clear case, that the abundant produce of the vines in France will produce a surplus sufficient, in a plentiful year to supply this country so, as that the publican may be able to sell at the very low price of

4d. the bottle, as Camus lately declared in the Assembly of Five Hundred, that in a plentiful year they made as much wine as could be consumed by eighty millions of people, and that it was worth no more than two sous the pint, which is equal to an English penny.

This change taken place, our English ale and beer may be brought to the old standard—a quality scarcely known at the present period. In that case, no doubt but many would prefer their own country beverage to French wines. But still we have to consider the astonishing difference from the numbers that would drink the French wines, what an influx of grain it would bring to our markets, on account of the reduced consumption of wheat and barley in our brew-houses and distilleries; we shall have occasion for a smaller quantity of tillage land, and of course be able to multiply the quantity of animal food of every description: and can our rulers be so ignorant as not to see that we could with more cheerfulness support them in splendor?

Another proof of the necessity of our endeavours to increase the quantity of provisions—The beginning of December a woman was found dead in the road near Birmingham; as were also a man and woman, in each other's arms, near Petticoat-lane, London; all died for the want of the necessaries of life. And can we doubt of numbers now languishing in the same situation?—As all these dreadful catastrophes do not affect the feelings of our Administration, can there be a doubt of the necessity of a change?

There can be no doubt but that the lowest rate of our woollen manufactories will be readily received in France as a barter for their wines, and the idea of smuggling our wool into France be done away. The manufacture of finer goods, such as broad cloth, kerseymere, &c. we may suppose to be as well done in

in France as in England, as they have with us an equal or better chance for the Spanish wool.

Let us endeavour to do away the prejudice of education. It has been the practice of our rulers to sow discord between the two nations: and this they have done by representing the French as the most deceitful, poor, beggarly people in Europe, or the world, destitute of the means of any tolerable existence; that the whole course of their lives was starving poverty: and we were persuaded to treat them as though they were created for the contempt of the human race. What foundation could my countrymen have to credit this kind of information, when nothing was more common than for these same people who gave this kind of information, to go and spend their money in a country they so much despised? Why was this crafty deception carried on, but to deprive the lower orders of the people of the advantages that naturally must have accrued from a friendly intercourse between the two nations; and with no other advantages to themselves, than the pride of the most extravagant distinction between man and man? But we are now convinced that the very reverse of what we have been made to believe is the fact; that there is not a finer garden in Europe than France; that they abound with corn and wine—with almost every necessary for the comfortable support of the human race; and, notwithstanding their late devastations, it is in their power to supply this country with every necessary of life that we stand in need of. That they are liberal is allowed by their enemies; and they are ready to take their insulting foe by the hand, as soon as they shall appear to have received a sense of their own interest. It is not only humanity, but our interest, calls aloud for peace, and a friendly intercourse with France. But how is this great object to be obtained? We cannot be assisted by our overgrown, rich rulers, who

profit so much by carnage; nor does there appear sincerity enough in Opposition to give any staple support to the cause. We are told of a Whig Club, men of fortune and ability: But what do they do?—They meet at the Crown and Anchor—eat a good dinner—have constitutional toasts—drink the bottles, one, two, three, huzza! and mellow or sober, go to bed, Tom; and thus ends their patriotism.

If Opposition had been sincere, would they not have brought the minister to account, to prove what had been received for two hundred millions; and the Bank of England, to prove what they had advanced for the immense securities which they held against the public? Do these pretended advocates for reform ever think of the unfortunate victims confined now in the dreary prisons, for distinguished manliness in their opposition to our persecuting, ruling plunderers of their country? Nor did they come forward in behalf of those few noble patriots that risked the trials for their lives for the cause, who are now no more thought of than if such men had never been in existence. At the same time they appear ready to spend their thousands and tens of thousands to support a party, lest we mistake ourselves as to that description of men that are the supporters of this most accursed war. I wish to explain to my readers, that it is all the powerful side of the House of Commons; every man in opposition that voted for the supplies to carry on the war; all the monied men, paper men, and swindling stock-jobbers, out of the House; in fact, every man that holds a 5l. bank-note for a day only, is a supporter of this cursed war, without which it could not be carried on.

I wish to call the attention of my countrymen to that unfortunate victim of ministerial vengeance, Citizen Smith, condemned by Judge Ashhurst for the sin of his mother. The old gentlewoman sold a
book.

book. But could the crime be brought home to Mr. Smith?

If it should be his fate to be condemned to the Clerkenwell Bastille for two years, his fate will be more deplorable than that of the unfortunate Burks. Mr. Smith being of a weak constitution, this Bastille must soon be his grave; and Mrs. Smith be an unfortunate widow, with four or five, I do not know which, helpless children, unprovided for. It is therefore hoped, that the liberal citizen, the Samaritan, going by with two-pence in his pocket that he can spare, will call at No. 1, Portsmouth-street, Lincoln's-inn Fields, and buy a book of the poor widow.

Commercial Bank—Commercial Swindle! or last Shoe in the Minister's Shop.

Mr. Pitt's plan for raising two millions sterling, for the accommodation of trade. He proposes for a company of merchants to join and coin notes to the amount of two millions; that persons having title deeds mortgage deeds, navy, victualling transport, and exchequer bills, funded securities which he calls solid property, lodging these securities in the said bank shall be liable to receive those notes in lieu of their securities, and the public be compelled to take them as cash for the space of two years; for which the receivers of these notes from the bank are liable to pay an interest of five per cent. So that if people will be such dupes, they are to lodge solid securities in exchange for what is not solid property. Mr. Pitt brings two millions more paper into circulating medium: But, instead of the aid of trade, can any man be so blind as not to see that Mr. Pitt's views are, to bring this circulating medium to stock funding? And as this sum, if he has the whole, will not furnish him with a month's expences, where will this new bank find money at the end of two years to take up their notes?

In

Prior to the year 1788, I addressed a letter to Mr. Pitt to secure for the benefit of the public the money that was wasted by the adventurers in lotteries.

The following was my plan. That as the profits to the dealers in lottery tickets did not average less than fifty per cent. the money wasted by this extravagant folly might be saved to the adventurers partly in their taxes. I recommended to Government to issue out tickets at 13l. each, and advance in their regular progression to the time of drawing; and the venders of tickets be allowed a commission equal to the custom of selling stamps. By this mode I proved, that Government might get at least 200,000l. by every lottery, and the adventurers go to market in pursuit of their prizes on rather better terms than before the alteration took place. By this recommendation Mr. Pitt saw clearly that a profit was easily secured to Government on the sale of state lottery tickets, which prior to that time seldom went off without a bonus to the subscribers. Mr. Pitt, consistent with his general practice of concealing the channel from which he has obtained any useful information, puts the tickets up to the hammer, and they were the first year knocked down to the highest bidder, with a profit to Government of two hundred thousand pounds, which hath been pretty generally the case with every lottery since. But laying no restraint, as I recommended, on the price of the tickets, they operated as a stock-jobbing article, and the alteration proved an additional tax of forty per cent. to the adventurers; the former price being from 13 to 15l. the ticket, and since Mr. Pitt's alteration from 17 to 20l. though that cannot be the case for the present year, as the original value of the ticket is reduced to the amount of 1l. 13s. 4d. of course a 10l. ticket is this year worth no more than 8l. 6s. 8d.

Mr.

Mr. Pitt is certainly in want of yellow-boys, goldfinches, or something that will answer the purpose of money. The great number of defaulters in the last loan, and the Bank being tired of coining paper, must be sufficient proofs of it. I have been in one instance serviceable to the minister; but I do not see that I lie under any obligation to do the like again, as he took care to conceal the channel through which he procured his information. But, however, let me consider the credit of my country as being at the last stake, and, giving up personal resentment for public utility, advise him a second time.—Let there be expresses sent round the kingdom to every farmhouse, with particular orders to save their hens' eggs, and another express to Germany for Herman Boaz; and he will undertake, with his magic hammer and usual dexterity, to knock out a goldfinch from every one of those eggs. And surely there cannot be a more suitable supply; as during the continuance of Mr. Pitt's administration money must fly in and out of the treasury, and a goldfinch is certainly a more solid security than a scrip of paper.

Since writing the above, I hear the loyalty loan has dropped 6 per cent. Shocking times indeed!—Will not Brandon the truss-maker say, "It's a bad wind that blows nobody good: I'll go down to the Stock Exchange before the doors are open, and pick up plenty of orders for binding up the lame ducks?"

But to be more serious in this important business. There is certainly no nation in Europe, whose credit has been drawn into so much ridicule and contempt as this country's has been in Mr. Pitt's administration, particularly during the last three years. Eight millions of specie is certainly all that could be appropriated for the public use at any one time. The loan-mongers must have turned it twenty-five times in the short period of the last three years, or made up the deficiency

deficiency in paper. The fact is, that as soon as Mr. Pitt hath finished his funding for the present outstanding debts, the loan-monger's eight millions must increase to two hundred millions, twenty-five times the sum they first started upon.

Such a degree of extravagance, of public sacrifice of public property, surely never could have entered the brain of any other than our heaven-born minister. And in all this time the country is not a shilling the richer, but ten millions the poorer, having sent so much out of the country as foreign subsidies. How then are the loan-mongers to be satisfied for this astonishing sum, but from new mortgages on the labours of the people, from whom they are in hopes to receive their extravagant interest? Is not the Administration as ignorant as wicked, to suppose that ever such unreasonable contracts can be completed?

After all, it is but fair to give some idea of the loyalty and ability of some of our opulent bodies politic. The city of London have offered to lend Government one hundred thousand pounds, if they can tell where to borrow it: the India Company, two millions, if they can raise 3,400,000l. on their new-created stock. But all these, if attended with success, are but contemptible trifles towards the support of the continuance of the minister's wicked measures; and every man of humanity must rejoice to see that they are so near at an end, from whatever cause it may proceed. We never can say we have been sincere in an offer to make peace with the French through the channel of Mr. Pitt; for if it comes through him, they know it is from necessity. In all private concerns, if we want to make friendship with any man, we make choice of the person that we think would be the most palatable to his temper; and we know, for very just reasons, there cannot be a man more detested by the French than Mr. Pitt must be.

In

In my account of East India produce, I omitted the article of sugar, so much in consumption. Price in the country, retailed at two-pence half-penny the pound, could not cost the company more than twenty-one shillings the hundred weight; freight and insurance home seven shillings: delivered into the company's warehouses at three-pence the pound. Another proof, that nothing can be obtained at a moderate price through the hands of a monopolizing company.

Now, my fellow citizens, if you read this treatise attentively, you will see the cause of your present deplorable situation, and the means of relief; that it entirely depends on the efforts of you that are persecuted. Your numbers will prove you to be the support of the nation—the strength of the nation. But be unanimous, discreet, and manly in your operations. More than thirty years experience proves that petitioning is vain; therefore you must remonstrate.

It is not the sparing hand of Providence that hath distressed us, for we experience his liberality in our own corn fields; and our situation with other countries for other necessaries of life, are proofs of it. It is our rulers that lay restraints on his bounty. Let us therefore endeavour to open the eyes of the King.—Though I will not pretend to dictate a remonstrance to you, yet I shall take the liberty of stating some important objects that I think will strengthen your cause for complaint.

May it please your Majesty to consider, that we know it is in the power of the King to find relief for his distressed subjects; and we believe it to be your interest to do so. The whole of your Majesty's reign has been unfortunate for yourself, and more so for your afflicted subjects, from the circumstance of your having employed, we believe, the most wicked in this kingdom in your administration. While they have
K
been

been ringing a deceitful peal in your Majesty's ears, advising you to fight for religion, they have been indulging themselves as the most extravagant wine bibbers, friends to tax-gatherers and sinners only, with the addition of every other luxury and licentiousness; in fact, they appear to be affected like wild asses in the morning, every man neighing after his neighbour's wife. Of this fact Doctor's Commons bears record.

This is their situation, while the more industrious part of your Majesty's subjects are strangers to every degree of happiness, nor know one day how to provide the taxes for the next; and the very lowest orders of the people dying for the want of the necessaries of life. It is no stranger than true, that such has been the increase of the burthens during your Majesty's reign, that it is as much as four to one; and we find that by comparing our situation with that of other European nations, though mixed with the most barbarous states of despotism, yet is our incumbrance as much as eight to one. So that we have more taxes to provide for in one day than all the inhabitants in Europe besides ourselves have to provide for in a week.

In the midst of all this, your Majesty's ministers have the impudence to tell us, that we live too well. Not confining themselves to the spilling of human blood, and taxation, they have summoned all their arts to increase the price of the necessaries of life, by prohibiting the importation of grain in particular, whenever it was to be obtained in the country on moderate terms.

The public credit we conceive to be an object of your Majesty's most serious consideration, as we imagine that part of your Majesty's fortune that is fixed in this kingdom is settled in the public funds; and any encroachment to lessen its credit must be injurious to your Majesty. Mr. Pitt hath added two hundred millions

millions to the public debt, in the proportion of three per cent. principally during the last three years, and for which very little money hath been received; though it is an additional annual charge, it is not any increase of national wealth, but additional mortgage on the labours of the people. This certainly has brought on an insolvent security, as it is impossible the people can pay. And it is the more provoking, as very little solid property can have been received for this immense sum; it being a well known fact, that the specie in the kingdom or public use does not amount to a twentieth part of the sum spent by Mr. Pitt. But as long as we do exist in credit, the labours of the people are swindled into the hands of the stock-jobber to the amount of two hundred millions, principally from the circumstance of shuffling paper from hand to hand.

This being really the case, it is humbly hoped your Majesty will see the necessity and utility of a peace with France, a general intercourse of trade, unincumbered with taxes, a compromise between debtor and creditor, the people eased of their taxes, a circumstance easily obtained, and will be the cause of the necessaries of life being an easy acquisition to all the industrious part of your Majesty's subjects.

My advice to you, my countrymen, is, that you meet in your lawful assemblies, and that the most sensible amongst you draw up a reasonable remonstrance to the King. Let it be signed in all your divisions, and there can be no doubt but your example will be followed by the persecuted inhabitants in every borough and city in the kingdom.

I have now only to add, that in this important business I recommend you to be unanimous, steady, and manly; a conduct which I think will be the means of crowning your endeavours with success in this most important undertaking.

In

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In America, a widow with four or five children is courted as a fortune, the labour of every child being worth 100l.—in England a situation the most wretched. Why?—Because the necessaries of life are so frequently prohibited, or loaded with heavy duties.

We may be told by such as wish to support the present exorbitant prices of the necessaries of life, that the price of labour is advanced in proportion. But that I deny: some addition has indeed taken place in the metropolis and its neighbourhood, but that by no means in proportion to the extravagant price of provisions. It is within a very short period, that I have seen able-bodied men working in the two counties of Hereford and Gloucester, in the fields, at ten pence per day, and in Wales at eight pence: if there has been any advance in Devonshire, it is not more than two pence per day to the husbandman. A recent application by petition was made by this very useful set of men: they were answered, at a meeting at the Castle at Exeter, that that was no time to raise wages; but never gave them the satisfaction to say, that it was because Mr. Pitt was spending so much of the public money. Some of the poor woollen manufacturers, who are numerous, get less money now than they did when the price of the necessaries of life were at the lowest I have mentioned.

FINIS.