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MINUTES
OF SEVERAL
RESOLUTIONS
OF THE HONOURABLE
House of Commons,
IN THE
Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh SESSIONS
OF THE
EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
OF
GREAT BRITAIN:

Being a Summary View of the most Remarkable
Transactions of that AUGUST ASSEMBLY
in the last Three Years.

Illustrated with EXPLANATORY NOTES on the same.

To which is annexed,

An ABSTRACT of the State of the NATIONAL
DEBT, as it stood in the Years 1738, 1739, 1740.

L O N D O N:

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February 1. 1738.

HIS MAJESTY came to the House of Peers, and opened the Session with a most gracious Speech from the Throne, signifying that He had obtained Satisfaction for his injured Merchants trading to America, by a Convention concluded, and ratify'd between the King of Spain and himself; wherein his Catholick Majesty had obliged himself to make Reparation to His Majesty's Subjects for their Losses, by a certain stipulated Payment; and that Plenipotentiaries are therein named, for regulating within a Limited Time, all those Grievances and Abuses, which have hitherto interrupted our Commerce and Navigation in the American Seas, and for settling all Matters in Disputé, so as to prevent all Causes of Complaint for the future. And that His Majesty would order the Convention, and the separate Articles to be laid before them. Whereupon the Commons resolv'd to Address His MAJESTY with Thanks for his most gracious Speech from the Throne, and to congratulate His MAJESTY upon the Success of his Royal Endeavours in concluding a Convention with the King of Spain, whereby Reparation is stipulated to be made and paid to His Majesty's injured Subjects, &c. Upon a Division, Ayes 230, Noes 141*. And a Committee was appointed to draw up an Address upon the said Resolution.

February 2.

Resolved, That this House will receive no Petitions for private Bills after the first of March next.

Ordered, That this House be called over upon the 20th Instant.

Agreed to the Report of their Address to be presented to His Majesty.

Resolved, That the said Address be presented by the whole House.

Resolved, Nemine Contradicente, That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty to congratulate Him on the In-

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* The Minority was for postponing that part of the Address, which related to the Convention, till the House had received it.

(2)

crease of the Royal Family, by the Princess of *Wales* being happily delivered of a Prince, &c.

Resolved, Nemine Contradicente, That a Congratulatory Message be sent to the Prince and Princess of *Wales* on this happy Occasion.

February 3.

The House went with their Address to his Majesty, with Thanks for his most gracious Speech, &c.

February 5.

Mr. *Speaker* reported His Majesty's Answer to their Address.

The House resolved that a Supply be granted to His Majesty, *Nemine Contradicente*.

February 6.

Ordered divers Estimates of Accounts to be laid before them.

Resolved, That His MAJESTY be addressed for several Memorials, Petitions, &c. since the Treaty of *Seville*, relating to any Losses sustained by His MAJESTY's Subjects by Depredations committed by the *Spaniards*, &c. to be laid before them, which have not already been laid before this House.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, that His MAJESTY be addressed to lay Admiral *Haddock's* Instructions before them, it passed in the *Negative*, on a Division, Ayes 113, Noes 183. After which it was moved that several Papers relating to the *Spanish* Captures be laid before them, which passed in the *Negative*: Ayes 120, Noes 200.

February 7.

Received several Estimates of Accounts from the Commissioners of the Customs, relating to prohibited *East-India* Goods remaining in their Warehouses from *Michaelmas* 1737, to *Michaelmas* 1738.

February 8.

The House received the Convention, with the several Ratifications thereof.

February 9.

Received a Petition of the Curriers relating to Tanned Leather.

Ordered in a Bill according to the Prayer of the said Petition.

Received several Estimates of Accounts.

February

(3)

February 10.

The House agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolution on the Supply, *viz.* Resolved, that *Twelve Thousand* Seamen be employed for the Service of the Year 1739

Resolved, That a Sum not exceeding four Pounds *per Man* *per Month* be allowed for defraying the Expences of the same,

February 12.

In a Committee of Ways and Means for raising the Supply granted to His Majesty, resolved that the Duties on Malt, Mum, Cyder, and Perry, be continued for one Year.

Ordered in a Bill accordingly.

February 13.

Ordered in a Bill for suppressing Rogues, Vagabonds, &c. and for the better Relief of Lunaticks, and Foundling Children.

Ordered an Address to His Majesty, to lay before them, Copies of several Memorials, &c. since the Treaty of *Seville*, touching the Rights of *Great Britain*, or any Infractions of Treaties, which have not been laid before them.

February 14.

Read a first time the Malt-Bill.

In a Committee on the Supply came to the following Resolutions.

Resolved, That 17704 Men be granted for Land-Forces for the Service of the Year 1739. On a Division: Ayes 253, Noes 183*.

That 647,549*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* $\frac{1}{2}$, be granted for maintaining them.

That 228,062*l.* be granted for the Garrisons of *Minorca*, *Gibraltar*, *Georgia*, &c.

That 27,172*l.* be granted for Out-Pensioners of *Chelsea-Hospital*.

That 504*l.* be granted, for defraying several extraordinary Expences incurred in 1738, and not provided for by Parliament.

February 15.

Read a second time the Malt-Bill.

Received the Report of Yesterday's Resolutions, and agreed to them, on a Division: Ayes 129, Noes 73.

February 16.

Read a first time, a Bill for punishing Rogues, Vagabonds, &c. and for the Relief of Lunaticks and Foundling Children.

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Went

* The Minority proposed 12000 Men only.

(4)

Went thro' in a Committee the Malt-Bill, with several Amendments.

February 19.

Reported the Malt-Bill, and ordered it to be Engrossed.
Received divers Letters, concerning the *Spanish* Depredations.

February 20.

Read a third time, and passed the Malt-Bill.
Received the Report of Yesterday's Resolution, in a Committee of Ways and Means, and agreed to it, *viz.*
Resolved, That 119,451 *l.* 17 *s.* 9 *d.* now remaining in the Exchequer, being the overplus of the Grant for 1738, be applied towards making good the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament.

The House, according to Order was called over.

February 21.

Read a first time the *Mutiny*-Bill.
Received Copies of several Memorials, Letters, &c. relating to the Affairs of *Spain*.

February 22.

Received the Report of Yesterday's Resolutions, in a Committee on the Supply, and agreed to them, *viz.*
Resolved, That 222,689 *l.* 2 *s.* 6 *d.* be granted for the Ordinary of the *Navy*, including Half-pay to *Sea* Officers for 1739.

That 80,088 *l.* 6 *s.* 3 *d.* be granted for the Charge of the Office of Ordnance for Land-Service, for 1739.

That 30,503 *l.* 11 *s.* 6 *d.* be granted for defraying the Extraordinary Expences of the Office of Ordnance for Land-Service, not provided for by Parliament.

February 23.

Read a second time, the Bill for punishing Rogues, Vagabonds, &c. and for the Relief of Lunatics, and Foundling Children.

Received a Petition from the *West-India* Merchants, trading to *America*, and another Petition from the Merchants of *Bristol*; setting forth that by this Convention, the *Spaniards* are so far from giving up their unjustifiable Practice of visiting and searching *British* Ships sailing to, and from, the *British* Plantations, that they appear to have claimed the Power of doing it as a Right, by having insisted, that the Differences which have arisen concerning it, should be discussed by Plenipotentiaries, without agreeing to abstain from such Visitation and Search, during the time that

(5)

the Discussion of this Affair may last. That the Petitioners are greatly apprehensive, by this manner of Proceeding, that the *Spanish* Plenipotentiaries will be instructed not to give it up. And if the Freedom of our Navigation and Commerce, to and from our own Colonies, should be left in Suspense, and precarious, it must be attended with the most fatal and pernicious Consequences, and therefore praying for an Opportunity to be heard, &c. &c.

After Debate, Ordered that the Petitioners be heard by themselves, (not by Counsel) on two Divisions: Ayes 237, 242, Noes 208, 207.

Received a Petition from the Lord-Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of *London*, setting forth, That the Citizens of *London* are too deeply interested in whatever affects the Trade of this Nation, not to express the utmost Anxiety for the Welfare of that only Source of our Riches. And that it is with the utmost Concern the Petitioners are able to express, that they perceive the Trade to his Majesty's *American* Colonies still continues exposed to the Insults of the *Spaniards*, who stop, search, and make Prizes of *British* Vessels navigating the *American* Seas, upon Pretences altogether groundless and unwarrantable, and in manifest Violation of the Treaties subsisting between the two Crowns: and expressing their great Concern and surprize, to find by the Convention lately concluded between His Majesty, and the King of *Spain*, that the *Spaniards* are so far from giving up their unjust Pretensions of a Right to visit and search our Ships in the *American* Seas, that this their Pretension, amongst others, is refer'd to the future Decision of the Plenipotentiaries, whereby the Petitioners apprehend it is in some Degree admitted. That to these Causes, the present low State of the *British* Colonies in *America* may be greatly attributed. And if the cruel Treatment of the *English* Sailors, whose hard Fate has thrown them into the Hands of the *Spaniards*, should be put up without any Reparation, they apprehend, it may be a means of deterring Seamen from undertaking Voyages to the Seas of *America*, without an Advance of Wages, which that Trade will not be able to support. And thereupon the Petitioners thought it their indispensable Duty, to represent to this House, the fatal Consequences of leaving the Freedom of Navigation any longer in Suspense and Uncertainty, and therefore expressing their Hope, &c. &c.

Ordered,

(6)

Ordered, That the said Petition be referr'd to the Consideration of the Committee of the whole House, who are to consider of the Convention, &c.

Received a Petition from Captain *Richard Copithorne*, who commanded the *Betty Galley*, and the Owners thereof; setting forth, That the said Ship was taken on the 29th of *June*, 1727, N. S. in the *Mediterranean Sea*, on her Voyage from *Messina*, by a *Spanish Privateer*, under *Turkish Colours*, after five Hours Engagement, wherein three of his Men were killed, the Petitioner *Richard Copithorne*, and three more wounded, and for nine days kept naked; and after other inhuman Usage, the said Ship was carried into *Malaga*, and condemned: as was also another Ship, called the *Loyal-Galley*, commanded by *William Pugsley*. And that frequent Applications have been made in the most respectful Manner by the Petitioners, who have hitherto received no Satisfaction, &c. and therefore praying, &c.

Referr'd the said Petition to the Consideration of the Committee, &c.

February 26.

Received a Petition from the Merchants of *Liverpool*, praying to be heard by Counsel against the Convention.

Ordered to be heard by themselves, (not by Counsel) on a Division: Ayes 175, Noes 162.

Received a Petition of *George Packer*, &c. Owners of the Ship *Sarah*, Captain *Jason Vaughan* Master; setting forth, that the said Ship was taken, sailing fully laden from *Jamaica*, directly for the Port of *Bristol*, but after attempting the *Windward Passage* for about seventeen Days without Success, was obliged to return and make her Voyage through the *Gulph of Florida*; and on the 29th Day of *June*, being in the Latitude of 24 Degrees, and 28 Minutes, as the said Ship was proceeding on her Voyage, and being then about 55 Leagues distant from the *Ile of Cuba*, she was with her whole Cargo seized by a *Spanish Man of War*, and carried into the *Hayannah*, there condemned as a Prize, contrary to the Law of Nations, and the subsisting Treaties. The Value of such Ship and Cargo, at the Time of such Seizure, was upwards of 9000*l.* Sterling. And that the Master and Mariners were taken Prisoners, and inhumanly treated by the Captors, &c. and therefore praying, &c.

Referr'd

(7)

Referr'd to the Consideration of the Committee on the Convention, &c.

Received Petitions, relating to *Westminster-Abbey*, *St. Margaret's-Church*, the *African Company*, and the Colony of *Georgia*.

Mr. *Speaker* Reported, that His MAJESTY had been attended in the House of *Peers*, and he gave the Royal Assent to the *Malt-Bill*.

February 27.

Received divers Petitions from *Shoemakers*, *Sadlers*, &c. &c.

Read a first time a Bill to explain a late Act for Relief of insolvent Debtors.

Read a second time, a Bill for punishing *Mutiny*, and *Desertion*.

February 28.

Received a Petition from several *Glasmakers*, *Brewers*, *Sugarboilers*, *Smiths*, *Dyers*, &c. Consumers of Coals, complaining of the Abuses and Frauds in enhancing the Price, and praying Relief.

Referr'd to the Consideration of a Committee of the whole House.

March 1.

Went thro' in a Committee the *Mutiny-Bill*, with several Amendments.

March 2.

Received the Report of the *Mutiny-Bill*, and ordered it to be Engross'd.

Read a second time a Bill to prevent Frauds and Abuses in Gold and Silver Wares.

March 5.

Received a Petition from the Merchants of *Edinburgh*, expressing their Dissatisfaction to the Convention.

Referr'd to the Committee on the Convention.

Read a third time, and passed the *Mutiny-Bill*.

The whole House was called over, according to Order.

March 6.

In a grand Committee, took the Convention into Consideration, and several Merchants were called in, and examined, relating to their Losses sustained by the *Spaniards*; Captain *Vaughan*, and Captain *Copithorne* were also examined relating to their Losses and cruel Usage.

March 7.

Received two Petitions from the Merchants of *Scotland*, against the Convention. Referr'd

(8)

Referr'd to the Consideration of the Committee, &c.
Ordered an Address to His MAJESTY, to give Orders for erecting a more spacious Edifice, for the better Reception of Parliament.

Took the Convention into further Consideration, and examined Mr. *Stert* one of the Commissioners, relating to the Merchants Accounts, and the Demands of the King of *Spain*, and other Witnesses were examined, as to the Limits of *Carolina*, &c.

March 8.

In a grand Committee took the Convention into further Consideration, when it was moved, that an Address of Thanks be presented to His MAJESTY, for obtaining the Convention; and great Debates arose thereupon, which lasted till past Twelve o'clock at Night, when it was then carried in the Affirmative, on a Division: Ayes 260, Noes 232.

March 9.

Received the Report of Yesterday's Resolution, and agreed to it, on a Division: Ayes 244, Noes 214.

Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His MAJESTY to return the Thanks of this House, for having the Convention communicated to them; and to express the just Sense of his Royal Care for the true Interest of his People, in bringing the Demands of his Subjects to a final Determination, and for procuring a speedy Payment for the Losses the Merchants sustained by the *Spaniards*, by a certain stipulated Sum. And to declare our Satisfaction in the Foundation His MAJESTY has laid for preventing, and removing, the like Grievances and Causes of Complaint for the future, and for preserving the Peace between the two Nations, &c. And to assure His MAJESTY, that in case His Majesty's just Expectations shall not be answered, this House will support His MAJESTY in taking such Measures, as may be most conducive to vindicate the Honour and Dignity of His MAJESTY's Crown, and the Rights of his People.

Resolved, That the said Address be presented to His MAJESTY by the whole House.

March 12.

The House went with their Address to His MAJESTY.*

March 13.

Received a Petition of the Merchants, Clothiers, and Dealers

* This Address was not printed in the Votes as usual.

(9)

Dealers in *Wool*, complaining of the Decay of the *Woollen* Manufactory, and praying Relief, &c.

Referr'd to a Committee of the whole House.

March 14.

Received a Petition of the Merchants and others trading to the *British* Sugar Colonies in *America*; complaining that by the Heavy Duties now payable therein, they are not able to sell their Sugars as cheap as their Neighbours; which is a great Detriment to the Petitioners, as well as a Loss to His MAJESTY's Revenue, and therefore praying Relief, &c. *Referr'd* to the Consideration of a Committee of the whole House.

March 15.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolutions on *Ways* and *Means*, viz.

Resolved, That Two Shillings in the Pound be granted for *Land-Tax* for 1739.

Resolved, That no Drawbacks shall be paid on the Exportation of wrought Plate or Manufactures of *Silver*, that shall have been wrought above 10 Years before the Entry of the same for Exportation.

Ordered an Address to His MAJESTY, to congratulate Him on the Birth of another *Prince*.

Ordered a congratulatory Message to the *Prince of Wales* on the same joyful Occasion.

Mr. *Speaker* reported that the House had attended His MAJESTY in the House of *Peers*, when He gave the Royal Assent to the Bill for punishing *Mutiny* and *Desertion*, and to two private Bills.

Heard Council for and against the *Curriers* Bill.

March 16.

Read a first time the *Land-Tax*-Bill.

Read a second time a Bill to explain the *Insolvent Debtors* Act.

In a Grand Committee took into Consideration the several Petitions, complaining of the Clandestine Exportation of *Wool* to foreign Parts, and also of the Decay of the *Woollen* Manufactory, and came to several Resolutions.

March 20.

Read a first time a Bill to indemnify Persons who have omitted to take the Oaths, and for allowing a further Time for that purpose.

Read a first time a Bill for the more easy assessing, collecting and levying of *County* Rates.

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Received

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Received the Report of Friday's Resolutions on the *Wool-
len* Manufacture, and agreed to the same.

Ordered in a Bill accordingly.

Resolved, That His MAJESTY be addressed, to order
an Account of the State and Condition of the *British* Sugar
Colonies, to be laid before this House.

Read the *Land-Tax-Bill* a second time.

Received a Petition of the Merchants trading to *Sicily*,
setting forth that upon the Defeat of the *Spanish* Fleet in
1718, the Merchants residing at *Messina* were imprisoned,
their Ships, Goods and Effects seized, confiscated and sold,
by order of the General of the *Spanish* Forces in *Sicily*,
whereby the Petitioners suffered great Losses, which were
claimed and proved before a Committee of the whole
House in 1728-9. and the Estimates of the said Losses then
delivered in, Duplicates whereof are ready to be produced
by the Petitioners, who have had no Restitution made
them; nor, as they apprehend, did the *Commissaries* go
through the Discussion of the Losses in *Sicily*, or make any
Report of them: and therefore submitting the Case of the
Petitioners to the Consideration of the House, and praying
such Relief, as to the House shall seem meet.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

Heard Counsel further on the *Carriers* Bill, and the
Counsel for the Petitioners summed up their Evidence.

March 21.

Read a second time the Bill to indemnify Persons who
have omitted to take the Oaths, and for allowing a further
Time, &c.

In a grand Committee on the *Land-Tax-Bill* went thro'
the same, with several Amendments.

March 22.

Received the Report of the *Land-Tax-Bill*, and Ordered
it to be engrossed.

Received several Accounts from the Commissioners of
the Customs, relating to *Sugars*, *Indigo* and *Rice*.

Received a Petition of *James Buchanan*, and others, in-
terested in the Ship *Scipio*; setting forth, that the said Ship
having taken in her Cargo on the Coast of *Africa*, con-
sisting of *Negroes*, Gold Dust, and Elephants Teeth, to the
Value of upwards of Six thousand Pounds, and sailing from
thence to *Jamaica*, having touched on the Island of *Bar-
badoes*, was on the 27th of *October* 1736, taken on the
High Sea by a *French* Ship or Vessel, and carried into
St.

(11)

St. Peter's in the Island of *Martinique*; that soon after a
Prosecution was commenced against the Captain before the
Court of Admiralty there, founded on a Pretence that
she was acting in Contravention to a certain Edict for set-
tling Limits relating to unlawful Trade; but that upon Trial,
the Judges were of opinion, that the Charge was ground-
less: nevertheless the Intention of the Edict not having been
qualified, the Judges were obliged to declare the said Ship
and Cargo duly confiscated; and that thereupon the Captain
appeared to the Supreme Court of *Martinique*, who upon
Examination annulled the Judgment given by the Court
of Admiralty, and decreed him Costs, and that he should
be again put into Possession of the said Ship and Cargo. And
that as the said Captain was preparing to take Possession of
his Ship and Cargo, he received an Ordinance from the
Intendant of the Island, which impowered the Director of
the Customs to appeal from the Judgment of the Supreme
Court, to the *French* King in Council; but nevertheless
ordered the said Ship and Cargo to be restored, on his pro-
ducing good and sufficient Security, Inhabitants of the
Island, for the appraised Value of the same: and that the
said Captain not being able to procure the Security insisted
on, was obliged to consent to the Sale of his Ship and Cargo,
and to deposit the Money in the hands of his Securities,
till the Affair should be decided by the King and Council
of *France*. That the said Captain did sollicite oftentimes
at *Paris*, but to no purpose, he being at length told, that
this Ship in Contest should pay for a *French* Ship, called
the *Fleuron*, taken some time ago. That upon Petition to
His MAJESTY, Application had been made by his Mini-
ster at *Paris*, but that the same had not its desired Effect, and
therefore praying the House to take the Premises into
Consideration, &c.

Referr'd to the Consideration of a Committee of the
whole House.

Went into a Committee of the whole House, on the
Petition of the Merchants trading to the Sugar Colonies in
America; and came to several Resolutions.

March 23.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolutions; viz.
Resolved, That in order to encourage His MAJESTY'S
Subjects in the *British* Sugar Colonies in *America*, to im-
prove and extend their Settlements there, it is necessary,
they should be permitted, for a limited Time, to carry
Sugars

Sugars of *British* Growth from the said Colonies directly to foreign Ports under proper Restrictions.

That some more effectual Provision be made, for securing the Duties already laid upon the Importation of Foreign Sugars, Rum and Molasses, into *Great Britain*, and His MAJESTY'S Plantations in *America*.

Ordered in a Bill accordingly.
Went thro' in a Committee, the Bill to indemnify Persons who have omitted to take the Oaths.

Went thro', in a Committee, the Bill to prevent Frauds and Abuses in *Gold* and *Silver* Wares, with several Amendments.

March 26.

Received a Petition of *Joanna Stephens*; setting forth that the Petitioner has for some years last past been possessed of a Method of preparing Medicines, which are found by Experience to be a safe and effectual Cure for the *Stone*, and by which she has her present Subsistence; that several Persons of Distinction have endeavoured to raise the Sum of *Five Thousand Pounds* by voluntary Contribution, in order to purchase of her the Method of preparing and giving the said Medicines; and have accordingly raised the Sum of *1387 l. 13 s.* for that purpose, but see no Probability of completing the whole Sum of *Five Thousand Pounds*; and therefore praying, &c.

Referred to the Committee on the Supply; on a Division, Ayes 106, Noes 65.

Received several Petitions from *Durham* and *Newcastle* upon *Tyne*, praying to be heard by Counsel against the Petition of the Consumers of *Coals*, &c. And the same was granted.

Read a second time and committed the Bill for assessing, collecting, and levying of *County Rates*.

Agreed to the Report of *Friday's* Resolutions on the Supply; viz.

Resolved, That for defraying the Charges of His MAJESTY'S Mint, and the Coinage of *Gold* and *Silver* Moneys, and thereby to Encourage the bringing in of *Gold* and *Silver* to be Coined, a Revenue of *15000 l. per Annum* be settled and secured for *seven Years*, from the first day of *March 1738*.

That *39,124 l.* be granted for reduced Officers of His MAJESTY'S Land-Forces and Marines, for *1739*.

That *3960 l.* be granted for paying of Pensions to the Widows of reduced Officers for *1739*.

That

That *20,000 l.* be granted for the further settling and improving the Colony of *Georgia* in *America*.

That *10,000 l.* be granted for the maintenance of the *British* Forts and Settlements in *Africa*.

That *10,000 l.* be granted towards the Support of *Greenwich-Hospital*.

That *3552 l.* be granted to replace to the *Sinking Fund* the like Sum paid out of the same to make good the Deficiencies of the Additional Stamp Duties at *Christmas 1737*.

That *20,000 l.* be granted to replace to the said Fund the like Sum paid out of the same to the Governors and Company of the *Bank of England* for one Year's Interest on *500,000 l.* by them lent on the Credit of the *Salt Duties* towards the Supply of the Year *1735*.

March 27.

Read a third time and passed the *Land-Tax* Bill.

Read a second time a Bill for continuing the Act to regulate the *Price* and *Assize* of Bread, and for continuing the Act for the better Regulation of *Attornies* and *Solicitors*.

Received the Report of the Bill for preventing Frauds and Abuses in *Gold* and *Silver* Wares, and Ordered it to be engrossed.

March 28.

Ordered in a Bill for Licencing *Tragedies*, *Comedies*, &c. that are to be acted at *Edinburgh*.

Heard Counsel further on the *Coal* Affair.

March 29.

Passed the Bill to indemnify Persons who have omitted to take the Oaths.

Heard Counsel further on the Bill between the *Curriers* and *Shoemakers*; and Ordered that the Bill be Committed; on a Division, Ayes 48, Noes 22.

March 30.

Passed the Bill to prevent Frauds and Abuses in *Gold* and *Silver* Wares.

Received a Petition of the Lord-Mayor, Aldermen, and Common-Council of the City of *London*, praying to be heard by Counsel against the Bill for improving the Navigation of the River *Lee* in *Hertfordshire*.

And the same was granted.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, that Leave be given to bring in a Bill to repeal so much of an Act passed in the 25th Year of the Reign of King *Charles II.* intitled, *An Act for preventing Dangers which may happen from*

(14)

from *Popish Recusants*, as obligeth all Persons, who are admitted into any Office, Civil or Military, to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's-Supper, within a Time limited by the said Act, and for explaining and amending so much of the said Act as relates to the Declaration against Transubstantiation.

It passed in the Negative; on a Division, Ayes 89, Noes 188.

April 2.

Read a first time a Bill for drawing back the Duties payable on *Soap, Ashes, Starch, and blue Azure or Smalts*, which shall be used and consumed in the bleaching and whitening of new *Linnen-Cloth, Cotton-Cloth, Linnen-Yarn, and Linnen-Thread* made of *Lint or Flax*; and for preventing the Use of *Lime, Pidgeons Dung and Soap-Dregs*, in whitening the same, in that part of *Great Britain* called *Scotland*.

Committed the Bill relating to *Rogues, Vagabonds, and foundling Children* to a select Committee.

April 3.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolutions on *Ways and Means*; viz.

Resolved, That towards raising 15000*l. per Annum* for defraying the Charge of His MAJESTY'S Mints, and the Coinage of *Gold and Silver Monies*; the Duties of 10*s. per Ton* be laid upon all *Wines, Vinegar, Cyder and Beer*, imported into *Great Britain*, which were continued for seven Years, be farther continued for seven Years longer, from the first Day of *March, 1738*.

That all the Powers, Privileges and Advantages which were granted by an Act 18th K. *Charles II.* for encouraging the Coinage of *Gold and Silver*, be further continued for seven Years.

Heard Counsel further on the *Coal* Affair.

April 4.

Read a first time a Bill to continue the Duties for Encouragement of the Coinage of Money.

Read a first time a Bill to License *Tragedies, Comedies, &c.* to be acted at *Edinburgh*.

Read a first Time a Bill for granting a Liberty to carry *Sugars* of the Growth, Produce or Manufacture of the *British Colonies in America*, directly to foreign Parts.

April 5.

Read a second time the *Coinage-Bill*.

Received

(15)

Received a Petition from the Merchants of *Bristol*, praying to be heard by Counsel against the *Sugar-Colony-Bill*.
Leave given accordingly.

Heard further Evidence on the *Coal* Affair.

April 6.

Received the Report of the Bill to explain an Act for Relief of *Insolvent Debtors*, and ordered it to be engrossed.

Read a first time a Bill to explain so much of an Act 8th of K. *George I.* as relates to the preventing Officers of His MAJESTY'S Ships of War, from carrying Goods and Merchandizes on Freights, and Trading therewith.

Read a second time the Bill for drawing back the Duties on *Soap, Ashes, &c.*

Went thro' in a Committee the *Coinage-Bill*.

Heard Counsel further on the *Coal-Bill*, and the Petitioners finished their Evidence, and the Counsel summed up the same.

April 9.

Received the Report of the *Coinage-Bill*, and ordered it to be engrossed.

April 10.

Received Petitions from the City, University and Merchants of *Edinburgh*, setting forth that the Trade of that City is not able to maintain a Play-House; that such tends only to the Debauching the Morals of their Youth; that the Parliament has already prohibited under very severe Penalties the performing any Play, &c. within five Miles of the City of *Oxford*, and Town of *Cambridge*, and that *Edinburgh* as a University, should be indulged in like manner, &c. Therefore praying that the said Bill may not pass into a Law.

Ordered to lie on the Table till the Bill be read a second time.

Read a first time a Bill for prohibiting the Importation of *English* Books reprinted abroad; and for limiting the Prices of Books.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolution on the Supply, viz.

Resolved, That 5000*l.* be granted as a Reward to *Joanna Stephens*, upon a proper Discovery to be made by her, for the Use of the Publick, of her Method of preparing her Medicines for the Stone.

Received the Report of the Bill to regulate the Price and Assize of *Bread*, and for the better Regulation of *Attornies and Solicitors*, and ordered it to be engrossed. Heard

(16)

Heard Counsel and some Evidence for several Coal-Owners, against the Petitions of several Consumers of Coals.

April 11.

Read a third time and passed the *Coinage-Bill*.

Read a first time a Bill to enlarge the Powers of the Commissioners for building a Bridge at *Westminster*, and to remove all Doubts and Difficulties on their purchasing Houses, Grounds, &c.

Heard Counsel farther on the *Coal* Affair.

April 12.

Received three Petitions from *Devonshire*, one from *Southampton*, and one from *Somersetshire*, severally complaining of the Decay of the *Woollen* Manufacture, and praying Relief.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

Read a second time a Bill for establishing an Hospital at *Bath*.

Read a third time and passed the Bill for fixing the Price and *Affize* of *Bread*, and regulating *Attornies*, with several Amendments.

Received the Report from the Committee to whom the Bill to obviate certain Doubts, which have arisen on an Act, 1 *William* and *Mary*, concerning *Tanned Leather*, was committed; when it was moved for a Clause to be added, that the Trade be laid open to all *Curriers*, *Shoemakers*, &c. which was rejected; on a Division, Ayes 64, Noes 112.

Ordered, That the Bill, with the Amendments, be engrossed.

April 13.

Heard Counsel further on the *Coal* Affair.

April 16.

Read a second time the Bill for prohibiting the Importation of *English* Books reprinted abroad, and limiting the Prices of Books.

Read a second time the Bill for improving the Navigation of the River *Lee*, and heard Counsel for and against the same, and several Bargemen were examined. And the said Bill was committed.

April 17.

Received a Petition of several Captains, Commanders and Officers of the Royal Navy, praying to be heard by Counsel, against the Bill for preventing Officers of His MAJESTY'S Ships of War, from carrying Goods and Merchandizes on Freights, or Trading therewith.

Resolved,

(17)

Resolved, That the said Bill be read a second time upon this Day Month; on a Division, Ayes 134, Noes 80.

Read a first time a Bill for the publick registering of all Deeds, Conveyances, Wills, &c. in *England*.

In a grand Committee took the *Coal* Affair into Consideration; after Debate, it was moved that the Chairman do leave the Chair; which passed in the Affirmative, *Nemine Contradicente*.

April 18.

Read a second time the Bill to enlarge the Powers of the Commissioners of *Westminster-Bridge*, &c.

Read a third time a Bill to obviate certain Doubts concerning *Tanned Leather*, and some Amendments were made by the House to the Bill. Another Amendment being proposed, and a Debate arising thereupon,

Ordered, That the Debate be adjourned to the 27th Instant.

April 19.

Ordered, That the Commissioners of the *Excise* do attend this House on the 27th Instant, to be examined relating to *Tanners* cutting *Leather* in Parcels, and whether it will affect the Duty by so doing.

Received the Report of the Bill for prohibiting the Importation of *English* Books, reprinted abroad, and for limiting the Prices of Books, and ordered it to be engrossed.

Read a first time a Bill for explaining an Act, 8th *Richard* II. intitled, *No Man of Law shall be Justice of Affize in his own Country*.

Mr. *Speaker* reported that this House had attended His MAJESTY in the *House of Peers*, when His MAJESTY gave the *Royal Assent* to the *Land-Tax-Bill*, the *Coinage-Bill*, the *Oath-Bill*, and to 22 *private-Bills*.

Read a first time a Bill for taking off the Duties upon *Woollen* and *Bay-Yarn*, imported from *Ireland* to *England*; and for preventing the Exportation of *Wool* to foreign Parts.

Received a Petition of the Merchants of *London*, praying to be heard by Counsel against the Bill for granting Liberty to carry Sugars of the Growth, Produce or Manufacture of the Sugar Colonies in *America*, directly to foreign Parts; as it will turn part of that Commerce into a new Channel, to the great Advantage of Foreigners, but to the manifest Prejudice of the Trade and Navigation of *Great Britain*.

Leave given accordingly.

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April

(18)

April 26.

Read a first time a Bill for providing a Reward to Mrs. Stephens, on a proper Discovery to be made by her, for the Use of the Publick, of her Method of preparing her Medicines for the Stone.

Received a Petition from Mrs. Jane Lowther of Whitehall, praying to be heard by Counsel against Westminster-Bridge-Bill.

Leave given accordingly.

April 27.

Read a third time and passed the Bill for prohibiting the Importation of English Books reprinted abroad, and for limiting the Prices of Books.

Read a second time the Bill for the publick Registering of all Deeds, Wills, &c. throughout England.

The House resumed the adjourned Debate, upon the Amendment proposed to be made to the engrossed Bill to obviate certain Doubts, which have arisen upon the Construction of the Act 1 K. William and Q. Mary, for explaining an Act made 1 K. James I. concerning Tanned-Leather. And the Commissioners of Excise were examined. After Debate, Resolved, That the Bill do pass; on a Division, Ayes 78, Noes 58.

Received the Report of the Bill for punishing Rogues, Vagabonds, &c. and for Relief of Lunatics and Foundling Children, and Ordered the Bill with the Amendments to be engrossed.

April 30.

Received the Report of the Bill for the more easy assessing, collecting and levying of County Rates.

Ordered, That the Bill with the Amendments be engrossed.

Received a Petition of the Merchants of Lancaster, against the Bill for granting a Liberty to carry Sugars of the Growth, Produce, &c. of the American Colonies directly to foreign Parts.

Then proceeded to hear Counsel for and against the said Bill, and examined a Witness.

Read a first time a Bill to rectify a Mistake in an Act passed in the 6 K. George I. intitled an Act for preventing Frauds and Abuses in the publick Revenues of Excise, Customs, Stamp-Duties, &c. And to obviate a Doubt that has arisen upon an Act 7 K. George I. intitled an Act for preventing His MAJESTY'S Subjects from trading to the East-Indies under foreign Commissions. Read

(19)

Read a third time and passed the Bill for the more effectual punishing Rogues, Vagabonds, &c.

Went into a Committee of the whole House upon the Bill to enlarge the Powers of the Commissioners of Westminster-Bridge. And the Committee made a Clause for enlarging the time for exchanging of Tickets unclaimed in the last Lottery, and for making Provision for Tickets, lost, burnt or otherwise destroyed.

May 2.

Read a second time and committed the Bill for providing a Reward to Joanna Stephens, upon a Discovery of her Medicines for the Stone, upon a Division, Ayes 91, Noes 60.*

May 3.

Read a second time a Bill for explaining an Act 8 K. Richard II. That no Man of Law shall be Justice of Assize in his own Country.

Received a Message from His MAJESTY; That His MAJESTY being restrained by the Laws now in being from making Provisions for his younger Children, out of the Hereditary Revenues of the Crown, in such Manner as his Royal Predecessors have usually done, and being desirous that competent Provisions may be made for the honourable Support and Maintenance of his dearly beloved Son the Duke of Cumberland, and of his dearly beloved Daughters the four younger Princesses; His MAJESTY hopes, that he shall be enabled by Act of Parliament to grant an Annuity of Fifteen Thousand Pounds per Annum to the Duke of Cumberland and his Issue, and an Annuity of Twenty four Thousand Pounds per Annum to the four Princesses, to take Effect after his Demise, and recommends the Consideration thereof to the House.

And a Bill was Ordered in accordingly.

Read a second time the Bill for taking off the Duties upon Woollen and Bay-Yarn, imported from Ireland to England, and for the effectual preventing the Exportation of Wool from Great Britain and Ireland to foreign Parts.

May 4.

Read a first time a Bill to authorise and empower the High Court of Chancery to lay out upon proper Securities, any Moneys, not exceeding a Sum to be limited, out of the common and general Cash in the Bank of England, belonging to the Suitors of the said Court, for the Ease of the said Suitors, by applying the Interest arising therefrom for

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answering

* The Minority were for having the Reward paid out of His Majesty's Civil List, as was usual in such Cases in former Reigns.

(20)

answering the Charges of the Office of Accountant General, of the said Court.

Read a first time a Bill for rendering more effectual the Laws made for imposing Duties on all foreign Sugars, Paneles, Rum, Spirits, Molasses and Syrups imported into Great Britain and His MAJESTY'S Plantations in America.

Read a second time a Bill to rectify a Mistake in an Act 6 K. George I. for preventing Frauds, &c. in the publick Revenues, &c. And to obviate a Doubt in an Act 7 K. George I. for preventing His MAJESTY'S Subjects from trading to the East-Indies under foreign Commissions.

Read a third time and passed the Bill for the more easy assessing, collecting and levying of County Rates with Amendments.

Passed the Bill for allowing further time for Inrollment of Deeds and Wills made by Papists.

Heard Counsel for and against the Bill for granting a Liberty to carry Sugars of the Growth, and Produce of any of His MAJESTY'S Sugar Colonies in America, directly to foreign Parts in English Ships.

May 7.

Received the Report of the Bill for erecting and establishing an Infirmary at Bath.

Ordered the Bill with the Amendments to be engrossed.

Read a first time a Bill to settle an Annuity on his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland and his Issue, and also one other Annuity on the Princesses Amelia, Caroline, Mary, and Louisa.

Heard Counsel for and against the Sugar-Colony-Bill, and committed it; on a Division, Ayes 76, Noes 19.

May 8.

Read a second time the Annuity-Bill for the Royal Family.

Read a second time and committed the Bill to empower the High Court of Chancery to lay out Moneys for the ease of the Suitors of that Court.

Went thro' in a Committee the Bill to explain an Act that no Man of Law shall be Judge of Assize in his own Country.

Went thro' in a Committee Westminster-Bridge-Bill.

Went thro' in a Committee Mrs. Stephens's Bill.

May 9.

Reported Mrs. Stephens's Bill, and Ordered it to be engrossed.

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(21)

Went thro' in a Committee the Bill for settling an Annuity on the Duke and four Princesses.

Reported the Bill to rectify a Mistake in an Act for preventing Frauds and Abuses in the publick Revenues of Excise, Customs, Stamp-Duties, &c. And to obviate a Doubt in an Act for the further preventing His MAJESTY'S Subjects from trading to the East-Indies under foreign Commissions, &c. and Ordered it to be engrossed.

Read a first time, a Bill for the more easy and effectual Recovery of small Debts.

Read a third time and passed the Bill for establishing an Hospital, or Infirmary at Bath.

May 10.

Read a third time and passed a Bill to rectify a Mistake in an Act 6 K. George I. for preventing Frauds and Abuses in the publick Revenues, &c. And for the further preventing His MAJESTY'S Subjects from trading to the East-Indies under foreign Commissions.

Received the Report of the Bill to enable His MAJESTY to settle an Annuity upon the Duke of Cumberland, and the four Princesses.

Ordered the Bill with the Amendments to be engrossed.

Received a Message from His MAJESTY, signed

GEORGE REX.

His MAJESTY being truly solicitous for the Peace and Welfare of these Kingdoms, and desirous to contribute, as far as in him lies, towards preserving the Publick Tranquility, and the Balance of Power in Europe; hath concluded with the King of Denmark a Treaty agreeable to that which expired in 1737, and has ordered the same to be laid before this House; that he may be enabled to make good the Engagements, which he hath thereby entered into.

And as Events may happen during such time as it may be impossible for His MAJESTY to have the immediate Advice and Assistance of his Great Council, upon any Emergency arising from the present Posture of Affairs in Europe, which may nearly concern the Honour, Interest, and Safety of these Kingdoms; His MAJESTY hopes he shall be enabled and supported by his Parliament in making such further Augmentation of his Forces, either by Sea or Land, as may become absolutely necessary, and in concerting such Measures as the Exigency of Affairs may require; and whatever Expence shall be thereby occasioned, shall be made in as frugal a Manner as is possible; and an Account thereof shall be laid before this House the next Session of Parliament.

Ordered.

(22)

Ordered, *Nemine Contradicente*, That His MAJESTY's said most gracious Message be referred to the Consideration of the Committee of the whole House, to whom it is referred to consider further of the Supply granted to His MAJESTY.

May 11.

Read a third time, and passed a Bill to enable His MAJESTY to settle an Annuity of *Fifteen Thousand Pounds per Annum*, on his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, and the Heirs of his Body; and also, one other Annuity of *Twenty four Thousand Pounds per Annum* on their Royal Highnesses the Princesses *Amelia, Caroline, Mary and Louisa*.

Went into a Committee upon the Supply, and came to several Resolutions to be reported on *Monday*.

May 14.

Passed the Bill to explain an Act, that *no Man of Law* shall be Justice of *Affize* in his own Country.

Went thro', in a Committee of the whole House, the Bill for taking off the Duties upon *Woollen and Bay-Yarn* imported from *Ireland to England, &c.*

Received the Report of *Friday's* Resolutions in a Committee upon the Supply, which were agreed to, *viz.*

Resolved, That *70,583l. 6s. 8d.* be granted to His MAJESTY on account of the *Levy-Money and Subsidy* payable to the *King of Denmark*, pursuant to the *Treaty* bearing Date the *14th Day of March 1738-9.* for the Service of the Year *1739.*

That *500,000l.* be granted towards enabling His MAJESTY to make such further Augmentation of his Forces either by *Sea or Land*, as may become absolutely necessary, and as the *Exigency* of Affairs may require.

That *60,000l.* be granted, being the Sum acknowledged to be due from *Great Britain to Spain**, and agreed to in the *Convention* signed at the *Pardo, January 14, 1739.* N. S. to be applied, together with the further Sum of *95,000l.* to be advanced by the *Crown of Spain*, towards making Satisfaction to His MAJESTY's injured Subjects, for the Damages they have sustained by the *Depredations* of the *Spaniards.*

That *4000l.* be granted towards the repairing and finishing *Westminster-Abbey.*

That *2000l.* be granted for the further Repair and finishing the *Tower and Roof* of the *Parish Church* of *St. Margaret's Westminster.*

May

* For the Destruction of the *Spanish Fleet* near *Sicily* in *1718.*

(23)

May 15.

Reported the Bill for explaining and making more effectual an Act 10 and 11 *K. William III.* for Suppressing of Lotteries, &c.

Went thro' in a Committee the Bill for the publick Registering of all *Deeds, Conveyances, Wills, &c.* within *Great Britain*, wherein publick Registers are not appointed by Act of Parliament.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolutions, in a Committee of *Ways and Means; Viz.*

Resolved, That towards raising the Supply granted to His MAJESTY, there be issued and applied the Sum of *500,000l.* out of such Monies as have arisen, or shall or may arise, of the *Surplusses, Excesses, or Overplus* Monies, commonly called the *Sinking Fund.*

That His MAJESTY be enabled to issue and apply the further Sum of *500,000l.* out of the growing Produce of the same *Sinking Fund*, or to borrow the same by *Loans or Exchequer-Bills*, at *3l. per Cent. Interest*, to be charged upon, and secured by the said Fund.

Ordered in a Bill accordingly.

May 16.

Read a first time a Bill for granting to His MAJESTY a Sum out of the *Sinking Fund*, for the Service of *1739*; and for enabling His MAJESTY to apply a further Sum out of the *growing Produce* of the said Fund.

Read a second time a Bill for the more *easy and effectual* Recovery of *small Debts.*

Passed the Bill for providing a Reward to *Mrs. Stephens* upon a Discovery of her *Medicines* for Cure of the *Stone.*

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for taking off the Duties upon *Woollen and Bay-Yarn, &c.*

May 17.

Passed the Bill for explaining, and making more effectual the several Laws therein mentioned for *Suppressing Lotteries*, denominated *Sales*, and other private *Lotteries.*

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for the publick Registering of all *Deeds, Conveyances, Wills, &c.* and Ordered it to be engrossed.

May 18.

Read a second time the Bill for granting *one Million* to His MAJESTY out of the *Sinking Fund.*

Read a third time and passed the Bill for taking off the Duties upon *Woollen and Bay-Yarn* imported from *Ireland to England, &c.*

Agreed

(24)

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for enlarging the Powers of the Commissioners of *Westminster-Bridge*, &c. and Ordered it to be engrossed.

Went thro' in a Committee the Bill for granting a Liberty to carry Sugars of the Growth of His MAJESTY'S Sugar Colonies in *America*, directly to *foreign Parts*, &c.

May 21.

Passed the Bill for the publick Registering of all *Deeds, Wills, Conveyances*, &c. within that Part of *Great Britain* called *England*, wherein publick Registers are not already appointed by *Act of Parliament*; on a Division, Ayes 90, Noes 26.

Ordered, That the Reverend Dr. *John Thomas*, Rector of *St. Vedast* in *London*, be desired to preach before this House at *St. Margaret's Westminster*, upon *Tuesday* the 29th of this Instant *May*.

Went thro' in a Committee the Bill for improving and Navigating the River *Lee*, from the Town of *Hertford*, to the Town of *Ware* in the County of *Hertford* with several Amendments.

Went into a grand Committee upon the Supply, and came to a Resolution.

May 22.

Passed the Bill to enlarge the Powers of the Commissioners for building a Bridge cross the River *Thames*, from the *Woolstaple* to the opposite Shore in the County of *Surry*; and to enable them, by a Lottery, to raise Money for the several Purposes therein mentioned; and to enlarge the time for exchanging Tickets unclaimed in the last Lottery for the said Bridge; and to make Provision for Tickets in the said Lottery, lost, burnt, or otherwise destroyed.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolution in a Committee upon the Supply, viz.

Resolved, That 5000*l.* be granted to His MAJESTY for making Satisfaction to *Solomon Merret* of *London* Merchant, for himself and others, late Owners of the Ship *Santa Isabella*, a *Spanish* Man of War, taken by his late MAJESTY'S Fleet near *Sicily* in 1718, and sold to them; which Ship was afterwards delivered up to the *Spaniards*, pursuant to a Treaty between the two Crowns.

Went thro' in a Committee the Bill to empower the Court of *Chancery* to lay out upon proper Securities, any Moneys not exceeding a Sum to be limited, out of the general Cash of the *Bank of England*, belonging to the Suitors of the said Court,

(25)

Court, for their Ease, by applying the Interest arising therefrom, for answering the Charges of the Office of the *Accountant-General* of the said Court.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for granting a Liberty to carry Sugars of the Growth, and Produce of any of His MAJESTY'S Sugar Colonies in *America*, from thence directly to *foreign Parts*, &c. with several Amendments, and Ordered it to be engrossed.

Went thro' in a Committee, the Bill for the more easy and effectual Recovery of *small Debts*, with several Amendments.

Agreed to the Amendments made by the Lords to the Bill for prohibiting the Importation of *English* Books reprinted abroad, &c.

May 23.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill to empower the High Court of *Chancery* to lay out a certain Sum to be limited upon proper Securities out of the *Bank of England*, belonging to the Suitors of the said Court, for their Ease, &c. with several Amendments, and Ordered it to be engrossed.

Went thro', in a Committee, the Bill for granting one Million to His MAJESTY out of the *Sinking-Fund*, with several Amendments.

Passed the Bill for granting a Liberty to carry Sugars of the Produce of His MAJESTY'S Sugar Colonies in *America*, from thence directly to *foreign Parts*.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for improving the Navigation of the River *Lee*, &c.

Ordered, That the Bill with the Amendments be engrossed.

Received the Report of the Bill for the more easy and effectual Recovery of *small Debts*.

Ordered, That the Bill with the Amendments be engrossed.

May 24.

Received the Report of the Bill for granting to His MAJESTY One Million out of the *Sinking Fund*.

Ordered, That the Bill with the Amendments be engrossed.

Passed the Bill for the more easy and effectual Recovery of *small Debts*.

Took into Consideration the Lords Amendments to the Bill for obviating some Doubts in an Act concerning *Tanned Leather*.

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And a Motion was made, and the Question put, that the said Amendments be taken into Consideration upon the 30th Instant.

It passed in the Negative; Upon a Division, Ayes 55, Noes 61. And the first and second Amendments were agreed to.

But a Debate arising upon the third Amendment, Ordered, That the Debate be adjourned to the 30th Instant. Passed the Bill to empower the High Court of Chancery to lay out a limited Sum for the ease of the Suitors, &c.

May 25.

Passed the Bill for granting One Million to His MAJESTY out of the Sinking Fund.

Agreed to the Amendments made by the Lords, to the Bill for Preventing Frauds and Abuses in Gold and Silver Wares.

Passed the Bill for preserving, and improving the Navigation of the River Lee, &c.

May 30.

Ordered, That the Thanks of this House be given to Dr. Thomas for his Sermon preach'd before this House Yesterday at St. Margaret's Westminster.

Took into Consideration the Amendments made by the Lords to the Curriers-Bill; and agreed to them.

Took into Consideration, the Amendments made by the Lords to the Bill for the more effectual Suppressing Lotteries, Sales, &c.

Resolved, That the further Consideration of the said Amendments be adjourned to this Day Month.

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a Bill for the more effectual preventing of excessive Gaming.

May 31.

Read a first and second time a Bill for the more effectual preventing of excessive and deceitful Gaming.

June 1.

In a Committee went thro' the Bill, for preventing of excessive Gaming. And Reported the same with several Amendments.

Ordered, That the Bill with the Amendments be engrossed.

June 4.

Passed the Bill for the more effectual preventing of excessive and deceitful Gaming.

June 5.

Received, a Message from the Lords, that they had agreed to the Bill to empower the High Court of Chancery to lay out Monies upon proper Securities, for the Ease of the Suitors, &c.

(27)

That their Lordships have agreed to the Bill for taking off the Duties upon Woollen and Bay-Yarn, imported from Ireland to England, &c. without Amendment.

June 7.

Ordered, That the Reverend Dr. Gally, Rector of St. Giles's in the Fields, be desired to preach before this House at St. Margaret's Westminster, upon Monday the 11th Instant, being the Anniversary of His MAJESTY's happy Accession to the Throne.

June 8.

Received a Message from the Lords, that they had agreed to the Act for the more effectual preventing of excessive Gaming without any Amendment.

June 12.

Ordered the Thanks of the House, to the Reverend Dr. Gally, for his Sermon preach'd before them Yesterday.

Agreed to the Amendments made by the Lords to the Bill for preserving and improving the Navigation of the River Lee in Hertfordshire.

June 13.

Agreed to the Amendments made by the Lords to the Bill for granting a Liberty to carry Sugars of the Growth, and Produce of His MAJESTY's Sugar Colonies in America, from thence directly to Foreign Parts, &c.

Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His MAJESTY that he would be graciously pleased to lay before them (the next Sessions of Parliament) at what Rates all Gold and Silver Coins were accounted in any of the British Colonies in America, in the Years 1700, 1710, 1720, and 1730. And what Rates they are now accounted at, or sold for per Ounce.

Resolved, That an Humble Address be presented to His MAJESTY that he would be pleased to lay before them, the next Session of Parliament, what was the Amount of the Paper-Bills, or Bills of Credit, which subsisted or passed in Payment in the British Colonies, in the Year 1700. And also an Account of the Amount of what Paper-Bills, &c. have been created or issued in any of the said Colonies since 1700; with the Amount of the Value, in Money of Great Britain, of such Bills, at the respective Times of their creating and issuing; and what Provision was made thereby, for the sinking or discharging of any such Paper-Bills, &c. together with an Account of the Amount of the Bills that have been sunk or discharged in pursuance thereof, and also of the Bills subsisting or passing in Payment thereof.

(28)

ment at this Time in any of the said Colonies or Plantations, with the Amount of their Value in *English Money*, &c.

June 14.

His Majesty came to the House of Peers, and gave the Royal Assent to the following Publick Acts.

viz.

An Act for granting to His MAJESTY Five Hundred Thousand Pounds out of the Sinking Fund, and for enabling His MAJESTY to raise the further Sum of five Hundred Thousand Pounds out of the growing Produce of the said Fund, &c.

To enable His MAJESTY to settle an Annuity of 15000 l. per Annum, on his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, and his Heirs, and also, one other Annuity of 24000 l. per Annum upon the Princesses Amelia, Caroline, Mary and Louisa.

For taking off the Duties upon Woollen and Bay-Yarn imported from Ireland to England, and preventing the Exportation thereof.

For granting a Liberty to carry Sugars of the Growth and Produce of His MAJESTY'S Sugar Colonies in America, from thence directly to Foreign Parts.

For the more effectual preventing of excessive and deceitful Gaming.

For the better preventing Frauds and Abuses in Gold and Silver Wares.

For prohibiting the Importation of Books reprinted abroad, and first composed or written and printed in Great Britain.

To rectify a Mistake in an Act made in the 6 K. George I. for preventing Frauds and Abuses in the publick Revenues, &c. And to obviate a Doubt in an Act for preventing His MAJESTY'S Subjects from trading to the East-Indies, under Foreign Commissions.

For explaining and amending an Act 8 K. Richard II. That No Man of Law shall be Justice of Assize in his own Country, &c.

For continuing an Act 8 Q. Anne, to regulate the Price and Assize of Bread. And for continuing and amending an Act 2 K. George II. for the better Regulation of Attornies and Solicitors.

For allowing further time for Inrollment of Deeds, and Wills made by Papists, &c.

For the more easy assessing and levying County Rates.

To empower the High Court of Chancery to lay out, upon proper Securities, Monies belonging to the Suitors of that Court for their Ease, &c.

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(29)

To obviate some Doubts in an Act 1 K. William and Q. Mary, concerning Tanned Leather, &c.

For providing a Reward to Joanna Stephens, upon a proper Discovery to be made by her, for the Use of the Publick, of the Medicines prepared by her for the Cure of the Stone.

To enlarge the Powers of the Commissioners for building Westminster-Bridge, and to enable them by a Lottery to raise Money, &c.

For establishing an Hospital at Bath.

For improving and preserving the Navigation of the River Lee in Hertfordshire, &c.

And to several other publick and private-Bills.

After which His MAJESTY put an end to the Session with a most gracious Speech from the Throne: Signifying that they had so fully declared their Sentiments, as well with regard to the past Conduct of Spain, as to the Measures that might become necessary to be pursued, that no Inconvenience can arise from the immediate Want of their further Assistance, during the Recess of Parliament; and that he should so entirely rely upon the Assurances, they had given him, that he would not be wanting, in his Endeavours, to vindicate and maintain our undoubted Rights, and to answer the just Expectations of his People. His MAJESTY also thanked them for the extraordinary Supplies they had granted him, towards augmenting his Forces by Sea and Land. And recommended to their serious Consideration, the fatal Consequences, that may threaten a Nation divided in itself. Advising all who profess themselves zealous Assertors of the Rights, Privileges, Laws and Liberties of their Country, and of the Protestant Religion under the present Establishment, to unite in the Defence of these inestimable Blessings.

That the Honour, Prosperity, and Safety of these Kingdoms might become one common Cause, and reconcile all civil Discords and Divisions; that by their Unanimity, they may disappoint the only Hopes, and vain Expectations of their Enemies.

Thursday

(30)



Thursday November 15, 1739.

THIS Day His MAJESTY came to the House of Peers, and open'd the Session with a most Gracious Speech from the Throne, signifying, That the present Posture of Affairs oblig'd him to call them together at that Time sooner than had been usual of late Years, that HE might have their immediate Advice and Assistance at that Critical and important Conjunction. That as HE had made all his Proceedings with the Court of *Spain* agreeable to the Sense of both Houses of Parliament; HE made no doubt, but HE should meet with a ready Support in so just and necessary a War, which the repeated Injuries and Violences committed by that Nation upon our Navigation and Commerce, and their Obstinacy, and notorious Violation of the most solemn Engagements, had rendred unavoidable. That HE had augmented his Forces by *Sea* and *Land*, with all the Moderation that the Security of his Dominions, the Protection of our Trade, and the necessary Means of distressing and annoying our Enemies in the most sensible Parts, would admit, &c.

That HE had ordered the proper Officers to lay before them Estimates for the Service of the ensuing Year, and likewise Accounts of the *Extraordinary* Expences that had been made that Year, in pursuance of the Power given him by Parliament. And as in the Prosecution of this War, a Number of Soldiers, to serve on board the Fleet, may be requisite; he had judg'd it proper that a Body of *Marines* should be rais'd, and had directed the Estimates for that purpose to be likewise laid before them. And that HE could not doubt, from their known Affection to His Person and Government, &c. but they would grant him such effectual Supplies, and with such Dispatch, as may forward, and give Spirit to our Preparations, and enable him to carry on the War with Vigour.

That HE was afraid, the Heats and Animosities, amongst our selves, had been one of the chief Encouragements to the Court of *Spain*, to hold such a Conduct towards us,

(31)

as to make it necessary to have recourse to Arms. But whatever Views and Projects may be form'd upon this Rupture, and what Advantages soever *Spain* may vainly promise *itself* from any Circumstances in the present Situation of Affairs; it was in their Power (by the Blessing of God) to defeat the one, and disappoint the other. That *Union* among all those, who have nothing at Heart but the true Interest of *Great Britain*, and a becoming Zeal in the Defence of His Kingdoms, and in the Support of the common Cause of our Country, with as general a Concurrence in carrying on the War, as there has appeared for engaging in it, will make the Court of *Spain* repent the Wrongs they have done us; and convince those, who mean the Subversion of the present Establishment, that this Nation is determin'd, and able both to vindicate their injured Honour, and to defend themselves against all our *Open* and *Secret* Enemies, both at *Home* and *Abroad*.

Whereupon the COMMONS Resolved, That an Humble Address be presented to His MAJESTY, with Thanks for his most gracious Speech from the Throne. To express their entire Satisfaction in His MAJESTY's Declaration of War against *Spain*, &c.

And a Committee was appointed to draw up an Address upon the said Resolution.

November 16.

Resolved, That this House will receive no Petitions for Private-Bills after the first Day of *February* next.

Upon a Motion made by Mr. *Pulteney*,

Ordered, That Leave be given to bring in a Bill for the more effectual securing and encouraging the Trade of His MAJESTY's *British* Subjects to *America*, and for the Encouragement of Seamen to enter into His MAJESTY's Service.

Agreed to the Report of their Address to be presented to His MAJESTY.

Resolved, That the said Address be presented by the whole House.

November 17.

The House went with their Address to His MAJESTY, with Thanks for his most gracious Speech, &c.

November 19.

Mr. Speaker reported His MAJESTY's Answer to their Address.

November

(32)

November 20.

Resolved, Nemine Contradicente, that a Supply be granted to His MAJESTY.

Ordered divers Estimates of Accounts to be laid before them.

Received a Petition from *Charles Vanbrugh*, Esq; complaining of an undue Election and return for the Borough of *Plimouth* in the County of *Devon*, which was ordered to be heard at the Bar of the House, upon the 15th of *January* next.

November 21.

Received several Accounts from the Commissioners of the Customs, relating to prohibited *East-India*-Goods, remaining in their Warehouses from *September 29, 1738*. to *September 29, 1739*. And several other Accounts.

Resolved, Nemine Contradicente, That an humble Address be presented to His MAJESTY, as a dutiful Return to His gracious Desire of the Advice of His Parliament, at this critical and important Conjunction, and as a further Testimony of their firm Resolution vigorously to support His MAJESTY in the Prosecution of the War against *Spain*; humbly to beseech His MAJESTY, never to admit of any Treaty of Peace with that Crown, unless the Acknowledgement of our natural and indubitable Right to navigate in the *American Seas*, to and from any Part of His MAJESTY's Dominions, without being seiz'd, search'd, visited or stopp'd, under any Pretence whatsoever, shall have been first obtain'd as a Preliminary thereto.

Resolved, That a Conference be desired with the LORDS, upon a Matter of the greatest Importance to the Honour of the IMPERIAL Crown, and to the Navigation and Commerce of these Kingdoms.

Ordered, That the Earl of *Middlesex* do go to the LORDS, and desire the said Conference.

The Lords having agreed to the same. The Managers went to the Conference. And being returned, Sir *William Wyndham* reported, that the Managers had conferr'd with the Lords, and left the above Resolution with their Lordships.

November 22.

Received a Message from the Lords to desire a Conference with this House, upon the Subject Matter of the last Conference. And the Managers accordingly went. And being returned, Sir *William Wyndham* reported, that the Lords had

(33)

had agreed to the said Resolution, and filled up the Blank with—*the Lords Spiritual and Temporal*.—

November 23.

The House went with the Lords to Address His MAJESTY.

November 26.

Received several Estimates of Accounts, of the Charge of His MAJESTY's Land-Forces: As also Estimates of the Charge of the six Regiments of *Marines*, &c.

Mr. *Speaker* reported His MAJESTY's Thanks to both Houses, for their Dutiful Address, &c.

Agreed to the Report of Friday's Resolution on the Supply, *viz.* Resolved that 35000 *Seamen* be employed for the Service of the Year 1740.

Read a first Time a Bill for the more effectual securing and encouraging the Trade of His MAJESTY's *British* Subjects to *America*, and for the Encouragement of Seamen to enter into His MAJESTY's Service.

November 27.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, that an humble Address be presented to His MAJESTY, that the Body of *Marines* intended to be raised, may be done in the most frugal Manner, &c. And humbly to propose that they may be draughted from the present Regiments of Foot, &c. After Debate it passed in the Negative, upon a Division, Ayes 95, Noes 177.

November 28.

Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His MAJESTY, for a Copy of an Estimate of the Establishment of the six Regiments of *Marines* for the Year 1740, to be laid before them.

November 29.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, that His MAJESTY be addressed for Copies or Extracts of such Memorials, or Representations, as have been made to the King of *Spain*, or his Ministers, from the Treaty of *Seville* to the 9th of *March 1738*, relating to *Spanish* Depredations; It passed in the Negative.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, to Address His MAJESTY, for Copies or Extracts of all Letters written and Instructions given by the Secretaries of State, &c. to any of the Governors of the *British* Plantations in *America*, &c. from the Treaty of *Seville* to the first of *January 1738*, relating to the *Spanish* Depredations; It passed in the Negative, Ayes 55; Noes 95.

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(34)

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, to Address His MAJESTY, for Copies of all the Instructions and Letters sent to Mr. Keene by his MAJESTY's Ministers, authorizing him to conclude and sign the Convention between His MAJESTY and the King of Spain, on the 14th of January 1738-9, N.S. It passed in the Negative, Ayes 98, Noes 172.

November 30.

Read a first time the *Malt-Bill*.

Received an Account of the Establishment of the six Regiments of *Marines* in 1704.

Agreed to the Report of *Wednesday's* Resolutions, viz.

Resolved, That 28852 Men be granted for Land-Forces for the Service of the Year 1740.

That 860,150 *l.* 10s. 4d $\frac{1}{2}$ be granted for maintaining them.

Resolved, That 4890 Men be employed as *Marines* for the Service of the Year 1740.

That 118,214 *l.* 1s. be granted for raising and maintaining them from *October* 25, 1739, to *December* 24, 1740.

December 3.

Read a second time the *Malt-Bill*.

December 4.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolution, in a Committee on Ways and Means, viz. *Resolved*, That towards raising the Supply granted to His MAJESTY, the Sum of four Shillings in the Pound be raised as *Land-Tax* for 1740. And a Bill was Ordered in accordingly.

Read a second time the Bill for the more effectual securing and encouraging the Trade of His MAJESTY's *British* Subjects to *America*, and for the Encouragement of Seamen to enter into His MAJESTY's Service.

December 5.

Read a first time the *Land-Tax-Bill*.

In a Committee, went thro' the *Malt-Bill*, with several Amendments.

December 6.

Agreed to the Report of the *Malt-Bill*, and ordered it to be engrossed.

Read a second time the *Land-Tax-Bill*.

December 7.

Read a third time and passed the *Malt-Bill*.

In a Committee went thro' the *Land-Tax-Bill*, with several Amendments.

December

(35)

December 10.

Read a first time a Bill, for the better Supply of *Mariners* and *Seamen*, to serve in His MAJESTY's Ships of War, and on board Merchant Ships, and other trading Vessels, and Privateers.

Received a Petition from the *South Sea* Company, against the Bill for the more effectual securing and encouraging the Trade of His MAJESTY's *British* Subjects to *America*, and for the Encouragement of Seamen.

Received a Petition of *William Mitchell* Esq; complaining of an undue Election and Return for the County of *Huntingdon*. Which was ordered to be heard at the Bar of the House upon the 14th of *January*.

Agreed to the Report of the *Land-Tax-Bill*. And ordered it to be engrossed.

December 11.

Read a second time a Bill for better Supply of *Mariners* and *Seamen*.

December 12.

Read a third time, and passed the *Land-Tax-Bill*.

Went thro' in a Committee the Bill for better Supply of *Mariners* and *Seamen*, with several Amendments.

December 13.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for better Supply of *Mariners* and *Seamen*, and Ordered it to be engrossed.

December 14.

Received several Estimates of Accounts.

Read a third Time and passed a Bill for better Supply of *Mariners* and *Seamen* to serve in His MAJESTY's Ships of War, and on board Merchant Ships, and other Trading Vessels, and Privateers.

December 17.

In a Committee of the whole House upon the Bill for the more effectual securing and encouraging the Trade of His MAJESTY's *British* Subjects to *America*, and for the Encouragement of Seamen to enter into His MAJESTY's Service; it was moved that a Clause be added to empower the Lords of the *Admiralty* to impress one Man out of five, out of the Merchant Ships trading to *America*, which after some Debate, passed in the Affirmative, on a Division, Ayes 86, Noes 60.

They also took into Consideration, the Petition of the *South-Sea* Company, claiming the sole Trade to *America* within

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(36)

the Limits, as prescribed in their Charter. And went thro' the Bill, and made several Amendments to the same*.

December 18.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, that the House be called over upon the 16th of *January*.

It passed in the *Negative*, on a Division, Ayes 61, Noes 136.

December 19.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill, for the more effectual securing our Trade to *America*, and for the Encouragement of Seamen, with the Amendments. And ordered it to be engrossed.

December 20.

The House took into consideration, an Amendment made by the Lords to the Bill for the better Supply of *Mariners* and *Seamen* to serve in His MAJESTY'S Ships of War, and on board Merchant Ships, and other Trading Vessels and Privateers†. And agreed to the same.

His MAJESTY came to the House of *Peers*, and gave the Royal Assent to the *Malt-Act*, to the *Land-Tax Act*, to the Act for the better Supply of *Mariners* and *Seamen*, and to one *private Act*.

Read a first time, a Bill for Naturalizing such foreign Protestants, as are settled, or shall settle in any of His Majesty's Colonies in *America*.

Read a third time and passed a Bill, for the more effectual securing and encouraging the Trade of His MAJESTY'S *British* Subjects to *America*, and for the Encouragement of Seamen to enter into His MAJESTY'S Service. Ordered it to the *Lords*.

Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His MAJESTY, that a List of all the Officers of His MAJESTY'S Forces, on the *British* and *Irish* Establishment, with the Dates of their first Commissions, may be laid before them. And then the House adjourned to the 8th of *January*.

January 8.

Ordered, That several Estimates of Accounts, relating to the Debt of the *Navy*, &c. for the Year 1739, be laid before them. Adjourned to the 14th of *January*.

January 14.

Received a Petition from the Commissioners of *Westminster-Bridge*, giving an Account that they had disposed

* This Bill took up 5 Days Consideration in a Committee of the whole House.

† This Bill *Naturalizes* all Foreigners who will serve as Seamen in the *British* Service for *two* Years certain.

(37)

of great part of the Sums already granted them, and thereupon praying for such further Powers and Sums as the House shall judge most proper, &c. Referr'd to a Committee.

Ordered the Thanks of the House to be given to the Reverend Dr. *Barton*, for his Sermon preach'd before them upon the 9th *Instant*, being the Day appointed for a GENERAL FAST; and that he be desired to print the same.

Read a second time a Bill for naturalizing such foreign Protestants as are settled, or shall settle in any of His MAJESTY'S Colonies in *America*.

Heard Counsel upon the Petition of *William Mitchell Esq;* against *Charles Clarke Esq;* returned duly elected for the County of *Huntingdon*, relating to his Qualifications, which being fully proved; Mr. *Clarke* was declared duly elected.

January 15.

Read a first time a Bill for prohibiting Commerce with *Spain*.

Ordered several Accounts relating to the Proceedings of the Commissioners of *Westminster-Bridge* to be laid before them.

The House proceeded to the Hearing of the Matter of the Petition of *Charles Vanbrugh Esq;* complaining of an undue Election and Return for the Borough of *Plymouth* in the County of *Devon*. And the Counsel on both sides were called in: And the said Petition was read. And the last Determination of the House, concerning the Right of electing Burgesses to serve in *Parliament* for the said Borough, made the 9th of *June* 1660, which was then resolved to be in the Mayor and Commonalty of the said Borough, was also read.

Then the Counsel for the Petitioner were heard, and insisted that the Word *Commonalty* in the said last Determination, extends only to the Freemen of the said Borough, exclusive of the Freeholders thereof. Which being denied by the Counsel for *John Rogers Esq;* the sitting Member, who insisted that the said Word *Commonalty*, includes the Freeholders of the said Borough; the Counsel for *Captain Vanbrugh* the Petitioner proceeded to give Evidence, in Support of their Construction of the said Word. And a Charter granted by K. *William III.* and several Copies of Returns were read; and the Question being put, That the Counsel for the sitting Member be admitted to produce in Evidence a publick Book of the Corporation of *Plymouth*, containing Abstracts of Leases granted by the said

(38)

said Corporation, and several other Matters, in which Book, the said Counsel alledge, there is a Memorandum of a Form, made in the Year 1676, by the then Town-Clerk of the said Corporation, of a Return of Members to serve in *Parliament* for the said Borough of *Plymouth*, but with a Memorandum also in the said Book, that the said Form was not made use of, but the old Form used; It passed in the *Negative*.

January 16.

Petitions from the unhappy Prisoners for Debt in the *Wood-street Compter, York, Stafford, and Marshalsea Southwark*, were severally presented to the House, and read, complaining of their Distress, and praying Relief. And they were severally Ordered to lie on the Table. In a grand Committee on the *Supply*, came to several Resolutions.

January 17.

Agreed to the Report of yesterday's Resolutions on the *Supply*, viz. Resolved, That 260,203*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* $\frac{1}{2}$. be granted for maintaining His MAJESTY'S Forces and Garrisons in the Plantations, *Minorca and Gibraltar*, and for Provisions for the Garrisons at *Annapolis Royal, Canso, Placentia, Gibraltar and Georgia*, for 1740.

That 3998*l.* be granted for maintaining the Widows of such reduced Officers of His MAJESTY'S Land-Forces and Marines who died upon the Establishment of Half-Pay in *Great Britain*, and who were married to them before the 25th of *December 1716*, for 1740. That 940,71*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* be granted for the Charge of the Office of *Ordinance* for Land-Service, for 1740. That 46,362*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.* be granted for defraying the extraordinary Expences of the Office of *Ordinance* for Land-Service, not provided for by *Parliament*. That 20,000*l.* be granted to replace to the *Sinking Fund*, the like Sum paid out of the same to the *Bank of England* for one Year's Interest on 500,000*l.* lent on the Credit of the *Salt-Duty* towards the *Supply* of 1735.

That 5865*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* be granted to replace to the *Sinking Fund*, the like Sum paid out of the same, to make good the Deficiency of the *Stamp Duties* at *Christmas 1738*.

That 58,333*l.* be granted on Account of Subsidy payable to the King of *Denmark*, pursuant to a Treaty dated 14th of *March, N. S.* for 1740.

Then

(39)

Then the House proceeded to the further Hearing of the Matter of the Petition of *Charles Vanbrugh Esq;* complaining of an undue Election and Return for the Borough of *Plymouth* in the County of *Devon*. And the Counsel were called in: And the Counsel for the fitting Member proceeded in their Evidence, in support of their Construction of the Word "*Commonalty*" in the last Determination of the House, concerning the Right of electing Burgesses for the said Borough, made the 9th Day of *June 1660*.

And the Report from the Committee of Privileges and Elections in the Reign of *William and Mary* was read. And the Counsel on both sides were directed to withdraw.

Resolved, That in the last Determination of this House, of the Right of Election of Members to serve in *Parliament* for the Borough of *Plymouth* in the County of *Devon*, made the 9th Day of *June 1660*, which is as followeth, "That the Mayor and Commonalty of *Plymouth*, have Right to elect Members to serve in *Parliament* for that Borough;" it appears to this House, that the Word *Commonalty*, therein mentioned, extended to the Freemen only of the said Borough. And the Question being put, That *John Rogers, Esq;* is duly elected a Burgess to serve in this present Parliament, for *Plymouth*: It passed in the *Negative*, upon a Division, Ayes 119; Noes 180. Resolved, That *Charles Vanbrugh Esq;* is duly elected, &c.

January 18.

Received several Accounts from *Greenwich-Hospital*, how the Money for the Year 1739, had been expended.

January 22.

Read a first time, a Bill to indemnify Persons, who have omitted to qualify themselves for Offices, within the Time limited by Law, and for allowing a further Time for that Purpose.

Agreed to the Report of *Friday's* Resolution, in a Committee on Ways and Means, viz. Resolved, That 88,722*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* $\frac{1}{4}$. now remaining in the *Exchequer*, being the Overplus of the Grants, for 1739, be issued and applied towards making good the *Supply* granted to His MAJESTY in this Session of *Parliament*.

In a grand Committee, went thro' the Bill for Naturalizing such foreign Protestants as are settled, or shall settle, in any of his MAJESTY'S Colonies in *America*.

Read

(40)

Read a second time, a Bill for prohibiting Commerce with *Spain*.

Received Petitions from Prisoners confined for Debt in the Gaols of *Norwich, Lincoln, Worcester, and Norfolk*, praying Relief: And they were Ordered to lie on the Table.

January 23.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for Naturalizing such foreign Protestants as are settled, or shall settle, in any of His MAJESTY'S Colonies in *America*, with several Amendments. And Order'd the Bill with the Amendments to be engross'd.

January 24.

Read a first Time the Bill to explain and amend an Act for preventing Abuses and Frauds in the *Woollen, Linnen, Cotton and Iron Manufactures*.

Read a second Time the Bill to indemnify Persons who have omitted to take the Oaths, &c.

January 25.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill for Naturalizing Foreign Protestants, who shall settle in *America*.

Agreed to the Amendments made by the Lords to the Bill for securing and encouraging our Trade to *America*, and for the encouragement of Seamen to enter into His MAJESTY'S Service, with an Amendment. To which Amendment the House desired the Concurrence of their Lordships.

January 28.

Agreed to the Report of Friday's Resolutions in a Committee on the Supply, viz.

Resolved, That 33,429*l.* be granted, for raising and maintaining 2040 Men, Officers included, to be added to the six Regiments of *Marines* for 1740.

That 2450*l.* be granted for maintaining one Company of Invalids to be forthwith raised, and for making an Addition of twenty Men to each of the Four Companies of Invalids raised in *November 1739*, in all to 181 Men for 1740.

That 10347*l.* be granted upon Account for Out-Pensioners of *Chelsea Hospital* for 1740.

January 29.

A Motion was made, and the Question put, That leave be given to bring in a Bill, for the better securing the Freedom of *Parliaments*, by limiting the Number of Officers to sit

(41)

fit in the House of Commons. Which after *Nine Hours* Debate, passed in the *Negative*, on a Division, Ayes 206, Noes 222.

January 31.

Ordered the Thanks of the House to be given to the Reverend Dr. *Whalley* of *Cambridge*, for the Sermon by him preached before this House Yesterday at *St. Margaret's, Westminster*.

Read a second Time a Bill to explain and amend an Act 1st of *Q. Anne*, for preventing Frauds and Abuses in the working of *Woollen, Cotton, Iron, &c.* Manufactures of this Kingdom.

Ordered, That this House be called over upon this Day three Weeks, the 21st of *February* next; and that such Members as shall not then attend, be taken into Custody.

Ordered, That a Committee be appointed, to consider how far the Privilege of this House ought to be allowed to Members who are in foreign Parts during the Sitting of Parliament.

In a grand Committee went thro' the Bill for prohibiting Commerce with *Spain*, with several Amendments.

February 1.

Mr. Secretary at War presented a List of the reduced Officers of His Majesty's *Land Forces* and *Marines*, intituled to receive Half-pay in *Great Britain*, with an Estimate of the Charge thereof for 1740; with their Ages, Dates of their first Commissions, and the Time they were put upon Half-pay, and the Occasion thereof.

Received divers Petitions for *private Bills*.

Received and read a first time, a Bill to prevent inconveniencies which may arise from *naturalizing* Persons, who shall not continue to reside within His Majesty's Dominions, after their *Naturalization*.

In a grand Committee, went thro' the Bill to Indemnify Persons who have omitted to qualify themselves for Offices and Employments, within the Time limited by Law, &c. with several Amendments.

It was moved that the ordinary Estimate of the *Navy* for 1740, be refer'd to a Committee on the Supply, which after Debate, passed in the *Affirmative*. On a Division, Ayes 143, Noes 95.

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February

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February 4.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill to indemnify Persons who have omitted to take the Oaths, &c. and ordered it to be ingrossed.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for prohibiting Commerce with *Spain*, and ordered it to be ingrossed.

Agreed to the Report of the Resolutions (of *Friday* last) on the Supply, *viz.* Resolved,

That 10,000 *l.* be granted towards the Support of *Greenwich-Hospital*.

That 4000 *l.* be granted towards the repairing and finishing of *Westminster-Abbey*.

That 10,000 *l.* be granted towards the Maintenance of the *British Forts in Africa*.

February 5.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolution, in a grand Committee on Ways and Means, *viz.*

Resolved, That towards raising the Supply granted to His Majesty, the Sum of *one Million*, be issued and applied out of such Monies, as have arisen, or shall or may arise, of the Surplusses, Excesses, or overplus Monies, commonly called *the Sinking-Fund*. And a Bill was ordered in accordingly.

Read a third time, and passed the Bill for prohibiting Commerce with *Spain*.

Read a first time, a Bill for Registering all *Seamen, Watermen, Fishermen, Lightermen, &c.* throughout His Majesty's Dominions.

February 6.

Ordered, That a new Writ be issued out for electing a Knight of the Shire for the County of *Lincoln*, in the Room of *Sir Thomas Saunderson*, now Earl of *Scarborough*.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, that an Account be laid before the House, of what Ships have been contracted for to be built in Merchants Yards, or bought by the Commissioners of the Navy for His Majesty's Service, from *Christmas 1738* to *Christmas 1739*, and by what Authority; distinguishing the Prices of each Ship, and what has been, or is proposed to be laid out upon any of them, to fit them for the Service for which they are intended; it passed in the Negative.

February 7.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolutions on the Supply, *viz.*

Resolved,

(43)

Resolved, That 22,880 *l.* 19 *s.* 2 *d.* be granted for defraying the Charge of General and Staff-Officers for 1740.

That 34,587 *l.* be granted for reduced Officers of His Majesty's Land Forces and Marines for 1740.

That 4000 *l.* be granted for the further settling and improving the Colony of *Georgia in America*.

February 8.

Ordered out a new Writ for electing a Knight of the Shire for the County of *Oxford*, in room of *Henry Perrott*, Esquire, deceased.

Also a new Writ for the Borough of *Bereafston* in the County of *Devon*, in room of *Sir Francis Henry Drake*, Bart. deceased.

Read a third time, and passed the Bill for indemnifying Persons, who have omitted to qualify themselves for Offices and Employments, within the Time limited by Law; and for allowing a further Time for that Purpose.

It was moved that an Act made in the 16th and 17th Year of the Reign of King *Charles II.* intitled, *An Act for regulating the Measures and Prices of Coals*; and also the second Section of an Act made in the 7th and 8th Year of the Reign of *K. William III.* whereby the said Act was made perpetual, might be read; and the same being read accordingly,

Resolved, *Nemine contradicente*, That such Gentlemen of this House, who are of His Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, do humbly address His Majesty, that He will be graciously pleased to cause Directions to be given to the Lord Mayor, and Aldermen of the City of *London*, and the Justices of the Peace of the two Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and within the Liberties thereof, that they do forthwith, and effectually put the Law in Execution for regulating the Measures and Prices of *Coals* *.

Ordered, That the Justices do see that the *Scavengers* keep the Passages through the Streets free and open from all Nuisances whatsoever, &c.

Ordered, That the Justices for the City and Liberty of *Westminster*, do give Orders to the proper Officers to clear

* Note, This was in the Time of the *hard Frost*, which lasted from *December 24th, 1739.* to *February 20th, 1739-40.* when the *Hucksters* had risen Coals to 2 *s.* per *Busbel*. The *Thames* was frozen over for several Weeks, and Water was sold about the Streets, as *Milk* used to be, at 1 *d.* per *Firkin*.

(44)

the Streets of all idle and disorderly Persons, who daily infest the same under Pretence of asking Charity, &c.

Read a second time, a Bill to prevent Inconveniencies which may arise from *naturalizing* Persons, who shall not continue to reside within His MAJESTY'S Dominions.

Ordered divers Persons in Custody of the *Serjeant* at Arms for counterfeiting Members Names, by franking of Letters.

February 11.

Mr. *Comptroller* reported His MAJESTY'S Answer to their Address of *Friday*, that he would give Directions accordingly.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill to explain and amend an Act 1st *Q. Anne*, for the more effectual preventing the Abuses and Frauds employed in the working up the *Woollen, Cotton, Iron, &c.* Manufactures in this Kingdom, with the Amendments; and it was ordered to be engrossed.

Read a first time a Bill to restrain and prevent the excessive Increase of *Horse-Races*.

February 12.

Received a Message from His MAJESTY, signifying, That, *in further Prosecution of the just and necessary War, in which he is engaged, having under His Consideration certain Measures, which will occasion some extraordinary Expences not comprehended in the Estimates laid before this House, hopes, from the known Zeal of His faithful Commons, that He shall be enabled to carry on the same in the most effectual Manner.*

Ordered, *Nemine contradicente*, That the said Message be referred to the Committee on the Supply.

February 13.

Read a third time, and passed the Bill for the more effectual preventing the Abuses and Frauds of Persons employed in the working up the *Woollen, Linen, Fustian, Cotton, and Iron* Manufactures of this Kingdom. Ordered it to the Lords.

Ordered, That an Account be laid before this House, of what Money has been applied from *Michaelmas* 1730, to this Time, towards paying any Taxes on the Salaries of the Commissioners and other Officers of the Admiralty, Navy, Treasury of the Navy, and Victualling Offices, out of what Fund, and by what Authority, distinguishing each Office, and each Year.

Ordered,

(45)

Ordered, That an Account be laid before this House of what Imprests for the Contingencies of the Admiralty, Navy, Treasury of the Navy, and Victualling Offices are not cleared at the Navy-Office, with an Account of what Directions have been given for clearing the same.

February 14.

Read a first Time a Bill for further and more effectually preventing the wilful and malicious Destruction of *Collieries and Coal-Works*.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolutions on the Supply. *viz.*

Resolved, That 200,000*l.* be granted on Account, towards enabling His MAJESTY to prosecute, in the most effectual Manner, the War in which he is engaged.

That 9477*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* $\frac{3}{4}$ be granted for defraying several extraordinary Expences and Services incurred, 1739; and not provided for by Parliament.

Received a Petition from the *Silk Weavers, Throwsters, &c.* praying that the Duty upon *China* Raw Silk, might be made equal to the Duty upon all *Italian* Raw Silk; and setting forth the many Advantages which would accrue to this Kingdom thereby*.

Referr'd to a Committee of the whole House.

February 15.

Read a first Time a Bill for amending and enforcing the Laws relating to *Rogues, Vagabonds*, and other idle and disorderly Persons, and for reducing the same into one Act of Parliament; and also for amending the Laws for erecting, providing, and regulating Houses of Correction.

Read a second time the Bill to restrain and prevent the excessive Increase of *Horse-Races*.

Ordered, That the Report from the Committee, who were appointed to consider how far the Privilege of this House ought to be allowed to such Members of this House as shall be absent in *Foreign* Parts during the Sitting of Parliament, be recommitted; on a Division, Ayes 77, Noes 73.

February 18.

Received several Accounts from the *Navy, Admiralty, and Victualling* Offices of what Monies had been paid away for the last seven Years.

* The present Duty on the *Italian* Raw Silk, is 1*s.* 5*d.* and one tenth of a Penny per great Pound. And that on *China* Raw Silk, is 3*s.* 9*d.* and 45 of 100 parts of 1*d.* per great Pound.

Read

(46)

Read a first Time a Bill for Naturalizing *Amalie Sophie de Wallmoden*.

Agreed to the Report of last Friday's Resolution in a Committee on *Ways and Means*, viz. Resolved, That towards raising the Supply, His MAJESTY be enabled to issue and apply the further Sum of 200,000*l.* out of the growing Produce of the Surplusses, Excesses, or Overplus Monies commonly called the *Sinking Fund*.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Gentlemen, who are appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill upon the Resolution reported, upon the fifth *Instant*, that they do prepare a Clause or Clauses to be inserted in the said Bill, pursuant to this Resolution.

Read a first time a Bill to give further Powers to the Commissioners for building *Westminster-Bridge*, and to enable them to raise a further Sum of Money towards finishing the said Bridge; and to perform other Trusts reposed in them.

Ordered a new Writ to be issued out for electing a Member for the Borough of *Devizes* in *Wilts*, in the room of Sir *Joseph Eyles* Knight.

Read a first time a Bill for the more easy and effectual Recovery of *small Debts*.

Read a first time a Bill to explain and amend an Act 9 *Q Anne*, for securing the Freedom of Parliaments, by the further qualifying the Members to sit in the House of Commons.

Received a Petition from the Justices of *Westminster*, setting forth the Insufficiency of the Laws in being, for settling the Prices of *Coals*, or preventing Combinations, &c.

Received a Petition from the Justices of *Westminster*, setting forth the insufficiency of the present Laws in being for obliging the Scavengers to cleanse the Streets, that they have no Power to remove the Nuisances and Obstructions in the Street, and can proceed only by indictment, which is very dilatory and expensive, and no Provision made for defraying the Charges, &c. &c. And thereupon praying Relief.

Both Petitions were Ordered to lie upon the Table.

February 19.

Read a first Time a Bill for granting to His MAJESTY the Sum of *One Million, Two hundred Thousand Pounds*, out of the *Sinking Fund*, and the growing Produce thereof.

Read a first Time a Bill for the better preservation of the *Salmon and Trout Fisheries* within this Kingdom.

Agreed

(47)

Agreed to the Amendments made by the Lords to the Bill for *Naturalizing* such Foreign Protestants, as are settled, or shall settle in any of His MAJESTY'S Colonies in *America*.

Rejected, (upon the second reading) the Bill for Registering all *Seamen, Watermen, Fishermen, Lightermen, &c.* without Division*.

Resolved, That this House will upon *Monday* Morning next, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of Heads of a Bill for the further and better Encouragement of *Seamen* to enter voluntarily into His Majesty's Service.

February 20.

Read a second Time the Bill for granting *One Million Two Hundred Thousand Pounds*, out of the *Sinking Fund*.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, that a new Writ be issued out for electing a Burgess to serve in this present Parliament for the Borough of *Saltash* in *Cornwall*, in the room of *Thomas Corbet Esq*; who hath accepted a Salary of 200*l. per Annum* as Secretary to the Court of Assistants for the Relief of poor Widows of Sea Officers: It passed in the *Negative*, Ayes 132, Noes 223.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, That a Committee be appointed to enquire what new Offices or Places of Profit have been created or erected since the 25th of *October*, in 1705; and also whether there are any greater Number of Commissioners made or constituted for the Execution of such respective Office: It passed in the *Negative*, Ayes 154, Noes 196.

February 21.

Ordered, That the Call of the House be adjourned to this Day *Month*.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, That His MAJESTY be addressed for all the Powers, Instructions, Memorials, Letters and Papers, relating to the Convention between *Great Britain and Spain*, concluded at the *Pardo*, *January 14. 1739*, N. S. be laid before this House. After several Hours Debate it passed in the *Negative*, Ayes 196, Noes 247.

February 22.

Read a second Time a Bill for better Preservation of *Salmon and Trout Fisheries*. Read

* By that Bill, if a *Seaman, &c.* removed from a certain *District*, he should be deem'd a *Deserter*, and be punish'd accordingly.

(48)

Read a second Time a Bill for Naturalizing Madam Wallmoden.

February 25.

Read a first Time a Bill for punishing Mutiny and Desertion, and for the better Payment of the Army and their Quarters.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill for Naturalizing Amalie Sophie de Wallmoden.

Read a second Time a Bill for the further and more effectually preventing the wilful and malicious Destruction of Collieries and Coal Works.

Read a second Time a Bill for amending and enforcing the Laws relating to Rogues, Vagabonds, and other idle and disorderly Persons, and for reducing the same into one Act of Parliament.

Read a second Time a Bill for the more easy and effectual Recovery of small Debts.

February 26.

Read a first Time a Bill for making more effectual the Laws now in being, for disabling Persons from being chosen Members of, or sitting or Voting in the House of Commons, who have any Pension during Pleasure, &c.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolution on the Supply, viz. Resolved, That 199,704*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* be granted for the Ordinary of the Navy (including Half-Pay to Sea Officers) for 1740.

It was moved, and the Question being put, That to apply towards defraying the ordinary Charges of the Navy, or to any Head contain'd in the ordinary Estimate thereof, any Sum of publick Money, exceeding the Sum granted by Parliament for that purpose, is a Misapplication, and ought to be prevented; it passed in the Negative.

February 27.

Read a second time the Mutiny-Bill.

Also a second time the Bill to grant further Powers to the Commissioners of Westminster-Bridge, &c.

February 28.

Received His MAJESTY's Answer to their Address, that he would give Directions to the proper Officers to lay before this House an Estimate of what may be necessary for the Rebuildings and Repairs of His MAJESTY's Ships for 1740.

February 29.

Received the Report of the Committee appointed to enquire what Laws are expired or near expiring, &c.

Read

(49)

Read a second Time a Bill for making more effectual the Laws now in being, for disabling Persons from being chosen Members of, or Sitting or Voting in the House of Commons, who have any Pension during Pleasure, &c.

Read a second Time a Bill for explaining and amending an Act 9 Q. Anne, for securing the Freedom of Parliaments, by the farther qualifying the Members to sit in the House of Commons.

In a grand Committee went thro' the Bill for punishing Mutiny and Desertion.

March 3.

The House resolved itself into a Committee, to consider of Heads for a Bill for the further and better Encouragement of Seamen to enter voluntarily into His MAJESTY's Service. And Resolved, that a Voluntary Register of Seamen will be of great Utility to this Kingdom.

March 4.

In a grand Committee went thro' the Bill for disabling Persons, who have any Pension during Pleasure, &c. from Sitting or Voting in the House of Commons.

Agreed to the Report of the Mutiny-Bill, and ordered it to be engrossed.

Deferr'd going into a Committee on the Bill for the better preservation of Salmon and Trout Fisheries, till this day six Weeks.

March 5.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for Disabling Persons from Sitting or Voting in the House of Commons, who have any Pension during Pleasure, &c. and ordered it, with the Amendments, to be engrossed.

Ordered an humble Address to His MAJESTY for a Copy of the Memorial and Petition of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London, presented to His MAJESTY upon the Order they received for settling the Price of Coals, &c.

March 6.

Ordered a new Writ to be issued out, for electing a Member to serve in Parliament for the Town of Berwick upon Tweed; in the room of the Right Honourable Hugh Hume Campbell Esq; commonly called Lord Polwarth, now Earl of Marchmont, a Peer of Great Britain.

The House received a Message signed by His MAJESTY, signifying, that, His MAJESTY having received Proposals for a Marriage between the Princess Mary and Prince

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Frederic.

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Frederic of Hesse, Son of Prince William Landgrave of Hesse, Brother to the King of Sweden, has been pleased favourably to accept and agree to the same, and has thought proper to communicate his Intentions to this House; and as His MAJESTY can make no Doubt, but that this Alliance with so considerable a Protestant Family, will be to the general Satisfaction of all his good Subjects, he promises himself the Concurrence and Assistance of this House, in enabling him to give such a Portion to his Daughter, as may be suitable to the Honour and Dignity of his Crown and Family.

Resolved, *Nemine Contradicente*, That an humble Address be presented to His MAJESTY, to return him thanks, for communicating the intended Marriage to this House, and to assure His MAJESTY that they will enter into the immediate Consideration of this important Affair, in such a Manner, as shall demonstrate the Zeal, Duty and Affection of this House to his MAJESTY, and a just Regard to the Honour and Dignity of his Royal Family.

And the said Message was referred to the Committee on the Supply.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill for punishing Mutiny and Desertion, &c.

In a grand Committee went thro' the Bill to prevent the excessive increase of Horse-Races, with several Amendments.

March 7.

Received the Report of His MAJESTY's Answer to their Address of Thanks, for his most gracious Communication of the intended Marriage, &c. viz. GENTLEMEN, I give you my Thanks for this dutiful and affectionate Address, and look upon it as a further Instance of the Personal Regard you have ever shewn to Me and My Family.

Reported the Bill to restrain and prevent the excessive increase of Horse-Races, and Ordered it to be engrossed, on a Division, Ayes 47, Noes 25.

March 10.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for amending and enforcing the Laws relating to Rogues, Vagabonds, &c. with several Amendments, and Ordered it to be engrossed.

Agreed to the Report of last Friday's Resolution, in a Committee on the Supply, viz. Resolved, that the Sum of Forty Thousand Pounds be granted to His MAJESTY for the Marriage Portion of the Princess Mary, one of His MAJESTY's Daughters.

Read

(51)

Read a first Time a Bill for remedying some Defects in an Act 43 of 2. Elizabeth for the Relief of the Poor; and in one other Act 9 K. George I. for amending the Laws relating to the Settlement, Employment and Relief of the Poor; and for making the said Acts more effectual.

Read a first Time a Bill to continue several Laws therein mentioned, for punishing such Persons as shall wilfully and maliciously pull down or destroy Turnpikes for repairing Highways, or Locks, erected by Authority of Parliament; for making Rivers navigable, &c. for preventing frivolous and vexatious Arrests; and for better securing the Lawful Trade of His MAJESTY's Subjects to and from the East Indies, and for preventing their trading under foreign Commissions; for limiting the Time for suing forth Writs of *Certiorari* upon Proceedings before Justices of the Peace, &c. for the better and more speedy Execution of Process within particular Franchises or Liberties; and for extending the Powers and Authorities of Justices of the Peace of Counties, touching County Rates, to the Justices as have Commissions of Peace within themselves.

March 11.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill for making more effectual the Laws now in being, for disabling Persons from being chosen Members of, or Sitting or Voting in the House of Commons, who have any Pension during Pleasure, or for any Number of Years, or any Offices held in Trust for them.

Passed also an engrossed Bill to restrain and prevent the excessive increase of Horse-Races, and for amending an Act passed last Session, for the more effectual preventing excessive and deceitful Gaming.

Passed also a Bill for the more effectual improving the Navigation of the River *Dun*, in the County of *York*.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolutions on Ways and Means, viz. Resolved, that 21000 *l.* 1 *s.* 8 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$. be issued and applied towards raising the Supply, being the remainder in the *Exchequer* of Money arising by Sale of Lands in *St. Christophers*.

March 12.

Read a first Time a Bill for providing a Marriage Portion for the Princess *Mary*.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill for the further and more effectually preventing the wilful and malicious Destruction of *Collieries* and *Coal Works*.

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In a grand Committee went thro' the Bill for granting to His MAJESTY *One Million, Two hundred Thousand Pounds* out of the *Sinking Fund*, and the growing Produce thereof.

March 13.

Read a second Time the Bill for providing a Marriage-Portion for the Princess *Mary*.

Read a first Time a Bill to prevent Collusive Qualifications of Persons to Vote as Freeholders at Elections.

Agreed to the Report of the *Sinking-Fund-Bill*, and Ordered it to be Engrossed.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill for amending and enforcing the Laws relating to *Rogues, Vagabonds*, and other idle and disorderly Persons, and for reducing the same into one Act of Parliament.

In a grand Committee went thro' the Bill for granting further Powers to the Commissioners of *Westminster-Bridge*, &c.

March 14.

Read a second Time a Bill for punishing such Persons as shall wilfully pull down or destroy Turnpikes, &c. &c. &c.

In a grand Committee went thro' the Bill for providing a Marriage-Portion for the Princess *Mary* with Amendments.

Read a first Time a Bill for the Increase of *Mariners and Seamen* to navigate Merchant Ships, and other Trading Ships or Vessels.

March 17.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for providing a Marriage-Portion for the Princess *Mary*.

Read a second Time a Bill for remedying some Defects in an Act 43 of Q. *Elizabeth*, for Relief of the Poor, and in one other Act 9 K. *George I.* for amending the Laws relating to the Settlement, Employment, and Relief of the Poor, and for making them more effectual.

Resolved, That it be an Instruction to the said Committee, that they receive a Clause to direct the Inhabitants of every Township, Village or Place, who have been rated, and have paid towards the Relief of the Poor the Year preceding, to elect annually double the Number of Persons they shall judge necessary to be appointed Overseers of the Poor for such Parish, &c. and to return their Names to the Justices of the Peace, &c. to nominate and appoint one

(53)

one half of the Persons so returned to them, to serve as Overseers of the Poor for each Parish, &c.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for granting further Powers to the Commissioners of *Westminster-Bridge*, &c.

Received a Message from the Lords, that they had agreed upon an Address to His MAJESTY, to which the Lords desire the Concurrence of this House.

The said Address was read, and with an Amendment agreed to by the House, *Nemine Contradicente*; and the Blank therein was filled up with the Word *Commons*. Then the said Address was ordered back to the Lords. And about half an hour after, a Message was sent from the Lords to acquaint this House, that the Lords have agreed to the said Amendment.

Went into a grand Committee on the Bill to explain and amend an Act 9 Q. *Anne*, for securing the Freedom of Parliaments by the farther qualifying Members to sit in the House of Commons. And dropt the same *sine Die*.

March 18.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill for granting 40,000*l.* Portion to the Princess *Mary*.

Read a second Time a Bill for the better and more easy collecting of Charity Money upon Briefs.

Read a second Time the Bill to prevent collusive Qualifications of Persons to vote as Freeholders at Elections.

Then both Houses went with the following Address to His MAJESTY, viz.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE your MAJESTY's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the LORDS SPIRITUAL and TEMPORAL, and COMMONS, in Parliament assembled, do congratulate your MAJESTY on the Glorious Success of your MAJESTY's Arms in the *West-Indies*, under the Command of Vice-Admiral VERNON, by entering the Port, and taking the Town of *Porto-Bello*, and demolishing and levelling all the Forts and Castles belonging thereto, with six Ships of War only*.

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* This Address was sent down by the Lords to the Commons, without those six Words. And Mr. *Pulteney* moved for and insisted upon that Amendment, because Admiral *Vernon* had declared when he sat in that House in the preceding Parliament, that He would engage to take *Porto Bello* with six Men of War only. And that as he had been as good as his Word, they could not do him too much Honour, &c. After some Debate, the Amendment was agreed to, on a Division, Ayes 34, Noes 31.

(54)

This Enterprize, so wisely concerted, and so bravely conducted, cannot fail of giving the utmost Joy to all your MAJESTY's faithful Subjects, since it affords the most reasonable Hopes and Expectations, that, by the Blessing of God upon your MAJESTY's Councils and Arms, it may be attended with other important Advantages, and highly contribute to the obtaining real and effectual Security of those just Rights of Navigation and Commerce, belonging to your MAJESTY's Subjects, for the Preservation of which your MAJESTY entered into this necessary War.

To which His MAJESTY answered: *My Lords and Gentlemen, I thank you for your dutiful Congratulations on this Success, which is so much for the Honour and Interest of My Crown and Kingdoms. The Satisfaction you express in the Measures I have taken, is very agreeable to Me.*

March 19.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill to continue several Laws therein mentioned; for punishing such Persons as shall wilfully destroy Turnpikes, &c. &c.

Read a second Time the Bill for the Increase of *Mariners and Seamen* to navigate Merchant Ships; and other trading Ships or Vessels.

Read a first Time a Bill for qualifying Persons acting as Trustees for repairing the Highways, &c.

Mr. *Speaker* reported, that the House had attended His MAJESTY in the House of Peers; where His MAJESTY was pleased to give the Royal Assent to

An Act for providing a Marriage Portion for the Princess Mary.

An Act for the more effectual securing and encouraging the Trade of His MAJESTY's British Subjects to America, &c.

An Act for punishing Mutiny and Desertion, &c.

An Act to explain and amend an Act 1 of Q. Anne, for the more effectual preventing of Abuses and Frauds of Persons employed in the Working up the Woollen, Linnen, Fustian, Cotton and Iron Manufactures of this Kingdom; and for extending the said Act to the Manufactures of Leather.

An Act to indemnify Persons who have omitted to qualify themselves for Offices and Employments within the Time limited by Law, &c.

An Act for repairing Hockliffe Road.

An Act for improving the Navigation of the River Dun.

An Act for Naturalizing Amelia Sophie de Walmoden.

(55)

An Act for Naturalizing such foreign Protestants, &c. as are settled, or shall settle in any of His MAJESTY's Colonies in America. And to 8 other Acts.

March 20.

In a grand Committee went thro' the Bill to prevent *collusive* Qualifications of Persons to vote as Freeholders at Elections, &c. with several Amendments.

The House, according to Order, took into Consideration the Lists of the *Protections* and written Certificates entered in the several Offices of *London* and *Middlesex*, &c. And several of the said Returns were read. And the standing Order of the House, made the 31 *January* 1718. 'That all Protections and written Certificates of the Members of this House be declared Void in Law, and be forthwith withdrawn and called in, and that none be granted for the future; and that, if any shall be granted by any Member, such Member shall make Satisfaction to the Party injured, and shall be liable to the Censure of this House.'

Ordered, *Nemine Contradicente*, That the said standing Order be forthwith reprinted and published, &c.

March 21.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill to prevent *collusive* Qualifications of Persons to Vote as Freeholders at Elections, &c.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill to continue several Laws therein mention'd, &c.

Mr. *Alderman Willimott* reported from the Committee of the whole House, who were appointed to consider of Methods, for the better accommodating the Cities of *London* and *Westminster* with *Coals*, the following Resolution: *viz. Resolved,*

That it appears to this Committee, that the high Duties of 3s. 4d per Customary Ton, to be paid to the Proprietors of the Navigation of the River *Dun*, for *Coals* coming down that River, in order to be shipped for Sea, has been one great Impediment to *Coals* coming down that River, and the Cause of the Duties having produced nothing.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, that the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of *Great Britain*, do lay before this House, a List of such of His MAJESTY's Ships of War, as have been employed as Cruisers, for the Protection of the Trade of this Kingdom on this side *Cape Finisterre*, since the 10th of *July* last, distinguishing the Time each Ship was ordered to remain, and the time such Ship did actually remain on

such

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such Cruife, together with the Reasons of her returning to any Port of this Kingdom: After some Debate, it passed in the Negative, on a Division, Ayes 97, Noes 145.

March 24.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill to give further Powers to the Commissioners for building *Westminster-Bridge*, and to enable them to raise a further Sum of Money towards finishing the said Bridge, and to perform other Trusts reposed in them.

Passed also the Bill for granting to His MAJESTY, one Million, Two hundred Thousand Pounds out of the *Sinking Fund*, and the growing Produce thereof; and for granting the Sum of 21000*l.* remaining in the Receipt of His MAJESTY's Exchequer, arisen by Sale of Lands in the Island of *St. Kitts*; and for the further appropriating the Supplies granted in this Session of Parliament.

Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His MAJESTY, that he would be pleased to direct, that over and above the Ships of War, he shall think fit to employ against the Enemy, such a Number of Ships may be appointed to cruise in proper stations for the effectual Security and Protection of our Trade, as shall be consistent with the Defence and Protection of His MAJESTY's Dominions, and the safe convoying the Trading Ships of this Nation to and from foreign Parts.

March 25.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill for more effectual preventing fraudulent Qualifications of Persons to Vote as Freeholders at Elections, &c.

Received the Report of his MAJESTY's Answer to their Address of Yesterday, viz. *All possible care has been taken in carrying on the War against Spain in the most proper and effectual manner, and at the same time for protecting the Trade of my Subjects; and you may be assured, that the same care shall be continued.*

The Amendments made by the Lords to the Bill for prohibiting Commerce with *Spain*, were taken into Consideration, some of which were agreed to, and others disagreed to. And a Committee was appointed to draw up Reasons to be offer'd to the Lords, at a Conference, why some of the Amendments were disagreed to.

In a grand Committee went thro' the Bill for the Increase of *Mariners and Seamen*, &c. with Amendments.

March

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March 26.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for the Increase of *Mariners and Seamen*, and ordered it to be engrossed.

March 27.

Agreed to the Report of the several Resolutions in a Committee on Ways and Means relating to the Encouragement of the *Greenland and Whale Fishery*. And ordered in a Bill accordingly.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill for Increase of *Mariners and Seamen*, to navigate Merchant-Ships, and other Trading Ships or Vessels.

A Message was sent to the Lords to desire a Conference upon the Amendments made to the Bill for prohibiting Commerce with *Spain*; and their Lordships agreed to the same, and appointed to-morrow at two o' Clock.

March 28.

Read a first Time a Bill for *Relief of Debtors*, with respect to the Imprisonment of their Persons.

Mr. *Walpole* reported that the Managers had been at the Conference with the Lords, and deliver'd the Reasons for disagreeing to some of the Amendments made to the Bill for prohibiting Commerce with *Spain*: And had left the Bill and Amendments with their Lordships.

Received divers Accounts from the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations in pursuance of two Addresses to His MAJESTY on the 13th of *June 1739*, (concerning the Paper Currency, and the Rates of Gold and Silver in *America*, from 1700 to this present Year) together with the Return sent to the said Commissioners from the respective Governors of His MAJESTY's Plantations thereupon, and together with a List of the said Returns.

Resolved, That this House will upon this Day Month, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider further of the Bill for remedying some Defects in an Act 43 Q. *Elizabeth* and in one other Act 9 K. *George I.* for *Relief of the Poor*.

A Petition of divers Merchants, Exporters of the *Wool-len and British Manufactures and Fisheries*, &c. was read; setting forth the great Losses which they sustain by the laying on a *General Embargo*, &c. and praying Relief.

A Motion was made and the Question put, That the said Petition be refer'd to the Consideration of a Committee of the whole House, and that the Petitioners, if they think fit,

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fit, be heard by themselves, &c. it passed in the *Negative*. On a Division, Ayes 95, Noes 166.

March 31.

Read a first Time a Bill to impower the Court of Aldermen to fix a Price on *Coals*.

Read a first Time a Bill for better preservation of His MAJESTY'S Woods in *America*, &c.

April 1.

The House resolved itself into a Committee, to consider of an Act made the last Session, for taking off the Duties upon Woollen and Bay-Yarn, imported from Ireland to England, and for the more effectual preventing the Exportation of Wool from Great Britain and Ireland to foreign Parts. Moved that the said Act be repeal'd, which after Debate was rejected.

April 2.

Read a second Time a Bill for better preservation of His MAJESTY'S Woods in *America*, &c.

April 3.

Read a second Time and Committed a Bill for reducing an Act 2 of K. George II. and an Act 3 K. George II. for Relief of Debtors, with respect to the Imprisonment of their Persons, into one Act, and for explaining and amending the said Acts.

Ordered, That the Committee have Power to receive a Clause or Clauses for the Relief of such Persons being Debtors, who were actually beyond the Seas on the first of January 1736, and who by unavoidable Accidents were deprived of taking the Benefit of an Act 10 K. George II. for Relief of Insolvent Debtors.

Read a second Time the Bill to impower the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, to set the Price upon all *Coals* imported into *London*.

In a grand Committee went thro' the Bill for the better and more easy Collecting of *Charity-Money* on *Briefs*, and ordered the Report on the 11th Instant; on a Division, Ayes 46, Noes 21. Adjourn'd to the 10th Instant.

April 10.

Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His MAJESTY, that he will be graciously pleased to give Directions, that there may be laid before this House, Copies of the Instructions to the several Governors of the *British Plantations* in *America*, whereby they are directed to observe and put in Execution an Act 6 Q. Anne, for ascer-

taining the Rates of the foreign Coins in *America*; and also relating to their not giving their Assent to any Acts of Assembly for the striking and issuing any Paper-Bills of Credit in lieu of Money; and likewise relating to the passing any Bill, or Bills, whereby the Trade or Navigation of this Kingdom may be any ways affected.

April 11.

In a grand Committee went thro' the Bill for better preservation of his MAJESTY'S Woods in *America*, and for the Encouragement of the Importation of Naval Stores from thence, and for granting a further Bounty upon all Ships employ'd in the *Whale-Fishery*.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for the more easy collecting of *Charity-Money* on *Briefs*. Ordered it to be engrossed.

April 14.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for better preservation of His MAJESTY'S Woods in *America*, &c. Ordered it to be engrossed.

April 15.

Passed the Bill for continuing several Laws therein mentioned relating to the Premiums upon the Importation of *Masts*, *Yards* and *Bowsprits*, *Tar*, &c. and for granting a further Bounty upon all Ships employed in the *Whale-Fishery*.

Received an Account of the Rise and Progress of the Paper-Bills of Credit in *South Carolina* from 1700 to this present time, together with the Computed Value in Money of *Great Britain* at the Times of creating and issuing the same, &c. And several other Accounts relating thereto.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for confirming and enlarging the Powers granted to the Governors and Guardians of the Hospital for the Maintenance of exposed and deserted young Children, by His MAJESTY'S Charter, bearing Date the 17th of *October* 1739, and to enable them to execute the good Purposes of the said Charter, with the Amendments.

April 16.

Passed the Bill for enlarging the Powers of the Governors of the Hospital for exposed and deserted young Children, with the Amendments; and ordered it to the Lords.

Received five Petitions praying to be heard by themselves or Counsel, against the Bill for settling the Prices of *Coals*, and Leave was given accordingly.

(60)

Read a second Time a Bill for the publick Registring of Deeds, Conveyances, &c. and Committed it, on a Division, Ayes 62, Noes 40.

April 17.

Agreed to the Amendments made by the Lords to the Bill for enforcing the Laws relating to Rogues, Vagabonds, and other idle and disorderly Persons, and for reducing the same into one Act of Parliament.

Took into Consideration the Amendments made by the Lords to the Bill for prohibiting Commerce with Spain, and disagreed to one Amendment.

Ordered that Mr. Secretary at War do go to the Lords, and desire a free Conference thereupon.

April 18.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill for the more easy collecting of Charity-Money on Briefs. On a Division, Ayes 85, Noes 76.

In a Committee made a Progress on the Bill for settling the Prices of Coals, and to proceed on Monday; Ayes 45, Noes 38.

April 21.

Read a second Time a Bill to obviate certain Doubts, how far Persons acting under certain Charters from the Crown, or other Powers, are obliged to qualify themselves, by taking and subscribing the several Oaths and Tests established by the several Statutes now in force for those Purposes.

In a grand Committee, made a Progress on the Bill for publick Registring of Deeds, Conveyances, &c. when it was moved that all such Writings should be registred with the Clerks of the Peace in each County, which passed in the Negative, on a Division, Ayes 91, Noes 122, to proceed to-morrow.

April 22.

The Managers went to hold a free Conference with the Lords on the Bill for prohibiting Commerce with Spain, and having waited there, three quarters of an hour, and the Lords not coming to the said free Conference, the Managers thought it their Duty to stay no longer.

The House thereupon adjourn'd itself in some disgust, without taking any Notice of the Orders of the Day, which were accordingly dropt, but were revived the next.

April

(61)

April 23.

The Managers went to a free Conference with the Lords, and being returned, the same was reported to the House.

April 24.

In a Committee, took into Consideration the several Papers relating to the Paper Currency, and the Rates of Gold and Silver in America, from 1700 to this Time. And came to several Resolutions on the same.

In a Committee went thro' the Bill to empower the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen to set the Price of Sea-Coals imported into London.

April 25.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill to empower the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, to set the Price of Sea-Coals imported, &c. And ordered it to be ingrossed.

Ordered several Addresses to be presented to His Majesty concerning the Paper Currency in America.

Went into a Committee on the Bill for obviating certain Doubts concerning Persons taking the Oaths. Moved that the Chairman do leave the Chair, which after Debate passed in the Affirmative; on a Division, Ayes 79, Noes 61.

The Bill for public Registring of Deeds, Conveyances, &c. was dropt by Agreement.

April 28.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill to empower the Lord Mayor and Aldermen to set the Price upon all Coals imported into London, and ordered it to the Lords; on a Division, Ayes 56, Noes 32.

April 29.

His MAJESTY came to the House of Peers, and gave the Royal Assent to the following public Bills, viz.

An Act for granting One Million two hundred thousand Pounds, out of the Sinking-Fund, and growing Produce thereof. And for granting the Sum of Twenty one thousand Pounds one Shilling and eight Pence half-penny, remaining in the Exchequer, arisen by Sale of Lands in St. Christopher's.

An Act for continuing the several Laws therein mentioned relating to the Premiums upon the Importation of Masts, Yards and Bowsprits, Tar, Pitch and Turpentine; to British-made Sail-Cloth, to the Greenland and Whale Fishery.

(62)

Fishery: For granting a farther Bounty for all Ships employed in the *Whale Fishery* during the present War, &c. &c.

An Act for prohibiting Commerce with *Spain*.

An Act for enforcing the Laws against *Rogues, Vagabonds, &c.* and for reducing the same into one Act of Parliament.

An Act to restrain the excessive Increase of *Horse-Races*; and for amending an Act for preventing of excessive and deceitful *Gaming*.

An Act for preventing the malicious Destruction of *Collieries and Coal-Works*.

An Act to continue several Laws therein mentioned, &c. &c.

An Act for the Increase of *Mariners and Seamen* to navigate *Merchant Ships*.

An Act to prevent fraudulent Qualifications of Persons to vote as *Freeholders* at Elections.

An Act for confirming and enlarging the Powers of the *Governors and Guardians* of the *Foundling Hospital*.

An Act to grant further Powers to the *Commissioners* of *Westminster Bridge*.

And to *Six* other public, and *Eleven* private Acts.

After which His MAJESTY was pleased to make a most gracious Speech from the Throne, signifying, That the Zeal which they had hitherto shewn for the Support and Prosecution of the just and necessary War, in which he was engaged, was a fresh Proof of their Concern for the Honour and Interest of His Crown and Kingdoms. He thanked them for the effectual Supplies, which they had granted Him for the Service of the current Year: And assured them, that they should be duly employed to the Purposes for which they were given. He again recommended Union amongst ourselves, as being highly conducive to the carrying on this great Work with Honour and Advantage, and to the more speedy obtaining of all possible Justice and Satisfaction from the Crown of *Spain*; for the many grievous Injuries suffered by His Subjects; and effectual Security for the Freedom of our Commerce and Navigation for the future, &c.

November

(63)



November 18. 1740.

THIS Day His Majesty came to the House of Peers in his usual State, and opened the Session with a most gracious Speech from the Throne, acquainting His Parliament, That strong Squadrons were got ready, and ordered to sail upon important Services, both in the *West Indies* and *Europe*, with as much Expedition as the Nature of those Services, and the Manning of the Ships would admit: That a very considerable Body of Land-Forces was embarked, which is to be joined by a great Number of His Subjects raised in *America*. And all Things necessary for transporting the Troops from hence, and carrying on the designed Expedition, were a long time in Readiness, and waited only for an Opportunity to pursue the intended Voyage. That the several Incidents, which have happened in the mean time, have had no Effect upon Him, but to confirm Him in His Resolutions, and to determine Him to add Strength to His Armaments, &c. That the Court of *Spain* having already felt some Effects of our Resentment, began to be sensible, that they should be no longer able, alone, to defend themselves against the Efforts of the *British* Nation. And, if any other Power, agreeable to some late extraordinary Proceedings, should interpose, and attempt to prescribe or limit the Operations of War against His declared Enemies, the Honour and Interest of His Crown and Kingdoms must call upon us to lose no Time, in putting ourselves into such a Condition, as may enable us to repel any Insults, and to frustrate any Designs formed against us, &c. That the Death of the late *Emperor*, opens a new Scene in the Affairs of *Europe*. And that it was impossible to determine what Turn the Policy, Interest, or Ambition of the several Courts may lead them to take in this critical Conjunction. That it shall be His Care to observe their Motions, and to adhere to the Engagements He is under, to maintain the Balance of Power, and the Liberties of *Europe*, &c. That He had ordered Estimates for the Service of the ensuing Year to be prepared,

pared, and laid before them. That some Augmentations will be necessary, not only for carrying on the present War with Vigour, but also to put ourselves in a Condition of being prepared for such Events, as may arise in this uncertain State of *Europe, &c.* That the Scarcity of *Corn*, which has happened in many Countries, had induced several Powers to make extraordinary Provisions, to obviate the ill Effects of that Misfortune: That though in many Parts of this Kingdom, the Harvest has proved more favourable, yet common Prudence calls upon us to provide against the Approach of such a Calamity. HE therefore earnestly recommended it to them, to consider of some good Law, to prevent this growing Mischiefe. HE also recommended to them, a Bill for the more speedy Manning the Fleet in time of War, &c. Whereupon the Commons resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, to congratulate Him on His safe Return to these His regal Dominions, &c. And to assure His Majesty, that this House will stand by and support Him, against all Attempts made in Violation of the Faith of Treaties, &c. And a Committee was appointed to draw up an Address agreeable thereto, &c.

It was moved, humbly to address His Majesty, That he would be pleased to order an Account to be laid before them, in what Manner the Sums granted last Session for the Service of the present Year, had been disposed of, which after Debate, passed in the Negative; Ayes 157, Noes 226.*

November 19.

Resolved, That this House will receive no Petition for private Bills after the 21st Day of *January* next.

Ordered, That the House be called over on the fourth of *December*.

November 20.

The House went in a Body to address His Majesty.

November 21.

Mr. Speaker reported His Majesty's Answer to their Address of Yesterday.

Read a first Time, a Bill to prohibit for a limited Time the Exportation of *Corn*, and other Provisions out of *Great Britain, Ireland*, and His Majesty's Plantations in *America*.

A Motion was made, and the Question put, that the said Bill be printed, which passed in the Negative.

November

* This Motion was then rejected as irregular; but afterwards an Address of the same Nature was presented to His Majesty.

November 24.

Received the Report of last *Friday*'s Resolution: And resolved, *Nemine contradicente*, that a Supply be granted to His Majesty.

Ordered an Estimate of the Ordinary of the Navy, Guards, Garrisons, Land-Forces, &c. to be laid before them.

Ordered, That the Bill to prohibit the Exportation of *Corn*, &c. be read a second Time to-morrow; on a Division, Ayes 84, Noes 58.

Ordered an Account how the Monies granted last Session have been disposed of, to be laid before them.

November 25.

Resolved, *Nemine contradicente*, That the Thanks of this House be given to Vice-Admiral *Vernon*, for the Services he has done to his King and Country in the *West Indies*.

Resolved, *Nemine contradicente*, That His Majesty be addressed to order an Embargo to be forthwith laid upon all Ships laden with *Corn, Grain, Starch, Rice, Beef, Pork*, and other Provisions, to be exported to foreign Parts.

Read a second Time the Bill to prohibit the Exportation of *Corn, &c.* And after Debate committed it for this Day *se'en*-night.

Received a Petition of *Richard Partridge*, Agent for *Pennsylvania*, and also Agent for *New Jersey*, against the *Corn* Bill; which was referred to the said Committee.

November 26.

Received a Petition of the Merchants of *London*, against the Bill for prohibiting the Exportation of *Corn, &c.* Referred to the Committee.

Ordered, That the proper Officer do lay before this House, a List of the *Navy*, as it stood on the 29th of *September*, 1737. With an Account of how many have been lost, decayed or rebuilt, and what remain.

Also a List of the *Navy* as it stood on the 18th Instant.

Also an Account of what Ships have been employed from *June* 1st, 1739. to *November* 1st, 1740. as Cruisers or Convoys, with their Continuance thereon, and the Success they have met with, distinguishing each Ship taken or retaken from the Enemy.

Resolved to address His Majesty for Copies of all Applications which have been made to the Admiralty, &c. for Cruisers to be appointed for Protection of our Trade.

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Resolved

(66)

Resolved to address His Majesty for an Account of all Orders given since *February* 1st, 1737. relating to the fitting out, and sailing of any of His Majesty's Squadrons, with the Dates of such Orders, &c.

Ordered an Account of all Orders given for raising and embarking Land Forces and Marines for the Lord *Cathcart's* Expedition to *America*, &c. to be laid before them.

Resolved, That His Majesty be addressed for Copies of all Letters relating to a Supply of Ships, Men, Stores, Ammunition, &c. written to, or received from Vice-Admiral *Vernon*, by either of the Secretaries of State, the Commissioners of the Admiralty, or the Navy. As also for an Account of what Stores, Ammunition, &c. were contracted for, and sent to the said Admiral at *Jamaica*.

Resolved, That His Majesty be addressed for Copies of all Letters that have been written, or Representations made to the Commissioners of the Admiralty, relating to Stores, Provisions, &c. for the Use of the Fleet lately under the Command of Sir *John Norris*.

Ordered, That Copies of the monthly Returns of *Seamen*, with the Number of the Sick, what died, or deserted, and what cured since 10th *July*, 1739. be laid before them.

Ordered an Account to be laid before them, of what Stores, Ammunition, Provisions, &c. were sent with, or have been sent to Rear-Admiral *Haddock*. And also Copies of all Letters, as relate to a Supply of Ships, Men, Stores, &c. written to, or received from Rear-Admiral *Haddock*, &c.

November 27.

Resolved, That His Majesty be addressed for Copies of all Papers relating to the opening of a Trade through *Russia* to *Persia*, &c.

Received the Report of Yesterday's Resolution on the Supply, viz. Resolved, That 40,000 Men be employed for *Sea Service* for 1741. And that *four Pounds per Man per Month* be allowed for maintaining them, including the Ordnance for *Sea Service*. And agreed to the same.

November 28.

In a grand Committee on Ways and Means, resolved, That *4 s.* in the Pound be granted to His Majesty, upon Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Pensions, Offices, and personal Estates in *England*, *Wales*, and the Town of *Berwick* upon *Tweed*, for the Service of the Year 1741.

December

(67)

December 1.

Agreed to the Report of the above Resolution; and ordered in a Bill accordingly.

Received several Petitions from the Agents of *America*, and *South Carolina*, against the *Corn Bill*.

December 2.

Read a first Time the *Land-Tax Bill*.

Ordered, That *William Cooley* having confessed himself to be Author and Publisher of a malicious and scandalous Libel, intituled, *Considerations upon the Embargo on Provision of Viſtual*, be for his said Offence committed to *Newgate*.

December 3.

Read a second Time, and committed the *Land-Tax-Bill*. Then proceeded to take into Consideration, Mr. *Cooley's* printed Libel, intituled, *Considerations on the present Embargo*. When it was moved, that Mr. *Meres*, Printer of the *Daily-Post*, December 1st, 1740. wherein Part of the said Libel was inserted; and Mr. *Hughs*, Printer of the said Libel, be called in, and examined at the Bar; which after Debate was resolved in the Affirmative; Ayes 220, Noes 163. Whereupon Mr. *Meres* was called in and examined, and being withdrawn;

Resolved, That *J. Meres* be committed; and that His Majesty be addressed to give Orders, that the said *J. Meres* be prosecuted by the Attorney-General; on a Division, Ayes 188, Noes 155.

Then Mr. *Hughs* was called in and examined, and having protested his Innocence of the several Matters contained in the said Libel, &c. And being withdrawn, Resolved, that *Hughs* be committed, in order to make his Submission for his said Offence; Ayes 148, Noes 75.

December 4.

The House according to Order was called over, and *Thomas Strangeways Horner Esq;* was ordered into Custody for Non-attendance; Ayes 203, Noes 159. And a Motion being made, and the Question put, That the House be called over upon this Day fortnight; it passed in the Negative; Ayes 81, Noes 133.

Ordered, That the House be called over upon the 19th of *January* next.

December 5.

Mr. *John Hughs* made his Submission at the Bar of the House, and was discharged upon paying his Fees.

K 2

Received

(68)

Received a Copy of a Treaty between His Majesty and the King of Sweden, as Landgrave of *Hesse Cassel*; with a Translation of the same. Signed, *Westminster 9 May, 1740.*

Received three Petitions from Prisoners confined for Debt in the Gaols of *Lincoln, Oxford and Essex*, praying for Relief, &c.

In a Committee, made some Progress on the Bill to prohibit for a limited Time, the Exportation of *Corn* and other Provisions out of *Great Britain, Ireland*, and His Majesty's Plantations in *America*; and deferred the further Consideration to *Tuesday* next.

A Motion being made, and the Question put, That the House do adjourn, it passed in the Negative; Ayes 87, Noes 98. Then Mr. *Sandys* moved that an Address be presented to His Majesty to order that the Embargo may be taken off of Ships laden with *Fish and Rice*; which was agreed to, and ordered accordingly.

December 8.

In a grand Committee went thro' the *Land-Tax-Bill*, with several Amendments.

December 9.

Agreed to the Report of the *Land-Tax-Bill*, and ordered it to be engrossed.

Received a Petition of *John Dodd Esq;* complaining of an undue Election and Return for the Borough of *Reading*, in the County of *Berks*. Which was ordered to be heard at the Bar of this House upon *Monday* the 19th Day of *January* next.

December 10.

In a grand Committee on the Supply came to several Resolutions.

December 11.

Read a first Time a Bill for regulating Trials at *Nisi Prius*, and for the more effectual summoning of Special Juries.

Agreed to the Report of the following Resolutions on the Supply, viz. Resolved, That the Number of Men to be continued for Guards and Garrisons for 1741, be 29033 Men, including Commission and Non-Commission Officers. And that 883,189 *l.* be granted for defraying the Expences of the same.

Resolved,

(69)

Resolved, That 6930 Marines be continued for 1741. And that 124,052 *l.* be granted for defraying the Expences of the same.

Resolved, That an additional Number of 5705 Men be raised for 1741. And that 116,322 *l.* be granted for defraying the Expences of the same.

Resolved, That an additional Number of 4620 Marines be raised for 1741. And that 90,201 *l.* be granted for defraying the Expences of the same. And it was moved, that the new-raised Men be incorporated into the standing Corps, because the forming them into new Regiments would be more burdensome and expensive, &c. Which after Debate passed in the Negative; Ayes 232, Noes 166.

December 12.

Ordered, That *Thomas Strangeways Horner Esq;* a Member of this House, be discharged out of Custody, paying his Fees.

Resolved, *Nemine contradicente*, That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, that for the present and future Ease of His Majesty's Subjects, he would be graciously pleased to employ in his Army such Persons as now remain upon Half-Pay, who are qualified to serve His Majesty.

In a grand Committee took the Bill to prohibit the Exportation of *Corn*, &c. into Consideration, and after Debate, resolved to proceed further on the same on *Monday* next; Ayes 147, Noes 131.

December 15.

Read a third Time, and passed the *Land-Tax-Bill*.

Read a first Time, a Bill to amend the Law concerning common Recoveries; and to explain and amend an Act 29th K. *Charles II.* for Prevention of *Frauds and Perjuries*, so far as the same relates to Estates, *per auter Vie*.

Received the Report of His Majesty's Answer to their Address of *Friday* last, viz. *I shall always have a due Regard for my Half-Pay Officers, and employ such of them as are properly qualified for the Service.*

Agreed to the Report of the Resolution on Ways and Means, viz. Resolved, that the Duties on *Malt, Mum, Cyder and Perry*, be further continued to the 24th *June, 1742.* Ordered in a Bill accordingly.

A Motion being made, and the Question being put, That Mr. *John Meres*, who was committed to the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms, and ordered to be prosecuted by the Attorney-General, for printing Part of a scandalous Li-

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(70)

bel on the *Embargo*, &c. in the *Daily-Post*, December 1st, 1740. be carried before one of the Justices of the Court of *King's Bench*, in order to be admitted to Bail for his Appearance on the first Day of next Term; and when he hath given such Security, that he be discharged out of Custody, paying his Fees: It passed in the Negative; Ayes 90, Noes 151.

Made a further Progress on the *Corn Bill*.

December 16.

Read a first Time, a Bill for continuing the Duties upon *Malt*, *Mum*, *Cyder* and *Perry*, for the Service of the Year 1741.

Made a further Progress on the Bill to prohibit for a limited Time the Exportation of *Corn*, &c.

December 17.

Read a second Time the *Malt Bill*.

In a grand Committee went thro' the *Corn Bill*, with several Amendments.

Received a Petition of the Governor and Company of Merchants of *England* trading to the *Levant* Seas, praying to be heard against the Petition of the *Russia* Company for opening a new Trade thro' *Russia* to *Persia*, &c.

Ordered in an Account of the *Butter* imported into *London* for seven Years past, ending at *Lady-Day*, 1740.

December 18.

Read a second Time, a Bill for regulating Trials at *Nisi Prius*, and for the more effectual summoning of Special Juries, and committed it for the 15th of *January*.

Read a second Time, a Bill to amend the Law concerning common Recoveries, and to amend an Act 29th K. *Charles II.* for Prevention of *Frauds* and *Perjuries*, &c. and committed it for the 16th of *January*.

Mr. *Speaker* reported, That the House had attended His Majesty in the House of Peers, where His Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to

An Act for granting an Aid to His Majesty, by a Land-Tax to be raised in Great Britain for the Service of the Year 1741, and to one private Act.

Went into a grand Committee on the Petition of the *Russia* Company, &c. and examined several *Levant* Traders against the said Petition; then came to a Resolution thereupon.

December

(71)

December 19.

Received Part of the Report on the *Corn Bill*, and ordered the further Part to be considered on the 13th of *January*.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolution, viz.

Resolved, That the opening of a Trade to and from *Persia* through *Russia*, will be a great Advantage to this Kingdom; and particularly, in promoting the Consumption of the *Woollen* Manufactures thereof.

Ordered in a Bill accordingly.

Received a Petition from the City of *London*, complaining of the Ineffectualness of an Act 3d K. *James I.* for the recovering of small Debts, and for the relieving of poor Debtors in *London*. And praying for Leave to bring in a Bill to explain and amend the same. Leave was given accordingly.

Deferred going into a Committee on the *Malt Bill* till the 7th of *January*.

Deferred going into a Committee on *Ways* and *Means* till the 7th of *January*.

Deferred going into a Committee on the *Supply* till the 9th of *January*.

Then adjourned till the seventh of *January*.

January 7.

Received several Petitions from Prisoners confined for Debt in the Gaols of *Lancaster*, *Iwelchester*, *Exeter*, *Stafford*, *Ludgate*, *Newgate*, *Woodstreet* and *Poultry* Compters, praying Relief, &c. which were ordered to lie on the Table.

Read a first Time, a Bill for the more easy Recovery of *Small Debts*.

Resolved, *Nemine contradicente*, That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, to congratulate His Majesty upon the Increase of the Royal Family, by her Royal Highness the Princess of *Wales* being happily delivered of a Princess.

Resolved, *Nemine contradicente*, That a congratulatory Message be sent to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of *Wales*, on this happy Occasion.

In a grand Committee went thro' the *Malt Bill*, with several Amendments.

January 8.

Agreed to the Report of the *Malt Bill*, and ordered it to be engrossed.

Received

(72)

Received the Report of His Majesty's Answer to their congratulatory Address, &c.

January 9.

Received a Petition of the Commissioners for building a Bridge across the River *Thames* at *Westminster*, praying for further Sums of Money to enable them to carry on the same. Referred to a Committee.

January 12.

Read a third Time, and passed the *Malt Bill*; ordered it to the Lords.

Received a great Number of Papers, &c. ordered to be addressed for on the 26th of *November* last.

Agreed to the Report of the following Resolutions on the Supply, *viz.* Resolved, that 2625 *l.* 4 *s.* 3 *d.* $\frac{3}{4}$. be granted to make good the Deficiency of the general Fund for the Year ending at *Michaelmas* 1740.

That 5021 *l.* 10 *s.* 1 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$. be granted, to replace to the *Sinking Fund* the like Sum paid out of the same, to make good the Deficiency of the additional *Stamp Duties* at *Christmas* 1739.

That 20,000 *l.* be granted to replace to the *Sinking Fund* the like Sum paid out of the same to the Bank of *England* for one Year's Interest of 500,000 *l.* lent on Credit of the *Salt Duty*, towards the Supply of the Year 1735.

That 23,711 *l.* 8 *s.* 6 *d.* be granted to replace to the *Sinking Fund*, the like Sum paid out of the same, to make good the Deficiency of the Duty of 12 *s.* per Barrel on *Sweets*, &c. at *Michaelmas* 1739.

January 13.

Read a first Time, a Bill for opening a Trade to and from *Persia* thro' *Russia*.

Read a second Time, a Bill for the more easy Recovery of *Small Debts*.

The House made a further Progress on the Report of the *Corn Bill*, and considered several Petitions concerning the same.

January 14.

Received a Petition of the *Royal African Company* of *England*, praying for a further Supply. Ordered, that several Estimates relating to the same be laid before the House.

Made a further Progress on the Report of the *Corn Bill*.

January

(73)

January 15.

The House finished the Report of the *Corn Bill*, and ordered it to be engrossed.

January 16.

A Motion was made, and the Question being put, That Leave be given to bring in a Bill to explain and amend an Act passed last Session to restrain the excessive Increase of *Horse-Races*; it passed in the Negative, on a Division, Ayes 15, Noes 158.

Received a Petition of the Dean and Chapter of *St. Peter's*, *Westminster*, praying for a further Sum towards the Repairs of the said Cathedral. Referred to the Committee on the Supply.

In a grand Committee went thro' the Bill to amend the Law concerning Common Recoveries, and to explain an Act 29th *K. Charles II.* for prevention of Frauds and Perjuries, so far as the same relates to Estates, *per auter Vie*, with several Amendments.

January 19.

The House proceeded to the hearing of the Matter of the Petition of *John Dodd* Esq; complaining of an undue Election and Return of *William Strode* Esq; for the Borough of *Reading*, in *Berkshire*; and the Counsel were called in, and several Witnesses for the Petitioner were examined at the Bar of the House; after which, the Counsel on both Sides were directed to withdraw.

Deferred the Call of the House to the 3d of *February*.

January 20.

Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, for a List of such Commission and Warrant Officers as are now upon Half-pay in the *Navy*, together with an Account of their respective Ages, and the Dates of their first Commissions, and how long and how often they have been employed, to be laid before the House.

Received a Petition of divers Merchants, and Owners of Ships, praying for Leave to bring in a Bill for explaining and amending an Act 12th *Q. Anne*, for providing a public Reward for such Person or Persons, as shall discover the Longitude at Sea: And the same was referred to a Committee.

Heard Counsel further on the Merits of the *Reading* Election; and several Witnesses were called in, and examined in order to disqualify the Voters for the sitting Member. Then the Counsel on both Sides were directed to withdraw.

15

January

(74)

January 21.

Received an Account, shewing how the Money given for the Service of the Year 1740, hath been disposed of, distinguished under the several Heads, until the 19th of January, 1740-1, and the Parts thereof remaining unsatisfied, with the Overplus thereon.

Received a Petition of the Painters of Fan-Mounts in and about the Cities of London and Westminster, setting forth, That about three Years ago, several Persons procured Copper-Plates for the printing of Fan-Mounts, by which means many of the Artists are reduced to the utmost Distress for want of Employment; that one Engraver and two Painters are able to furnish more printed Fan-Mounts in a Month's time, than this Kingdom makes use of in a Year; and one Person employed in the washing of these printed Fan-Mounts, will colour more in three Days than one Painter can paint in a quarter of a Year: That by the Introduction of printed instead of well painted Mounts for Fans, the Art of painting Fan-Mounts, which was brought to great Perfection, is greatly discouraged, and the Exportation of Fans, with painted Mounts, which brought into this Kingdom a large Sum of Money annually, almost entirely lost to Great Britain: And therefore praying the House to grant them such Relief, as to them shall seem meet. Referred to a Committee.

Read a first Time, a Bill to render the Laws more effectual for preventing the stealing and destroying of Sheep, and other Cattle.

Received a Petition of the Trustees for establishing the Colony of Georgia in America, praying for a farther Sum of Money, &c. Referred to the Committee on the Supply.

Received several Estimates of Accounts.

January 22.

William Cooley, (who was committed to Newgate on December the second, for being the Author and Publisher of a malicious and scandalous Libel, intitled, *Considerations upon the Embargo on Provision of Victual*) was brought to the Bar, and having upon his Knees received a Reprimand from Mr. Speaker, was ordered to be discharged out of Custody, paying his Fees.

Read a first Time, a Bill to explain and amend an Act 3d of K. James I. for the Recovery of Small Debts, and for the relieving of poor Debtors in London.

Agreed

(75)

Agreed to the Report of the Bill to amend the Law concerning common Recoveries, and to explain and amend an Act 29th of K. Charles II. for Prevention of Frauds and Perjuries, &c. Ordered it to be ingrossed.

Agreed to the Report of yesterday's Resolutions on the Supply, viz.

Resolved, That 184,691 l. 10 s. 10 d. be granted to His Majesty for the Ordinary of the Navy, including Half-Pay to Sea Officers for 1741.

That 115,225 l. 3 s. 7 d. be granted for the Charge of the Office of Ordnance for Land Service for 1741.

That 76,071 l. 1 s. 4 d. be granted for defraying the extraordinary Expence of the Office of Ordnance for Land Service, not provided for by Parliament.

That 266,512 l. 16 s. 5 d. $\frac{1}{2}$ be granted for maintaining the Forces in the Plantations, Minorca, Gibraltar, Georgia, &c. for 1741.

That 4000 l. be granted towards repairing the Collegiate Church of St Peter's, Westminster.

January 23.

Heard Counsel farther on the Merits of the Reading Election: And, in order to disqualify some Persons who voted for the sitting Member, Thomas House produced a Certificate signed by two Justices of the Peace; and the Counsel for the sitting Member having objected to the Admission of that Paper in evidence, the Hand-writing of the said Justices not being proved; and the Counsel for the Petitioner having been heard by way of Reply; The Counsel on both Sides were directed to withdraw.

After Debate, it was Resolved, That a Paper, dated 29th March, 1728. purporting to be a Certificate from the Parish of Woodley in the County of Berks, to the Parish of St. Lawrence in the Borough of Reading, signed by two Justices of the Peace, allowing the said Certificate, and now produced by Thomas House, who acts for his Brother as an Overseer of the Poor of the said Parish of St. Lawrence, be admitted to be read in Evidence, altho' the Hand-writing be not proved: On a Division, Ayes 145, Noes 144.

January 26.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill to prohibit for a time therein limited, the Exportation of Corn, Grain, (Rice excepted) Meal, Malt, Flour, Bread, Biscuit, Starch, Beef, Pork and Bacon; and ordered it to the Lords.

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Read

(76)

Read a second Time the Bill for preventing *Sheep Stealing, &c.*

Ordered an Address to His Majesty, for Copies of the Letters written to and received from the Admirals, *Haddock* and *Ogle*, in 1739 and 1740, to be laid before them.

Also for a Copy of the Reasons sent by Admiral *Cavendish*, in pursuance of an Order from the Admiralty, *October 12, 1740*, that had retarded the sailing of Sir *Chaloner Ogle's* Squadron, so much beyond Expectation.

Also for a Copy of the Reasons transmitted by Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, in pursuance of an Order from the Duke of *Newcastle*, *October 23d, 1740*, that did prevent him from sailing pursuant to his repeated Orders for that Purpose; and particularly to those sent him by the Commissioners of the Admiralty, on the 14th of *October, 1740*.

Heard Counsel farther on the Merits of the *Reading* Election, and several Witnesses were examined; and the Resolution of the House of the 4th of *December*, in the 7th of *Q. Anne* was read, whereby it was resolved, That such Persons as had within two Years last received *Kendrick's* Charity, or any other annual Charity, distributed in the said Borough, had not a Right to vote in Elections of Burgesses to serve in Parliament for the said Borough.

January 27.

Read a first Time, a Bill for licensing the Importation of Victual from *Ireland*, and other Parts beyond the Seas into *Scotland*, in time of Dearth and Scarcity.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill to amend the Law concerning common Recoveries; and to explain and amend an Act 29th of *K. Charles II.* for Prevention of Frauds and Perjuries so far as the same relates to Estates, *per auter Vie*; ordered it to the Lords.

Read a first Time, a Bill for the Encouragement and Increase of *Seamen*, and for the better and speedier Manning His Majesty's Fleet.

Read a first Time, a Bill for the better securing the Freedom of *Parliaments*, by limiting the Number of *Officers* in the House of *Commons*.

Read a first Time, a Bill for supplying the City of *Gloucester* with fresh *Water*.

Heard Counsel farther on the Merits of the *Reading* Election; and several Witnesses were examined in behalf of the

(77)

the Petitioner; and the Counsel for the Petitioner having summed up their Evidence, and the Counsel for the sitting Member having been heard by way of Reply; the Counsel on both Sides were directed to withdraw.

January 28.

Received Copies of all Letters written, or Representations, or Applications made to the Office of *Ordnance* relating to Stores, Provisions, Ammunition, or other Necessaries for the Use of the Fleet lately under the Command of Sir *John Norris*.

Read a first Time, a Bill to continue an Act for Relief of *Debtors*, with respect to the Imprisonment of their Persons, and two subsequent Acts for explaining and amending the same; and also to continue an Act for the free Importation of *Cochineal* and *Indico*.

Read a second Time, a Bill to explain and amend an Act 3d of *K. James I.* for the Recovery of Small Debts, and for the relieving of poor Debtors in London.

Read a first Time, a Bill for the better Preservation of the public Roads of that Part of *Great Britain* called *England*.

In a Committee went thro' the Bill for the more easy Recovery of small Debts.

January 29.

Received an Account of the Expence of Victualling His Majesty's Land Forces sent on the Expedition to *America*.

Received a Copy of a Petition of the *Livant* Company to His Majesty in Council, in this present Year 1740, with the Proceedings thereon.

Ordered, that an Account be laid before this House, of what Quantities of *Woollen*, or other Goods, have been exported from *Great Britain* for twenty Years, ending at *Christmas* last, to *Russia*, distinguishing the several Species, and their Value.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolutions on the Supply, *viz. Resolved*, That 10,000 *l.* be granted towards the Support of *Greenwich-Hospital*.

That 4948 *l.* 18 *s.* 4 *d.* be granted for Out-pensioners of *Chelsea-Hospital*.

That 10,000 *l.* be granted towards the Maintenance of the *British* Forts and Settlements in *Africa*.

That 10,000 *l.* be granted for the farther settling and improving the Colony of *Georgia*: This last Resolution was agreed to after Debate, on a Division, Ayes 105, Noes 75.

Received

Received a Petition of the Gentlemen, principal Traders, &c. of the Town of *Collumpton*, in the County of *Devon*, complaining of the Decay of the *Woollen* Manufacture, which the Petitioners attribute in a great Measure to the running of *Wool*; and praying Relief. Resolved, That this House will upon the 12th of *February*, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House to consider of the said Petition.

Heard Counsel further on the Merits of the *Reading* Election, and examined several Witnesses, and produced Evidence, in order to justify the Votes of several Persons who voted for the sitting Member, and whom the Counsel for the Petitioner had endeavoured to disqualify: Then the Counsel on both Sides were directed to withdraw: Adjourn'd the further Hearing to *February* 9.

February 3.

Ordered, That the Thanks of this House be given to the Reverend Dr. *Matthew Hutton*, for the Sermon by him preached before this House upon *Friday* last at *St. Margaret's, Westminster*; and that he be desired to print the same.

Received a Petition of the *Graziers, Wool-growers, Gentlemen, &c.* concerned in *Romney Marsh*, in the County of *Kent*, and Places adjacent, complaining of the constant Decrease for 22 Years past of the *Woollen* Manufactory, in which time the Price of the same has gradually fell from 10 *l.* to near 4 *l.* the Pack; the Decay whereof has already lessened, and must very soon to a great Degree inevitably reduce the Value of vast Numbers of Estates in this Kingdom; and at the same time carry immense Riches to those neighbouring Countries, who have too successfully of late rivall'd us in the *Woollen* Manufacture: That as the *French* cannot work up their own *Wool* into Cloths proper for the foreign Markets, without mixing one Pack of *British* or *Irish* *Wool* with two of their own; the Petitioners hope, if effectual Methods could be found to prevent the *French* from having any *Wool* from *Great Britain* or *Ireland*, they would not for the future be able to undersell His Majesty's Subjects in the foreign Markets. And further representing to the House, that a Law to oblige the Owners of all *Wool* shorn in *Great Britain* or *Ireland*, to register the same, and not permit it to be conveyed from the Place of its Growth to any other Part of the Kingdom, but by Land Carriage till it be manufactured, seems to the Petitioners to be the most likely way to prevent the Exportation

portation of *Wool* out of these Kingdoms: and therefore praying the House to take the Premises into Consideration, and give such Relief as to the House shall seem meet.

Ordered, That the said Petition be referred to the Committee, &c.

Received Copies of Letters and Reports from the Captains of His Majesty's Ships at home, and from Mr. *Wallace*, Agent for the Transports, relating to the Badness of the Materials put into the Bedding, furnished by the Contractor to His Majesty's Ships.

Read a second Time, a Bill for licensing the Importation of Victual from *Ireland* to *Scotland* in time of Scarcity.

Read a first Time, a Bill to prevent Inconveniencies arising by Delays of Causes after Issue joined.

Rejected a Motion to address His Majesty, That the House be informed, when His Majesty, or the Lords Justices, first received certain Advices of the sailing of the *Ferrol, Brest* and *Toulon* Squadrons for the *West Indies*.

Mr. *Sandys* moved humbly to address His Majesty, That there be laid before this House, Copies or Extracts of all Letters, which have been received from or written to Vice-Admiral *Vernon*, since his going to the *West Indies*, by either of the principal Secretaries of State: And, after Debate, it was proposed to add the following Words by way of Amendment, *viz.* So far as the same relate to a Supply of Ships, Marines, or Land Forces; which was carried in the Affirmative.

Ordered, That Copies, or Extracts of all Letters, and other Papers from Mr. *Finch*, His Majesty's Minister at the Court of *Russia*, to either of His Majesty's Secretaries of State, or to the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, so far as the same relate to the opening of a Trade to and from *Persia* through *Russia*, be laid before them.

The Order of the Day being read for the Call of the House, it was moved, that the same be further adjourned till *Thursday* se'en-night: After Debate, the Question being put, it passed in the Negative: Ayes 84, Noes 107.

Resolved, That the Call of the House be farther adjourned to *Tuesday* the 31st of *March* next.

Agreed to the Report of part of a Bill for the more easy Recovery of small Debts; and ordered it to be farther considered on *Thursday*.

February 5.

Ordered, That the Thanks of this House be given to Dr. *Reuben Clarke*, for the Sermon by him preached before

fore this House Yesterday at *St. Margaret's, Westminster*; and that he be desired to print the same.

Read a first Time, a Bill to explain so much of an Act 12th of *Q. Anne*, for providing a public Reward for such Person or Persons as shall discover the Longitude at Sea, as relates to the making of Experiments of Proposals for discovering the Longitude at Sea.

Received a Petition from the Inhabitants of *South-Carolina*, setting forth; That on the 18th of *November* last, a most dreadful Fire broke out in *Charles-Town*, and in less than 4 Hours, utterly consumed the best and most valuable Part of the said Town, whereby many Families are reduced to the utmost Distress, and therefore praying Relief, &c. Referred to a Committee of the whole House on the 12th Instant.

Ordered, That the proper Officer do lay before this House, an Account of the several Quantities of *Wool* that have been seized by any Officer of *Excise* or *Customs* within this Kingdom for seven Years past, distinguishing each Year.

Resolved, That this House will upon this Day eight Weeks, resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House upon the Bill for regulating Trials at *Nisi Prius*, and for the more effectual summoning of Special Juries.

In a grand Committee, went thro' the Bill for the better securing the Freedom of Parliaments, by limiting the Number of Officers in the House of Commons, with several Amendments.

Resumed the adjourned Consideration of the Report of the Bill for the more easy Recovery of *Small Debts*: And examined several Persons as touching their Places and Fees.

February 6.

Read a second Time, a Bill to prevent Inconveniencies arising by Delays of Causes after Issue joined.

Resumed the adjourned Consideration of the Report of the *Small-Debt* Bill, and made a farther Progress.

In a grand Committee, went thro' the Bill to render the Laws more effectual for preventing *Sheep-Stealing*; and a Clause was added for the more effectual preventing of the robbing of *Orchards* and *Gardens*, and stealing of *Wall-Fruit*.

February 9.

Received a Petition of the principal Inhabitants of the Borough of *Minehead* in *Somersetshire*, complaining of the Decay of the *Woollen Manufactures*, and praying Relief, &c.

Read a first Time a Bill to indemnify Persons who have omitted to qualify themselves for Offices by taking the *Oaths*, &c.

Resolved, That an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, to give Directions, that Care may be taken to detain all *Spanish* Prisoners that have already, or shall hereafter be taken during this present War, until they shall be exchanged for some of his Majesty's *British* Subjects, and that he will be graciously pleased as soon as conveniently may be, to settle a Cartel with *Spain*, for the Exchange of Prisoners taken in War.

Heard Counsel further on the Merits of the *Reading* Election, &c.

February 10.

Received a Petition from the Clothiers, &c. of *Froom* in *Somersetshire*. And another Petition from the *Wool-combers*, *Weavers*, *Dyers*, &c. concern'd in making of *Druggets* at *Road* and *Telsford* in the same County, complaining of the Decline of the *Woollen Trade*, &c. and praying Relief, &c.

Received an Estimate of the Debt of his Majesty's *Navy*, as it stood *December 31, 1740*.

Ordered that *John Meres* Printer of the *Daily Post*, who was committed on the 3d of *December 1740*, to the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms for printing part of a Malicious and Scandalous Libel, &c. in that Paper of the first of *December 1740*, be discharged out of Custody, paying his Fees, upon giving Security to be forth-coming, to answer the Prosecution which this House has addressed his Majesty to carry on against him.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill to render the Laws more effectual for preventing the stealing of *Sheep* and other Cattle. Ordered it to be engrossed.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for the better securing the Freedom of *Parliaments*, by limiting the Number of Officers in the House of Commons. Ordered it to be engrossed.

Heard Counsel further on the Merits of the *Reading* Election, &c.

February 11.

Read a second Time the Bill to indemnify Persons who have omitted to take the *Oaths*, &c.

Read a second Time the Bill for the better Preservation of the publick Roads of *Great Britain*.

(82)

In a grand Committee went thro' the Bill for licensing the Importation of Victual from *Ireland* into *Scotland*, in Time of Scarcity.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill to render the Laws more effectual for preventing the stealing and destroying *Sheep* and other Cattle. Ordered it to the Lords.

Received a Petition of the Clothiers and Stuff Weavers of *Kidderminster* in *Worcestershire*, complaining of the Decay of the *Woollen* Manufactory and praying Relief, &c.

February 12.

Received several Petitions from *Taunton*, *Midsummer Norton*, *Wellton*, *Paulton*, *Temple*, *Hig*, *Littleton*, and *Hallitrow*, also from *Shepton Mallet*, all in the County of *Somerset*, complaining of the Decay of the *Woollen* Manufactures, &c. &c. Also a Petition from *Leeds* in *Yorkshire* relating to the same. Also a Petition from *Dursley* in *Gloucestershire*, relating to the same.

Also a Petition from the *Lord Mayor*, *Aldermen*, and *Commons* of the City of *London*, in *Common Council* assembled; setting forth, that notwithstanding the many Acts of Parliament that have been made to hinder the Exportation of *Wool* from *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, yet the same have not proved effectual to prevent so great and crying an Evil; that to the unspeakable Grief of the Petitioners, and to the absolute Destruction of the Trade and Manufactures of these Kingdoms, great quantities of *Wool* are every Year clandestinely exported to *France*, and other foreign Countries, by Means whereof the *French* in particular are enabled not only to rival, but even to undersell us in Cloths, and other Manufactures of *Wool*, in most foreign Markets, to the inexpressible Detriment of the Commerce of these Kingdoms, and their own immense Gain and Advantage; since it is well known, that by means of one Pack of *British*, or *Irish Wool*, they are enabled to work up two Packs of their own, which, without that Help, they could not make use of, so as to interfere in any considerable Degree with the Manufactures of this Nation: That, if the public Notoriety of this destructive Practice, is not sufficient to prove how ineffectual the Laws hitherto made have been to prevent the clandestine Exportation of *Wool*, the Petitioners presume, that the languishing State of our Manufactures at Home, the continual decreasing Demand for them at foreign Markets, together with the low Price, to which *Wool*, that great Staple of these Kingdoms, is already reduced,

(83)

duced, must fully shew, that some more effectual Means are necessary to put a stop to the Exportation of it, and thereby preserve to these Kingdoms that inestimable Gift of Providence, the very Vitals of our Commerce, the chief and almost only Source of the Riches and Grandeur of the Nation; and therefore praying, &c.

Read a first Time a Bill to enable the Commissioners of *Westminster-Bridge*, to raise a further Sum of Money towards finishing the same.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for licensing the Importation of Victual from *Ireland* into *Scotland*, &c. Ordered it to be engrossed.

Ordered a new Writ to be issued out for Electing a Burgess to serve in Parliament for *Portsmouth*, in the room of the Honourable *Charles Stewart*, Vice-Admiral of the *White*, deceased*.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill for the better securing the Freedom of *Parliaments*, by limiting the Number of Officers in the House of *Commons*. Ordered it to the Lords.

February 13.

The House was moved, that the Journals of the House of the 18th of *December* 1685, of the 18th of *November* 1689, of the 7th of *December*, and 16th of *February* 1693, and of the 9th of *November* 1696, in relation to the Proceedings of the House, in the Case of *John Cook* Esq; Captain *Churchill*, the Lord Viscount *Faulkland*, and Mr. *Manley*, Members of the House, might be read.

The same were read accordingly. And a Motion being made, and the Question put, that an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, that he will be graciously pleased to remove the Right Honourable Sir *Robert Walpole*, Knight of the most Noble Order of the *Garter*, first Commissioner for executing the Office of Treasurer of the *Exchequer*, Chancellor and Under-Treasurer of the *Exchequer*, and one of his Majesty's most Honourable PRIVY COUNCIL, from his Majesty's Presence and Councils for ever; It passed in the Negative, Ayes 106, Noes 290†.

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February

* Vice-Admiral *Vernon* was elected in his Room without Opposition.

† This was debated from eleven o'clock in the Forenoon till past three the next Morning; before which Time above 60, who were supposed to be of the Minority, left the House.

(84)

February 16.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill to explain and amend an Act 3 K. James I. for the Recovery of small Debts, and for the Relieving of poor Debtors in London. Ordered it to be engrossed.

Read a first Time the *Mutiny and Desertion-Bill*.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill for licensing the Importation of Victual from *Ireland*, &c. into *Scotland*, in Time of Scarcity. Ordered it to the Lords.

February 17.

Read a second Time the *Mutiny and Desertion-Bill*.

Read a second Time the *Westminster-Bridge-Bill*.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolution on *Ways and Means*; viz. Resolved, that the Duties on *Salt*, and also on *Red and White Herrings* delivered out for Home Consumption, which by an Act 8th K. George II. were continued to the 25th of *March 1746*, be further continued to the 25th of *March 1753*. Ordered in a Bill accordingly.

Then proceeded to the further Hearing of the Matter of the Petition of *John Dodd Esq;* complaining of an undue Election and Return for the Borough of *Reading* in the County of *Berks*. And the Counsel were called in; and several Witnesses examined in behalf of *William Strode Esq;* sitting Member; and having finished their Evidence, the Counsel on both sides were directed to withdraw. And a Motion being made, and the Question put, that *William Strode Esq;* is duly elected a Burgess to serve in this present Parliament, for the Borough of *Reading* in the County of *Berks*; it passed in the Negative, Ayes 133, Noes 141. Resolved, that *John Dodd Esq;* is duly Elected, &c.

February 18.

Read a third Time and passed the Bill to explain and amend an Act 3 K. James I. for the Recovering of small Debts, and for the Relieving of poor Debtors in London. Ordered it to the Lords.

Read a first Time, a Bill for granting and continuing the Duties upon *Salt*, and upon *Red and White Herrings*, for a further Term.

Read a first Time a Bill to indemnify Protestant Purchasers of Estates of Papists, against the Penalties or Forfeitures Papists are liable to, for not having enrolled their Estates, in pursuance of an Act 3 K. George I.

In a grand Committee made some Progress on the Bill to prevent Inconveniencies arising by Delays of Causes after Issue joined; and to proceed on the 24th Instant.

February

(85)

February 19.

Read a second Time the Bill for continuing the Duties upon *Salt*, and on *Red and White-Herrings* for a further Term.

Read a first Time a Bill to explain and amend so much of an Act 6 K. George I. for better securing certain Powers and Privileges intended to be granted by his Majesty, by two Charters for Assurance of Ships and Merchandizes at Sea, and for lending Money upon Bottomry, and for restraining several extravagant and unwarrantable Practices therein mentioned, as relates to the extravagant and unwarrantable Practices therein mentioned.

In a grand Committee, went thro' the Bill to indemnify Persons who have omitted to take the Oaths, &c. with several Amendments.

Read a second Time the Bill for opening a Trade to and from *Persia* through *Russia*.

February 20.

Agreed to the Report of the *Oath-Bill*; ordered it to be ingrossed.

In a grand Committee took into Consideration the several Petitions presented to the House on the Decay of the *Woollen Manufactures*; and Mr. *Webber* was called in and examined concerning his Scheme for a universal Registry of *Wool*; to proceed on the 25th Instant.

February 23.

Received Petitions from the Counties of *Essex* and *Gloucester*, representing to the House, That should the Bill for opening a Trade to and from *Persia* through *Russia* pass into a Law, it will greatly discourage the Manufacture of Cloth in this Kingdom; and therefore praying that the Bill may not pass into a Law, unless Provision be made therein, to oblige the Traders to *Persia* through *Russia* to export in *Woollen Cloths* to the amount of the Value of the *Raw-Silk*, and other the *Persian* Commodities they shall import from *Russia*: Referred to the Committee of the whole House.

Ordered, That Mr. *Nettleton*, Mr. *Dingley*, and Mr. *Gramotte*, *Russia* Merchants, do attend the said Committee on the 26th Instant.

Read a second Time, a Bill for the Encouragement of *Seamen*, and for the better and speedier Manning His Majesty's Fleet.

Resumed

Resumed the adjourned Consideration of the Report of the Bill for Recovery of *Small Debts*, and ordered it to be ingrossed.

February 24.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill for indemnifying Persons who have omitted to qualify themselves for Offices and Employments, within the time limited by Law, and for allowing a farther time for that purpose: *Ordered* it to the Lords.

Read a second Time, a Bill to indemnify Protestant Purchasers of Estates of Papists, &c.

In a Committee, went thro' the Bill to prevent Inconveniencies arising by Delays of Causes after Issue joined, with several Amendments.

In a Committee on the Bill for punishing *Mutiny* and *Desertion*, and for the better Payment of the *Army*, and their Quarters, it was moved, That the *Inn-keepers* shall have Liberty to refuse or take the *four Pence* per *Diem* for each Dragoon quartered on them; on which a Debate arose, and the further Consideration adjourned to *Thursday*.

Ordered, That the proper Officers do lay before this House, an Account of what Persons were authorized by her late Majesty *Q. Anne*, under her Royal Sign Manual, or by the Commissioners of the *Admiralty*, to receive and conduct such *Seamen* and *Seafaring Men* as should be taken up in pursuance of an Act 4th *Q. Anne*, for the *Encouragement and Increase of Seamen*, and for the better and speedier *Manning her Majesty's Fleet*: And also what Applications were made by such Persons to the Justices of the Peace, and other chief Officers, for causing privy Searches to be made in pursuance of the said Act; and an Account of the Number of *Seamen* which were returned to the Navy in pursuance of such Applications and privy Searches; and likewise the Charge attending the same.

February 25.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill to prevent Inconveniencies arising by Delays of Causes after Issue joined, with several Amendments: *Ordered* it to be engrossed.

Received an Account shewing the Progress of the Colony of *Georgia* in *America* from its first Establishment. And also the general Account of the Trustees for establishing the said Colony, of all Monies and Effects received and expended by them from the 9th of *June*, 1732, (the Date of

of their Charter) to the 9th of *June*, 1740, as exhibited pursuant to the Directions of their Charter*.

February 26.

Received a Petition of the Clothiers of *Stroudwater*, in *Gloucestershire*, complaining of several great Abuses of late introduced, and particularly of the Licence taken by many Persons of setting up in the *Clothing Trade*, without having either served a lawful Apprenticeship to the same, or having proper Skill in the Manufacture; and therefore praying, that Leave may be given to bring in a Bill for the further Regulation of the *Clothing Trade*; that such further Relief may be given as to the House shall seem meet. Referred to the Committee of the whole House on *Wool*, &c.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill to prevent Inconveniencies arising from Delays of Causes after Issue joined: *Ordered* it to the Lords.

Read a second Time, a Bill to explain an Act 12th *Q. Anne*, for providing a Reward for Discovery of the Longitude, &c.

In a grand Committee, went thro' the Bill for punishing *Mutiny* and *Desertion*, with several Amendments †.

February 27.

Read a second Time, a Bill to explain so much of an Act 6th of *K. George I.* for better securing certain Powers and Privileges intended to be granted by his Majesty, by two Charters for Assurance of Ships and Merchandizes at Sea, and for lending Money upon Bottomry; and for restraining several extravagant and unwarrantable Practices therein mentioned, as relates to the extravagant and unwarrantable Practices therein mentioned.

Agreed to the Report of the *Mutiny* and *Desertion* Bill: *Ordered* it to be engrossed.

In a grand Committee, went thro' the Bill for opening a Trade thro' *Russia* to *Persia*, with several Amendments.

March 2.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill for punishing *Mutiny* and *Desertion*, and for the better Payment of the *Army*, and their Quarters: *Ordered* it to the Lords.

Went

* A Number of Copies were ordered to be printed for the Use of the Members. † A new Clause was added, viz. If any Innholder, &c. on whom any Non-Commission Officers or Soldiers shall be quartered, (except on a March) shall desire it, he may furnish them only with Candles, Vinegar and Salt, and Small Beer or Cyder, three Quarts a Day gratis, and to allow them Fire and Utensils for Dressing and Eating their Meat; or else take the *s. d. per Diem*. and find them in every Thing

(88)

Went into a grand Committee on the Bill for the Encouragement of *Seamen*, and for the speedier Manning His Majesty's Fleet; made some Progress therein.

March 3.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for opening a Trade to and from *Persia* thro' *Russia*: Ordered it to be engrossed.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill for the more easy Recovery of Small Debts: Ordered it to the Lords.

In a Committee, went thro' the Bill to indemnify *Protestant* Purchasers of Estates of *Papists*, &c.

March 4.

In a grand Committee took into further Consideration the Bill for the Encouragement of *Seamen*, and for the speedier Manning His Majesty's Fleet.

March 5.

Read a first Time, a Bill for continuing an Act 7th of *K. George II.* to explain a former Act 11th of *K. George I.* for the better regulating the Manufacture of Cloth in the West Riding of *Yorkshire*, and for making the said Acts more effectual.

Received a Petition of divers Merchants, Exporters of the *Woollen* and *British Manufactories* and *Fisheries*; as likewise Owners and Masters of Ships concerned in the Navigation of these Kingdoms to foreign Parts; as also those concerned in the *Coal* and *Coasting Trade*, in behalf of themselves and others, complaining of the unreasonable Wages demanded, and paid to Mariners in the Merchant's Service of late, which is more than double of what is paid by any foreign Nation in *Europe*, (besides *Crimpage*, and a Month's Pay advanced to each Mariner) to the Discouragement of the Trade of these Kingdoms: And representing to the House, that this growing Evil, if not prevented by a Law, will hinder the Mariners from ever entering themselves on board the Ships of War, while the Disproportion of Wages paid to Mariners in the King's Service, and that of the Merchant is so great; the Wages paid to Mariners in the King's Service being about 23 s. and with other Advantages about 28 s. per Month, when the Mariners in the Merchant's Service are paid, and demand 55 s. and 3 l. per Month: And further representing, that as the Petitioners apprehend the present Practice carried on in impressing Mariners from on board the homeward-bound Merchant Ships, and from the Shore, does not answer the End proposed; and that a great many Persons make it their

Business

(89)

Business to seduce and encourage Mariners to act contrary to the Intent of an Act 1st of *K. George II.* for the better Regulation of the Mariners in the Merchant's Service: And further, complaining of vexatious Suits carried on against the Masters and Owners of Ships, by the Advice of Practitioners in the High Court of Admiralty: And further setting forth, that the Act of Navigation obliges every Ship to carry Three fourths *English* Mariners, which will be again in force when the present War is over; but that as they often in foreign Parts enter, or are entred on board His Majesty's Ships, it is impossible to comply with the said Act, and the Merchant Ships are liable to become a Seizure even to the very Man of War who has taken their Men from them: And therefore praying the House to permit them to be heard by themselves or Counsel upon the said Petition; and to grant that such Provision may be made in future, by regulating the Price of Mariners Wages in the Merchant's Service, and to prevent such growing Abuses practised by those under the Sanction of the High Court of Admiralty, in order effectually to man his Majesty's Ships of War without impressing, and to encourage the Trade and Navigation of these Kingdoms, as to the House shall seem meet: Ordered to lie on the Table.

In a grand Committee, took into Consideration the several Petitions concerning the Decay of the *Woollen* Manufactory, &c. and reported the Resolutions concerning the same, viz. Resolved, That the Exportation of *Wool* from *Great Britain* and *Ireland* to foreign Parts, is greatly prejudicial to the *Woollen* Manufactures of this Kingdom.

Resolved, That the Laws now in being are not sufficient to prevent the Exportation of *Wool* from *Great Britain* and *Ireland* to foreign Parts.

Resolved, That a public Register of *Wool* grown in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, is the most effectual Method for preventing the Exportation thereof to foreign Parts: Which were agreed to by the House. After which the House Resolved to address His Majesty, That he would be pleased to direct the Commissioners for *Trade* and *Plantations*, during the Recess of Parliament, to prepare a Scheme for the registering the *Wool* of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, to be laid before this House the next Session of Parliament.

Ordered, That a Bill be brought in for the Improvement of the Manufacture of *Woollen* Broad Cloth, and to prevent Abuses in the making of the same.

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March

(90)

March 6.

In a grand Committee, made a further Progress on the Bill for the Encouragement of *Seamen*, and for the better and speedier Manning his Majesty's Fleet.

March 9.

In a grand Committee, made a further Progress on the Bill for the Encouragement of *Seamen*, &c.

Received the Report of His Majesty's Answer to their Address, That he would give Directions for a Scheme to be prepared to prevent the Running of *Wool*.

Read a first Time, a Bill for supplying some Defects in the Laws for repairing and rebuilding County Bridges; and for repairing, enlarging, erecting, and providing Houses of Correction.

March 10.

Read a first Time, a Bill for the Improvement of the Manufacture of Woollen Broad Cloth, and to prevent Abuses in the making of the same.

Read a second Time, a Bill for supplying some Defects in the Laws for repairing County Bridges, and for providing Houses of Correction.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill for opening a Trade to and from *Persia* through *Russia*: Ordered it to the Lords.

In a Committee, went thro' the Bill for the Encouragement of *Seamen*, and speedier Manning the Fleet, with several Amendments*.

Ordered, That all the Members of this House, who are in and about the Town, do attend the Service of the House upon *Friday* Morning next.

March 11.

The House proceeded to take into Consideration the Copy of a Charter of the *Turkey* Company, and the several other Papers relating to the said Company; and several Accounts were also read. Ordered, that a Bill be brought in for enlarging and regulating the Trade to the *Levant* Seas.

March

* A Clause was added to the Bill, to empower His Majesty's Justices of the Peace, on any Emergency, to break open such Houses as shall be suspected to harbour *Seamen*, and forcibly to take them from thence, and to fix a Penalty upon those that harboured them: After great Debates, on a Division, Ayes 154, Noes 115. But upon the Report, this Clause was given up without any Division.

(91)

March 12.

Received a Petition of the Mayor and Commonalty of the City of *York*, complaining of the Decay of the Woollen Manufacture; and representing to the House, That a Law to oblige all Owners and Manufacturers of *Wool*, to register the same in the Parishes in which they reside, by Persons independent, and under no Influence, chargeable with a certain Sum to be paid only by those who export it without its being compleatly manufactured; seems to the Petitioners to be a most effectual Remedy to this great Evil; and therefore praying Relief, &c.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for supplying some Defects in the Laws for repairing County Bridges, and providing Houses of Correction: Ordered it to be engrossed.

Agreed to the Report of yesterday's Resolutions on the Supply, viz. Resolved, That 105,275 *l.* 18 *s.* 8 *d.* be granted for the Charge of Transports hired to carry the Forces to *America*: That 124,564 *l.* 8 *s.* 0 *d.* $\frac{3}{4}$ be granted for the Expence of Victuals, provided for the Soldiers employed in the Expeditions to *America*.

March 13.

Received a Petition of the Merchants of the City of *London*, setting forth, That if the Bill for the Encouragement of *Seamen*, and for speedier Manning the Fleet should pass into a Law, it will be highly detrimental to the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom; and that the Petitioners are persuaded, that the only effectual and speedy Method of procuring for the King's Service, a proportionable Number of Sailors, is to distinguish that Body of Men by Bounties and Encouragements, both present and future, and by abolishing all Methods of Severity: And that they believe, it will not be difficult to have such Methods pointed out, as will tend to supply the present Necessities, and at the same time promote the Increase of Seamen; and praying to be heard by Counsel against the said Bill: Ordered to lie on the Table.

Received a Petition of the Gentlemen and Freeholders of the County of *Gloucester*, against many Clauses in the said Bill: A Motion was made, and the Question being put, That the said Petition do lie upon the Table; it passed in the Negative: On a Division, Ayes 142, Noes 196. Ordered, That the said Petition be rejected.

Took into Consideration the Report of the Bill for the Encouragement of *Seamen*, and for the speedier Manning the

(92)

the Fleet; when it was moved, that Clause *A*, which limits *Seamens* Wages in the Merchants Service at 35 s. per Month, be rejected: After Debate, it passed in the Negative: On a Division, Ayes 127, Noes 183. *Resolved*, that Clause *A*, do stand a Part of the said Bill.

And the House went thro' the said Bill, with several Alterations and Amendments.

Ordered, That the Bill with the Amendments be ingrossed.

March 16.

Read a first time, a Bill for enlarging and regulating the Trade to the *Levant* Seas.

Read a second Time, a Bill to continue an Act for Relief of *Debtors*, with respect to the Imprisonment of their Persons; and two subsequent Acts for explaining and amending the same; and also to continue an Act for the free Importation of *Cochineal* and *Indico*.

In a Committee, went thro' the Bill for continuing the Duties upon *Salt*, and upon *Red* and *White* Herrings.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill to supply some Defects in the Laws for repairing and rebuilding County Bridges; and for repairing, enlarging, erecting, and providing Houses of Correction; and for passing Rogues and Vagabonds: Ordered it to the Lords.

Read a second Time the Bill for the Improvement of the Manufacture of *Woollen Broad Cloth*, and to prevent Abuses in making of the same.

March 17.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill to indemnify *Protestant* Purchasers of Estates of *Papists*, against the Penalties or Forfeitures *Papists* are liable to for not having inrolled their Estates, &c. with several Amendments: Ordered it to be engrossed.

Read a first Time, a Bill to prevent some Inconveniences arising from Insurances of Ships.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for continuing the Duties upon *Salt*, &c. Ordered it to be ingrossed.

Took into Consideration the Amendments made by the Lords to the Bill to amend the Law concerning common Recoveries, and to explain an Act 29th of K. Charles II. for Prevention of Frauds and Perjuries, so far as the same relates to Estates, *pur auter Vie*: And agreed to them, and made another Amendment thereto. Ordered it to the Lords for their Concurrence.

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In a Committee, went thro' the *Westminster-Bridge-Bill*, with several Amendments.

In a Committee, went thro' the Bill for the better Preservation of the public Roads of *England*, with several Amendments.

March 18.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill to continue an Act for Relief of *Debtors*; and also to continue an Act for the free Importation of *Cochineal* and *Indico*: Ordered it to be ingrossed.

Read a third Time, and passed the *Salt-Bill*.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill to indemnify *Protestant* Purchasers of Estates of *Papists*, against the Penalties or Forfeitures *Papists* are liable to for not having inrolled their Estates, in pursuance of an Act 3d of K. George I. for that Purpose: Ordered it to the Lords.

March 19.

Took into Consideration the Report of the *Westminster-Bridge-Bill*, and made a Progress therein.

March 20.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill to continue an Act for Relief of *Debtors*, with respect to the Imprisonment of their Persons; and also to continue an Act for the Importation of *Cochineal* and *Indico*: Ordered it to the Lords.

Read a second Time the Bill for regulating the Trade to the *Levant* Seas.

In a Committee, went thro' the Bill to amend an Act 6th of K. George I. relating to the Assurance of Ships upon Bottomry, with several Amendments.

Ordered, That the *Seamens* Bill be read a third time on Monday next.

March 21.

Ordered, That the Merchants trading to the *Levant* Seas, do lay before the House, an Account of the Number of Ships employed in the said Trade for 30 Years past, and the Tonnage thereof.

Mr. *Speaker* reported, That the House had attended His Majesty in the House of Peers, where his Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to,

1. An Act for continuing the Duties upon Malt, Mum, Cyder and Perry, &c.

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(94)

2. *An Act to prohibit the Exportation of Corn, Grain, (Rice excepted) Meal, Malt, Flour, Bread, Biscuit, Starch, Beef, Pork and Bacon, till December 25, 1741.*

3. *An Act for punishing Mutiny and Desertion.*

4. *An Act to indemnify Persons who have omitted to take the Oaths, &c.*

5. *An Act for continuing the Duties upon Salt, and on Herrings to March 25, 1753.*

6. *An Act to indemnify Protestant Purchasers of Papists Estates, &c.*

7. *An Act to prevent the stealing and destroying of Sheep and other Cattle.*

8. *An Act for licensing the Importation of Viſtual from Ireland, &c. to Scotland, in time of Scarcity.*

9. *An Act to explain an Act 3d of K. James I. for the Recovery of Small Debts, and for relieving poor Debtors in London.*

10. *An Act to prevent Inconveniencies arising from Delays of Causes after Issue joined.*

11. *An Act to amend the Law concerning common Recoveries; and to amend an Act 29th of K. Charles II. for Prevention of Frauds and Perjuries, so far as the same relates to Estates, pur auter Vie.*

Also to 11 Road Acts, to 9 other public, and to 22 private Acts.

March 23.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill for the Encouragement and Increase of Seamen, and for the better and speedier Manning his Majesty's Fleet: On a Division, Ayes 153, Noes 79. Ordered it to the Lords.

Agreed to the Report of the *Westminster-Bridge-Bill*: Ordered it to be ingrossed.

March 24.

In a grand Committee, went thro' the Bill to explain Part of an Act 12th of Q. Anne, for providing a public Reward for such Person or Persons as shall discover the Longitude at Sea, with several Amendments.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill for the better regulating the Manufacture of Cloth in the *West-Riding of Yorkshire*: Ordered it to the Lords.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for better Preservation of the Public Roads: Ordered it to be ingrossed.

In a grand Committee, took into Consideration the Petition from *South-Carolina*, in behalf of the distressed Inhabitants of *Charles-Town*, and came to a Resolution.

(95)

March 25.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolution, viz. Resolved, That the Province of *South-Carolina* has been greatly weakened by the late dreadful Fire on the 18th of *November* last; and that some Provision should be made for the resettling the Inhabitants thereof: Referred to the Committee on the Supply.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for explaining an Act for Assurance of Ships, and Merchandizes at Sea, and for lending Money upon Bottomry: Ordered it to be ingrossed.

In a Committee, went thro' the Bill for the Improvement of the Manufacture of *Woollen Broad-Cloth*, &c.

March 26.

Read a first Time, a Bill for the more easy and effectual Conviction of Persons returning from Transportation.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill for the better Preservation of the public Roads in *England*: Ordered it to the Lords.

In a grand Committee, took into Consideration the Bill for enlarging and regulating the Trade to the *Levant* Seas; and also the several Papers and Accounts concerning the same: And a Motion was made, and the Question being put, That Mr. Speaker do leave the Chair, it passed in the Negative, on a Division, Ayes 37, Noes 62. Made a Progress, and to proceed on the 8th of *April*; then adjourned to the 2d of *April*.

April 2.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill for surveying the chief Ports and Head-Lands on the Coasts of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, and the Plantations belonging thereto, for the more exact Determination of the Longitude and Latitude thereof*. Ordered it to the Lords.

Adjourned the Report of the Bill for the Improvement of the Manufacture of *Woollen Broad-Cloth*, for a Month.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill for restraining and preventing several unwarrantable Schemes and Undertakings in the Plantations in *America* †. Ordered it to the Lords.

Read a second Time the Bill for the more effectual Conviction of Persons returning from Transportation.

April

* This Bill was read a first Time, on *February* 5th, but the Title was altered on the third Reading.

† This Bill was read a first Time, on *February* 27th, but the Title was altered on the third Reading.

April 3.

Read a second Time, and committed the Bill to prevent Inconveniencies arising from Insurances of Ships : On a Division, Ayes 63, Noes 22.

April 6.

Read a third Time, and passed the Bill to enable the Commissioners for building *Westminster-Bridge* to raise a further Sum of Money by way of Lottery, towards finishing the said Bridge, &c. Ordered it to the Lords.

In a grand Committee, took into Consideration the Bill to prevent some Inconveniencies arising from Insurances of Ships : And read a Petition of the Corporation of the *London-Assurance* against the said Bill. And a Motion was made, and the Question put, That the further Consideration thereof be deferred for a Month*.

April 7.

Received an Estimate of the Charge of 1000 *Danish* Horse, and 5000 *Danish* Foot, in *British* Pay, from *March* 25th last to *December* 25th, 1741.

Also an Estimate of the Charge of 1264 Horse, and 4908 Foot, *Hessian* Troops, from *March* 25th last to *December* 25th, 1741, with the Levy Money and Subsidy for the same.

April 8.

Rejected a Petition of *John Meres* Printer, praying to be admitted to Bail without paying his Fees.

Mr. *Speaker* reported, That the House had attended His MAJESTY in the House of Peers, where His MAJESTY was pleased to give the Royal Assent to,

An Act to supply some Defects in the Laws for repairing County Bridges ; for repairing and providing Houses of Correction ; and for passing Rogues and Vagabonds.

An Act to continue three former Acts for Relief of Debtors, with respect to the Imprisonment of their Persons ; and also to continue an Act for the free Importation of *Cochineal* and *Indico*.

An Act for continuing an Act 7th of K. George II. to amend a former Act 11th of K. George I. for the better regulating the Manufacture of Cloth in the *West-Riding* of *Yorkshire*. And to seven private Acts.

After

* The House divided, Ayes 25, Noes 8. but 7 more Members being wanted to make a House, without which they could not proceed on Business, the Bill dropt of course, and the House adjourned.

After which His Majesty was pleased to make a most gracious Speech from the Throne, signifying, That a War had broke out, and been carried on in Part of the *Austrian* Dominions ; and that various Claims had been publickly made, on the late *Emperor's* Succession, which required the utmost Care and Attention ; as they may involve all *Europe* in a bloody War, and consequently expose the Dominions of such Princes to imminent Danger, as shall take Part in support of the *Pragmatic* Sanction. That the Queen of *Hungary* had already applied for the 12,000 Men stipulated by Treaty ; and thereupon he had demanded of the King of *Denmark*, and of the King of *Sweden*, as Landgrave of *Hesse-Cassel*, their respective Bodies of Troops, consisting of 6000 Men each, to be in Readiness to march to her *Hungarian* Majesty's Assistance. That He was also concerting such further Measures, as may obviate all dangerous Designs and Attempts that may be forming or carried on to the Prejudice of the House of *Austria*. That in this uncertain State of Things many Incidents may arise, which may make it necessary for Him to enter into larger Expences for maintaining the *Pragmatic* Sanction, when, by reason of the approaching Conclusion of this Parliament, it may be impossible to have their Advice and Assistance : He therefore thought proper to desire the Concurrence of his Parliament, in enabling Him effectually to contribute to the preventing by all reasonable Means, the Subversion of the House of *Austria*, and to the maintaining the Liberties and Balance of Power in *Europe*. And added, That whatever Expences may be incurred on this Occasion, should be made in as frugal a Manner as possible, and an Account thereof laid before the next Parliament.

Whereupon the Commons resolved, That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, &c. to assure His Majesty, that this House will effectually stand by and support Him against all Attacks, which any Prince or Power shall make upon any of His Territories or Dominions, though not belonging to the Crown of *Great Britain*, &c.

April 9.

Referred His Majesty's Speech to the Committee on the Supply.

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April

April 10.

The House went to address His Majesty at His Palace at St. James's.

April 13.

Received the Report of His Majesty's Answer to their Address, viz. I give you my Thanks for this dutiful and loyal Address. Your great Readiness in enabling Me to make good My Engagements with the Queen of Hungary, and the Assurances you give Me, not to suffer My foreign Dominions to be insulted, on account of the Measures I am pursuing for the Support of the Pragmatic Sanction, are such evident Proofs of your just Concern for maintaining the Liberties and Balance of Power in Europe, and of your great Regard for My Honour and Interest; that you may depend upon all suitable Returns from Me for this particular Mark of your Affection and Confidence in Me.

April 14.

Received the Report of Yesterday's Resolution on the Supply, viz. Resolved, That 300,000 l. be granted His Majesty to enable Him effectually to support the Queen of Hungary, and to prevent the Subversion of the House of Austria, &c.

That 75,952 l. 7 s. 4 d. 1/4 be granted for defraying the Charge of 6000 Hessians, from 25th March to the 25th of December, 1741; as also 30,205 l. 14 s. 7 d. for Levy Money remaining unpaid for.

That 49,608 l. 6 s. 1 d. be granted for what remains payable of the Subsidy for the said 6000 Hessians.

That 69,841 l. 5 s. 4 d. 1/2 be granted for defraying the Charge of 6000 Danes, from the 25th of March to the 25th of December, 1741; as also 25,875 l. for Levy Money remaining unpaid for.

That 44,569 l. 8 s. 1 d. be granted for what remains payable of the Subsidy for the said 6000 Danes.

That 36,157 l. 19 s. 1 d. 1/2 be granted for several extraordinary Expences incurred 1740, and not provided for by Parliament

That 53,995 l. 13 s. 4 d. be granted for maintaining a Regiment of Foot raised in America, consisting of 36 Companies for 1741.

That 11,611 l. 13 s. 4 d. be granted for the Charge of several

veral Officers appointed to go with the Forces on board the Fleet under Lord Cathcart.

That 1277 l. 10 s. be granted for the Charge of the Staff-Officers appointed to attend the Hospital established for the Expedition under Lord Cathcart.

That 29,300 l. 7 s. 6 d. be granted on Account, for reduced Officers of the Land Forces and Marines for 1741.

That 4126 l. be granted for paying of Pensions to the Widows of Reduced Officers of the Land Forces and Marines.

That 6249 l. 16 s. 4 d. 3/4 be granted to make good the Loss sustained by several Merchants, and by the Officers of the Six new-raised Independant Companies of Foot in Jamaica, by the Failure of Mr. Henry Popple, his Majesty's Agent to the said Companies.

That 1816 l. 17 s. 4 d. 3/4 be granted to Richard Fitzwilliam Esq; Captain of an Independant Company of Foot in New Providence, to make good the Loss he sustained by the Failure of Mr Popple.

That 650 l. be granted to make good a Loss sustained by the Receiver General of Scotland, by the Failure of Mr. Popple*.

That 20,000 l. be granted for re-establishing the Sufferers by Fire at Charles Town in South Carolina.

April 15.

In a Committee, went thro' the Bill for Conviction of Persons returning from Transportation, with several Amendments †.

April 16.

Agreed to the Report of Yesterday's Resolution, in a Committee on Ways and Means, viz. Resolved, That the Sum of One Million be granted to His Majesty, out of the Surplusses and Excesses of the Sinking Fund.

That towards raising the Supply, there be issued and applied the Sum of 11,434 l. 4 s. now remaining in the Exchequer, reserved to be disposed of by Parliament.

That the Sum of 39,588 l. 10 s. 10 d. 3/4, now remaining in the Exchequer, being the Overplus of the Grants for

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1740,

* This Resolution was agreed to, on a Division, Ayes 92, Noes 65.

† A Clause was added for punishing Persons, who shall bring any Instrument or Arms into a Prison, in order to facilitate the Escape of Prisoners confined therein.

1740, be issued and applied towards making good the Supply granted in this Session of Parliament. Ordered in a Bill accordingly. Ordered, That a Clause be inserted in the Bill, for allowing a Drawback of all Duties on such Coals, as shall be used in the working Fire-Engines for draining Tin and Copper Mines in Cornwall.

Agreed to the Report of the Bill for Conviction of Persons returning from Transportation. Ordered it to be ingrossed.

April 17.
Read a third Time, and passed the Bill for Conviction of Offenders transported, unlawfully returning to Great Britain, or Ireland, &c. Ordered it to the Lords.

Read a first Time, a Bill for granting to His Majesty, a certain Sum out of the Sinking-Fund, and applying other Sums towards the Supply of the Year 1741; and for other Purposes therein mentioned.

April 18.
Read a second Time, the Sinking-Fund Bill.

April 20.
In a grand Committee, went thro' the Sinking-Fund Bill, with several Amendments.

April 21.
Agreed to the Report of the Sinking-Fund Bill. Ordered it to be ingrossed.

April 22.
Read a third Time, and passed the Bill for granting to His Majesty, one Million out of the Sinking-Fund, and 51,022 l. 14 s. 10 d. $\frac{3}{4}$, out of the Exchequer, for 1741. Ordered it to the Lords.

April 25.
This Day His MAJESTY came to the House of Peers, and gave the Royal Assent to,

1. An Act for granting to His Majesty a certain Sum out of the Sinking-Fund, and applying other Sums towards the Supply of the Year 1741, and for other Purposes therein mentioned.

2. An Act for opening a Trade to and from Persia thro' Russia.

3. An Act for the Encouragement and Increase of Seamen, and for the better and speedier Manning his Majesty's Fleet.

4. An

4. An Act for restraining and preventing several unwarrantable Schemes and Undertakings in America.

5. An Act for the Preservation of the public Roads in England.

6. An Act for surveying the chief Ports and Headlands on the Coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Islands and Plantations thereto belonging, for the more exact Determination of the Longitude and Latitude thereof.

7. An Act to enable the Commissioners for building Westminster-Bridge, to raise a further Sum towards finishing the same, &c.

And to one other public, and two private Acts.

After which, His MAJESTY put an End to the Session, with a most Gracious Speech from the Throne, signifying that the Powerful Assistance which they had given Him for carrying on the War, was the best Means of reducing our Enemies to Reason; and the Vigour and Earnestness which they had so seasonably shewn for the Defence of the House of Austria, and the Maintenance of the Balance and Liberties of Europe, must give the greatest Encouragement to our Friends. That He could not part with this Parliament, without publicly returning them His Thanks, for the many eminent Instances they had given Him of their Fidelity and Affection to His Person and Government; their fixed Resolution to maintain the Protestant Succession in his Family; and their unshaken Adherence to the true Interest of their Country. That they had with the most becoming Spirit and Firmness, exerted themselves in vindicating the Honour of his Crown, and the undoubted Rights of Navigation and Commerce belonging to His Subjects; and enabled Him to revenge those Wrongs and Insults, which, contrary to the Faith of Treaties, had been committed against both. That He will immediately give the necessary Orders for calling a New Parliament. That there was not any thing He set so high a Value upon, as the Love and Affection of His People; in which He had so entire a Confidence, That it was with great Satisfaction, He saw this Opportunity put into their Hands, of giving Him fresh Proofs of it, in the Choice of their Representatives.

The

(162)

	<i>s. d.</i>
The Amount of the National Debt on <i>December 31, 1737, was</i>	} 47,185,869 10 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Increased between <i>Decem. 31, 1737,</i> and <i>December 31, 1738.</i>	} 300,000 0 0
Paid off within the said Time	} 1,171,040 0 0

The Amount of the National Debt on <i>December 31, 1738, was</i>	} 46,314,829 10 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Increased between <i>Decem. 31, 1738,</i> and <i>December 31, 1739, Nil.</i>	} 184,883 6 8
Paid off within the said Time	} 184,883 6 8

The Amount of the National Debt on <i>December 31, 1739, was</i>	} 46,129,946 3 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
Increased between <i>Decem. 31, 1739,</i> and <i>December 31, 1740, Nil.</i>	} 186,000 0 0
Paid off within the said Time	} 186,000 0 0

The Amount of the National Debt on <i>December 31, 1740, was</i>	} 45,943,946 3 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
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