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THE
GRAND QUESTION
DEBATED,

After the DIALOGISTIC Manner of

LUCIAN, &c.



[Price One Shilling.]

THE
GRAND QUESTION
DEBATED:

After the DIALOGISTIC Manner of

LUCIAN,

Whether it would be expedient to abolish the

PUBLIC DEBT.

BY WAY OF

PROLOGUE,

Is adapted Part of the FIRST SCENE of
ADDISON'S CATO.

AND, BY WAY OF

EPILOGUE,

An IMITATION of the SECOND CHORUS of
SENECA'S THYESTES.

By ARISTARCHUS.

Si judicas, cognosce: si regnas, jube. SEN. MED.

LONDON:

Printed for R. BALDWIN, at the Rose, in Paternoster Row.

1755

THE
INTERLOCUTORS.

Mr. Traffick, a Merchant.

Jonathan Lendmore, Esq; a Stock-jobber.

Sir Clutch Vulture,, a Usurer.

Mr. Zorobabel Pickpocket, a Jew Stock-jobber.

The SCENE is at Change-Alley.



A
DIALOGUE, &c.

Mr. TRAFFICK, the Merchant.



THE dawn is overcast, the morning
lows,

And heavily in clouds brings on the
day,

The great, th' important day, big
with the fate

Of PUBLIC DEBT, and the blood-sucking
Tribes

Of STOCK-HOLDERS, STOCK-JOBBERs,
USURERS,

Who impotently strove in labyrinths

Of woe irremediable, to involve

Our bubbled Nation. — Now, this DEBT's
downfall

Will close the scene of villainous designs;

Already it has ravag'd GREAT BRITAIN

And has seen th' industrious subject grow thin

By its destructive poison; had it gone

B

Much

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Much further, our depopulated Isle
 Could raise no taxes to support its crimes.
 Good God! what havock does avarice make
 Among thy Works!

Jonathan Lendmore, Esq;] Hey Dey! Mr. *Traffick*, whence this poetical humour? One should think that you had slept last night on *Parnassus*, or that you intended to set aside the troublesome functions of import and export, for the more pleasing amusements of the stage. Believe me, this is one way for a man to push his fortune, especially among the ladies: they fancy nothing so much as a man who can harmoniously grace poetical numbers by the emphasis of voice and gesture, tho', to let you into the secret, he must not be on the wrong side of his grand climateric as you now are. —But harkee, good Sir! how is this, you have turned our tragedy of *Cato* topsy-turvy, to discredit that noble piece of *British* policy, the *public Debt*. Take care of what you say: be advised by a friend, and canvass not so nice, so delicate a matter.

Traffick.] Well fare the heart of honest *Addison*; he has furnished me with some seasonable hints—Oh dear Mr. *Lendmore*, you don't know with what extasies of joy I am transported. I dreamt this morning, and they say, morning dreams are true, that the wisdom of our King and Parliament had cancelled the national Debt, and that

Lendmore.] Hold, hold; they might as well have cancelled themselves, for I know not what

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what the better part of them could do without it.

Traffick.] Could not do without it!—say you so—But let me see what other thoughts the ingenious *Addison* may suggest on this Topic.

————— How could *British* tempers
 Look steadily on frauds, so destructive
 Of all their independant properties.
 I'm tortur'd e'en to madness, when I think
 On this grim ghastly tyrant PUBLIC DEBT:
 Ev'ry time it's nam'd, CHANGE-ALLEY rises
 With new mysterious horrors full in sight;
 See its insults threat'ning devastation
 To the once free possessors of this Isle!
 See all our noble families plunder'd!
 Oh *Jonathan Lendmore!* must not there be
 Some chosen vengeance, some hidden thunder
 Deposited in the stores of Heaven,
 Red with uncommon wrath, to blast the men
 Who owe their grandeur to their country's ruin.

Lendmore.] Pray, Sir, what Demon inspired you with this spirit of Burlesque! 'Tis very high, faith!

Traffick.] I fancy you like it.—Come here's another specimen for you, in the same style and manner.

We know our ills,—yet, why don't Britons rise
 Out of their base degen'rate lethargy?
 Why do they longer court the yoke, and bow
 Supply their necks to so much servitude?
 Whilst by it pent up, 'tis in vain they form

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In

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In routed Armies, and Pl—c—m—n—Senates,
A poor Epitome of *British* greatness.
Puffanimity must be their lot,
And other nations will p—s upon them.

Lendmore.] Upon my credit, you now have crowned the work; *other nations will p—s upon them*, is a pretty way of concluding your far fetched lofty strains. — But methinks balancing debit and credit would suit you better than dabb—ling in Poetry.

Traffick.] What, Sir, do you think an *English* merchant's taste is confined to things regard—ing only his profession. We are usually the younger sons of Nobles, and Gentlemen, and it would be very strange if our acquaintance with politeness ought to be so slender as you imagine. — However, let's wave this discourse, and talk of the ill consequences of the public debt. — So, ho! here comes that notorious Jew-stock-jobber Mr. *Zerobabel Pickpocket*, and with him in close converse Sir *Clutch Vulture* the usurer.

Jew and Sir Clutch.] Good-morrow! good-morrow! your Servant, your Servant, Gentlemen.

Jew.] How are stocks?

Traffick.] D—mn your stocks; you know better than I do; you make them rise and fall as you think proper.

Lend—

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Lendmore.] Be not surprized, Gentlemen, at the odd reception Mr. *Traffick* has given you. He has just now burlesqued the first scene of *Addison's Cato* to depreciate the merits of our national debt.

Sir Clutch.] There never in *Great Britain* existed a more laudable institution.

Traffick.] With your leave, Sir *Clutch*, let me say a more d—mn—ble institution. — You get by it, and may with reason lavish a few encomiums. — Well, you three are now met on your own dunghill, *Change-Alley*; and to shew you that I am an *English* Cock of true game, I will attack you all, and demonstrate, I hope, by invincible argument, that the *public debt* ought to be abolished; *delenda est Carthago*.

Sir Clutch.] Not abolished, but paid off, Interest and Principal.

Jew.] I would have it subsist in its present situation, rather increasing than diminishing.

Traffick.] Aye, such folks as you always seek their private interest.

Lendmore.] I agree with Sir *Clutch*, it ought, and must be paid off some time or other, interest and principal: for I would observe, that the fourteen millions of specie which were in *England* when King *William's* war broke out, not being sufficient to defray the national expences by sea and land, the government had recourse to the opulent subject, who advanced them

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them on the public faith several millions. This was done without any previous application, or intrusion on the creditors side. The times were then, I may say, exceeding ticklish, and the disbursing of money so precarious, and exposed to the latent danger of so many rocks, on which it often split, that it was natural to think self-preservation required something of substantial security. The creditors were assigned certain revenues issuing out of the trade and industry of the subject. By their money the nation was enabled to become successful in all her warlike expeditions, she was rescued from Poverty and slavery, her commerce was secured, and promoted, and the succession to the crown confirmed for the house of Hanover. Now for all these benefits procured, would not any unprejudiced person repute it the blackest ingratitude, that a nation should even make a motion towards shaking off her dependance, and cancelling a just debt, by which, it must be confessed, she has been saved from perdition.—What I alledge may be illustrated by examples from history, unless, Mr. *Traffick*, you suppose that such discussions are either too prolix, or foreign perhaps to our present disceptation.

Traffick.] No, no, Sir, I shall hear you with patience, and be as silent as any Judge of the Areopagus ever was, provided you give me the same favourable hearing; for I presume I shall refute every thing you say;—so help me God!

Lend-

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Lendmore.] The Athenian Commonwealth, which for several Years together was administered by the laws of Dracon, became much decayed, upon account of the excessive rigour and covetousness of the more opulent Members of the State, whom the poorer Sort, staggering under a heavy load of debts, and not in a condition to discharge them, were compelled to serve as slaves by sentence of the Judges. In consequence of the execution of this sentence, the state was disordered with constant tumults and seditions, a remedy was deliberated upon, and at last, it seemed advisable to all parties, to recommend the reformation of the whole state to Solon, a man highly esteemed for his wisdom. Solon being persuaded that matters could not admit a proper and intire reformation, unless the Poor were relieved and eased of their debts, resolved to abolish and cancel all contracts and obligations of past debts. Imparting therefore his mind to some of his intimate friends, they seeing his resolution, borrowed great sums of money, and employed them in the purchase of land; so that when Solon published his new law, called *Syssythia*, or a *discharge from debt*, his friends remained exceedingly enriched, their Creditors defrauded, and he himself suspected of deceit, as having held a secret intelligence with his friends, and shared with them the spoil.

Tho' it seems he was unjustly accused, for he lost by this Law, as some Authors affirm, fifteen talents due to him, which amount to fifteen hundred pounds sterling of our money, yet he cannot be exculpated in two particulars; the

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the one, that he obliged not his friends to restore the money they had unlawfully borrowed; the other, that without bringing to a scrutiny the peculiar clauses, and reasons of each man's debt, he ordained a general release from all debts, good and bad; by which, as well those who were in a capacity to pay, as those not, were discharged, and all creditors indiscriminately defrauded, contrary to all equity and justice; which, as † Cicero says, requires above all things, that every man retain his own, and that an equal attention be paid to the right both of the Rich and Poor; which, he adds, is not observed, when the Rich lose their property, and debtors gain what belongs to others. Besides, in this Case, the necessity was not such, as so notoriously to break through justice, because the inconveniency might have been remedied by other means, without injuring any, partly by raising the money, a method he himself practised, and partly by borrowing a few large sums, by which some composition might at least have been made with the creditors in the debtor's favour, and by penalties, confiscations, and moderate taxes, the money might in time have been repaid; and thus the poor for the present would be relieved, and no man wronged.

This tract of history, tho' not coinciding directly with our public debt, as here the debt was private, contracted between the rich and poor subject, but with regard to us between the governing part of the state, and some of the members for the community's benefit, sufficiently

† *De Officiis*, l. 2.

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ently shews us, that all upright men must necessarily exclaim against the abolition of a lawful debt, especially when there are practicable means for paying it. A government, or minister of state, in order to raise prodigious sums of money, may successfully employ Solon's law, with the intention of Solon's friends. Such would be a more signal bubble than any *South-Sea* or *Mississipi*. A public act of insolvency would, in the winding up, indemnify the plunderers, and secure to them in all tranquillity their innocent endeavours for invading the right of others. But here, what must be said of public faith, than which nothing ought to be more sacred? Cicero in his second book of offices relates, that the Roman Senate having received considerable sums of money from certain tributary cities to make them free, compelled them afterwards to pay their antient tribute, without restoring the money they had given for their freedom; which, as he expresses himself, "was a shame to the dignity of the Roman Empire, for the faith of Pyrates was preferable to that of the Senate." This being then so great a piece of deceit, that in any well policed Commonwealth, it could not pass unpunished even in private men, must consequently be a baseness of some notoriety in a whole senate; not only for the injustice of the fact, but also for the error committed in government, as by it, they set before their subjects an example of fraudulent dealing, which recommended, and authorized in a great measure by public act, must the more easily insinuate itself to the extreme detriment of the Commonwealth; and it is for this reason, Cicero says in his third book of Laws, "Princes and Governors

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“vernors when they offend, not only endamage the Commonwealth by being corrupted themselves, but by corrupting others, prejudice more by their ill example than by the offence itself.” Nothing therefore can be more pernicious to any state, than a toleration of fraud and injustice; for, as Cicero again says †, “Faith is the foundation of justice, and justice the support of a state.” The Roman Senate must by a necessary inference have erred most absurdly, in opening by their own example a gate to all kinds of frauds; not to mention the loss of reputation to their empire, as well with their own subjects, as with their friends and allies, which must needs follow, a thing so dangerous, that the same Senate formerly better advised, made restitution and reparation for like wrongs, to recover their credit with their confederates, by restoring to the ‖ *Ardeatines* a piece of land, which the people of Rome had wrongfully adjudged, and possessed themselves of some years before, the *Ardeatines* having referred themselves, and the decision of their cause to their judgment.

Jew.] Mr. Lendmore, not to interrupt your good manner of reasoning, I must beg leave to hint that you mentioned an historical example intirely parallel to the late affair of adopting Jews into the rights and privileges of Britons; I mean the Roman Senate receiving money from certain tributary cities to make them free, and not refunding this money, when they apprehended, it did not suit them to stand to their engage-

† 3 Offic.

‖ Liv. dec. 1 lib. 5.

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engagements.—What think you of this, Mr. Lendmore? Is not there something of a sameness in the Case?

Traffick.] Forbear, Mr. Zorobabel Pick-pocket, forbear! Our present design runs counter to the decision of such questions. — You see Mr. Lendmore, that for my part, I have not broke in upon the thread of your discourse.— Proceed; have you any thing else to urge.

Lendmore.] Yes, I will cite only another example from antient History, which I find in Cicero's second book of Offices, the best casuistical performance in the world, and its author the most rational casuist. He greatly commends Aratus, who when the city *Sycione* had been fifty years oppressed by tyrants, and he himself banished, with six hundred of the most opulent inhabitants, first found means to kill the tyrant, and after having recalled all those that were banished, and meeting with great difficulties in restoring them to their goods and fortunes, which had been fifty years in the possession of other men, alienated by many contracts, bargains of sales, dowries, leases, and such like; thought it inconvenient either to take the said estates from the possessors, or leave the others unsatisfied. An instance of this we have recorded in our own history relatively to the restoration of Charles II. though the Irish in the main the greatest sufferers by Cromwell's usurpation, were not dealt with in the strictness of honour and justice. But to return to Aratus; he borrowed from Ptolomy King of Egypt a great sum of money, and examining every man's

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cause,

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cause, made an estimate of the lands, and so acted between the parties, that for ready money some were content to quit their possessions, and others to sell their right and relinquish their claim: peace and concord were established, and all satisfied. "It is fit so to deal with subjects," adds Cicero, and not to take their property from some, and give it to others to whom it does not belong," as Solon did, who was much blameable, not only for a gross mistake in politics, but even an infringement of the most binding ties of justice. This example sufficiently indicates that when inclination is not wanting in the governing part of a state, or the directors of public funds, there is a multiplicity of practicable means for discharging very considerable debts, though deemed by the generality insolvable. It is certain, I would not counsel our Government to borrow, Aratus like, certain sums to compound with the proprietors of eighty millions; this would be only according to our proverbial saying, *robbing Peter to pay Paul*, the nation's debt would still participate much of the same state of existence, and complaints against it would be as loud as ever: but there are ways for satisfying all parties, ways for paying it off; justice requires it should be so; and nothing is wanting but a moderate stock of resolution to give matters a favourable issue.—This, gentlemen, is what I presume to offer on this topic.

Trafalck.] The substance of Mr. Lendmore's discourse, unless, I am mistaken, may admit, good Sirs, of this Analysis; that several millions were lent to save the state in extreme danger;

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ger; that they were lent upon the public faith, than which nothing ought to be more sacred; and that the Laws of Justice require this debt should be paid, interest and principal. As to the first point, Mr. Lendmore acknowledges that there were at least fourteen millions of specie in England when King William's war broke out: I ask then how the state could be in such extreme danger? Fourteen millions saved, and no debt of any moment to be paid out of them, were sufficient to establish and confirm a Kingdom in the most flourishing condition. A Prince at this time, conversant as to himself, in the arts of making and preserving a nation happy, and seconded in any laudable intention by a minister of integrity, and a free and upright Parliament, would, without amusing themselves in airy projects of *Castle-building*, have affectionately embraced all the constituent parts of true policy; that is, by maturely deliberating, soundly judging, securely counselling, exactly ordaining, and effectually executing, would have employed these very fourteen millions, or at least the greatest part in trade; there was then no other profitable way to dispose of money, and a trading nation, whose chief dependance is on trade, required it should be so. Now can any substantial reason convince us, that the state was necessitous at the commencement of the Revolution, or that in the progress of the Revolution it could be distressed by extraordinary exigencies, unless some sinister methods had been put in practice to affright the nation with ideas of extreme danger, in order to a compliance with every exorbitant demand? The prelude to this *fine concerto*, the public debt, was flourished in taxes of all shapes and

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and sizes, which either historical authorities could enforce, or the most refined political speculations project. It might be a very just surmise that all these imposts on the people, setting aside the fourteen millions in specie, more than counterbalanced the expences King William's war involved the nation in; had not experience evinced the reverse, for it was so contrived by the salutary management of certain pious frauds, that the money raised for public, I must not say, secret services, was always two heavens distance short of the demands for it. What then was most expedient for a prompt supply? Nothing was discovered so proper, so humane, so benevolent, as to have recourse to anticipations, to suffer the nation to make trial of fore rebuffs from the rapacious temper of usurers, and to blow the loud, or rather dumb signal for a general plunder, that is, among connoisseurs; who, like lovers, are often very happy in raising the pleasing conflicts of amorous passion by a glance, a nod, a squeeze.—Towards the latter part of the reign of King Charles II. there were some murmurings against the too great demand, as it was then thought, of two millions only paid by the nation: it never possessed the Prince's, or Minister's imagination, even in those times of luxurious living, that more could be extorted from the subject. A little oeconomy was then thought necessary, and those at the helm of affairs, knowing well where the burden leaned heavy, were resolved, had the times permitted them, to ease the industrious and trading part of the people, and if it was expedient pursuant to the plan of intended operations, to continue the payment of two millions, it was by a tax on

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on luxury; on the more opulent, whose fortunes placed them above the sense of any grievance; and on such foreign commodities, either superfluous, or of no real use to these realms. But now we are taught to pay six millions, not to mention all the sums annually borrowed, the expence of beaten Armies, charges for facilitating El—t—ns, S—b—d—s, and above all, the frequent interruption of our trade and navigation, upon account of our interfering in some things on the C—nt—n—t, which have little, or no connection with our real interest. Such are the illustrious monuments we may pride ourselves in, monuments ringing melodiously in our ears the *va vultis* of Brennus, monuments exciting continually in us the remembrance * of virtue hated whilst amongst us, but fondly regretted, when too late, and past all hopes of recovery!—It appears therefore evident, to a demonstration, that the state was not necessitous when James II. was declared to have abdicated the Crown. It was then passing from adolescence to manhood, and promised a vigorous constitution; no public debt, or heavy taxes betrayed their distempered symptoms, and all the extreme danger that threatened, was from a few clashing punctilios of the Roman and established Church, which might amicably be adjusted without the loss of a single farthing to the public, by resting contented with the civil toleration, granted to all then existing branches of the christian profession, because it is founded upon good reason,

* *Virtutem incolumem odimus, sublatam ex oculis querimus invidi. Hor.*

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son, that every man should go his own way to heaven, conscience an impenetrable buckler always forcing to recoil every impulsive dart levelled at its favourite religion.

The second point of Mr. Lendmore's discourse touches upon *public faith*, than which nothing ought to be more sacred: to answer which, I must previously observe, that the money lent the public, as it is pretended in their great extremity, was squeezed out of the very bowels of the subject who now pays interest for it, without receiving the least benefit or advantage in return. How this could be so concerted, is in itself amazing, but will be no difficult matter to conceive, if with an eminent anonymous author on this head, we consider, "that Clerks, Agents, Brokers, Money-scriveners, Commissaries, Jews, and Members of Parliament, were allowed 30 or 40 per cent. for pretending to advance the public the very money they had already received, or just robbed them of. In those times it was usual to contract with the public to perform a certain service, suppose for thirty thousand pounds, one third down, and the rest payable at two different terms. The contractor, after receiving his ten thousand pounds down, either sold his contract to great advantage, or perhaps performed the whole service on credit. When the remaining payments became due, he, by another fund, advanced to the public at 30 per cent. premium, the very money it had paid him a few months before. Thus, without being one shilling out of pocket, he con-

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" contrived to make the public 10, or 15,000 l. in debt to him. Things were contracted and paid for, that never were furnished: false musters were winked at by sea and land; every one aimed at his share of the plunder: no man pretended to check another, and establish a precedent that might make against himself. The maxim was to live and let live; and the nation like a town taken by storm, was given up to plunder. It was at this time that the word *perquisite* grew in vogue. Those, who did the real service, were forced to be content with their wages; but Secretaries, Pay-masters, Clerks, and such like, must have, and had their perquisites. — The first Proprietors then, of that share of the profits of the industrious, undeservedly called *public debt*, were such vermin as from nothing took advantage of the public folly; and by furnishing them their own money at an extravagant premium, got annuities assigned them for it at 7 per cent. interest. These Harpies understood their trade too well to spare ready money to those who had done real service. Instead of money all such were obliged to receive debentures, which their necessities forced them to part with to the Usurers at 50, or 60 per cent. discount. As soon as they found themselves possessed of these, they claimed all the merit and compassion due to the unhappy old soldiers, sailors, and other wretches they had starved out of them: and, instead of money, of which they knew they had left none unsqueezed out of the present generation, they were so very obliging as to content themselves with

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" with having posterity delivered over to them
 " in security for seven per cent. interest, to be
 " paid, 'till the principal, which they never
 " advanced, should be refunded. After the
 " Peace, these Gentlemen had got too high,
 " and the People of England too low, to admit
 " of inquiries. Public credit grew a cant word,
 " and the law being debarred from enquiring
 " into their titles, their securities were preferred
 " to land, and found real purchasers, who ac-
 " tually, and *bond fide*, paid a new premium for
 " what had cost the sellers little, or nothing.
 " —One cannot help observing, that if King
 " William had succeeded in his scheme, had
 " made an intire conquest of France, and had
 " given up every moveable thing in it to in-
 " demnify the people of England, rich as that
 " country then was, it would not have been suf-
 " ficient to have paid our expences; nor would
 " France, after such devastation, have fared so
 " ill as England has done. Had the people of
 " England stripped themselves to the skin, and
 " given even to the bricks of their houses, in
 " satisfaction to the usurers, these last would not
 " have got half so much, nor would the people
 " have suffered what they have done, by the
 " mortgage they actually made over of their
 " own industry, and that of their posterity, to
 " the most worthless of mankind." Hence
 " it appears, by an undeniable inference, that a
 " *principal never advanced, should never be refunded.*
 " The authority of the most remote antiquity, the
 " strict injunctions of the best policed nations for
 " the observance of all that is necessary in public
 " and private faith, have always held *depositums*
 " sacred, and have condemned of sacrilege those
 " who

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who attempted to usurp them. One of the laws
 regarding a depositum in the Justinian Code,
 declares that he who should refuse its restitution,
 renders himself culpable of a notorious piece of
 injustice, because he would fain ascertain for him-
 self contrary to natural equity the property of
 another. Now reputing the public debt as a
 depositum which the public by whatever is sa-
 cred in faith, and justice, are obliged to restore;
 shall there be a breach of faith or justice in the
 non-restitution of a depositum that never had any
 actual existence, as it is, and may be farther
 demonstrable from the premisses, that the public
 debt is of such a nature. A thing having only
 an existence in the fondness of the imagination,
 has no very remote analogy to *Nothing*, but No-
 thing has no properties, either existing or pos-
 sible, it can neither be the immediate, nor me-
 diate object of the mind; therefore the public
 debt of a perfect similarity with the errors of
 the imagination borders closely upon Nothing.
 Therefore it has no actual existence: but what
 has no actual existence can affect only in idea.
 Therefore the public debt cannot affect the public
 actually. Therefore the public are not liable to pay
 this debt. Therefore the principal that was never
 advanced ought never to be refunded. Therefore
 it should sink into its primitive Nothing. There-
 fore it should be abolished, and consequently it
 does not derogate from the sanctity of public
 faith to disown the legality, or justice of paying
 it, which is the third clause of Mr. Lendmore's
 discourse that remains to be examined.

It is just to pay a just debt; the law of na-
 tions, society that links mankind in friendship
 upon account of a mutual assistance, and com-

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mon faith require it. It is not just to pay an unjust debt for the same reasons: But the public debt is an unjust debt; the proposition has been already proved. Therefore it is not just to pay the public debt. Let us for a moment suppose, for no absurdity will follow from a possibility reduced to an Act, that a Robber having intelligence I intend a journey to negotiate something for the welfare of my family, and that for this purpose it is necessary to carry about me a good deal of ready money; that this Robber, I say, takes care to meet me on the highway, and perhaps in very obliging terms, acquaints me that he has an occasion for my money. To save my life, I let him have it, but do expostulate with him, that by parting with this money to supply his exigencies, I shall ruin myself and family. He is obdurate to all my complaints; however, by much entreaty, I at last make his heart relent, so as to give me out of the money he has just robbed me of, a few pieces to bear my expences homewards, for I quite despair to effect any thing by proceeding on my journey. Upon returning me the few pieces, he damns me for a Rascal, and says, I expect that in a month hence, you will leave this money for me under that stone, (pointing to a stone in the road) and because I have been so humane as to relieve you in your necessity, you shall deposit with it to the amount of the same sum, or at least half the sum, else by G—d I will blow out your brains; for I know, you Rascal, when and where to come at you.—Is it just that I must pay the demand of this Robber, and also give him a premium for being so charitable as to lend me my own money, the fruits of my industry, and the depen-

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dependance of my family? The case is exactly parallel with the first pretended Proprietors of our pretended public debt; and if any disparity can be admitted, it is only, that we naturally entertain an extreme horror against any private act of violence; whereas, if it be public, we behold it with unconcerned eyes. Just so, as Seneca expresses himself, the murder of one man is deemed excessive wickedness, but the butchering of an intire nation the summit of glory; just so likewise among us Britons, we hang a man who has been unfortunate enough to forge a note for two or three guineas, or commit a robbery of little or no value, but we slight as trifling the crimes of State-forgers, and State-robbers; they are men of consequence, their reputation must not be called in question. Other delinquents are poor contemptible fellows, and have met with their deserts; but these the pride and glory of the nation must be dignified with all the glaring apparatus of immortal Trophies; tho', as Cicero justly remarks, in his second book of offices, "no vice appears with a more deformed visage than avarice, especially in administrators of the Commonwealth, for to make a gain of the Commonwealth, is not only infamous, but even wicked and impious."—I flatter myself Mr. Lendmore, that I have answered all your arguments in favour of the public debt: as for your historical examples, not one of them make for, but all may be turned against you.—Let me see what reply you can make?

Lendmore.] Why really, I must confess that the institution of the public debt is a very odd affair, and that the conduct of the first Proprietors can

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cannot be palliated by the least specious pretext of either honour, or honesty. Their misdemeanors have, no doubt, entailed a like odium upon all succeeding Proprietors and Stockholders, tho' I see no reason why they should not make the best of their market, when there had been so many fair and authorized opens for it by government anticipations. 'Tis certain, that the taking of such advantages, is not in the main, coincident with the rigour of honesty; nothing so laudable, so desirable, so requisite in all public, and private contracts, as a consummate integrity; and of consequence nothing so abominable, so destructive of public and private property, as Perquisites, Stock-jobbing, and Usury. However, should the Legislature, in any time to come, wisely lay the axe to the root of the tree, by cancelling the public debt, and disburdening the subject of all the oppressive taxes out of which it is paid, it is to be hoped, that some consideration will be had for the case of women, pupils and others who have dabbled in Stocks, ignorant of the mysteries and revolutions of Change-Alley: the honest Jews are the most ingenious schemers here; they can without the least embarrassment run through all the mazes of this labyrinth, yet will puzzle the steps of others who imagined themselves guided by an equally unerring clue of thread. For my part, I now become quite disgusted with all these scenes of iniquity, and shall therefore abstract myself from them, repent, and live sequestered in some remote corner, where perhaps my hoary years may be blessed with the sweets of conversing with naked truth, unviolated faith, strict justice, and immaculate innocence.

Traf-

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Traffick.] I am overjoyed, Mr. Lendmore, to think I have made a convert of you.—Do'nt you

Sir Clutch.] Pish! make a convert of him.—Do you take him to be such an Ass?—Don't you know what a mighty man he is at irony?—No, no; he has a taste for better things.—Many are the emoluments of the public debt to Great Britain; by it, all things flourish, and property is more divided to the benefit of every individual.

Jew.] So I think—we must live, and let live.

Traffick.] Aye—must live, and let live!—a truly Jewish maxim, indeed! connive at villainy, that you may expect the same favour from the Brothers of your trade.—What Sir Clutch! how could you say, that many are the emoluments of the public debt to Great Britain? Is not it attended with all the direful consequences of any national calamity which it is either impossible, or extremely difficult to redress? Like a disease grown inveterate by a remissness in the application of remedies, it has spread its contagion on the industrious subject, it has pervaded by a malignant virus the whole mass of their best juices, and tho' some relics of a once wholesome constitution strive to evacuate the predominancy of the disorder, yet a general consumption will gradually ensue, and must at last prove fatal to the community, unless a radical and desperate cure completes the operation,—yes nothing but amputation

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putation will do : the * incurable wound must be struck deep into by the incision knife, that the sound parts, if any, may not be contaminated.

Sir Clutch.] Sir, you speak so enigmatically, that one does not know how to make you a proper answer : a while ago, you attacked us with your logical *ergoes*, and now you must foist in upon our intellects your medicinal prescriptions, and chirurgical operations.—Lord ! how shall we disengage the Proteus from the oddity of his metamorphosis.—Come Sir, act the plain Dealer, and tell me how the nation is affected by the public debt : I am confident, if any way, it must be for the better.

Traffick.] It were to be wished that you and your confraternity had acted the plain and upright Dealers in this affair ; if you had, the nation would not have been so much affected, not for the better, as your particular interest compels you to surmise, but I assure you for the worse, as may evidently, to an unprejudiced mind, appear, by enumerating a few instances. First, it will be allowed, that Great Britain abounds with all necessaries for life, and that without going out of herself, or seeking after any external help, she can live in all the opulence, tranquility, and happiness of the primitive ages of the world : the inhabitants of the earth were then contented with the produce of their native soil ; they slacked their thirst in the crystal current, their herds, flocks, trees and plants afforded them a wholesome food, and their rayment was as necessity the

* Immedicabile vulnus ense recidendum est ne pars sincera trahatur. *Ovid.*

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the mother of invention suggested : since these times of innocent frugality, the world has insensibly adopted a multiplicity of refinements in eating, drinking and apparel, and the prevalency of custom has so enhanced their value, that now they are reputed things indispensably necessary, not perhaps so much for the sustenance of life, as for gratifying the vain-glory that operates upon the heart with strong desires to be accounted a lover of elegance, and an admirer of every novelty that may flatter, by a kind of predilection, whatever goes under the denomination of the present taste. However, in the most natural way of thinking, we must attribute all these elegancies of life, all the delicacy of these refinements, all this elaborate and exquisite luxury, whether useful or prejudicial to mankind, to the emoluments acquired by commercial arts ; and not only these, but also all the pomp, splendor, weight and authority of a nation. The country then which has the most extensive commerce, is that which will be the most powerful in war, and the most flourishing in peace : that which has little or none, is consequently poor, and its consideration and weight must be extremely trivial, because it is not capable of undertaking and executing a matter of any seeming importance. It is of little significance to a country bent upon commercial views to possess within its own bowels rich mines of gold, silver, and precious stones ; such, tho' the property of others, it may possess in a more beneficial manner by the exchange for them of native equivalent commodities. Neighbouring, and more remote tracts of the Earth may be in great want of its superfluities, and by sending them,

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them, it may acquire the better part of their riches. This is the case of Great Britain, it cannot according to the present system of European Politics, subsist barely on the fruitfulness of its soil; foreign trade must be its chief resource, and on this foreign trade, as on an eternal basis, must be founded its naval strength, than which it cannot have a more substantial security, and withal a more solid glory. All British interests by a natural cohesion depend, or should be supposed to depend upon the mercantile; the reason is evident, because Commerce more than compensates by a triple proportion the value of real property, and is at the same time the sole and intire support of the imaginary; hence it will happen, that if this commerce is weakened, mutilated, or any branch of it suffered to pass into the possession of enemies, our liberties must unavoidably stand upon the precipice waiting the hour of destruction; we may, it is true, be comforted by the hopes of being reduced into the form of perhaps a French Province, but at any rate, our vassalage will be ratified by the haughty frowns of every bold invader.—Nothing so unproductive of such ills as the public debt, for nothing has so manifest a tendency to subvert the property of the nation. If we ask in what this property consists, the answer is obvious: it is in the industry of the subject; and this same industry is the very main spring that actuates with life and motion all things designed for any kind of operation in our Constitution's grand machine; but should the industry of the subject be cramped, as it is in effect, by a multiplicity of oppressive taxes, how shall it exert its powers to that fullness which is requisite for maintaining a good and sub-

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stantial order? The use of money is not as a fine piece of painting to feed the Eyes with pleasure, it ought to be laid out in the necessities and conveniencies of life. What is so productive of these necessities and conveniencies? What perfects them to the wished for degree? Is not it industry? And what supplies industry with vigorous efforts? What makes it run round in a perpetual circle? Is not it trade? Now suppose that something foreign causes a stagnation in either the one, or the other; as the dependance of both is mutual, both must suffer. Any commodity on one hand, the production, or improvement of industry; and, on the other hand, the business of trade to be made the most of in foreign or domestic markets; any commodity, I say, taxed at the rate of five per cent. must rise in its value to the purchaser upwards of eight; and as also all the industrious part of British subjects lie under the disadvantage in the exercise of their respective trades and professions, of paying taxes for almost every article they consume, they must of course be underfold in foreign markets. What, think you, are the consequences of being underfold in foreign markets? They are very dismal, I assure you. We must return with our goods, or let them rot in warehouses, expecting a more favourable opportunity to vend them: our Poor at home will want employment, because those who furnished them with work, could not make their markets, and what is most surprising, tho' matter of fact, the number of the subject falls vastly short of the consumption of our produce, yet thousands of our artizans, and others naturally industrious, are starving for want of bread. It must be then this difficulty of

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vending

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vending our commodities in foreign markets; and for this reason, the incapacity of employing our Poor at home, both effects of the public debt, that in the sequel, will procure our ruin: had our exorbitant taxes been paid out of all the implements of luxury, debauchery, and riotous living, the cries of the distressed and poorer sort would not be so loud, tho' even then the Grandees finding the burden intolerable, would in earnest set about learning some lessons of œconomy; but our taxes, being for the most part paid out of the consumption of the industrious, pervade the spirit of trade with frequent languors, and the people who would work upon proper encouragement, are tempted by being kept idle, to run headlong into all vicious practices. Hence our high roads, and all the avenues leading to any principal town, so infested with Murderers, Robbers, and Footpads; hence so much petty Larceny, Shoplifting, Burglary, Pickpockets and Gamblers of all denominations; hence so many Brothel and Public-houses, all well accommodated Theatres, not for being initiated in, but for playing a thorough part in all the scenes of iniquity; hence our Gaols so well stocked with Felons and Debtors, and our places for execution better supplied with unhappy victims than all Europe together. It is in vain for us to scheme a Reformation, while the cause of all villainy is made to subsist; retrench the cause, and you will soon behold the effect vanishing away like a cloud: the cause is nothing else but the public debt, and so long as it exists on the present establishment, it is evident the revenue cannot be supported, I will not say, without giving loose reins to immorality, idleness and expence,

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expence, but rather without partly conniving at, and partly encouraging such disorders. As we now stand encompassed by ills, what other main resource of consolation have we left us but the emoluments arising from our Colonies, yet our greatest enemies meditate the possession of these, and we with arms folded up in indolence either seem improvident of the more than impending danger, or our shoulders labouring under the weight of eighty millions, produce such a vacillation in all our motions, that we never aim directly at our mark, or if we make an effort, it usually happens that it is ill timed, that is, according to the trite adage, we perhaps lock the stable door when the horse is stolen. What numberless blessings would await the discharge from our debts! We now only can have a negative knowledge of the matter, but then our knowledge would be positive; for supposing a share of our savings in the Sinking Fund and Stocks employed in bounties to manufacturers and exporters, all our people, like the nation of Bees, hot at work, would soon begin to relish the sweets of industry, we could have goods cheaper and better than any other European nation in all foreign markets, we would become the arbitrators of peace and war, we would repress the ambitious designs of France, we would preserve our own liberties, and the independency of others, in short, we could maintain all our affairs both at home and abroad in the most flourishing condition. You now see, Sir Clutch, that I have acted the plain dealer according to your desire, and shewed you how the nation in point of trade and industry is affected by the public debt,

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debt. What say you? Can you reply any thing to the purpose?

Sir Clutch.] Why—why—why, Sir—

Traffick.] Your *whys* will never do the business.—I tell you again that the cause is so bad, that the most ingenious as well as the most knavish Lawyer in his Majesty's dominions, armed with eighty million subtilties could not varnish it with a fair outside: the deformity in spite of his rectifying skill must burst out, and discover itself *in flagranti* to the world.

Lendmore.] Since you have made a convert of me, I shall not prove disingenuous to the sentiments I have embraced, and must therefore recount some particular *arcana* in the public debt, which I myself, by experience, am sensible to what a degree they affect the nation.—It has often been industriously insinuated by the Proprietors of the public debt, that the trading part and stockholders of Great Britain are one and the same, and of consequence that their interests are inseparable. Several have been deluded by this notion, tho' 'tis certain, nothing is more erroneous; for a cursory reflection must convince us, that our landed and trading interests are the same, and that the public debt is destructive of both. From this, the real state of the matter, it may be concluded, that the public debt has actually caused among us a difference of interest. The landed Gentlemen and Merchants, the better to secure their property from being more and more embezzled, covet nothing so much as a lasting peace. Stockholders, to increase their

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property, seek all opportunities to perplex the nation with war. Was the burden of the necessary expences for this purpose to lean on their side, nothing could turn out so calamitous; but they know how to act a very dextrous part; the whole burden must be supported by those of landed Estates, Merchants and the industrious Subject; and their capital, in the mean time, rises by a quick gradation to several other millions. If there was no other reason for abolishing the public debt, it should be this: by means of its unhappy influence upon us, we are obliged to submit to the insults of every contemptible Nation on the face of the Globe that dares to injure us. Stockholders and Usurers, to involve the Nation in a war, to spur us on to a spirit of resentment, may well cry out in our public papers, that we want the resolute and enterprising temper of an Elizabeth or an Oliver, to do us justice, and to make the name of Englishman as much revered as was formerly that of ancient Romans; but they little consider that the nation was not in debt in these times; for had it then been as much incumbered as now, this firm resolution, these peremptory demands for satisfaction we so much admire in them, would have been found very often embarrassed, and in despite of all the exalted notions of their Stoick Philosophy, I verily believe that we could not avoid censuring them for an equal share of pusillanimity. A reformation is indeed wanting; for if another general war breaks out, as there are violent presumptions of one, the Nation, I wish I may be a false Prophet, will infallibly be ruined by the increase of her debts.

Sir

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Sir Clutch.] Could you, Mr. Lendmore, point out a method for Reformation without endangering the State, and then I shall side you in opinion that a Reformation is necessary?

Lendmore.] Yes; I will, if you are pleased to hear me, recite a curious tract of history, which records what was formerly ratified in a French Assembly of their *Notables* for remedying the disorders of their State. We may perhaps collect some hints from it to our advantage. *Fas est ab hoste doceri.*

Sir Clutch.] Come, let us hear it.

Lendmore.] This tract of history runs thus. The establishment of Commerce was capable, in a great measure, of being advantageous to France, but it was also necessary to employ many other methods for preserving it in a lasting and flourishing condition. The King for some time had conceived the design of so doing, but perceiving himself destitute of a Minister capable to execute it, affairs always remained in a state of unactive debility, till such time as finding himself assisted by the powerful genius of Cardinal Richelieu, he resolved to assemble the principal officers of his Kingdom, those especially who seemed best experienced, and had shewn the most consummate abilities for the conducting of state affairs. In order to come to a speedy resolution on the most proper means, he commanded them to assemble at Paris, and he himself in Person opened the

† Lewis the XIIIth.

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the Assembly in the great Hall of the Tuilleries, on the 2d of December, 1626. He contented himself with saying, that he had assembled them for remedying the disorders of his State, and that the Lord-Keeper of the Seals would acquaint them more amply of his will. The Keeper of the Seals addressing the Assembly, represented to them the many misdemeanors some of the Subject had been guilty of, the many ills the nation in general had been exposed to, during the time the King had been necessitated to repress the efforts of his Enemies, and the vast expences that were occasioned by the maintaining of Armies. He declared to them that his Majesty had resolved for the reinstating of his Kingdom in its antient splendor, to apply powerful remedies, and to put the Finances in such order, that there might always be a sufficient fund to supply the exigencies of State, without being obliged, as before, to overcharge the people. He let them understand, that the King was much disposed to retrench a great part of his Household expences, and even those that were caused by supporting several Garrisons in useless places, which it was his intention to have rased; that also he was fully bent upon establishing commerce with all possible advantages for enriching his Subjects; that it was necessary to lay the standing army of the Kingdom under certain restrictions, and to make some regulations both for those who should be allotted for Garrisons, and those who might take the field; and that lastly, ample provision must be made to hinder his people from being any more plundered,

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" dered, the principal article on which his
 " Majesty required their advice.—As soon as
 " this Gentleman had spoke, Cardinal Richelieu
 " rose up, and made an excellent discourse, in
 " which the embellishments of Eloquence ap-
 " peared not less, than the wise counsels of pru-
 " dence. He let this illustrious Assembly know,
 " how visibly God was willing to make use of
 " the prudence and courage of the King, to
 " effect in a little time for the advantage of the
 " State, what many had deemed impossible in
 " the course of several ages. He let them see,
 " that if there was a necessity for great expences,
 " the King and Queen had by them received
 " considerable advantages, particularly in things
 " regarding the glory and reputation due to
 " them; and that if any favourable success had
 " happened, it was only a beginning to the de-
 " signs he resolved to embrace, for redressing
 " the grievances of his People, and making the
 " face of the Kingdom shine in its first amiable
 " splendor: and as there is no other but God
 " who can make something out of nothing, it
 " was highly incumbent to act in such manner,
 " that on all emergencies, there should be always
 " a fund by means of the savings of the State,
 " and that for this purpose it was expedient to
 " cut short all extraordinary expences to aug-
 " ment the receipt. He told them openly, that
 " each person aiming at the advancement of his
 " private interest, the Retrenchments which were
 " to be made, might be offensive to some: but
 " he afterwards added, that none ought to have
 " cause of complaint, as it was their duty to
 " postpone all considerations to the public good,
 " and that the King and Queen Mother were
 " resolved

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" resolved to shew the example in themselves by
 " retrenching a part of their Household ex-
 " pences. He added, that if in great Tempests
 " there's a necessity of dividing one's effects
 " with the sea, to disburthen the vessel, and se-
 " cure it from shipwreck; in like manner pru-
 " dence required that the State should not be
 " ruined, through the misguided desire of pre-
 " serving all the effects, real or pretended of
 " private persons, and that they themselves
 " ought readily to comply with this resolution,
 " because it is impossible that the abundance and
 " riches of private persons should long subsist
 " when the State is poor and necessitous. In
 " short, he assured them, that by establishing a
 " good order in affairs, and the Finances, they
 " would see in a few years the grandeur of the
 " King and the State raised to a degree incom-
 " parably higher than ever before: but, said he,
 " for the accomplishment of these great hopes,
 " it is not so much necessary to publish many
 " Ordonances, as to carry matters into real and
 " effective execution; adding, by way of con-
 " clusion, that the glory of the State's establish-
 " ment being reserved to the virtue of the King,
 " the deputies should greatly esteem the honour
 " he did them of contributing their laudable
 " endeavours, and that for his part he would
 " hold himself extremely happy in ending his
 " life by the execution of so glorious a design.—
 " After this overture the King sent by his At-
 " torney-General several propositions to the As-
 " sembly, upon which, such advice, as was
 " thought most necessary for the re-establish-
 " ment of the State was taken. First was de-
 " bated the proper regulation for raising recruits
 " for

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" for the Army, as also to make the Army
 " subsist in the Country, without being in the
 " least burdensome to the Peasant. It was
 " judged advisable to maintain, in all times, two
 " corps of eighteen thousand foot, and two
 " thousand horse, as well for insuring the pub-
 " lic safety, as for the support of the royal au-
 " thority, and keeping strangers in a respectful
 " situation. Afterwards were discussed the ne-
 " cessary retrenchments in the excessive expences
 " of the State, both for facilitating the ways and
 " means for paying off fifty-two millions of livres
 " due of the † Sinking Fund, and for discharg-
 " ing the several offices of the Kingdom with-
 " out augmenting the imposts. It was judged
 " expedient to regulate the King and Queen's
 " household expences, pursuant to the order made
 " a little before the demise of the late King,
 " and not to exceed the sum of two millions of
 " livres in pensions. Proposals were made to
 " the King to demolish a great number of for-
 " tified places, which being in the heart of the
 " kingdom, or at least remote from the frontiers,
 " served only to favour the insurrections of
 " rebels, and to spend great sums of money for
 " the support of the garrisons, and for the repairs
 " of the fortifications: they omitted not with a
 " due deference to his Majesty's pleasure, to
 " resolve upon divers regulations with regard
 " to a competency for several reduced Gentle-
 " men, Captains, and Soldiers maimed in his
 " Majesty's service. In short, very wise coun-
 " sels were given to his Majesty for the regu-
 " lation and diminution of Taxes; for the sup-
 " pression of an abundance of unnecessary places

† Epargne.

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" under the government; for the redemption
 " of such revenues of the Crown as were made
 " over to the lenders of Money; for intro-
 " ducing such order in the management of the
 " Finances, that there might be no room, or
 " plausible pretence, for any future malversa-
 " tion; for establishing commerce both by sea
 " and land, and for the distribution and pre-
 " sentment of subaltern charges, as well mili-
 " tary as others, that they ought to be the do-
 " nation of the King alone.—These were the
 " principal points resolved on in this Assem-
 " bly. They were afterwards digested into
 " proper form and presented to his Majesty,
 " and the greater part of them were found so
 " just and so judicious, that they have ever af-
 " terwards served as a rule for the reformation
 " of the State, Cardinal Richelieu having exe-
 " cuted them, one after the other, as far as
 " civil wars, domestic divisions, and the enter-
 " prizes of the House of Austria on the Allies
 " of the Crown permitted him.—Here ends,
 " Gentlemen, this tract of history. You may
 " collect from it, as I said, whatever hints you
 " please; or by a plan of a similar nature, you
 " may set about a laudable reformation in our
 " State.

Sir *Clutch*.] Pshaw! We set about a laudable
 reformation! It is not our business, Man! We
 must leave that care to our Superiors: they
 know best what to do, and what they are about.

Traffick.] And so they do, Sir Clutch; but
 not without administering to us sometimes, some
 very acute sensations: However, as I told you,
 delenda

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delenda est Carthago; the public debt must be abolished, and when once it is, we may think of a reformation; but not till then.

Sir Clutch.] Well Mr. Cato, with your *delenda est Carthago*; cannot there be a State-reformation without abolishing the public debt? Every reformation, methinks, should be founded on justice.

Traffick.] And well Mr. Vulture, with your *every reformation founded on justice*, did not I before prove to you by irrefragable argument, that nothing is more just than the abolition of the public debt, consequently a State-reformation leaning on this basis must be also just. What do I say *leaning on this basis*! Cancel the public debt, and the state will naturally of itself go through all the formalities of a reformation.—Come, let us conceit we are delivered from this debt, and let us sing *Te Deum*, as having obtained some signal victory over our enemies.

Sir Clutch.] I had rather sing *Te Deum* to have this debt subsist.

Jew.] And I to have it increased.

Traffick.] You sing *Te Deum*!—I say you shall not. Don't you know, Mr. Jew, that the repeal of your *Jew-Act* has circumcised, and curtailed you *Jews* of the privileges of British Christians; therefore, flatter not yourself, that you can join Chorus in so solemn an act of thanksgiving: you may chant, if you have a mind, the Canticle of Moses, upon your deliverance

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liverance from the Egyptian Bondage. *Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously magnified; he has cast the Horse and the Horseman into the Sea.*

Lendmore.] Surely, nothing can allude so *a propos* to the demolition of the public debt, as that verse of the Canticle.

Sir Clutch.] For my part I see no allusion in it.

Lendmore.] Here's what I surmise; suppose the public debt to be the *Horse*, the *Horseman*, all iniquitous Stock-holders, Stock-jobbers, and Usurers, and the *Sea* the peremptory act of the King or Legislature, overwhelming this debt in the absterfiv waters of a wet finger, or sponge.—What think you now?

Sir Clutch.] I think you have strained very hard to make out—nothing.

Traffick.] True, Sir Clutch! A fertile brain is never embarrassed for want of a pretty allusion.

Lendmore.] Come, let us set aside trifling.—Did not I hear you just now, Mr. Traffick, give us an invitation to sing *Te Deum*?

Traffick.] Yes, Sir, upon account of the supposed downfall of public debt.

Lendmore.] Well then, I will propose what may be more agreeable to the whole company; for on one side the Jew will not relish *Te Deum*,
as

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as favouring too much of Christianity, and on the other Sir Clutch can't abide it with your intention, so we will chant alternately, if you please, an Imitation of the second Chorus of Seneca's Thyestes.

Traffick.] With all my heart. *Amant alterna Camæna.*

LENDMORE.

At length our just alarms cease,
A pow'r benign has wip'd away
The PUBLIC DEBT, our great disgrace;
And glads us with a jocund day.

TRAFFICK.

Good God! what fury had possess'd
The gen'rous spirits of our Isle,
So shamefully to run in quest
Of crim'nal gain; and gain so vile!

LENDMORE.

How ill ye know, ye fordid souls!
Where true felicity is found;
'Tis not in uselefs heaps of Gold;
You see but shew, and hear but sound.

TRAFF-

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TRAFFICK.

'Tis not the brilliant vain attire
Of palace, diadem and robe;
That makes the King we should admire,
Or gives him empire o'er the globe.

LENDMORE.

He is the greatest King of all
Who sways imperious o'er himself;
Ever obeying virtue's call,
Ever rejecting filthy pelf.

TRAFFICK.

He is a King, whose nobler part
Ne'er rode on wild ambition's wing;
Vain applause ne'er touch'd his heart
Nor impious Statesman's conscious sting.

LENDMORE.

He's a King, who with the same eye
Unconcern'd, views both gold and clay;
He envies not another's sky,
Content with own Sun's joyous ray.

G

TRAFF-

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T R A F F I C K.

Enrich'd within by the bright store
 Of fair Virtue's fairer charms ;
 With scorn he smiles on Indian ore,
 Amaz'd at the World's vain alarms.

L E N D M O R E.

He is a King who dreadful fees
 Ravaging thunder in the Air ;
 Firm, like a rock by swelling seas
 Oft buffeted, he knows no fear.

T R A F F I C K.

What can his tranquil State infect ?
 Above the reach of ills his place,
 In vain war-horrors chill his breast,
 He meets his death with even pace.

L E N D M O R E.

Vye then for pow'r, and rank, ye Kings !
 But know that all your grandeur yields
 To the grand Soul, which o'er all things
 The only mighty Empire wields.

T R A F-

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T R A F F I C K.

To nothing fear, nothing covet,
 Is man's sure Empire here below ;
 No potent foe can spoil him of't,
 And how t' enjoy it each may know.

L E N D M O R E.

Affect who will power supreme,
 I relish not such false delight ;
 The Throne is but a glaring name,
 A precipice that frights the fight.

T R A F F I C K.

Oh ! may I, free from Envy's dart,
 Free from disgrace, free from all strife,
 Among the Populace depart :
 Such are thy sweets, o private life !

L E N D M O R E.

Happy the Unknown, who always strove
 With scrup'lous care himself to know.
 Shall ghastly Death his peace remove ?
 No : as he came, so will he go.

T R A F-

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T R A F F I C K.

But alas! t'him how must appear
 The horrors of approaching Death;
 Who too well known to all, we fear
 Dies too little known to himself.

Lendmore.] Farewell, Gentlemen, farewell.

Traffick.] When we meet again, let it be as
 the *Witches* in *M A C B E T H*.

Sir Clutch.] With all my heart, provided the
 public Debt is not cancelled.

Jew.] By Moses, I am much afraid it will.

F I N I S.