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No 24

Pro commodo Regis & Populi.

PUBLICK FUNDS

FOR

PUBLICK SERVICE,

By Raifing

Three Millions of Money, or
a Million and a Half,

With EASE and ABILITY,

Without CHARGE of COLLECTING,

Or affecting LAND or TRADE,

OR

Burdening TAX upon TAX.

With REASONS for the same.

In an Appeal to the Impartial and Common
Understanding of all MANKIND.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. ROBERTS, near the Oxford-
Arms in Warwick-Lane. 1744.

(Price Sixpence.)



*A WAY to raise in
one Year three Millions
of Pounds, Sterling
Money,*

Or,

*A Million and a Half for
Publick Service, without
affecting Land or Trade,
or being at any Charge in
Collecting.*

Thus,

SUPPOSING the Debt of a Na-
tion, and the Propriety of it, of
every Denomination and Quality, to
be Sixty Millions, and that to pay one

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Shilling in the Pound, as a Tax, Then that one Shilling in the Pound, taken from Sixty Millions, would raise Three Millions;

Or,

Taking it by a Tax of Sixpence in the Pound, it would raise One Million and a Half.—And if more than Sixty Millions, or less, then it would raise in Proportion.

AND the same Officers who pay out the present Interest of the said Debt, &c. to receive this Tax-Payment, and carry it into the Exchequer, or some other proper Place, for the Use of the Publick, without Fee, or Creation of Charge for so doing.

THIS not to affect the Payment of its present Interest, but

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but that to be continued, and paid as before.

REASONS for the same to be taxed, as well as Land.

Because Land, a better Property,

And,

Equal Taxes,

Jus Gentium.

IN an Appeal to the impartial and common Understanding of all Mankind.

Valeat quantum, valere potest.

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THIS Proposal is *nec officio, nec injuria*, or intended to effect the Property of one, more than another, but merely to shew, by Truths unanswerable, That Land is better, and more conducive to publick Good, than the bare keeping of Acquisitions of Money, and the Paper of the said Propriety, and less liable, in the original Institution of Right to it, to be taxed.

FOR Land alone, is the Support, and Subsistence of a Nation; a Foundation of Trade, and all other Business; the Product of Money, a Maintainer of Government, and a Possession certain, the Birth-Right of every Subject, the best Part of his Inheritance, and a Security to him of all things valuable, and so stands assured and confirmed to him, and attested by the Records of the Kingdom, those eternal Monuments, which settle the Quality and Estate of the highest to the lowest, and are the only solid Foundations of publick Safety.

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THE other Property is, Money, the current Coin of a Kingdom, made for the more easy Transaction, Circulation, and Conveniency of Trade, and Business, and of the greatest Use in common Payments from one to another for the Necessaries of Life, and for preserving *Meum*, and *Tuum*, within the Bounds of strictest Justice.

And,

THE Paper of the said Debt, and Propriety, which came by Army, Navy, and other Bills, and the Loans of Money at high Interest, and upon several other Occasions, and some of it, perhaps, at an easy Rate to it's Proprietors.—And tho' the same hath since been for the most Part fairly transferred, stock-jobbed, and alienated upon valuable Considerations from one Person to another; except what may have been destroy'd by Duration of Time, Loss, Stealth, Accidents, or never claimed.—Yet it is a mere dormant,

inactive

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inactive Thing, as to all kind of Trade, Business, and Employment of the Poor, an Introduction only (by the Use of it) to Luxury, and Avarice, and in truth, no more than tossed about by a few Proprietors, and Stock-jobbers, not in Number, it may be supposed, of Ten to Five Thousand of the whole Body of the People. And many of those Foreigners, who do not reside in the Country, and others the Remains, or Representatives of a Set of late Proprietors, who, some of them, formerly, might have been properly called, (as their Transactions were so fatal to the Honest and Unwary,)

Mercatores Humanarum Calamitatum.

THAT Land thus notoriously known to be vastly superior to this Propriety, both as to Numbers of Possessors, and in Wealth, and to a Demonstration more beneficial and useful to Trade, and the common Good, hath been loaded with several Taxes and Duties, besides Rates, and Payments to Church

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Church and Poor, and paid One, Two, Three, and Four Shillings in the Pound, Land-Tax, without Intermiffion for above fifty Years past: By which Tax alone, when it is to the full, the Land pays a fifth Part of its yearly Profit, and upon a Calculation in the Time mentioned, must have paid near half of its real Value.

WHENAS the Proprietors of the said Propriety have all that time sat idle at home, and received a yearly Interest from Fourteen, down to Five Pounds *per Cent*; and in the Circulations, and Loans, it's presumed, a much greater.

AND for all that, have not from the Receipt of such excessive, accumulated Interest, either out of Duty to the King, Regard to their own Protection, Respect to a Country, and landed Interest, or Gratitude for the great Sums given them in Loans, and high Interest, thought fit, or been obliged, and taxed to pay One Farthing to the Publick;

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lick, tho' most able and capable of paying, many being so wealthy, that without Learning, Business, Labour, Industry, or Traffick, they have from a mere trifle, or even nothing at all, amassed great Sums, and even Hundreds of Thousands of Pounds by these Properties, and Stock-jobbing, in the space of twenty, thirty, and forty Years, or a less time:—And notwithstanding such Acquisitions, and the Opportunities in the Year 1720. have frequently craved, and had great share in Favour, Places, and Employments.

AND Foreigners also, and perhaps some even Enemies to a Government, (not thought of) who may hold in their own Names, or in Trust, are supposed to have Ten or Twelve Millions, or more in the said Propriety, as Vid. the Letter *V—n*, and other Names in the Lists of Proprietors, who neither reside in the Country, buy Land, Houses, Victuals, or Drink in it, or trade little with it, and yet punctually receive the great yearly Interest mentioned; When that in their
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own Countries, does not exceed Two, or Two and Half *per Cent*, at most, and that secured on no Bottom, or Foundation of Safety in comparison to this.—And they with the constant and punctual Payment of such large Sums in Interest may improve and support Trade in their own, and other Countries, carry on designs even against a Country with the very Money thus received from it, and with Stock-jobbing, or a mercantile Truck, at pleasure take it away in Specie in at the bargain,

AND there are others, very rich in these Acquisitions, who reside in, and have the Protection upon all Occasions of a Country, yet cultivate little Land, pay scarce any Tax, to the Publick, or do personal Service in Army or Navy.

AND yet both Foreigners, and these constantly receive their Interest of this Propriety without Deduction, more punctually,

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and prior to that of the Current Service of the Year,

IT is humbly apprehended, there can be no Objection to this Proposal, for much more may be said for Ease of Land And an Indulgence of this Propriety having never paid any Tax hitherto, carries a greater Reason for it now.

O.R. can any bad Consequences happen from such a Tax?—As the Proprietors at home, who receive the great Interest of the said Propriety, are so very small in Number in comparison to the rest of the People, and the Foreigners of all Denominations abroad, who receive the said Interest, and some of those, perhaps, open Enemies, or at best can be of no Strength to a Government, and Nation, who pay them it;—That surely it's reasonable for them once (amidst all their Acquisitions this Way) to make some Acknowledgment for the great Favours they have

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have received, and pay one single Tax, so inconsiderable to what the Land hath paid.

FOR it's beyond Contradiction, that a Minority in opinion ought to submit to a Majority, that no Man can be a judge in his own Case, and that there is no prescribing against a publick Good.

OR will the proposed Tax of One Shilling in the Pound for a Year, be at most but a Deduction of one Year's Interest—Supposing upon the whole, that an Interest of Five Pounds *per Cent* is paid to it—And if but Sixpence in the Pound; Then the remaining yearly Interest will be much greater, than that of the yearly Produce of the Land, deducting the Taxes it now pays, and also exceed that of other Countries, whereby there will be little danger of Foreigners removing—So surely, it's very easy for them once to pay in fifty Years, when Land hath paid every Year in that time.

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IT may be also mentioned, that this Tax will be a Hardship to late Comers-in, inconvenient to Trusts, and Incumbrances, and a Burden, and Hardship to those of small Fortune:—But that might have been always said, and with much more Reason, by those, who hold landed Tenures, they being, in the like Cases, a thousand to one in number to these Proprietors.

AND it may be urged, that this Propriety is in the nature of a Mortgage on Land, which admitting, (tho' it is not,) Then the Reason is greater for it to bear a Tax in proportion, and assist Land, because the Mortgagee, even in that Condition, must be solely dependant on it, as much as one is in a private Case,—For if the inside Wood of the Body of a Tree is sapped, wasted away, or destroy'd, while standing, and nothing, but the Outside of it left, its Branches on course will fall.—And it may be further mentioned, that had a Tax of this kind been
obvious

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obvious and apparently good, it would have been made before, or at least moved for by some single Consul *in Senatu* in so great a number of Years, and in the Exigencies, and during almost Inability of a Landholder to pay all Taxes, and other Charges, and support himself and Family.—But tho' it hath not been once proposed, yet *Res ipsa loquitur*, and the Arguments herein, it's presumed, sufficiently justify a [redacted] rify the Reasonableness of it.

FOR this Tax will encourage no Luxury, and Vice, but rather restrain them, and circulate the Interest of this Propriety-Money, that is now received, and often immediately expended in Extravagancies, or hoarded up, and turned into Principal, without either trading, and following Business, or doing any other Act for the Welfare of a Publick.

AND, by it there would be no occasion for so extensive a Spirituous-Liquor [redacted];
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the dismal Consequences of which, seem to threaten, if continued, the very Emervation and inevitable Destruction of Mankind, both in Health and Pocket, and the Ruin of the Trade of the wholesome Malt-Liquor, and genuine Wine, and must of course, be the fall of Rents, Effect of Bankruptcies, and an Encouragement of Idleness, and Profaneness; and all that for the sake of gathering its pernicious ~~fruit~~ fruit from the draff of Hogs, and the Folly, and Drunkenness of the People.

OR will this Tax effect publick Credit?— For a Bank will, no doubt, at all times be ready, and able to lend, to answer any occasion, on the bare Credit of a Government; because it knows not what otherwise to do with it's Money.

BUT suppose Money was not to be borrowed at all, but Army, and Navy, and all other Occasions paid from Taxes, as they came in, — Would it not be as well for those

those who receive them, and keep a Nation from accumulating future Debt, save it Money of Discount, and render its Payments more certain, and be better for the Safety and Honour of it, if it could be so brought about, to answer the Year's Expence with the Revenue, that arises within the Year, and not let it live upon Anticipations, and thereby run itself into a longer Debt.

OR getting Money by antcipating Taxes, or by Credit upon distant Funds, does apparently consume a Publick with Usury, and the new Funds therefrom entail a heavy Debt of perpetual Interest.

AND there is a Degree of Expence, which cannot be exceeded without utter Ruin; and a Publick may become Bankrupt, as well as a private Person.

AND where immoderate Usury hath been suffered, Poverty was always national, and universal.

AND

AND by this Tax the Proprietors would be better pleased in Expectation of it's being taken off by a Peace in another Year, and find a greater Benefit by it, than could be thought of by a Reducement of Interest of this Propriety, and that to remain so, and which could not take place so immediately to answer publick Service, and would be only a Continuance of Stock-jobbing, pay off no Part of the Debt at present, for the whole thereby in an Age.

OR could it be done by any other Method, either by Lott—r—s given into the hands of two or three Stock-Jobbers, which must be a Prey on the Unwary, and Unskilful, Or by taking Money out of the S—k—g Fund, which would be only robbing *Peter* to pay *Paul*, or by giving greater power to select Bodies, which would be also aggrandizing that, which might be thought should be rather diminished.

AND

AND the proposed Tax, as it will be the first of the kind, cannot be thought any Breach of Faith.—For is not Land better secured to a Subject, both in Law and Equity, to remain as free Land, than this Propriety can be? And yet notwithstanding have not the Gentleman, Merchant, Trader, Farmer and poor Labourer, paid Taxes out of it for half a Century past with Chearfulness and Content, when many of them at the same time have truckled for Favour to these Proprietors, Others become Bankrupts, and both Landlord, and Tenant often turn'd out of their Houses by Prosecutions for Debt (the Consequence of heavy Taxes) with a weeping Family.

SO that in the present Situation, this Proposal is most humbly submitted, preferable to any grievous Way of laying Tax upon Tax, and the Land, and Trade sole Bearers.

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THE antient wise People maintained their Wars by applying yearly the Acquisitions they got from the Enemy, but in all their Contributions and Distributions observed the nicest, and justest Equality from the highest to the lowest,

FOR Taxes unequally laid, that affect Land and Trade, and a Publick with Usury, and burthen with perpetual Interest, may be, it's true, made use of now, and then, to piece out, and answer a single, and short Necessity, but cannot be repeated often, as constant Ways, and Means, in a Business of length of time without great Damage, and Hazard.

AND Taxes in an unequal nature, may be rather said, after long Continuance, to fight secretly against a People, than to give any real, true Assistance.

AND

AND additional Taxes, which fall upon the Poor, and chiefly on Land, will still the more make that the Case.

THE Land (as has been observed) is the Wealth of a Country, has it's natural, and artificial Product, The one the Fruits of the Earth, the other the Manufactures, and Labour of it; But if it is solely loaded with constant heavy Taxes, it's Possessors generally will be poor—And those, who at present think they are not, may for a while continue otherwise, but in the End, they will be like their Fellow-Creatures, and the Beast, who goes merrily with a heavy Burthen, pleased with his fine Furniture, and the Bells that jingle about him.

THE Paper-Wealth of this Propriety (if it may be so called) came indeed by gaining Victories, and the high Interest of Heaps of Debts, and its Proprietors have had the Spoils of Fighting, and at the same

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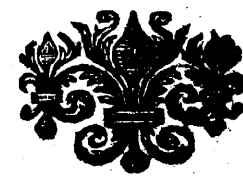
time sat idle at home upon a great Interest gather'd for them by the hard Labour, and Industry of the poor Land-Tax-Payer, Trader, and Labourer, without one single Contribution.

AND yet for all the Hardships of Possessors of Landed-Tenures, and their being overwhelmed with Taxes, and Debts, and pressed with too great Necessities—how dismal, and shocking is the Aspect to observe in Gentlemen so much Ambition (it may be called) at this time, as to add to the Grandeur of the said Propriety, and to provide for, and continue it's high Interest, without considering that by repeated, heavy Land-Taxes, long continued in a Country so little given to Thrift, They must inevitably be driven into the Hands of Stock-Jobbers, Scr-v-rs, B—k—rs, and Ufurers (except some few of the most Wary among them) and that the real Property of Land will so in time belong to those very Jobbers,—and how glaring is the Prospect when a Gentleman of One
Thousand

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Thousand Pounds a Year, or more, can now scarce borrow One Hundred Pounds upon his Bond!

THUS it's true, that a just Cause for Liberty, and Balance of Power ought to be maintained by equal Aids, and that without taxing partially and with undue Proportion, always respecting mutual Justice, and Equality, and that it's incumbent on all Men without Distinction and of every Denomination to submit private Interest, and Concerns to the common Good of a Country, and to bear an equal Share in all Taxes for the Service of a Publick.



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