

*The King's Speech to both Houses of Parliament.**My Lords and Gentlemen,*

IT is a great Satisfaction to me, that at the Meeting the first Parliament, summoned and convened by my Authority, I am able to give you Hopes of seeing the Publick Peace and Tranquillity very soon restored. I very much wished that the first Period of my Reign might have been distinguished by putting an immediate End to the Troubles and Disorders of Europe, by a Reduction of some Part of my Forces, a Diminution of Taxes, and all the happy Consequences of an honourable and established Peace; to which my Endeavours have in no Manner been wanting, as far as was consistent with maintaining the Possessions, Rights and Privileges of my Kingdom, and, I promise myself, not without great probability of Success.

I am very sensible of the disagreeable and uneasy Situation in which our Affairs have been for some Time, and have been extremely concerned to see many of the Inconveniences of a War attending us, without any Opportunity of resenting the Injuries we sustained, or gaining any of those Advantages in Return, which the vigorous prosecution of so just a Cause, and the Success of our Arms, probably have secured to us.

But you are sufficiently apprized, that Preliminary Articles for a general Pacification were some Time ago signed, and accepted by the contracting Parties on both Sides; and although the Ratifications of them had been exchanged by me, and my Allies, with his Imperial Majesty, the good Effects expected from them, were retarded by the Refusal on the Part of Spain, to execute some of the most material Points contained in them, and by Endeavours to alter and explain some Articles, in such a Manner, as immediately affected the Possessions and the just Rights of my Kingdom. I therefore, jointly with my Allies, declined exchanging the Ratifications of the Preliminaries with the Court of Spain, and rejected all such Propositions, as were detrimental and injurious to my Honour, and the Interest of my People.

By these Means, the Negotiations were unavoidably carried into a tedious Length, which I endured with the greater Patience, from an earnest Desire to procure to my Subjects a safe and honourable Peace, and to see the

the Tranquillity of *Europe* preserved and settled upon a solid and lasting Foundation; During which Time, I received from the most Christian King, and the States General, the greatest Proofs of their Sincerity, and a Renewal of the strongest Assurances imaginable, that they would effectually make good all their Engagements in Support of the Common Cause, and of our mutual Interests. And I am very glad, that I can acquaint you, that our joint Endeavours have had so good an Effect, that by the last Advices from Abroad, I have great Reason to hope, that the Difficulties, which have hitherto retarded the Execution of the Preliminaries, and the Opening of the Congress, will soon be entirely removed.

However, it will in the mean Time be absolutely necessary to continue, as our Allies have already resolved to do, the Preparations which have hitherto been our Security, and prevented an open Rupture in *Europe*, that we may not at once lose all the Advantages, which our former Expences and Vigour have so nearly procured, by not being in a Condition, if that Necessity should unexpectedly be brought upon us, to vindicate our Honour and assert our Rights. And you may depend upon it, that my first Care shall be to reduce, from Time to Time, the Expence of the Publick, as often, and as soon as the Interest and Safety of my People will permit it.

The Preliminary Articles, and such other Treaties and Conventions, as have not yet been communicated to Parliament, and which may, without manifest Prejudice, be exposed to publick View, shall be laid before you.

Gentlemen of The House of Commons,

I have given Orders to the proper Officers to prepare and lay before you Estimates of the Expences for the Service of the current Year; and you may be assured, that the Supplies which I find myself obliged to demand of you, shall as certainly, as they do exceed my Wishes and Inclinations, be employ'd solely for the Interest and Security of the Nation. And I make no doubt, but that if any Method can be found out for raising the necessary Supplies, less grievous to my People than another, That will have the Preference in all your Deliberations.

I think myself obliged to recommend to you a Consideration of the greatest Importance, and I should look upon

upon it as a great Happiness, if, at the Beginning of my Reign, I could see the Foundation laid of so great and necessary a Work, as the Increase and Encouragement of our Seamen in general, that they may be invited, rather than compelled by Force and Violence, to enter into the Service of their Country, as often as Occasion shall require it: A Consideration worthy of the Representatives of a People great and flourishing Trade and Navigation.

This leads me to mention to you the Case of *Greenwich Hospital*, that Care may be taken by some Addition to that Fund, to render comfortable and effectual that charitable Provision for the Support and Maintenance of our Seamen worn out and become decrepit by Age and Infirmities in the Service of their Country.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

As I have great Hopes that a general Pacification will be now obtained by a speedy Execution of the Preliminaries, I am satisfy'd, that nothing will more effectually contribute to, and secure this desirable End, than such an Unanimity, Zeal, and Dispatch of the Publick Business in this Parliament, as may convince the World, that none among you are capable, out of any Views or Considerations whatsoever, to wish the Distress of their Country, or to give an Occasion, from the Prospect of Difficulties that may arise, and be fomented here at Home, to interrupt or disappoint our present promising Expectations: This it is in your Power to defeat, and this I depend upon from your known Zeal and Affection to my Person and Government, and your hearty Concern for the Interest and Welfare of my People.

The King being withdrawn, the Lords unanimously voted an Address of Thanks and Congratulation to his Majesty; which being immediately drawn up, and, on Monday the 29th, reported and approved, was the same Day presented to his Majesty, as follows:

The House of Lords Address to the King.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, beg Leave to return your Majesty the humble Thanks of this House, for your most Gracious Speech from the Throne, and to congratulate your Majesty up-
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on the great Hopes you have been pleased to communicate to us, of seeing the Publick Peace and Tranquillity very soon restored.

These, we must humbly acknowledge, are the happy Consequences of that Spirit and Resolution, with which your Majesty has asserted your Rights as Sovereign of this Kingdom, tempered with a noble Self-denial of all the Success and Glory that might attend your Majesty's Arms, in the Prosecution of a just and necessary War, when put in Balance with the Ease, Quiet, and Prosperity of your Subjects. It is a Disposition of Mind truly great in your Majesty, a Prince so early initiated in the Art of War, and formed by Nature for the greatest Military Achievements, to chuse rather to procure Peace for your Subjects, than to lead them to Victories, and to adorn your Reign with the sincere and grateful Acclamations of a happy People, rather than the Splendor of Triumphs.

Your Majesty's tender and indulgent Care for the Welfare of your Kingdom, has induced you to express so kind and affectionate a Concern for the late disagreeable Situation of Affairs, though occasioned by mere Necessity, which no human Prudence could have prevented; but whatever Inconveniences have happened, they fall light upon us, when we observe, that your Majesty, as a true Father of your Country, feels every Uneasiness your Subjects suffer: And as your Majesty has justly rejected all Propositions, that were detrimental and injurious to your Honour, and the Interest of your People, we cannot doubt but your Majesty's Endeavours, in Conjunction with your Allies, to put an End to the Troubles and Disorders of Europe, will soon have the desired Success.

The Nature of such Negotiations could not but carry them into that Length your Majesty is graciously pleased to regret, and the Patience your Majesty has had, issuing from an earnest Desire to procure to your Subjects a safe and honourable Peace, must, in Duty and Gratitude animate the whole Nation with the most steady Zeal to exert itself in vindicating your Majesty's Honour, and defending the Rights of your Crown, if, contrary to Expectation, the Day should come, when the Safety of your People shall require stronger Remedies than Negotiations; we shall most cheerfully, in that Case, under God, depend upon your Majesty's Valour and Conquest.

We therefore humbly concur in Opinion with your Majesty, of the absolute Necessity of Supporting your Allies, and promoting the mutual Fidelity, which we, with the greatest Satisfaction, observe between your Majesty and them, by continuing the Preparations that have brought us to so near a Prospect of Peace, that your Majesty, however unwilling, may not be unable to defend by Force those Rights we are perswaded will be maintained by amicable Measures.

The gracious Assurances from your Majesty of your Desire to reduce the Publick Expence, and the full Conviction we have, that it will be managed with the utmost Care and Frugality, lay the greatest Obligations upon us, to do all in our Power to support the prudent and necessary Measures your Majesty so steadily perseveres in, for the establishing a solid and lasting Peace.

Your Majesty's Condescension in acquainting your Parliament, that the Preliminary Articles, and such other Treaties and Conventions, which, without manifest Prejudice, may be exposed to Publick View, shall be laid before us, is anticipating all we could reasonably ask of your Majesty in the present Conjunction.

We have a fresh Instance of your Majesty's early Application to prosecute the real Interest and peculiar Advantage of this Kingdom, by your being graciously pleased to recommend us so important a Work, as that of the Increase and Encouragement of our Seamen. The Weight which the Naval Force of *Great Britain* has so lately and visibly had, in asserting the Honour of your Majesty's Crown, and the Rights and Possessions of our Country, is too lively upon our Minds, for us not to enter with the greatest Willingness on a Deliberation so useful and necessary, that they may be invited into the Service, by Means more suitable to the known Humanity and Tenderness of the Prince they are to serve, and to those Liberties they are to enjoy as well as defend, than the Methods hitherto used, of Compulsion.

We cannot give better Proofs of our Duty to your Majesty, and Love of our Country, than by our Unanimity, Zeal, and Dispatch of the Publick Business; and we hope this Parliament will convince the World, that none of your Subjects are so weary of their own Happiness, as out of Envy or Malice to wish a publick Distress, or to foment Difficulties at Home, in order to interrupt our present promising Expectations: We should look on such as Incendiaries, unworthy of the Name

of Britons; they would be detested at Home, and despised Abroad, even by those whose Cause they would serve. The just Indignation such an unnatural Temper would raise in the Hearts of all your faithful Subjects, would necessarily incite them to the greater Zeal for your Majesty's Service, and Support of your Government, upon which our happy Prospect of Peace and Prosperity does depend: And as we are deeply sensible of the Happiness we enjoy under the best of Governments, administered by the best of Kings, we will shew that we know how to set a just Value on those Blessings, by admitting no other Contention amongst us, but who shall be most active and zealous in preserving them, and in promoting the publick Felicity, by rendering your Majesty's Reign as easy and glorious to yourself, as it is happy and advantageous to your People.

His Majesty's most Gracious Answer.

My Lords,

I Thank you for this very dutiful and affectionate Address, which cannot fail of having a good Effect both at Home and Abroad. The Welfare and Happiness of my People shall always take Place with me of all other Considerations; and you may be assured, that the Confidence you put in me shall not be made use of to any other Purposes, but for the Safety, Interest, and Honour of the Nation.

On the 27th of January, the Speaker, Arthur Onslow, Esq; first alone, and then the other Members present, took the Oaths, and made and subscribed the Declaration, and took and subscribed the Oath of Abjuration, according to the Laws made for those Purposes.

On Monday the 29th, several other Members present qualify'd themselves, and then the House adjourned till Wednesday the 31st, when several other Members present having likewise been Sworn, a Bill for the more effectual preventing clandestine Oulawries, was read the first Time, and ordered to be read a second Time. Then the five Grand Committees for Religion, Grievances, Courts of Justice, Trade, Privileges, and Elections, having been appointed, Mr. Speaker reported his Majesty's most Gracious Speech to both Houses, the Saturday before; upon which the Lord Hervey, eldest Son to the Right Honourable the Earl of Bristol, moved, 'That an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, to return him the Thanks of this House, for his most gracious Speech

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from the Throne; To acknowledge, in the most dutiful Manner, the tender and affectionate Concern which his Majesty has been pleased to shew; for the many Inconveniences that have arisen from the disagreeable and uncertain Situation of Affairs; To express the deepest Sense of Gratitude to his Majesty, for his constant Care, and unwearied Endeavours to put an End to the Troubles and Disorders of Europe, to free his People from the Burthen of Taxes, and to procure all the happy Consequences of an honourable and established Peace; and for his unalterable and particular Regard to the Interest of his People, in not admitting any Explanations, or Alterations in the Preliminary Articles, detrimental or injurious to his Majesty's Honour, or the Interest of the Nation, or that might affect the Possessions, Rights, or Privileges of these Kingdoms; To congratulate his Majesty upon the near Prospect of seeing the Publick Peace and Tranquillity soon restored, and all the Difficulties removed, which have hitherto retarded the Execution of the Preliminaries; And to assure his Majesty, that this House, placing an entire Confidence in his Majesty's paternal Goodness and Concern for the Ease and Welfare of his People, and fully perswaded that his Majesty will, from Time to Time, as soon as it can be done with Safety, reduce the Expence of the Publick, will continue to make such Preparations, as may put his Majesty in a Condition, if that Necessity should unexpectedly be brought upon him, to vindicate his Honour, and assert his Rights, and not leave the Nation exposed to the Hazard of losing all the Fruits and Advantages of our former Vigour and Resolution; That we will effectually raise the Supplies necessary for the Service of the current Year, and by such Methods as shall be least grievous to our Fellow Subjects; That we shall pay all possible and due Regard to his Majesty's gracious Recommendation of the Increase and Encouragement of our Seamen, and take into our Consideration the State of Greenwich Hospital; And that we will, by a Zeal, Unanimity, and Dispatch in the Publick Business, worthy of the most dutiful, loyal, and affectionate Subjects of the best of Kings, defeat the vain Imaginations of all such, as may flatter themselves with Hopes of seeing our present promising Expectation interrupted or disappointed, by any Distress or Difficulties that may arise or be fomented here at Home.

This Motion was seconded, and supported by a great Majority; so that some small Objections that were made to it being easily over-ruled, it was carried without dividing, and a Committee was appointed to draw up an Address to his Majesty upon the said Resolution; after which several customary Orders were made.

The next Day, (*February 1*) the Lord *Hervey*, from the Committee appointed to draw up the Address to be presented to his Majesty, reported the same, which being agreed to, was on *Friday* the 2d of *February*, presented, by the whole House, to his Majesty, as follows:

The House of Commons Address to the King.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Commons of *Great Britain* in Parliament assembled, beg Leave to return our humblest Thanks for your Majesty's most gracious Speech from the Throne; and to acknowledge, in the most dutiful and grateful Manner, the tender and affectionate Concern your Majesty has been pleased to express, for the many Inconveniencies that have arisen from the late disagreeable and unsettled State of the Affairs of *Europe*.

We are sensible of the unwearied and uninterrupted Care with which your Majesty, ever since we have enjoyed the Blessings of your Reign, has laboured, to put an End to the Disputes, and restore the Tranquillity of *Europe*; the Desire you have had to free your People from all the Burthens occasioned by impending War, and to procure to them all the happy Consequences of a safe, honourable, and established Peace; and we think it as impossible that any Difficulties should arise, to prevent us feeling the good Effects to be expected from your Prudence, as it is for any Event to make us forget the Marks we have already received of your Affection.

The Firmness your Majesty has shewn, in absolutely refusing to admit of any Explanations of the Preliminaries, derogatory to the Honour, or prejudicial to the Interest of this Nation, we feel more sensibly; as we think 'tis equally for your Majesty's Glory and our Happiness, to have it appear to the whole World, that the Care of your People is a Consideration so much Superior to every other, in fixing your Majesty's Resolutions, that not even One so important as the Peace of

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all *Europe* could induce you to submit to the Demands of others, or recede from your own in any Point, where our Possessions were invaded, our Interest struck at, or our Privileges disputed.

And since this Stand, which your Majesty, in Justice to yourself, and Regard to your People, thought fit to make, has not broke off the Accommodation, but only retarded it for our Advantage; we beg Leave to Congratulate your Majesty upon the near Prospect of that Success in your Negotiations, which cannot more effectually fulfil our Wishes, as the Earnest of our Prosperity, than it answers our Expectations in demonstrating your Wisdom.

But in Case your Majesty's Expectations of seeing the publick Peace and Tranquillity soon restor'd, should still be disappointed; that your People may no longer continue in that Uncertainty, in which the Policy of others may endeavour to keep us; and that we may be in a Condition to do ourselves Justice, should that Necessity unexpectedly be brought upon us, we are determined, out of Regard to our own Interest, as well as that we shall ever pay to your Majesty's Honour, most effectually to enable you to do yourself Right, and to assert and to maintain all the Possessions, Advantages, and Privileges of your People.

Whatever Supplies therefore, may be wanted for the Service of the current Year, your Commons will, with the utmost Cheerfulness and Unanimity grant; being assured no Aid will ever be demanded by your Majesty of your Subjects, but what you judge absolutely necessary for their own Interest and Security. And as we are determined, in whatever Supplies we raise, to have Regard to such Methods as shall be least Grievous to your People; so we have the greatest Satisfaction in thinking we may entirely depend on your Majesty's Justice and Wisdom, that whatever we do grant, will be consently apply'd in the Manner that will be most beneficial to them: Neither had we the least Doubt (before we received your Majesty's most gracious Promise) but that your Majesty, from your paternal Goodness to your People, would, from Time to Time, take every Opportunity to make all such Reductions of the publick Expences, as should be for our present Ease, without endangering our future Safety.

The Assurances your Majesty has given us, of the Sincerity and Steadiness with which you are satisfy'd
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Our Allies are determin'd, in all Events to adhere to their Engagements, and espouse the Common Cause, gave us the greatest Satisfaction; and let the future Dangers and Difficulties that may yet arise (impossible to be foreseen) be ever so Formidable, or ever so numerous, We do not imagine there can be any which your Majesty's Prudence, Caution, Abilities and Experience, join'd to the Assistance of your Parliament, the Firmness of your Allies, and the Bravery of your People, will not easily dispel.

It is the indispensable Duty of those who have a just Sense of the great Importance of the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom, to provide proper Encouragements for our Seamen; and common Justice requires that we should take a Compassionate Care of those, who by Misfortunes, in their brave and faithful Services to their Country, are become equally incapable of continuing those Services, or providing for themselves: We beg Leave therefore to assure your Majesty, that we will take this Matter into our Consideration, and on this, as well as every other Occasion, pay the Deference and Regard due to your Majesty's most Gracious Recommendation.

If there are any so ill informed of the steady Affection of your Commons, as vainly to place their Hopes on any Disputes or Differences that might arise amongst us, we are determin'd, by a hearty, zealous and general Concurrence in all our Deliberations, for your Majesty's Interest and the Publick Welfare, effectually to disappoint such ill-grounded Expectations; and we are satisfy'd we cannot give better Evidence of our Love to our Country, than by constant Demonstrations of our Duty to the Best of Kings: And as your Majesty's Endeavours have been, and (we are perswaded) ever will be, to preserve us a Free, and establish us a Happy People, so we should think our selves undeserving all the Benefits and Blessings of your Reign, were it possible we could ever be wanting in the least Point, on our Part, to make it as Great, Happy and Glorious, as that of any of your Royal Predecessors.

To which His Majesty was pleas'd to return the following most Gracious Answer.

Gentlemen,

I Give you my Thanks for this very Loyal and Affectionate Address, Such Returns of Duty and Gratitude from

my faithful Commons would add, if any Thing possibly could to my Resolutions of promoting and consulting on all Occasions the Welfare and Prosperity of my People. The entire Confidence you place in me, will engage me more strictly to make Use of the Power and Trust you shall repose in me, for your Interest, and to your Satisfaction; and you shall always find my Readiness to ease and reduce the Expences of the Publick to your Expectations.

This Answer was so agreeable and acceptable to the Commons, that Mr. Speaker having the next Day (Feb. 2.) reported the same to the House, it was unanimously resolved to return the most humble Thanks of the House to His Majesty, for it, by another Address.

On the same Day having taken his Majesty's most Gracious Speech into Consideration, Sir Charles Turner made a Motion that a Supply be granted to his Majesty, which the next Day, February 3. pass'd into a Resolution, and on Monday the 5th, was reported, and unanimously agreed to by the House. This done, the Commons order'd several Estimates, Accounts, Lists, and other Papers, to be laid before them, viz. .

1. An Estimate of the Ordinary of the Navy for the Year 1728, with the Half-pay of the Officers of the Navy and Marines.
2. An Estimate of the Charge for Guards, Garrisons and Land-Forces, for the Year 1728.
3. An Estimate of the Charge of the Office of Ordnance for Land-Service, for the Year 1728.
4. A List of the Regimental and Warrant Half-pay Officers, for the Year 1728.
5. An Account of the Services incurred, and not provided for by Parliament.
6. An Estimate of the Charge of the Out-Pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, for the Year 1728.
7. An Account how the Money given for the Service of the Year 1727, hath been disposed of.
8. A State of the Debt of his Majesty's Navy, as it stood at Christmas last.
9. An Account of the Excess or Surplus of the Aggregate Fund, South-Sea Fund, and the General Fund.

On Tuesday the 6th of February, some of the Commissioners of the Customs laid before the Commons, pursuant to several Acts of Parliament, several Accounts of prohibited East-India Goods, &c. After which Mr. Pelham, Secretary at War, presented to the House several

Estimates

Estimates, relating to the Land-Forces, that had been made for the Day before; as also, by his Majesty's Command, *An Estimate of the Charge of 2224 Horse, 1836 Dragoons, and 8024 Foot, of the Troops of his Highness the Landgrave of Heise-Cassel, for the Year 1728.* The same Day Mr. Cockburn, one of the Lords of the Admiralty, presented also to the House, the ordinary Estimate of his Majesty's Navy.

On Wednesday the 7th of February, the Commons, in a Committee of the whole House, considered of the Supply, and unanimously resolved, 1st, That 15000 Men be employed for the Sea-Service, for the Year 1728, beginning from the 1st Day of January 1727. 2^{dly}, That the Sum of 4 Pounds per Man per Month, be allowed for maintaining the said 15000 Men, for 13 Months, including the Ordnance for Sea-Service. 3^{dly}, That the Sum of 205,561 l. 14 s. 9 d. be granted to his Majesty, for the Ordinary of the Navy (including Half-pay for Sea-Officers) for the Year 1728. Which Resolutions being the next Day, (February 8) reported, were agreed to by the House.

On Friday the 9th of February, the Commons resolved to address his Majesty, for an Estimate of what may be necessary for repairing and rebuilding his Majesty's Ships, and for the Repairs of his Majesty's Docks, for the Year 1728. After which, in a Committee of the whole House, on the Supply, they considered of the Estimate of the Charge of the Guards, Garrisons, and other his Majesty's Land-Forces in Great Britain, for the Year 1728. And a Motion being made, that the Number of effective Men, to be provided for, be 22955 Men; (though this Number was about 3600 Men less than were provided for the last Session of Parliament) yet the same met with Opposition, some Members insisting, that the 8000 Men, Augmentation Troops, raised last Year, should be entirely reduced: But finding the Majority to be against them, they endeavoured to put off the Debate, by moving, That Mr. Speaker should resume the Chair; which being carried in the Negative, by 290 Votes against 84, the Committee came afterwards to the following Resolutions, viz.

1st, That the Number of Effective Men to be provided for Guards and Garrisons in Great Britain, and for Guernsey and Jersey, for the Year 1728, be (including 1850 Invalids, and 555 Men with the six Independent Companies for the Service of the Highlands) 22955 Men, Commission and Non-Commission Officers included.

2dly, That the Sum of 786974 *l.* 2 *s.* 9 *d.* be granted for defraying the Charge of the said 22955 *Effectiv* Men, &c. These Resolutions being, the next Day, reported, were agreed to by the House. After which, the Commons, in a Grand Committee, considered of Ways and Means to raise the Supply, and resolved, That the Duties on Malt, Mum, Cyder, and Perry, &c. be continued from the 23d Day of June 1728, to the 24th Day of June 1729. This Resolution being reported on Monday the 12th of February, was agreed to, and a Bill ordered to be brought in thereupon. The same Day, the Commons, in a Grand Committee, considered further of the Supply, and came to the following Resolutions, viz.

1st, That the Sum of 158009 *l.* 10 *s.* 11 *d.* be granted for maintaining his Majesty's Forces and Garrisons in the Plantations, Minorca and Gibraltar; and for Provisions for the Garrison at Annapolis-Royal, Placentia, and Gibraltar, for the Year 1728.

2dly, The Sum of 10847 *l.* 15 *s.* upon Account, for Out-Pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, for the Year 1728.

3dly, The Sum of 50428 *l.* 16 *s.* 10 *d.* for defraying several extraordinary Expences and Services incurred, and not provided for by Parliament.

4thly, The Sum of 58000 *l.* upon Account, to Reduced Officers of his Majesty's Land-Forces and Marines, for the Year 1728; which Resolutions being, on the 13th of February, reported, were agreed to by the House.

The Day before, (February 12) Mr. Treasurer, by his Majesty's Command, laid before the House Copies of several Treaties and Alliances, and other Papers, viz.

Copy and Translation of the Treaty between Great Britain and Spain, concluded at Madrid the 13th of June, N. S. 1721.

Copy and Translation of the Defensive Alliance between Great Britain, France, and Spain, concluded at Madrid the 13th of June, N. S. 1721.

Copy and Translation of the Separate Article of the Defensive Alliance between Great Britain, France, and Spain, concluded at Madrid June 13, N. S. 1721.

Copy and Translation of another Separate Article of the Defensive Alliance between Great Britain, France, and Spain, concluded at Madrid, the 13th of June, N. S. 1721.

Copy and Translation of the Preliminary Articles signed at Paris, the 31st of May, N. S. 1727.

Copy and Translation of the Declaration, signed by Mr. Walpole at Paris, the 31st of May, N. S. 1727.

Copy

1. Copy and Translation of the Duke of *Bourbonville's* Declaration, signed at *Vienna* the 13th of *June*, N. S. 1727.

- Copy of the King and Kingdom of *Sweden's* Accession to the Treaty of *Hanover*, dated at *Stockholm* the 14th of *March* 1726-7, and Translation.

Copy of the Separate Articles, and the Secret One belonging to the said Accession, dated the 14th of *March* 1726-7, and Translation.

Copy of the Treaty between *Great Britain*, *France*, and *Denmark*, dated at *Copenhagen* the 16th of *April* 1727, and Translation.

Copy of the Separate and Secret Articles, belonging to the said Treaty, dated at *Copenhagen* the 16th of *April* 1727, and Translation.

Copy of the Treaty between *Great Britain*, and the Duke of *Brunswick Lunenburg-Wolfenbittel*, dated at *Westminster* the 25th of *November* 1727, and Translation.

Copy of the Separate Article belonging to the said Treaty, dated at *Westminster* the said 25th of *November* 1727, and Translation.

These Papers were ordered to lie on the Table, to be perused by the Members of the House, who on *Wednesday* the 14th of *February*, went into a Grand Committee on the Supply, and consider'd of the Estimate of the Charge of 2224 Horse, 1836 Dragoons, and 834 Foot of the Troops of the Landgrave of *Hesse-Cassel*, for the Year 1728. And a Motion being made, that the Sum of 230023 *l.* 11 *s.* 8 *d.* be granted for the said Charge, the same occasion'd a great Debate, wherein Mr. *Horatio Walpole* made a long elaborate Speech, setting forth the State of Affairs in *Europe* for some Years past, and endeavouring to shew, the absolute Necessity of keeping up all our Forces till the End of the present Negotiations, particularly the 12000 Men, which, by the Treaty of *Hanover*, *Great Britain* stood engaged to furnish. He was answer'd by Mr. *Daniel Pulteney*, Sir *William Wyndham*, Sir *Willfrid Lawson*, and Sir *John Bramstone*, who objected, That by the said Treaty, the contracting Parties were not obliged to furnish the Succours stipulated therein, but within two Months after Requisition; and that, even in such a Case, *Great Britain* was only to furnish Men of War, or Transport Ships, or even Subsidies of Money, at the Choice of the Party requiring the said Succours. To this Mr. *Walpole* reply'd, That the late King, of glorious Memory, in his great Wisdom, had thought fit to provide betimes the said Body

of 12000 Men, in order to obtain the Ends of the Treaty of *Hanover*; that with this View, a Convention was made with the Landgrave of *Hesse-Cassel*, whose Troops were the most ready at Hand for that Purpose, and much Cheaper than the raising and maintaining National Troops; that the Necessity of making this Convention was the greater, by Reason of an unforeseen Disappointment from one of the contracting Parties in the fore-mention'd Alliance; that Time had shewn, that the taking the said 12000 Men into his Majesty's Service, was a wise and necessary Precaution, since they had hitherto prevented the Kindling of a War in *Germany*; and that as the same Reasons, for which they were taken into Pay, still subsisted, it was Prudence, and absolutely necessary, to continue that Expence till the intended Congress at *Cambray* was over. These Reasons carried so great a Weight, that the Question being put upon the Motion abovementioned, it was carried in the Affirmative by a Majority of 280 Votes against 4. It was observed, that Sir *Robert Walpole* did not think it necessary to speak in this Debate; and that Mr. *W—P—*, from whom the main Opposition was expected, was not in the House.

The next Day, (*February 15*) Sir *Charles Turner* reported the said Resolution of granting the Sum of 230923 l. 11 s. 8 d. for the Expence of 12000 *Hessians* for the Service of the Year 1728, which was agreed to by the House. The same Day, in a Grand Committee, the Commons went through the Bill for continuing the Malt-Tax, and added to it a Clause of Credit, and made several other Amendments; which being the next Day reported, were agreed to by the House, and the said Bill ordered to be engrossed.

The same Day, (*February 16*) Mr. *Checke*, from the Exchequer, presented to the House, an Account of such of the National Debts, incurred before the 25th of *December* 1716, as are redeemable by Parliament, with the Interest or Annuity attending the same, and when the same are redeemable; and also, an Account of the Monies paid into the Exchequer, arisen upon the Duties on Coals and Culm (continued by an Act of the 5th Year of his late Majesty's Reign, for building new Churches, and for the Supply of that Year) from the 29th Day of *September* 1720, to the 29th Day of *September* 1727, distinguishing each Year; and also, an Account of the present Annual and other Charges thereupon. Then

Mr.

Mr. Frecker, from the Treasury, presented to the House, ~~and read~~ shewing how the Money given for the Service of the Year 1727 hath been disposed of, distinguished under the several Heads, until the 11th Day of February 1727, with the Deficiency thereupon.

The next Day, (*February 17*) the Commons read the third Time, and passed the Malt-Tax Bill, which was sent up to the Lords.

On Monday the 19th, *Mr. Cockburn* presented to the House, a Bill for encouraging Seamen, who shall enter voluntarily into his Majesty's Service, which was read the first Time, and ordered to be read a second. After which it was resolved, to address his Majesty for a particular and distinct Account of the Distribution of the Sum of 250,000 *l.* which (in an Account laid before this House, shewing how the Money given for the Year 1727 has been disposed of) is charged to have been issued for other Expences and Engagements, over and above such as are therein particularly specified for securing the Trade and Navigation of this Kingdom, and preserving and restoring the Peace of Europe; and of the Time or Times when the said Sum of 250,000 *l.* was issued and distributed. After this, in a Grand Committee on the Supply, it was resolved to grant,

1st, The Sum of 50,000 *l.* for one Year's Subsidy to the King of Sweden.

2^{dly}, The Sum of 25,000 *l.* for one Year's Subsidy to the Duke of Brunswick-Lunenburgh-Wolfenbittel.

3^{dly}, The Sum of 117,442 *l.* 14 *s.* 3 *d.* for the Charge of the Office of Ordnance for Land-Service, for the Year 1728.

4^{thly}, The Sum of 80,261 *l.* 9 *s.* 3 *d.* for defraying the Extraordinary Expence of Ordnance Stores sent to Gibraltar, Port Mahon, and additional Arms delivered to the Forces, for the Year 1727, and not provided for by Parliament.

5^{thly}, The Sum of 279,360 *l.* 1 *s.* 1 *d.* to make good the Deficiency of the Grants for the Service of the Year 1727.

Which Resolutions being the next Day, (*February 20*) reported, were agreed to.

The same Day was held a General Court of the Bank of England, when *Humphry Morice*, Esq; their Governor, acquainted them, That in Consequence of a Motion made last Week in the House of Commons, the Court of Directors had received a Proposition from the Secretary

to the Lords of the Treasury, which if they please should be read to them; and the same was read accordingly, and the Sum of it was, That the Bank might advance 1,750,000 *l.* for the Purchase of 70,000 *per Ann.* of the Duty upon Coals, to be converted into Annuities at the Rate of 4 *per Cent. per Ann.* redeemable by Parliament; and that the Bank be empowered to sell or dispose of those Annuities, at such Times and Proportions as they shall judge proper: And that the *Sinking Fund* shall be applied to pay off One Million of the Bank.

After this the Governor declared to the Court, That it was the Opinion of their Directors, that the Company might safely purchase, upon the Foot of this Proposal. And no Debate arising thereupon, it was moved, That the Court of Directors be empowered to agree to the Proposition laid before the Court, in such Manner as they should judge to be for the Interest of the Company. Which Question being put, it was carried in the Affirmative, *Nemine Contradicente.*

The next Day, (February 21) the Commons, in a Grand Committee, considered further of the Supply; and came to the following Resolutions, *viz.*

1st, To grant the Sum of 90000 *l.* to satisfy and discharge the several Principal Sums due on the Register for Loans at the Exchequer, in Pursuance of an Act of the Fifth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George I.

2^{dly}, The Sum of 103,140 *l.* to satisfy and discharge so much of the Sum of 360,000 *l.* granted by the above-mentioned Act, for the Buildings of New Churches, and other purposes, as has not been raised by Loans, or otherwise.

3^{dly}, The Sum of 435,625 *l.* to redeem the Annuity of 17,384 *l.* 4 *s.* payable to the South-Sea Company, in respect of the like Sum subscribed into their Stock, Part of the principal Sum of 500,000 *l.* payable on the Benefit Tickets in the Lottery established by the said Act of the Fifth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George I. charged on the said Duties on Coals and Culm.

4^{thly}. The Sum of 338,800 *l.* to discharge and cancel the several Exchequer Bills made forth in Pursuance of an Act of Parliament, made in the Thirteenth Year of his late Majesty King George I. &c.

The Lords having that Day, (February 21) sent a Message to inform the Commons, that they had agreed to the Malt-Tax Bill; the King came, in the Afternoon,

to the House of Peers, with the usual State and Solemnity, and the Commons being sent for up, and attending, his Majesty gave the Royal Assent to the said Act, *continuing the Duties upon Malt, Mum, Cyder, and Perry, in that Part of Great Britain called England; and for granting to his Majesty certain Duties upon Malt, Mum, Cyder, and Perry, in that Part of Great Britain called Scotland, for the Service of the Year 1728, and for making good the Deficiency of a late Malt Act.*

On Thursday (February 22) Sir Charles Turner reported the abovementioned Resolutions on the Supply, which being agreed to, the Commons, in a Grand Committee, took into Consideration the Petition of the Right Hon. the Lord William Powlett, one of the Tellers of his Majesty's Exchequer, touching a Robbery committed in his Office, in February 1724, of the Sum of 4191 l. 14 s. 6 d. which Petition was, the Day before, presented to the House, recommended with a Declaration, That his Case having been laid before his Majesty, his Majesty gave his Consent, that the House might do therein as they judged fit. After the Reading of the said Petition, and the Examining several Witnesses, who fully proved the Allegations thereof, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair, and Sir William Yonge, pursuant to a Direction from the said Committee, moved, and it was ordered accordingly, That a Bill be brought in for Relief of the Right Hon. the Lord William Powlett, (one of the Tellers of his Majesty's Exchequer) as to a Sum of 4191 l. 14 s. 6 d. stolen out of the Cash-Room belonging to his Office.

On Friday the 23d of February, the Commons, in a Committee on Ways and Means to raise the Supply, came to several Resolutions, the Report whereof was ordered to be made on the Monday next following, (Feb. 26) to which Day the House adjourn'd.

The same Day was held at Guildhall, in this City, a Court of Common Council, wherein it was resolved, to present a Petition to the Parliament, touching the Duty on Coals; and a Committee of four Aldermen and eight Commoners was appointed to draw up the said Petition.

Accordingly, on Monday the 26th, one of the Sheriffs of the City, presented to the House of Commons, a Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, alleging, That the Duties already laid upon Coals and Culm imported into the Port of London only affect their Trade, and the Inequality of the Burthen thereof is a great Discou-

agement to the Manufactures, as well as an Hardship upon the whole trading People in and about the City of London; and praying the Consideration of the House, such Relief as to the House shall seem meet. But after a small Debate, a Motion being made, and the Question put, that the said Petition be rejected, it was carry'd in the Affirmative, by a Majority of 214 Voices against 92.

Then Sir Charles Turner reported the said Resolutions, which, in Substance, are as follows, viz.

1st, That 1,750,000 *l.* be raised by Grant or Sale to the Bank of England, of Annuities not exceeding 70,000 *l.* per Ann. being after the Rate of 4 *l.* per Cent. per Ann. redeemable by Parliament, to commence from the 24th of June 1728, and to be charged on the Duties on Coals and Culm.

2^{dly}, That out of the Surplusses, Excesses, or Overplus Monies, commonly called the Sinking Fund, there be issued and applied the Sum of 65,395 *l.* to the South-Sea Company, which, together with the Sum of 434,605 *l.* granted to his Majesty, for redeeming an Annuity of 17,384 *l.* 4 *s.* payable to the said Company out of the Duties on Coals and Culm, will compleat a Sum of 500,000 *l.* to be paid to the said Company, for redeeming a proportionable Part of their Annuities, pursuant to an Act of the 9th Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George I.

3^{dly}, That the Monies arising into the Exchequer from the Sinking Fund, be further applied to pay to the Bank of England the Sum of One Million, Part of the principal Sum of 1,775,027 *l.* 17 *s.* 10 *d.* due to them for Exchequer Bills cancelled, &c. and for redeeming a proportionable Part of the Annuity attending thereon.

4^{thly}, That three Shillings in the Pound be raised in the Year 1728, upon Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Pensions, Offices, Personal Estates, &c.

The first of these Resolutions being read a second Time, and a Motion being made, and the Question put, That the said Resolution be recommitted, it passed in the Negative: After which the said Resolution was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed to by the House: As were also the Residue of the said Resolutions; and Bills were ordered to be brought in upon the same.

Thus, in less than three Weeks, the whole SUPPLY for the Year 1728, demanded on the Part of his Majesty, and amounting to near four Millions Sterling, was voted, and Ways and Means found to raise the same. The particular Sums are as follow:

			L.	s.	d.
Feb. 7.	For	50,000 Seamen	780,000	0	0
and 8.		Ordinary of the Navy	205,661	14	9
Feb. 9.	For	22955 Men, Land Forces, Guards and			
and 10.		Garrisons	786,974	2	9
		Garrisons in the Plantations, Minorca,			
		and Gibraltar	158,009	11	0
Feb. 12.	For	Out-Pensioners of Chelsea Hospital	10,847	15	0
and 13.		Extraordinary Expences and Services	50,428	16	10
		Reduced Officers	58,000	0	10
Feb. 14.	For	2,000 Hessians	230,923	11	8
and 15.		Subsidy to the King of Sweden	50,000	0	0
		Subsidy to the Duke of Wolfenbuttel	25,000	0	0
Feb. 19.	For	Ordinance for Land-Service	117,442	14	3
and 20.		Stores sent to Gibraltar and Port Mahon	80,261	9	3
		Deficiencies of 1727	279,360	1	7
		Discharging Loans at the Exchequer	90,000	0	0
		Discharging other Loans	103,140	0	0
Feb. 21.	For	Redeeming an Annuity of 17,384 l. 4 s.			
and 22.		from the South-Sea Company	434,605	0	0
		Cancelling Exchequer Bills	338,800	0	0
Total			3,799,454	16	0

To answer which, the following Funds were assigned,

		L.	s.	d.
1.	The Male-Tax, computed at	750,000	0	0
2.	The Land-Tax, computed at	1,500,000	0	0
3.	The Loan made by the Bank, on the Annuity of 70,000 l.	1,750,000	0	0
Amounting to		4,000,000	0	0

But I must acquaint my Readers, That besides the City Petition already mention'd, other Difficulties were started, in Relation to the Loan by the Bank, on the Coal Duty. For in the Grand Committee of Friday, February 23, a Gentleman observ'd, 'That the shifting of Funds was but perpetuating Taxes, and putting off the evil Day, and that notwithstanding the great Merit that some had built on the Sinking Fund, it appear'd, that the National Debt had increased since the setting up of that pompous Project.' Hereupon Sir N—G—, one of the City Members, said, 'He supposed, that Gentleman had his Notions out of a Treatise lately published on the State of the Publick Debts, (supposed to be written by that very Gentleman) but that if he understood any Thing, it was Numbers, and he durst pawn his Credit and Reputation to prove, that Author's Calculations and Inferences to be false and erroneous.' To this Mr. P—y reply'd, That he took them to be Right; and he would likewise pawn his Credit and Reputation to make good his Assertion. Hereat, Sir R—H— took up the

Cudgels, and said, He would maintain what Sir N—
G— had advanc'd; and since he had already a Second,
he desired the other Gentleman to call for his. Mr. P—
thereupon named Mr. V—, another City Member.
But lest the *Bickering* between the two Great Men should
grow too Warm, Mr. H— interposed, in a jocular
Speech, that put the House in good Humour, and so the
Challenge was put off to another Day.

Thus much for the grand Affairs; besides which, the
Commons were this Month employ'd in Modelling and
Regulating their House. On the 1st Day of February,
and the following Days, several Petitions were presented
to the House, about Undue or Controverted Elections, viz.

For the County or Shire of	Bucks. February 1.	For the City, Town, Borough, Port, &c. of	February 2.
	Pembroke. February 2.		Aylesbury in Bucks.
	Anglesea.		Great Marlow in Bucks.
	Cathnells.		Andover in Southamptonsh.
	Aberdeen. February 6.		Maidstone in Kent.
	Cardigan. February 7.		Abington in Berks.
February 1.			Leicester in Leicestershire.
Hindon in Wilts.			Gloucester in Gloucestershire.
Minehead in Somersetshire.			Hereford in Herefordshire.
Newtowne in the Isle of Wight.			Lyme-Regis in Dorsetshire.
Westbury in Wilts.			Stamford in Lincolnshire.
Beverley in Yorkshire.			Liverpool in Lancaster.
New Romney in Kent.			Bedford.
Tamworth in Warwickshire.			February 3.
Montgomery in Montgomerysh.			Ashburton in Devonshire.
Great Bedwin in Wilts.			Tregony in Cornwall.
Richmond in Yorkshire.			Steyning in Sussex.
Wells.			Lyme-Regis in Dorsetshire.
Brecon in the C. of Brecon.			February 5.
Peterborough.			Orford in Suffolk.
Wootton Bassett in Wilts.			Beaumaris in Anglesey.
Bridport in Dorsetshire.			Dumbarton.
Flint in Flintshire.			Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire.
Newcastle upon Tyne.			Leominster in Herefordshire.
Arundell in Sussex.			February 6.
Honiton in Devonshire.			Carmarthen.
Milborne Port in Somersetshire.			Colchester in Essex.
Liverpool in Lancaster.			Forfar. February 8.
Christchurch.			Peebles. February 9.
Pwynciam in Southamptonsh.			February 13.
Beaumaris in Anglesey.			Newtowne in the Isle of Wight.
New Radnor in Radnorshire.			Beaumaris in Anglesey.
For the County or Shire of			Bath in Somersetshire.
February 7.			February 14.
Morpeth in Northumberland.			Bedford in Bedfordshire.
Leominster in Herefordshire.			Wallingford in Berks.
Andover in Southamptonshire.			Milborne-Port in Somersetsh.
February 10.			Wareham in Dorsetshire.
Litchfield.			Liverpool in Lancaster.
February 12.			
Weymouth and Welcomb Regis in Dorsetshire.			

Most of the abovemention'd Petitions about Controverted
Elections were referred to the Committee, and some
of them ordered to be heard at the Bar of the House.

On Thursday the 15th of February, Mr. Speaker was ordered to issue out his Warrants to the Clerk of the Crown, for making out twelve new Writs for electing as many new Members for divers Places, viz.

1. A Burgeſs for the Borough of *Guilford*, in the County of *Surrey*, in the Room of *Arthur Onslow*, Esq; the Speaker, who being chosen both for that County and Borough, had made his Election for the County.

2. A Burgeſs for the Burghs of *Sterling*, *Innerkeithing*, *Dunfermling*, &c. in the Room of *Henry Cunninghame*, Esq; who being chosen for the said Burghs, as also for the Shire of *Sterling*, had made his Election for the said Shire.

3. A Burgeſs for the Borough of *Queensborough*, in the Room of *John Crowley*, Esq; deceas'd.

4. A Baron for the Port of *Hyeth*, in the County of *Kent*, in the Room of *Sir Samuel Leonard*, Bart. deceas'd.

5. A Baron for the Port of *Hastings*, in the Room of the Hon. *Thomas Townshend*, Esq; who being chosen for that Port, as also a Representative of the University of *Cambridge*, had made his Election for the latter.

6. A Burgeſs for the Borough of *Buckingham*, in the County of *Bucks*, in the Room of *Thomas Lewis*, Esq; who being chosen for that Borough, as also for the City of *New-Sarum* in *Wiltshire*, had made his Election for the said City.

7. A Burgeſs for the Borough of *Lestwithiel* in the County of *Cornwall*, in the Room of *Sir Orlando Bridgman*, Bart. who being chosen for that Borough, as also for the Borough of *Blechingly*, in the County of *Surrey*, had made his Election for the said Borough of *Blechingly*.

8. A Knt. of the Shire for the County of *Suffex*, in the Room of the Rt. Hon. *Sir Spencer Compton*, Knt. of the *Bath*, (now Lord *Wilmington*) called up to the House of Peers.

9. A Knight of the Shire for the County of *Rutland*, in the Room of *John Noel*, Esq; deceas'd.

10. A Burgeſs for the Borough of *Aylesbury* in the County of *Bucks*, in the Room of *Sir William Stanhope*, Knight of the *Bath*, who being chosen for that Borough, as also for the said County, made his Election for the County.

11. A Burgeſs for the Borough of *Tiverton* in the County of *Devon*, in the Room of *Sir William Yonge*, Knight of the *Bath*, who being chosen for that Borough, as also for the Borough of *Honiton* in the said County, made his Election for the said Borough of *Honiton*.

12. A Burgeſs for the District of Burghs of *Elgin*, *Barr*, &c. in the Room of *William Stewart*, Esq; who being

being chosen for the said Burghs, as also for the District of Burghs of *Air, Irvine, &c.* had made his Election for the latter.

The next Day, (*Feb. 16.*) the Commons ordered Mr. Speaker to issue his Warrants for three other New Writs, for electing,

1. A Burgess for the District of Burghs of *Stranraer, Wigtoun, &c.* in the Room of *William Dalrymple, Esq;* who being chosen for the said District, as also a Commissioner for the Shire of *Wigtoun*, made his Election for the Shire.

2. A Burgess for the Borough of *St. Marw's* in *Cornwall*, in the Room of *John Knight, Esq;* who being chosen both for that Borough, and the Borough of *Sudbury* in *Suffolk*, made his Election for the latter.

3. A Burgess for the Borough of *Taivstock* in the County of *Devon*, in the Room of *Sir John Cope, Knt. and Bart.* who being chosen for that Borough, and also a Knight of the Shire for the County of *Southampton*, made his Election for the said County.

The same Day, (*Feb. 16.*) the Hon. *Matthew Ducie-Moreton, Esq;* and *Benjamin Bathurst, Esq;* who were return'd in the double Return for the City of *Gloucester*, and had petition'd, complaining of the said Election, were, upon their Desire, left at Liberty to withdraw their Petitions; and the same was allowed to *Thomas Chester, Esq;* and *Charles Selwyn, Esq;* who had likewise petition'd against the said Election.

On Saturday the 17th, four other New Writs were order'd for electing,

1. A Burgess for the Borough of *Leſtwithiel* in the County of *Cornwall*, in the Room of *Dorell Trelawney, Esq;* deceas'd.

2. A Burgess for the Borough of *Plympton* in *Devonshire*.

3. A Burgess for the Borough of *Plymouth* in *Devonshire*: Both these in the Room of *George Freby, Esq;* who being chosen for those two Boroughs; as also for that of *Elifton Dartmouth-Hardneſs*, made his Election for the latter.

4. A Burgess for the Borough of *Agmondesham*, in the County of *Bucks*, in the Room of the Hon. *Baptist Leveson Gower, Esq;* who being chosen for that Borough, as also for that of *Newcastle Under-line*, in the County of *Stafford*, made his Election for the latter.

On Monday, *Feb. 19.* another New Writ was ordered, for electing a Burgess for the Borough of *Bere-Alſton* in the County of *Devon*, in the Room of *Sir John Hobart, Knight of the Bath, and Bart.* who being chosen for that Borough, as also a Knight of the Shire for the County of *Norfolk*,

Norfolk, made his Election to serve for the said County.

The next Day, two other New Writs were ordered for electing,

1. A Burgess for the Borough of *Bere-Alston*, in the County of *Devon*, in the Room of *Sir Francis Henry Drake*, who being chosen for that Borough, as also for the Borough of *Tavistock* in the same County, made his Election for the latter.

2. A Burgess for the Borough of *Old Sarum*, in the County of *Wilts*, in the Room of *Mr. Thomas Pitt*, who being chosen for that Borough, as also for the Borough of *Okehampton* in the County of *Devon*, made his Election for the latter.

The same Day *John Scrope*, Esq; being chosen a Citizen for the City of *Bristol*, in the County of *Somerset*, and also a Baron for the Port of *Winchelsea*, in the County of *Sussex*, made his Election to serve for the said City.

The next Day, (*Feb. 21.*) two other New Writs were ordered, *viz.* One for electing a Baron for the Port of *Winchelsea*, in the Room of *John Scrope*, Esq; the other for electing a Burgess for the Borough of *Milbourn-Port*, in the County of *Somerset*, in the Room of *Thomas Medlycot*, Esq; who being chosen for that Borough, had accepted the Office of One of the Commissioners of his Majesty's Revenue in *Ireland*.

On the 23d, *Mr. Earle* reported from the Committee of Privileges and Elections, that it appear'd to them, that *Thomas Lord Viscount Gage*, was not duly elected, and that the *Hon. John Lumley*, Esq; was duly elected a Burgess for the Borough of *Arundel* in the County of *Sussex*: Upon which the Clerk of the Crown was ordered to amend the Return for the said Borough of *Arundel*, by razing out the Name of the Lord Viscount Gage, and inserting the Name of the *Hon. John Lumley*, Esq; instead thereof. Then *Mr. Speaker* was ordered to issue his Warrant for a New Writ, for the electing a Burgess for the Borough of *Dramber* in the County of *Sussex*, in the Room of *Sir Richard Gough*, Knt. deceas'd.

On *Wednesday* the 28th, *Mr. Earle* reported from the Committee of Privileges and Elections, that *Henry Holt Henley*, Esq; was duly elected a Burgess for the Borough of *Lyme-Regis* in the County of *Dorset*: Whereupon the Clerk of the Crown was ordered to amend the Return for the said Borough, by erazing out the Name of *John Burridge*, Jun. Esq; and inserting the Name of *Henry Holt Henley*, Esq; instead thereof.

Thus much for Elections ; and to conclude the *Material Proceedings of the Commons* during this Month, we may take Notice, that on *Tuesday the 27th*, Sir *Charles Turner* presented to the House, *A Bill for granting an Aid to His Majesty by a Land-Tax, to be raised in Great Britain for the Service of the Year 1728, &c.* and the same was receiv'd and read the first Time, and ordered to be read a second Time : After which, *The Bill for encouraging Seamen, &c.* was read the second Time, and committed to a Grand Committee.

The next Day, (*Feb. 28.*) after the Reading of several *Petitions of Insolvent Debtors, and poor distressed Prisoners in divers Goals*, the *Land-Tax Bill* was read the second Time ; as was also the *Bill for punishing Mutiny and Desertion*, and both were committed to a Committee of the whole House.

The House of Peers was, this Month of *February*, mostly employ'd in hearing and determining Appeals and private Causes ; and on Occasion of one of them, did on the 13th, make the following remarkable Order, viz.

The House according to Order, proceeded to take into Consideration, the Act call'd, *The Statute of Limitations*, made in the 21st Year of the Reign of King *James I.* and Order'd, ' That the Judges do prepare and bring in a Bill to Enact, that all Demands arising from, or grounded on Account, other than such Accounts as concern the Trade of Merchandize between Merchant and Merchant, their Factors, or Servants ; all Debts grounded upon any Lending, or Contract without Specialty, for which Actions shall not be commenced or sued within six Years next after the Cause of such Actions, or Suit, shall be deemed extinguish'd in Law and Equity, as if the Cause of such Demands had never been.


With such Saving for Persons under Age, *Feme Coverts*, &c. as are already in the Act.

On *Saturday the 24th of Feb.* the Lords Ordered, That an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, that he would order the proper Officers to lay before the House, a State of the National Debts, provided, or unprovided for by Parliament, from the 31st of *Oct. 1725*, to the 31st of *Dec. 1727* ; with an Account of the Produce of the *Sinking Fund* in each of these Years, and to the Payment of what Debts, contracted before the 25th of *Dec. 1726*, the said Fund has been applied.

THE Historical Register.

NUMBER L.

Proceedings of the First Session of the Seventh Parliament of Great Britain, continued from Page 88 of the last preceding Register.

N Thursday the 29th of February, Sir Paul Methuen reported to the House of Commons, That their Address for a particular and distinct Account of the Sum of 250,000 l. &c. had been presented to his Majesty, and that his Majesty had commanded him to acquaint the House, That the late King, his Majesty's Royal Father, having the like Occasion, received from the last Parliament the most Dutiful Acknowledgments of his great Care and Wisdom, in taking such Steps, and entering into such Engagements as he thought would best conduce to the Security of this Kingdom, and the Preservation of the Peace of Europe; and at the same Time the strongest Assurances of their future Support, in all such farther Measures as he should find necessary and expedient for preventing a Rupture, and for the Honour and Advantage of these Kingdoms: And a Power being accordingly given by Parliament to his late Majesty, for issuing and applying such Sums of Money as he should find necessary, for answering and defraying such Expences and Engagements, as had been or should be made for these great and necessary Purposes; some Part of the Money mentioned in this Address, had been issued, and disbursed by his late Majesty; and the remaining Part has been apply'd by His Majesty, for carrying on the same necessary Services, for strengthening his Alliances, and in fulfilling Engagements of the utmost Importance to these Kingdoms, and to the general Tranquillity of Europe, and which require the great-

est Secrecy. His Majesty therefore hopes, That this House will repose the same Confidence in him, and be assured, that the Money has been necessarily expended, pursuant to the Power given by Act of Parliament, and for the Uses and Purposes thereby directed; and a particular and distinct Account thereof cannot be given without manifest Prejudice to the Publick.

This Answer being conformable to that which was return'd in February 1726-7, to a like Address from the Commons, about the Disposal of 125,000 l. Mr. William Pulteney, who then raised several weighty Objections against such a vague and general Way of Accounting for publick Money, as tending to render Parliaments altogether insignificant and useless; to cover Imbezilments; and to screen corrupt and rapacious Ministers: Mr. Pulteney I say, and several other Gentlemen, spoke against this last Message, urged the Increase of the National Debt, notwithstanding the so much boasted of *Sinking Fund*, and would have had that important Affair immediately debated in a grand Committee. But the Court Party waved it, by moving to adjourn the House to the Monday next following; which, after some Debate, was carried by a Majority of 202 Votes against 66.

Accordingly, on Monday the 4th of March, the Commons resolv'd to go that Afternoon into a Committee of the whole House, to consider of the State of the Nation, in Relation to the National Debt, and referr'd to the said Committee several Papers, viz. First, An Account of such of the National Debts, incurred before the 25th of December 1716, as are redeemable by Parliament, with the Interest or Annuity attending the same, and when the same are redeemable. Secondly, An Account of the Money paid into the Exchequer, arisen upon the Duties on Coals and Cullm (continued by an Act of the 5th Year of his late Majesty's Reign, for building new Churches, and for the Supply of that Year) from the 29th Day of September 1720, to the 29th Day of September 1727; distinguishing each Year; and also the Account of the present Annual, and other Charges thereupon. Thirdly, An Account shewing how the Money given for the Service of the Year 1727, hath been disposed of, distinguish'd under the several Heads, until the 15th of February, 1727, with the Deficiency thereupon. Fourthly, An Account of the Estimate of the Debt of his Majesty's Navy,

Navy, as it stood on the 31st of *December*, 1727. It was also Ordered, That *Mr. Alexander Chocke*, *Mr. Stephen Digyns*, *Mr. James Green*, and *Mr. Peter le Heup*, should attend the said Committee, into which the House having resolved itself, they were examined as to the Papers above-mention'd. This done, a Motion was made on the Court Side, 'that it appears, That the 'Monies already issued and applied towards discharging 'the National Debts, incurred before *Christmas* 1716, ' (together with the Sum of Two Hundred and Twenty 'Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Five Pounds, Six- 'teen Shillings and Four Pence Three Farthings, which 'will be issued at *Lady-Day* 1728, towards discharging 'the said Debts;) amount to Six Millions, Six Hun- 'dred Forty-Eight Thousand, Seven Hundred Sixty-Two 'Pounds, Five Shillings and One Penny Farthing.

Hereupon there arose a very warm and long Debate, that lasted till past Eight of the Clock in the Evening. *Mr. Daniel Pulteney*, who spoke first against the Motion, endeavour'd to shew the fallacious Tendency of it; he was seconded by his Cousin, *Mr. William Pulteney*, and the latter was supported by the Lord *Morpeth*, *Mr. Shippen*, *Sir William Wyndham*, and some other Gentlemen. They suggested in general, 'That notwith- 'standing the Supplies that were annually raised in 'the last Reign; notwithstanding the great Sums of 'Money given from Time to Time, for extraordinary 'Expences, and secret Service; notwithstanding the 'Produce of the *Sinking Fund*, yet the *Publick Debts*, 'or the gradual Discharge of which that famous Pro- 'ject was said to be contrived, were rather increased 'than lessened; and this in a Time of almost unin- 'terrupted Peace and Tranquillity, which must be 'owing to a very profuse Management of the publick 'Treasure; and yielded but a very melancholly Pros- 'pect, since at this Rate our Debts must still grow 'faster, in Case of a War, or publick Troubles; so that 'the heavy and numerous Taxes that now lay upon the 'Nation, must be perpetuated to the latest Posterity.

Then, entering upon Particulars, they took Notice of the Artifice with which the *Accounts* that lay before them, were drawn up: That in order to swell that of the Sums said to have been issued and applied towards the Discharge of the publick Debts, incurred before *Christmas* 1716, there was added to it above three Mil- lions, for the advanced Price given in the Year 1720,

in order to make the Irredeemables redeemable, which could not properly be call'd a Payment of those Debts; whereas, on the other Hand, in the Account of the present *National Debt*, or of the Increase of that Debt since *Christmas 1716*, several large Sums were omitted, particularly One Million, rais'd upon the Credit of the *Civil List*, and several Deficiencies on the *Land-Tax*, *Malt*, and other Funds, which certainly still remained a *Publick Debt*. Sir *Robert Walpole*, against whom those Objections and Reflections were chiefly levelled, sustain'd alone, and repell'd the Attacks of his Antagonists, and, in a long Speech, having shew'd the Nature and State of the publick Debts, and the Operation and Efficacy of the *Sinking Fund*, strenuously maintain'd the Assertion contain'd in the Motion. The opposite Party perceiving that the Majority of the Committee were convinced by his Arguments, mov'd that Mr. *Speaker* should resume the Chair; but, after some further Debate, the Question being put upon this second Motion, it was carried in the Negative, by 250 Voices against 97; after which the Question being put upon the first Motion, it was carried without Dividing; and the further Consideration of the *State of the Nation*, in Relation to the *National Debt*, was put off to the *Thursday* following, and then again to the next Day.

Accordingly on the 8th of *March*, the Commons, in a Committee of the whole House, resumed the Consideration of the *National Debt*, and after a long Debate came to three other Resolutions, which together with the First, are as follows.

First, That the Monies already issued and applied towards Discharging the National Debts incurred before *Christmas 1716*, (together with the Sum of Two Hundred and Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Five Pounds, Sixteen Shillings and Four Pence Three Farthings, which will be issued at *Lady-Day*, 1728, towards discharging the said Debts;) amount to Six Millions, Six Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand, Seven Hundred Sixty-Two Pounds, Five Shillings and One Penny Farthing.

Secondly, That the several National Debts (including the Debt of the Navy, as it stood on the 31st Day of *December*, 1727,) contracted and incurred since the 25th Day of *December*, 1716, for answering and defraying the Annual Charges and Expences of the Publick, for the Current Service of the several Years since the said

twenty-

twenty-fifth Day of *December*, 1716, on the eighth Day of *March*, 1727, amount to the Sum of Two Millions, six Hundred and five Thousand, five Hundred and forty-five Pounds, sixteen Shillings and three Farthings.

3^{dly}, That the National Debt contracted since the twenty-fifth Day of *December*, 1716, for or in respect of the Sum advanced by the *South-Sea Company*, pursuant to an Act of the Fifth Year of his late Majesty's Reign, for the Liberty of encreasing their Capital Stock, being so much thereof as was apply'd to the Sinking Fund, doth amount to the Sum of Three Hundred twenty-eight Thousand six Hundred seventy-three Pounds, four Shillings and ten-pence half-penny.

4^{thly}, That the National Debt contracted since the twenty-fifth Day of *December* 1716, for making good the yearly Deficiencies of the General Fund, from the Establishment thereof, to and for the Year ending at *Michaelmas*, 1726, the Surplus whereof is applicable to the Sinking Fund amounts to the Sum of seven Hundred and three Thousand seven Hundred and forty Pounds, six Shillings and Two-pence Half-penny.

On *Tuesday* the 12th of *March*, Sir *Charles Turner* having reported the abovementioned four Resolutions, the same occasioned a long Debate, which was chiefly managed by Mr. *William Pulteney*, on the one side, and Sir *Robert Walpole* on the other.

Upon the whole Matter, the first of the said Resolutions being read a second Time; and a Motion being made, and the Question being put, That the said Resolutions be re-committed, it passed in the Negative: After which the said Resolution was agreed to by the House.

The second of the said Resolutions being read a second Time, and a Motion being made, and the Question being put, That the said Resolution be recommitted? It passed in the Negative: Then the said Resolution was agreed to by the House.

The Third of the said Resolutions being read a second Time, was agreed to by the House.

The last of these said Resolutions being read a second Time, was, with an Amendment, agreed to by the House, and is as followeth, *viz.*

Resolved, That the National Debt contracted since the twenty-fifth Day of *December*, 1716, for making good the Deficiencies of the General Fund, from the Establishment thereof, to and for the Year ending at *Michaelmas*, 1726, the Surplus whereof is applicable to the Sinking Fund, amounts

amounts to the Sum of seven Hundred and three Thousand, seven Hundred and forty Pounds, six Shillings and Two pence Half-penny; and that by Virtue of two Acts of Parliament of the fifth Year of his late Majesty, further Additions have been made to the Capital Stock of the *South Sea Company*, for making good several Deficiencies of the Original and Additional Funds of the said Company, settled and established before the twenty-fifth Day of *December*, 1716, amounting together to the Sum of two Hundred ninety Thousand and twenty-eight Pounds, Nineteen Shillings and Eleven pence Half-penny

The Courtiers having carried their Point so far, it was moved, and *Resolved*, *Nemine Contradicente*, That an humble Representation be made to his Majesty upon the said Resolutions, and upon the Debate of the House, laying before his Majesty a particular Account of the National Debts discharged and incurred since the twenty-fifth Day of *December*, 1716, distinguished under their proper Heads and Services; with a State of the Sinking Fund, and of the Publick Credit. And a Committee was appointed to draw up the said Representation, to whom several Papers, relating to that Affair, were afterwards referred.

Let's now attend other less material Proceeding of the Commons during this Month. On *Monday* the 4th of *March*, a Petition of the poor, distressed, and insolvent Debtors in the Gaol for the County of *Hertford*, was presented to the House and read, praying such Relief as the House should think proper: And several Petitions, of the like Nature, were in this Month, presented to the House, and ordered to lie on the Table. The same Day (*March* 4th) a Petition of the Vicar, Church-Wardens, Vestry, and other Inhabitants and Land-holders of the Parish of *St. Martin in the Fields*, was presented to the House and read, setting forth, That as they apprehend the Separation of the Parish of *St. George Hanover-Square*, from the said Parish of *St. Martin in the Fields*, extends only to their Parish Rates and Duties, and not to the Land-Tax, or any Parliamentary Tax; that the Parish of *St. Martin* will be highly prejudiced, in Case the said Parish of *St. George Hanover-Square* should have any particular Sum raised within the same, distinct from *St. Martin's* Parish, where the Rents daily lessen, by Reason of the daily Increase of Buildings in *St. George's* Parish; and praying the Consideration of the House,

House, and that they may be heard before any Alteration be made in the Bill for the Land-Tax for 1728; which Petition was refer'd to the Committee appointed to consider of the Petition of the Inhabitants of St. George Hanver-Square.

On the 6th of March, the Commons in a Committee of the whole House, considered further of the *Bill for Encouraging Seamen*, and read several Papers relating to that Affair.

The next Day, *March 7th*, the Commons, in a grand Committee, went through the *Bill for the Relief of the Lord William Powlett, &c.* and made several Amendments thereunto; after which the same Committee went also through the *Bill for punishing Mutiny and Desertion, &c.*

On *Saturday* the 9th, the Commons agreed to the *Resolutions* of the Committee to whom the Petition of Brickmakers, Tylers, and Bricklayers, had been referred, viz.

1st. That That the Master and Wardens of the Company of Tylers and Bricklayers appointed to put in Execution an Act passed in the Twelfth Year of His late Majesty's Reign, (intituled, *An Act to prevent Abuses in the making of Bricks and Tyles, and to ascertain the Dimensions thereof, and to prevent all unlawful Combinations amongst any Brickmakers, or Tylemakers within fifteen Miles of the City of London, in Order to advance or inhance the Price of Bricks or Tyles*) have not executed the same duly, so as they ought to have done.

2dly, That the Power of imposing Fines be in the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the Company of Tylers, and Bricklayers or the Major Part of them assembled.

3dly, That for the more effectual Preventing Frauds and Abuses in the making of Bricks and Tyles, within fifteen Miles Distance from the Cities of London and Westminster, Power be given to the Justices of the Peace, at their respective General or Quarter-Sessions, to appoint Searchers, who shall have equal Authority with those appointed by the said Company of Tylers and Bricklayers.

4thly, That all bad Briks shall be broken and destroyed, at at the Charge of such Brickmakers who shall be convicted of making the same.

And a Bill was ordered to be brought in upon the said Resolutions, after which the House proceeded to hear the Merits of the Election for the Borough of Richmond

Richmond, in the County of *York*, and after some Time spent therein, put off that Affair to the *Thursday* next following.

On *Monday* the 11th of *March*, the Commons in a grand Committee, made some Progress in the *Land-Tax Bill*; as they did also in the Bill for Encouraging Seamen.

On *Tuesday* the 12th *Mr. Bladen* reported from the Committee, to whom the Petition of the Vestry and Inhabitants of the Parish of *St. George Hanover-Square*, within the Liberty of *Westminster*, in Behalf of themselves and others, Proprietors of several Lands and Houses in the said Parish; and also the Petition of the Vicar, Church-Wardens, Vestry, and other Inhabitants and Landholders of the Parish of *St. Martin in the Fields* were referred. That the Committee had examined the Matter of the said Petitions, and directed him to report the same; which he did accordingly. And the Consideration of the said Report was put off 'till the next Day. Then *Mr. Earle* reported the Resolution of the Committee of Privileges and Elections, touching the Election for the County of *Bucks*, which was agreed to, viz. That *Richard Hampden, Esq;* was duly elected for the said County.

The next Day, *March* the 13th, The Commons agreed to the Amendments made by the grand Committee to the *Bill for punishing Mutiny and Desertion*, and ordered the said Bill to be Ingrossed.

After this, a Petition of *Hyacinthus Richard Nugent*, commonly called *Lord Riverston* of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, was presented to the House and read, setting forth, That by Reason of an Outlawry against him for Treason, supposed to be committed by him against their late Majesties *King William* and *Queen Mary*, when the Petitioner was but six Years old, he is disabled to sue for, or hold the Estate of his late Father *Thomas Nugent*, deceased, commonly called *Lord Riverston* (to whom he is eldest Son and Heir) which Estate in *Ireland*, his younger Brother *William Nugent* enjoys, without any Title but an usurped Possession, taking Advantage of the said Outlawry to deprive the Petitioner of his Right, who can be relieved only by Act of Parliament, which he hopes will be thought reasonable, to enable him to sue and be sued without reversing the Outlawry, and without Prejudice to any Protestant Purchaser of any forfeited Estate in *Ireland*, the Matter in

Question

Question being only between him and his said Brother, and not interfering with any Protestant Families possessed of any forfeited Estates in the said Kingdom, (the Petitioner's Father being within the Articles of *Limerick*, and no Part of his Estate forfeited, or granted by the Crown to any Protestant) and therefore praying such Relief as the House shall think fit.

Mr. Chancellor of the *Exchequer* acquainted the House, That the Petitioner's Case having been humbly represented to his Majesty, his Majesty had commanded him to acquaint this House, That his Majesty gives his Consent that this House may do therein as they think fit.

Ordered, That Leave be given to bring in a Bill for Relief of the Petitioner, and that Mr. *Pelham*, the Lord *Gage*, and Mr. *Whitworth*, do prepare and bring in the same.

After this, Mr. *Treasurer*, by his Majesty's Command, laid before the House, a Copy of the *Act for the Execution of the Preliminaries*, signed at the *Pardo*, March the 6th, 1728. M. S. and Translation thereof, which Papers were ordered to lie on the Table. Then Mr. *Speaker* was ordered to issue out his Warrant for a new Writ for electing a Burgess for the Borough of *Wendover*, in the County of *Bucks*, in the Room of *Richard Hampden*, Esq; who being chosen for the said Borough, and also for the said County had made his Election for the latter.

After this, the Commons took into Consideration the Report touching the Petitions of the Parishes of *St George Hanover-Square*, and of *St. Martin in the Fields*, and thereupon ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee of the whole House, to whom the Bill for granting an Aid to his Majesty by a *Land-Tax*, was committed, should receive a Clause or Clauses to oblige the Commissioners for the City of *Westminster*, and Liberties thereof, and Offices executed in *Westminster-Hall*, to ascertain the Proportion of the *Land-Tax* to be charged upon the Parish of *St. George Hanover-Square*, distinct from the Parish of *St Martin in the Fields*.

On the 14th a Complaint being made to the House of a printed Pamphlet, intitled, *The Gloucester Journal: With the most material Occurrences Foreign and Domestic, Tuesday March 12th, 1728.* (*Gloucester: Printed by R. Raikes*, where Advertisements are taken in: Also by *J. Wilson* Bookseller, in *Haystreet, Bristol.*) In which Pamphlet the Resolutions and Proceedings of this House are printed, in Contempt of the Order, and in Breach

of the Privilege of this House: The said Pamphlet was delivered in at the Table, and several Paragraphs having been read, it was ordered that the said *R. Raikes* should attend this House that Day Fortnight. After this an ingrossed *Bill for the Relief of the Lord William Powlett*, was read the third Time, passed, and sent up to the Lords; and then the House having proceeded to the further hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of *Richmond* in the County of *York*, Resolved that *Charles Bathurst*, and Sir *Marmaduke Wywill*, Bait. were not duly elected, and that *John Yorke*, Esq; and the Honourable Sir *Conyers D'Arcy*, Knight of the most Honourable Order of the *Bath*, were duly elected for the said Borough of *Richmond*. After this, in a grand Committee, some further Progress was made in the *Bill for encouraging Seamen*.

The next Day, the Commons ordered the Commissioners of the Customs to lay before them, *An Account of the Exports of Gold and Silver, either in Foreign Coin or Bullion, from Christmas 1722, to Christmas 1727*; After which, in a grand Committee, some further Progress was made in the *Land-Tax Bill*.

On Monday the 18th of March, after the Reading of several Petitions for repairing Roads, which were referred to a Committee, the *Bill for punishing Mutiny and Desertion*, &c. was read the third Time, pass'd, and sent up to the Lords.

The next Day, the Commons proceeded to the Hearing the Merits of the Election and Return for the Borough of *Carmarthen*, and after the hearing Counsel and examined Witnesses, put off that Affair to the Thursday following.

On Wednesday the 10th, the Commons, in a grand Committee, considered further of Ways and Means for raising the Supply, and resolved,

I. That the Sum of fifteen Thousand seven Hundred fifty-seven Pounds, fifteen Shillings, remaining in the Receipt of his Majesty's Exchequer on Arrears of former Land Taxes, be apply'd towards raising the Supply granted to his Majesty for the Service of the Year One Thousand seven Hundred and twenty-eight.

II. That a Sum not exceeding thirty three Thousand six Hundred and eleven Pounds, five Shillings and fourpence Half-penny, be granted to his Majesty for making good the Deficiency of the General Fund of seven Hundred twenty-four Thousand, eight Hundred forty-nine Pounds,

Pounds, six Shillings and ten-pence, and one fifth Part of a Penny *per Annum*, for the Year ended at *Michaelmas*, One Thousand seven Hundred and twenty-seven.

After this, in a grand Committee, some further Progress was made in the *Land-Tax Bill*.

The next Day, *March* the 21st, Sir Charles Turner having reported the two Resolutions abovementioned on Ways and Means, the first being read a second Time, was, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed unto by the House; but the second was postponed; and it was ordered, that it be an Instruction to the Committee of the whole House, to add a Clause to the *Land-Tax Bill* pursuant to the said first Resolution. Then the House proceeded to the further Hearing the Merits of the Election and Return for the Borough of *Carmarthen*, and put it off again 'till the *Saturday* following.

On the 22^d, the Commons ordered, the State of the yearly Revenue and Expences of *Greenwich Hospital* to be laid before the House; as also an Account of the Number of Pensioners at present lodged and maintained in *Greenwich Hospital*, what Conveniencies there are for lodging a greater Number, and for how many; together with an Estimate of what may be the Expence of maintaining any such additional Number; And then, in a grand Committee, some further Progress was made in the *Land-Tax Bill*.

The King being this Day come to the House of Peers, with the usual State and Solemnity, and the Commons being sent for up, and attending, his Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the following Bills, viz.

1. *An Act for punishing Mutiny and Desertion, and for the better Payment of the Army and their Quarters.*
2. *An Act for making more effectual an Act passed in the fourth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George, intituled, An Act for repairing the Highways from Maidenhead Bridge to Sunning Lane End (next to Twyford) in the Road to Reading, and from the said Bridge to Henley Bridge in the County of Berks.*

An Act for repairing the Road leading from Chatteris Ferry, which divides the Isle of Ely from the County of Huntingdon, to Hammon's Eau, and from thence to Somersham Bridge, at Somersham Town's End in the said County.

And to three private Bills.

The Commons being returned to their House, resumed in a grand Committee, the Consideration of the *Land-Tax Bill*, and went through the same.

On the 23^d of *March*, the Commons upon further hearing the Merits of the Election and Return for the County-Borough of *Carmarthen*, resolved, that *Arthur Bevan*, Esq; was duly elected for the said Borough.

On *Monday* the 25th the Commissioners of the Navy were ordered to lay before the House, an Account of how much of the Navy Debt due at *Christmas* 1716 did remain unpaid on the eighth Day of *March*, 1727; and the next Day it was also ordered,

1st. That the Commissioners of the Customs do lay before this House, an Account of the Foreign Coin and Bullion entred for Exportation, from the sixteenth Day of *January*, 1717, to the Fifteenth Day of *March*, 1727, distinguishing each Year, and the Countries for which the said Entries were made.

2^{dly}, That the Wardens of the *Goldsmith's Company* do lay before this House, an Account of the Plate of the Old and New Standard, marked at *Goldsmith's Hall*, from the twentieth Day of *January*, 1717, to the fifteenth Day of *March*, 1727. The same Day in a Committee of the whole House, some further Progress was made in the Bill for encouraging Seamen.

On *Wednesday* the 27th, several Accounts that had been called for, from the *Exchequer*, *Customhouse*, and *Greenwich Hospital*, were laid before the Commons, who, upon the Report made by *Sir Charles Turner*, of the Amendments made in the grand Committee, to the *Land-Tax Bill*, agreed to some of them; as they did the next Day, to all the rest, and ordered the said Bill to be engrossed. The same Day, *March* the 28th, several other Papers relating to *Greenwich Hospital* were called for, after which the House being informed that *Robert Raikes* Printer at *Gloucester*, and *J. Wilson* Bookseller at *Bristol*, attended at the Door (according to Order) *Robert Raikes* was called in, to the Bar, where he owned the Printing of the Pamphlet complained of, and said he had the Intelligence therein mention'd (which relates to the Proceedings of this House) from *Edward Cave* of the Post-Office, *London*, and that *J. Wilson* had no Concern in the Printing thereof. And being withdrawn, it was Resolved, that *Robert Raikes*

was

was guilty of a Breach of the Privilege of this House. And then it was ordered, 1st. That the said *Robert Raikes* be, for his said Breach of Privilege, taken into the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms attending the House. 2^{dly}, That the said *J. Wilson* be discharged from his further Attendance upon the House. 3^{dly}, That *Edward Cave* of the Post-Office, London, do attend the House upon Saturday Morning next.

On the twenty-ninth of March, Dr. Sayer reported from the Committee to whom the Petition of the Church-Wardens, Overseers of the Poor, and the principal Inhabitants of the five several Hamlets of *Bow*, *Poplar*, *Spittle-fields*, *Wapping-Stepney*, and *Limehouse*, in the Parish of *St. Dunstan Stebunheath*, alias *Stepney*, in the County of *Middlesex*, was referred, That the Committee had examined the Matter of the said Petition, and had directed him to report the same, as it appeared to them to the House; and he read the Report in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Table, where the same was read; and thereupon it was ordered, That Leave be given to bring in a Bill for uniting the Moieties or Portions of the Rectory of *St. Dunstan Stepney*, alias *Stebunheath*, and for making one Rector full Incumbent of the said Rectory, and for converting the Chapel at *Poplar* into a Parish-Church, and appointing a District for a new Parish for the same; and for the Maintenance of the Ministers of five new Churches at *Stratford-Bow*, *Poplar*, *Spittle-Field*, *Wapping-Stepney*, and *Limehouse*; and for restraining the Church Wardens of the said five new Churches from disposing of the Pews, and Places in Pews, without the Consent of the Vestry; and for making the Parish-Clerks of *Spittle-Fields*, *Wapping*, *Stepney*, *Limehouse*, Members of the Corporation or Company of Parish Clerks; and that Dr. Sayer, Mr. Clayton of *Sundon*, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Drigmond, and Mr. Alderman Child do prepare and bring in the same. After this Sir Charles Turner presented to the House a Bill for granting an Aid to his Majesty by Sale of Annuities to the Bank of England, to be charged on the Duties on Coals and Culm, &c. which was read the first Time, and ordered to be read a second Time.

On Saturday the 30th, the House being informed, that *Edward Cave* of the Post-Office, London, attended at the Door (according to Order) he was called in and examin-

ed at the Bar, touching his sending to *Robert Raikes* Printer at *Gloucester*, the Intelligences (relating to the Proceedings of this House) mentioned in the Printed Pamphlet complained of the 14th Day of *March* Instant; and the said *Robert Raikes* was also called in and examined: And the said *Edward Cave* owning, that he had sent to *Robert Raikes* several written News-Letters, (which did contain Intelligences relating to the Proceedings of this House) and he delivering in other written News-Letters, which he said he received from *William Wye*, *John Stanley*, *John Willys*, *Elias Delpuch* (containing also Intelligences relating to the Proceedings of the House;) And the said *Edward Cave* and *Robert Raikes* being withdrawn, the Journal of the twenty-third of *January* 1722, was read; whereupon it was Resolved, That *Edward Cave* having presumed to disperse written News-Letters, containing Accounts of the Proceedings of the House, is guilty of a Breach of the Privilege of the House, for which he was Ordered to be taken into the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms. It was also Ordered, That *William Wye*, *John Stanley*, *John Willys*, and *Elias Delpuch*, should attend the House on *Tuesday* the 2d of *April* next. Then the House proceeded to the Hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of *Andover*, in the County of *Southampton*, and Resolved, That the Honourable *Charles Collyear*, Esq; was duly elected Burgess for the said Borough.

On *Monday* the 1st of *April*, two Accounts and two Estimates, relating to the Revenue and Debts of *Greenwich* Hospital, were laid before the Commons; who, in a grand Committee, having considered of the Petition of *Thomas Hammond*, Ordered, That a Bill be brought in to enable the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, or the Lord High Treasurer for the Time being, to compound with the said *Thomas Hammond*, late of *London*, Merchant, and his Sureties, a Debt due to the Crown, for Customs on Tobacco and Wines: And then, in a Committee of the whole House, some further Progress was made in the Bill for encouraging Seamen.

The next Day, *April* 2. Mr. *Chocke*, from the Exchequer, presented to the House, an Account of what Annual Sum was payable at the Exchequer for Annuities on two Lives, of which the Reversions have not been sold, as the same stood on the Twenty-fifth of *December*,

1716, and also an Account of what principal Sums, charged on the several general Mortgages in the 6th, 7th and 8th Years of the Reign of the late Queen Anne, were undischarged on the Twenty-fifth of December, 1716, and have since been paid off: Then a Petition of *Charles Townshend*, in Behalf of *George Townshend*, *Montague Bacon*, *John Attwood*, and *John Burton*, late Commissioners for licensing Hawkers, Pedlers, and Petty Chapmen, was presented to the House and read, praying that Leave may be given to bring in a Bill to enable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, or the Lord High Treasurer for the Time being, to compound with the said late Commissioners of Hawkers, &c. for a Debt due to the Crown, occasioned by the Default of Mr. *Thomas Tomkins* (late Cashire of the said Office) who hath withdrawn himself into Parts beyond the Seas; or that they may have such other Relief as the House shall think fit. Hereupon Mr. *Chancellor* of the *Exchequer* acquainted the House, that the Circumstances of this Case having been humbly laid before his Majesty, his Majesty had commanded him to acquaint this House that his Majesty gives his Consent, that this House may do therein as they think fit. And the standing Order of the House, of the twenty-fifth of March, 1715, and the Certificates annexed to the said Petition, and also the Journal of the seventh of March 1726, having been read, it was ordered that the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of a Committee of the whole House. After this, in a Committee of the whole House, some further Progress was made in the Bill for encouraging Seamen.

On Wednesday the 3d of April, a Petition of *Henry Lord Bishop of Cloyne* in the Kingdom of Ireland was presented to the House and read, praying such Relief as the House should think fit, in Relation to a Sum of One Thousand three Hundred and forty Pounds, paid by *Charles* late Lord Bishop of Cloyne, in Part of the Purchase Money for the Lands of *Donoghmore*, sold by the late Trustees for the forfeited Estates in Ireland, which Lands were afterwards restored to the See of Cloyne, by an Act of the third Year of the Reign of the late Queen Anne, and Provision was made in the said Act for Repayment of the said One Thousand three Hundred and forty Pounds out of the Produce of the said forfeited Estates,

Estates, but such Provision has proved ineffectual, and the said Lands thereby remain in the Possession of the Executrix of the said late Bishop of *Cloyne*, until Repayment of the said One Thousand Three Hundred and forty Pounds with Interest. And Mr. *Chancellor* of the *Exchequer* having acquainted the House, That this Case had been humbly represented to his Majesty, and that his Majesty had commanded him to acquaint this House, that his Majesty gives his Consent, that this House may do therein as they think fit; it was thereupon ordered, That a Bill be brought in according to the said Petition.

Then a Petition of the Commissioners and Trustees appointed by an Act of Parliament passed in the twelfth Year of his late Majesty's Reign, for building a Bridge cross the River of *Thames*, from the Town of *Fulham* in the County of *Middlesex*, to the Town of *Putney*, in the County of *Surrey*, was presented to the House and read, setting forth the Progress they have made towards Building the said Bridge, and that they are not enabled by the said Act to raise Money sufficient for the said Work, and praying the Consideration of the House, and such Relief, by explaining and amending the said Act, as may enable them to build a Bridge, and to repair and maintain the same; Which Petition was referred to the Consideration of a Committee. After this, *William Wye*, *John Stanley*, *John Willys*, and *Elias Delapach*, attending at the Door, were severally called in, and examined at the Bar, touching their Writing and dispersing several written News Letters, containing Intelligences relating to the Proceedings of this House: upon which it was resolved that they were guilty of a Breach of the Privilege of this House, and ordered that they be taken into the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms.

On Thursday, April the 4th, a Bill for discharging an Incumbrance on the Lands of *Donoghmore*, Part of the Bishoprick of *Cloyne* in *Ireland*, was read a first Time, and ordered to be read a second: As was also a Bill to enable the Commissioners of the Treasury, or the Lord High Treasurer, for the Time being, to compound with *Thomas Hammond*, late of *London*, Merchant, and his Sureties, for a Debt due to the Crown, &c.

Then the House proceeded to the Hearing the Merits of the Election for the Borough of *Bramber*, in the County

County of *Suffex*, and the Counsel being heard, and several Witnesses examined, it was resolved that *John Gumley*, Esq; sitting Member, was not duly elected; and that *James Hefte* Jun. Esq; was duly elected for the said Borough.

On *Friday* the 5th the House was informed, that an Article relating to the Duty upon wrought Plate was omitted to be inserted in the Account, which *Mr. Chocke*, from the *Exchequer*, presented to the House the Twenty-seventh of *March* last (pursuant to their Order of the Twelfth of *March*) Intituled, An Account of all the Publick Debts, at the Receipts of his Majesty's *Exchequer*, due or standing out at *Christmas* 1727, with the Annual Interest or Sums paid for the same; whereupon it was ordered, that the said *Mr. Chocke* have Leave to withdraw the said Account; and that he do present to this House a perfect Account of all the publick Debts, at the Receipt of his Majesty's *Exchequer*, due or standing out at *Christmas* 1727, with the Annual Interest or Sums paid for the same. This Omission, however, occasioned a Complaint and Debate, wherein severe Reflections were made on the Neglect and Carelessness, with which the Publick Accounts, laid before the House, were drawn up; and thereupon it was moved, that, in Order to prevent the same, for the Future, all Accounts to be delivered to this House from the *Exchequer*, be signed by the Auditor of the *Exchequer*, or the Clerk of the *Pells*, or by their lawful Deputies, or chief Clerks, or one of them: But the Question being put upon the said Motion, it was carried in the Negative. The same Day, *Mr. Chocke*, from the *Exchequer*, presented to the House, an Account of all Money that has in any manner been paid, or any *Exchequer* Bills which have been made out for Interest, Circulation and Charges of Management of the four Millions Five Hundred Sixty-one Thousand Twenty-five Pounds, principal *Exchequer* Bills, standing out at *Christmas* 1716, with the like Payments for the three Millions in *Exchequer* Bills, made out pursuant to the Acts of the Sixth, Eighth and Ninth Years of the Reign of his late Majesty King *George*, separate and distinct from any Payments relating to any other *Exchequer* Bills; with an Account of what Money on the same has been satisfied, and the said Principal Sums in *Exchequer* Bills have been paid off or discharged; after which the House adjourn'd to *Monday* the 8th of *April*.

Upon that Day, *Robert Raikes*, Printer at *Gloucester*, in Custody of the Serjeant at Arms, was brought to the Bar of the House, where, upon his Knees, having received a Reprimand from Mr. *Speaker*, he was ordered to be discharged, paying his Fees. Mr. *Chocke* from the *Exchequer*, presented to the House, an Account of all the publick Debts at the Receipt of his Majesty's *Exchequer*, due or standing out at *Christmas* 1727, with the Annual Interest or Sums paid for the same; after which Mr. *Chocke* was examined at the Bar, touching Accounts which he had delivered in to the House, from the *Exchequer*. Then the proper Officers were ordered to lay before the House.

First, An Account of the Money paid into the *Exchequer*, arisen upon the Duty on Coals and Culm (continued by an Act of the Fifth Year of his late Majesty's Reign, for Building new Churches, and for the Supply of that Year) from the Twenty-fifth of *March* 1719, to the Twenty-fifth of *March* 1728, and also an Account how the same has, from Time to Time, been applied, distinguishing each Year.

Secondly, An Account of what Arrears of Land-Taxes were standing out at *Michaelmas* 1727, with the Names of the respective Receivers, in whose Hands the said Arrears remained, and what Proceedings have been to compel the Payment thereof.

Thirdly, An Account of what Arrears of Window-Taxes were standing out at *Michaelmas* 1727, with the Names of the respective Receivers, in whose Hands the said Arrears remained, and what Proceeding has been to compel the Payment thereof.

After this upon the several humble Petitions of *John Stanley*, *William Wye*, *Edward Cave*, and *Elias Delpauch*, it was ordered, that they be brought to the Bar the *Wednesday* following, in order to be discharged. Mr. *Pearse* from the Commissioners of the Navy, presented to the House, several Accounts that had been called for; after which Sir *William Yonge* reported from the Committee appointed to draw up a Representation to be made to his Majesty, upon the Resolutions of the House, the Twelfth of *March* last, and upon the Debate of the House, laying before his Majesty a particular Account of the National Debts discharged and incurred since the 25th Day of *December* 1716, with a State of the *Sinking-Fund*, and of the *Publick Credit*, that they had drawn up the said Representation, which he reported

ported to the House, and delivered it in at the Table, where the same was twice read, and, (after a Debate) with some Amendments, agreed unto by the House: Whereupon it was resolved, that the said Representation be presented to His Majesty by the whole House.

On Tuesday the 9th, Mr. Treasurer acquainted the House, that his Majesty having been waited upon humbly to know when he would please to be attended by this House, his Majesty had been pleased to appoint the next Day, at Two in the Afternoon, at his Palace of St. James's. Accordingly, on the 10th of April, the Commons, in a Body, waited upon his Majesty, with the said humble Representation, which, in Substance, is as follows, viz.

Representation of the House of Commons to the King.

‘ **T**HAT the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled, having, for the Sake of Truth, and for the better Information and Satisfaction of all his Majesty's good People, taken into their Consideration the State of *The National Debt*, in regard to what Debts have been discharged and paid off since the Establishment of *The Sinking Fund*, and what New Debts have within the said Time being incurred; beg Leave, to lay the same before his Majesty.

‘ That the National Debt of this Kingdom, contracted in carrying on two long and expensive Wars, before the happy Accession of his Majesty's late Royal Father to the Crown, as it was a Matter of the last Consequence to the Nation, was become the Care and Concern of all who wish'd well to our present and future Prosperity. This produced several Considerations in Parliament, to find out and settle some Means of putting this great Debt into a Method of being gradually reduc'd and diminished; and *The Sinking Fund* was at last happily establish'd to general Satisfaction. This Fund became immediately the *Favourite Article* in all Parliamentary Considerations relating to the Publick Revenues, and was considered as a National Interest, worthy of the highest Regard and Attention, which was by all possible Means to be cherish'd and improv'd, and the Produce of it set apart, and kept distinct from all other Services and Purposes, and was appropriated by Parliament,

“ To pay off and discharge national Debts incurred before
“ the twenty-fifth Day of December 1716. That hence
“ arose that Distinction in the publick Revenyes which
“ has ever since been so far continued, and kept up,
“ That the Nation has seem’d to have two different In-
“ terests; one in the Produce of *The Sinking Fund*, for
“ the Discharge of *The National Debt*; another, in
“ the Annual Supplies granted to the Crown, for car-
“ rying on the current Service of the Year. But that
“ several Controversies having of late Years, been
“ started concerning what real Benefit had accrued to
“ the Nation from the Produce and Application of *The*
“ *Sinking Fund*, if consider’d and compar’d with new
“ Debts supposed to have been incurred within the same
“ Time; the Commons, truly sensible of the Weight
“ of this national Debt, a Burthen of it self sufficient
“ to create some Uneasiness in the Minds of the Peo-
“ ple without the Help of any Aggravations, or Mis-
“ representations, thought it a Duty incumbent upon
“ them so far to enter into the Consideration of this im-
“ portant Affair, as to examine and state *How much of*
“ *the National Debt incurred before the twenty-fifth of De-*
“ *cember, 1716, had been actually paid off or discharg’d?*
“ *And what new Debts had been really contracted in Sup-*
“ *port, of the Publick, and in carrying on the current Ser-*
“ *vice of the several Years since that Time?*

“ That it is well known with what Content and Cheer-
“ fulness his Majesty’s Subjects have all along paid and
“ contributed towards the Annual Interest of *This National*
“ *Debt*, incurred in securing to them the inestimable
“ Blessings of his Majesty’s most Auspicious Reign,
“ and the Protestant Succession in his illustrious Fami-
“ ly, and in Defence of their Religion, Liberties and
“ Properties, which They thought could not be purchas’d
“ at too dear a Rate; And from the Time they had
“ the Comfort of having *a Sinking Fund*, settled and
“ Establish’d, that gave them the Prospect and Hopes
“ of seeing this great Debt gradually reduc’d and dis-
“ charged; it was a Satisfaction that render’d the Bur-
“ then easy and light, and the People seem’d even to
“ forget the great Expence they had been at: Happy
“ in the free and full Enjoyment of all that was dear
“ and valuable to them, the Fruit and Return of so
“ much Treasure necessarily and usefully employ’d.
“ That notwithstanding this flourishing State of the
“ publick Credit, and the good Effects of this happy
“ Situation

Situation, there were not wanting those who attempted to disturb the Quiet and Satisfaction, that almost universally prevail'd in the Minds of the People, by publishing and promoting with the greatest Industry most notorious Misrepresentations of the true State of our Debts, and of the Provisions made for the Discharge of them, and by infusing groundless Jealousies and Insinuations, as if the Produce of *The Sinking Fund* had been but little and inconsiderable, or that by wrong and imprudent Measures, *bad Oeconomy, Neglect or Mismanagement, unnecessary Expences* had been made, and new Debts contracted, that not only equalled, but exceeded, by several Millions, the Amount of the old Debts that had been discharged.

That these Artful Insinuations and Misrepresentations serv'd to a double Purpose, to make their Fellow Subjects restless and uneasy under their present Difficulties, by persuading them they were endless and inextricable; and at the same Time so apprehensive of new Engagements, that they might be prepared, rather to suffer all sorts of Insults and Injuries, than by endeavouring to do themselves Justice, to enter into new Expences, every where represented as destructive and intolerable. That this prevailing Mischief call'd for an immediate Remedy, and made it necessary to enter into a strict Disquisition of the Truth and Certainty of these Affairs, that his Majesty might be truly informed, and his faithful and well affected Subject have the Satisfaction to see, how grossly the World had been imposed upon, by these groundless Misrepresentations; and that his Enemies might be convinced, that the Wealth and Power of *Great Britain* are not so exhausted, as to render this Nation, under his Majesty's happy Government, less considerable and formidable than in the Time of any of his Royal Predecessors.

That the Commons observ'd that what gave any Foundation for the Belief of these notorious Falshoods, was the Liberty which some misinform'd or ill-designing Persons had taken, from the several Alterations which had been made of late Years in the Shape or Denomination of our *Publick Debts*, to make and publish imaginary States of the Whole of those Debts, by putting fictitious Values upon them at their own Will and Pleasure, and from thence making Balances

‘ lances that might serve their Purpos^e, but were not
 ‘ really true. But the Difficulties of making up this
 ‘ Account in that Manner with any Certaint^y, made
 ‘ them carefully avoid going into a Method which
 ‘ might be afterwards liable to Cavil and Disputes, ac-
 ‘ cording to the Humour, Caprice of private Opinion
 ‘ of every Man. That they might therefore avoid, as
 ‘ much as possible, any Doubt or P^eplexity, they pro-
 ‘ ceeded to state the Truth of this Fact, in a Method
 ‘ that was plain, obvious, and intelligible to the mean-
 ‘ est Capacity, and took *An Account of the several Na-
 ‘ tional Debts incurred before the 25th Day of December,
 ‘ 1716, which since that Time had been actually paid off, or
 ‘ discharged; and also An Account of the several National
 ‘ Debts that since that Time had been contracted and were
 ‘ still subsisting; upon comparing of which together it
 ‘ would appear, whether the National Debt is, since
 ‘ the Establishment of the Sinking Fund, increas’d or
 ‘ decreas’d, and to what Amount?*

Having gone through this Enquiry, they laid before
 his Majesty two Accounts, the first of which is as fol-
 loweth.

*An A C C O U N T of such National Debts incurred be-
 fore the 25th of December, 1716, as have been since
 discharged, viz.*

The Capital Sum of
 Lottery Annuities
 established by the
 Act 3 Geo. 1. which
 creates the General
 Fund, and the Sink-
 ing Fund was —

Of which there
 was subscribed in-

to S^t. Stock —

The Remainder paid
 off is —

Annuities at 5l. per C.
 redeemable by Parl.
 and transferrable at
 the Bank of England,
 granted by an Act 1
 Geo. 1. for —

l. s. d.
 9534357 13 11½

8329571 10 0

910000 00 00

Debts Discharg’d

l. s. d.
 1204786 3 4½

				Debts Discharg'd		
				l.	s.	d.
Of which there was subscribed into S.						
S. Stock	706175	15	05			
The Remainder paid off is				203824	00	00
Other Annuities of the same kind were granted the same Year for				69000	00	00
Of which there was subscribed into S.						
S. Stock	137526	06	08			
The Remainder paid off is				31473	13	4
Annuities at 4 per Cent redeemable by Parl. and transferrable at the Bank of England, created for Tallies of Sol. Act 3 Geo. 1. for				947514	7	8
Of which there was subscribed into S.						
S. Stock	748555	19	5			
The Remainder paid off is				198958	8	3
The like Annuity granted by sundry Acts for Army Debentures certified before the 21 st of Mar. 1719, for				1603987	8	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Of which there was subscribed into S.						
S. Stock	1210792	12	8			
The Remainder paid off is				393194	14	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
The Principal Sum remaining due at Christmas 1716, on Lottery 1713, was				599210	00	00
Of which there was subscribed into S.						
S. Stock	464990	00	00			
The Remainder paid off is				134220	00	00

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
The like on Lottery				
Anno 1714 ———	1812	1000	00	00
Of which there was subscribed into S.				
S. Stock ———	1403	970	00	00
The Remainder paid off is ———				<i>Debts Discharg'd</i> <i>s. d.</i> 408130 00 00
The Exchequer Orders for Army Debentures certified since the 21 st of March, 1719, are all paid off, being ———				548939 12 2 ¹ / ₂
The Deficiency of the Duty on Hops, Anno 1711, which was directed by Act of Parliament to be paid off, was ———				12480 09 01
The like of the E. India Company's Fund stated to Christmas, 1716, and paid out of Sinking Fund, was ———				79339 17 09
The Three per Cent. Annuities in the Million Lottery, which were returned as Cash into the Excheq. and which were by an Act, 13 Geo. 1. applied to discharge New Debentures, were ———				103272 10 00
The Principal Sum standing out in Ex- chequer Bills on Dec. 25, 1716, was ———	456	1025	00	00
Interest and Premi- um due thereon	35	59	15	7 ¹ / ₂
Total Debt in Ex- chequer Bills ———	4596	184	15	7 ¹ / ₂

Of which two Millions were converted into a *Bank Annuity* at 5 l. per C. by the Act of *Geor. 1. 6. De. 1717* deduct that — 200000

And towards

discharging the rest of these Bills, 500000 l. was raised by a *Lottery An. 1719*, and charged on the *Aggregate Ed.* of which 441700 l. was afterward Subscribed into and still remains Part of *S. S. Stock* and the remaining 58300 l. has been since paid off, so deduct only — 441700

Total of these Deductions — — — — — 2441700 00 00

The Remainder is Net Debt on this Head that is paid off — — — — —

l. s. d.
2154484 17 5¹/₂

The Duty on Coals for Building of Churches, &c. granted before 1716, for several Terms of Years, to expire at *Michaelmas, 1725*, and the whole Produce of that Duty was appropriated for those Services which may be Estimated as a Debt, at 1716, of — 540000 00 00

Anno 1719, 360000 l.
was granted for these
Services, to be raised
on a Fund of 210000 l.
per An. for 32 Years,
in lieu of the Provi-
sion by the former
Terms, and of that
360000 l. there re-
mains Undischarg'd
but ———

l. s. d.
193140 00 00

Debts Discharg'd

The Remainder may
be Estimated so much
Debt discharged ———

l. s. d.
346860 00 50

The Debt of the Navy
as it stood on the 31st
Decemb. 1716 dedu-
cting the Effect in
Treasur. Hands, was

1043336 15 9½

Deduct thereout the
Sum then unissued
on this Head of the
Supplies, Anno 1716,
afterwards provided
for by 4 l. per Cent.
Annuities, Part of
the Tallies of Sol sub-
scribed into and still
remaining in South-
Sea Stock ———

334239 16 1½

The Remainder is the
Net Debt of the Na-
vy at 1716. ———

709096 19 8½

29925 l. 4 s. 1 d. per An. *
of the short Annui. re-
maining unsubscri-
bed into S. S. Stock,
which being valued
at 14 Years Purch.
the Rate at which
they were subscrib'd
into South-Sea Stock,
Anno 1720, make a
Debt at 1716 of —

418952 17 02

Deduct

Deduct the present

Value of these An-

nuities, in which

there were but 14

Years 3 Quarters to

come at Christmas,

1727, at 10 Years

Purchase ————

The Remainder is for

• much Debt dis-

charged ————

l. s. d.

299252 00 10

l. s. d.

119700 16 04

Total Debts discharged 6648762 05 11

‘ The Commons observe first, That in the stating of this Account, the Articles stated therein by Way of Estimate are the Interest and Premium said to be due on the Exchequer Bills, the Debt for the Building of Churches, and the Value of the Difference in the Terms for the short Annuities; which Articles are so small, in respect of the Whole, that any Alteration in those Estimated Values would make no material Difference in the real Increase or Decrease of the Whole Debt.

‘ Secondly, That all the Articles in this Account are stated as the Debts stood on the Twenty-fifth of December, 1716, except the first Articles of the Lottery Annuities, which is stated at the Sum that was made Principal at Michaelmas, 1717, by the Act that established the General Fund, and the Sinking Fund, from which Time only the Sinking Fund commenced for which Reason no Credit is taken in this Account for any principal Money paid off in Part of the four Lotteries, comprehended in that Sum, between Christmas, 1716, and Michaelmas 1717. Nor is any thing charged therein for the Deficiencies of Funds standing out at Christmas, 1716, and unprovided for, although the Deficiencies of three of those Lottery Funds only amounted, at Lady Day, 1717, to above Two hundred and seventy Thousand Pounds; so that notwithstanding upon the Subscription of those Lotteries into Redeemable Annuities one Quarter's Interest due thereon between Midsummer and Michaelmas, 1717 was made Principal, amounting to 140884l. 6s. 3d. 1q. or thereabouts, yet the same was much short of the Deficien-

'cies then incurr'd on those Funds, and therefore properly charg'd amongst the Debts incurr'd before the twenty-fifth of December, 1716.

'And they further observe upon the Article of the short Annuities remaining unsubscribed, which are stated at 29925 *l.* 4 *s.* 1 *d.* per Annum, that it appears the real Sum did amount to but 24325 *l.* 17 *s.* per Annum; which Mistake did arise by a Mis-recital in the Act of the Sixth Year of his Majesty's late Royal Father, which Difference, being valued at the same Rate that the whole Annuities are herein valued at, makes a Difference of 22357 *l.* 8 *s.* 4 *d.* to be deducted out of the Total Sum of the Debts discharged. The next Account is as follows:

An Account of National Debts Incur'd since the 25th of December 1716, and now subsisting.

By South-Sea Stock for so much of the Money agreed to be advanc'd by the S. Sea Company, on the Subscription of the Lottery, 1710, as was recouped or deducted by them, pursuant to the Act of George 1. for making good the Deficiency of their original and additional Funds, viz.

For the Deficiency of their original Fund for two Quarters ending at Midsum. 1719.
For ditto, for 1 Quarter at Christmas, 1719.
For the Deficiency of their additional Fund for two Quarters ending at Midsum. 1719

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
141547	19		
14846	18	08	
25831	04	10	
181226	02	71	

By

By so much of the 5 l.
per Cent. Annuities,
(created by Virtue
of a Clause in the
Land - Tax Act, 5
Geo. 1. for replacing
to the Treasurer of
the Navy the Sum
he had issued to the
South-Sea Comp. for
making good the De-
ficiency of their ori-
ginal Fund at Mid-
summer, 1718) as was
subscribed into S. S.
Stock, the Remain-
der being paid off —

l.	s.	d.
107802	17	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Total Debts contract-
ed for making good
the Deficiencies of
the S. S. Company's
Funds —

l.	s.	d.
290029	00	00

By South-Sea Stock for
so much of the Mo-
ney agreed to be ad-
vanced by the South-
Sea Company, on the
Subscription of Lot-
tery, 1710, pursuant
to the Act 5 Geo. 1.
as was paid by them
into the Exchequer,
and apply'd to the
Sinking Fund —

328673	4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
--------	---	------------------

By Annuities at 4 l.
per Cent. redeemable
by Parliam. charg-
ed on the Duty on
wrought Plate by
the Act 6 Geo. 1. —

312000	00	00
--------	----	----

By the Benefit Tick-
ets in Lottery, 1719,
charged on the Du-
ty on Coals 5 Geo. 1.
for — — —

500000	00	00
--------	----	----

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Of which there has been paid off — —	65395	00	00
The Remainder was subscribed into <i>South Sea Stock</i> — — — —			434605 00 00
By <i>Exchequer Bills</i> standing out and charged on the <i>Duty on Victuallers</i> by the <i>Act 12 Geo. 1.</i> — — — —			486600 00 00
By the like <i>Exchequer Bills</i> charged on <i>Surplus of Coals</i> 13 <i>Geo. 1.</i> — — — —			338800 00 00
By the Debt of the Navy as it stood on the 31 st of <i>December, 1717</i> , deducting the Effects then stated to be in the Hands of the <i>Treasurers</i> — — — —	1937023	4	9½
Deduct the Sum then unissued to the <i>Treasurer of the Navy</i> , of the <i>Supplies An. 1727</i> , which has been since issued to him — — — —	199742	02	06
The Remainder is the <i>Net Debt</i> on this <i>Head</i> — — — —			1737181 02 3¼
Total of these Debts — — — —			3927988 7 1¼

' From these two Accounts, they presume most humbly
 ' to represent to his Majesty, that the several National
 ' Debts incurred before the Twenty-fifth of December 1716,
 ' which have been since discharged, after deducting the be-
 ' foremention'd Sum of 22,357 *l.* 8 *s.* 4 *d.* do amount
 ' in the whole to the Sum of Six Millions six Hundred
 ' and twenty-six Thousand four Hundred and four Pounds,
 ' sixteen Shillings, and nine Pence Half-penny: And that
 ' the several National Debts incurred since the said Twenty-
 ' fifth Day of December 1716, and Now subsisting, a-
 ' mount together to the Sum of Three Millions nine Hun-
 ' dred twenty-seven Thousand nine Hundred eighty-eight
 ' Pounds

Pounds, seven Shillings, and one Penny three Farthings; which being deducted out of the Amount of the Debts discharg'd, the Difference is so much real Decrease of the National Debt since the Twenty-fifth Day of December 1716, being Two Millions six Hundred ninety-eight Thousand four Hundred and sixteen Pounds, nine Shillings, and seven Pence three Farthings. And that the State of the new-contracted Debts may appear in a true Light, they think it necessary, for the better Information of his Majesty, to distinguish them under the proper Heads of Services, for which they were contracted, and, by way of Explanation, to observe, that a considerable Part of the new-contracted Debt, amounting to the Sum of 703,740 l. 6 s. 2 d. 2 q. was occasion'd by the annual Provisions made by Parliament for making good the yearly Deficiencies of the General Fund, to and for the Year ending at Michaelmas 1726, pursuant to the Directions of the Act establishing the General Fund, the Surplus whereof composes Part of the Sinking Fund, and by these Means the Sinking Fund has received annually some Proportion out of the Supplies of the Year. And that the further Sum of 290,029 l. has been raised by new-contracted Debts, and is included therein, for making good at several Times the Deficiencies of the Original and Additional Funds of the South-Sea Company; which two Sums amounting together to the Sum of 993,769 l. 6 s. 2 d. 2 q. having been applied towards making good Deficiencies of the General Fund, and other Funds established before the twenty-fifth Day of December 1716, ought to be distinguished from the National Debt incurred since that Time. As likewise the Sum of 328,673 l. 4 s. 10 d. 2 q. another Part of the said New-contracted Debts, which was occasioned by Stock created for so much of the Money to be advanced by the South-Sea Company, upon the Enlargement of their Capital Stock, by the Subscription of the Tickets in the Lottery Anno 1710, pursuant to an Act of the fifth George I. as was paid into the Exchequer; and as the same was applied to the Uses of the Sinking Fund, and no Part of it to any other publick Services, this Sum, ought also to be distinguished from the rest of the Debts contracted since the Establishment of the Sinking Fund: Which three Sums making together the Sum of 1,322,442 l. 11 s. 1 d. and being deducted out of the said Sum of 3,927,988 l. 7 s. 1 d. 3 q. the remaining Sum of 2,605,545 l. 16 s.

16s. 3q. is the whole National Debt that has been contracted, for answering or defraying the annual Charges and Expences of the Publick, for the current Service of the several Years since the 25th Day of December 1716, including therein the whole Debt of the Navy, as it stood on the 31st Day of December 1727.

That further, to obviate any Objections that may be made to the stating of the Account of the National Debts, contracted and incurred since the 25th of December 1716, and still subsisting, it is proper to observe, That no Notice is taken therein of the Debts by Loans or Exchequer Bills, on the annual Land-Tax or Malt Duties; because, as those Loans or Bills are weekly discharged out of the Produce of those Taxes, and as often as any Deficiencies happen thereon, they, as well as the Deficiencies of Grants, are not suffered to remain as Debts, but are constantly from Year to Year discharged, by being made Part of the Supplies granted for the current Service of the subsequent Years; and accordingly Provision has been already made for such of them as can be any ways ascertained out of the Supplies for the Service of the Year 1728; therefore they were not proper to be brought into this Account.

Having thus humbly represented to his Majesty the true State of the Decrease of the National Debts since the 25th of December 1716, and the Establishment of the Sinking Fund, with the Occasions and Services for which the several new Debts have been incurred; they beg Leave, to lay before his Majesty the Circumstances this Nation was in, with regard to the National Debt, before the Establishment of the Sinking Fund, and what happy Consequences have arisen from the Establishment thereof.

That at the Accession of his Majesty's late Royal Father to the Throne of these Realms, a great Part of the publick Debts consisted of absolute Annuities granted for very long Terms of Years, which were only to be discharged by the wearing out of those Terms; other great Parts thereof were the Capital Stocks of the Bank, the South-Sea, and India Companies, at very high Interest; other Debts were charged upon particular Funds appropriated to pay off and discharge the principal Monies with Interest at very high Rates, in Course, to Multitudes of People both at Home and Abroad; other great Parts thereof were

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in Exchequer Bills, circulated and exchanged at very high Rates, for Interest, Premium, and Charges; and the Debts of the Army, which were very considerable, were not then liquidated, nor had any Provision at all then been made for the Discharge of them. Besides this, the Funds themselves appropriated for these Debts were most of them deficient; so far would they have been from being lessened to any Degree, that new Burthens must have been laid on the Nation, for securing the Debts unprovided for. That soon after his late Majesty's Accession, an Unnatural Rebellion broke out, during which, not only all Thoughts for any Method for the more speedy Payment of our Debts were of Necessity suspended, but new and heavy Debts were contracted; and in the Year 1715, Annuities at Five Pounds *per Cent.* redeemable by Parliament, were sold for 1,220,000 *l.* besides a considerable Addition to the Capital Stock of the South-Sea Company. But no sooner was that Rebellion defeated, and the Fears of the People removed, but the Parliament immediately began to set about the great Work of putting the *National Debt* in a Method of being sooner discharged, with Honour and Justice: And in the Year 1717 the Foundation was laid, by establishing the *Sinking Fund*, the Consequences and Advantages whereof will best appear by considering what it is, and by what Means it was perfected.

That the only Methods that could be thought of for paying off the National Debts, must be, either by improving and augmenting the Produce of the Funds already settled for the Payment of the Principal and Interest; or by granting new Taxes and Impositions upon the People; or by a Reduction of the Interest made payable on the several Debts: And as the first Method would have been found not sufficient to answer this desirable End, and the Second would have been very grievous and burthenome to the People; the principal Method that was then thought expedient, and most free from Objections, was to reduce the high Interest and other Charges payable on all the publick Debts; but as great Part of those Debts were not subject to any Power of Redemption, and as none of them were Redeemable, but on Payment of the Principal Money, it manifestly appeared, that such a Reduction could never be made, without the *voluntary Consent* of the Proprietors of such as were Irredeemable, or a Le-

gal Tender to the others of their Principal Money, both which seemed, at that Time, almost impracticable: But by an extraordinary Zeal and Application to the publick Service, this Difficulty was surmounted with respect to the whole of the Debts that were then Redeemable, by procuring not only the voluntary Consent of the South-Sea Company to the Reduction of the Interest on their whole Capital Stock, then consisting of Ten Millions, from 6 *l.* to 5 *l.* per Cent. and of the Bank to a like Reduction on an Annuity then payable to them, in respect of a Sum of upwards of 1,775,000 *l.* and to a great Abatement in their Allowances for Circulating Exchequer Bills, then amounting to more than 4,500,000 *l.* at an annual Charge of above 7 *l.* per Cent. But also by engaging those Corporations to furnish sufficient Sums for paying the Principal Money to such of the Proprietors of other Redeemable Debts, amounting to more than Nine Millions, as would not voluntarily chuse to accept an Interest at 5 *l.* per Cent. for the future.

That this Provision being made, the Act passed for establishing the General Fund, whereby the Proprietors of certain Debts therein mentioned, all carrying an Interest at 6 *l.* per Cent. had their free Election, either to accept an Interest at 5 *l.* per Cent. per Annum, or to receive their Principal Money; and so general was the Satisfaction of all the Proprietors, that few and very inconsiderable Sums were demanded to be paid off; but the Principal Sums that were voluntarily reduced to 5 *l.* per Cent. amounted to 9,392,311 *l.* 4 *s.* 2 *d.* 2 *q.* or thereabouts; and by this Method more than 25,800,000 *l.* was at once voluntarily reduced from 6 *l.* per Cent. or upwards, to 5 *l.* per Cent. which was an annual Saving of above 320,000 *l.*

That by the same Act, not only the Surplus of this General Fund, but the Surplusses of several other Funds were appropriated to the Discharge of National Debts contracted before the 25th of December 1716; And this was the Beginning and Establishment of the Sinking Fund. That from this happy Event arose such general Satisfaction in all Degrees of People, that tho' the Interest of the publick Debts was reduced, and the Proprietors received a less Income from them than before; yet their Security for their Capital being so much mended, the Rate or Price for the Purchase of these Debts soon advanced to a much higher Value than

than they were at before the Reduction; and it was easy to foresee that, in Process of Time, a further Reduction might have been made, by the same Just and Honourable Methods, without any extraordinary Advantages to be granted for the effecting it.

That had this Method (begun and executed so successfully, and with such Satisfaction) been further pursued and without Interruption, the dangerous and mischievous Part of the late *South-Sea Scheme* might have been avoided, and yet the further Reduction of Interest might have been obtained, and taken Place much sooner than it has done by the Execution of that Scheme. But that now, at length, not only the Reduction from 5 *l.* to 4 *l.* per Cent. settled by the *South-Sea Act* has taken Place, but a voluntary Reduction hath also been made by the *Bank of England*, from 5 *l.* to 4 *l.* per Cent. Interest or Annuities for two Principal Sums belonging to them, amounting together to upwards of 3,775,000 *l.* And by these several Reductions, a further Addition is made to the *Sinking Fund* of more than 377,000 *l.* per Annum from *Midsummer* last; that by all these Means, and by the Savings of Interest of the Debts that have been already discharged, and by several wise Provisions for the Improvement of the Funds themselves, this *Sinking Fund* is risen to and may be reasonably Estimated to 1,200,000 *l.* per Annum or thereabouts; and will be every Year increasing from the further Savings of the Interest of the remaining Debts, from Time to Time, as they shall be paid off. But if any Thing were further necessary to demonstrate the immediate and certain Advantages that have accrued to the Publick, from the Methods used and established to discharge the National Debts, it is sufficient only to reflect, that the Interest of the greatest Part of the Debt, being now actually reduced from 6 *l.* to 4 *l.* per Cent. makes a Saving of one Third of the Interest of such Debt, which being in the Hands and Possession of the Government, and applicable, from Time to Time, to the discharge of the Principal, makes a Gain and Profit to the Publick equal to the discharge of one Third of such Principal. And if the Amount of the Produce of the *Sinking Fund* did appear originally to be about 400,000 *l.* per Annum only, the Produce of the said Fund being now raised to about 1,200,000 *l.* per Annum, the Additional of 800,000 *l.* per Annum to the

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Sinking Fund, which is just so much gained by the Publick, if valued at 25 Years Purchase, at which Rate all Annuities are now currently sold, makes a real Profit to the Publick amounting to Twenty Millions. That this is the happy State of the *Sinking Fund* taken separately and by itself: But if we cast our Eyes upon the State of our *Publick Credit in General*, it must be an additional Satisfaction to us, that by preserving the Publick Faith inviolable, by the discharge of the old Exchequer Bills, and the Reduction of the high Interest on all our standing Debts, the whole Credit that is taken on the annual Fund for carrying on the current Service of the Year is, and may be supplied, for the future, at 3 *l. per Cent.* or less, for Interest, Premium and Charges, by Exchequer Bills created just as the Occasions of the Publick require, without any Loans, or being obliged to any Persons for Money to be advanced or lent on the Credit of them; and so far is the Publick from being under the former Necessities of allowing extravagant Interest, Premiums, or Discounts for any Money they want; that the only Contest now among the Creditors of the Publick is, that every one of them desires to be the last in Course of Payment.

Permit us then, (*say they in the Conclusion*) most Gracious Sovereign, to congratulate your Majesty on the comfortable Prospect we now have before us; if notwithstanding the many Difficulties this Nation has laboured under since the happy Accession of your Majesty's late Royal Father to the Throne, notwithstanding the unnatural Rebellion which soon after broke out, and the many heinous Plots and Conspiracies which have since been formed and carried on, for overturning the Religion and Liberties of our Country, and the Protestant Succession in your most Illustrious Family; the many Disturbances which have arisen, and the uncertain and embroiled Condition of the Affairs of Europe, not a little fomented and encouraged by the false Intelligence, and malicious Insinuations, which have been industriously spread abroad by your Majesty's and our Enemies, of the uneasy and perplexed State of our Affairs at Home, as if that had rendered it almost impossible for this Nation effectually to exert themselves, in Defence of their own just Rights and Possessions, and for establishing and securing the Publick Peace and Tranquillity; if notwithstand-

ing them and many other Difficulties which we laboured under, and while the *Sinking Fund* was yet in its Infancy, and so much less than it now is, we have been able to diminish the *National Debts* so much already, what may we not hope for, in regard to a speedy and sensible Discharge of them for the future, now the *Sinking Fund* is so greatly increas'd, and our publick Credit in so flourishing a Condition.

The finishing and perfecting this great Work seems to be *A peculiar Glory reserved for your Majesty's Reign*. From your known Goodness and Wisdom, the present Age may promise themselves the certain and immediate Benefit of your Majesty's particular Regard to the publick Credit, and your universal Care and Concern for the Ease and Happiness of your People, which our latest Posterity must remember and acknowledge with Duty and Gratitude.

To the Representation, the King was pleased to return the following most Gracious Answer:

Gentlemen,

I Cannot but be very well pleased with this Representation, which must give general Satisfaction to all my People, by removing those groundless Jealousies and Apprehensions which have been propagated and dispersed throughout the Kingdom.

The happy Effects of the flourishing State of the Publick Credit are too sensibly felt and seen, not to be confessed and acknowledged by every Body.

And the Provision made for gradually discharging the National Debt is now become so certain and considerable, that nothing, but some unforeseen Event, can alter or diminish it: Which gives us the fairest Prospect of seeing the Old Debts discharged, without any Necessity of incurring New Ones.

And you may be assured, That it shall be my particular Care and Study to maintain and preserve the Publick Credit, to improve the *Sinking Fund*, and to avoid all Occasions of laying any new Burthens upon my People.

On the 9th of April, several Papers relating to the Debt due to the Crown from the late Commissioners for Licensing Hawkers and Pedlars, were ordered to be laid before the Commons; who then proceeded to the Hearing the Merits for the Return for the City of *Peterborough*, in the County of *Northampton*, and having heard Counsel,

Counsel, examined Witnesses, and read Copies of several ancient Records and Returns, a Motion was made and the Question put, That Sir *Edward Obrian*, Bart. was duly returned for the said City of *Peterborough*, which was carried in the Negative: But it was ordered, that the said Sir *Edward Obrian*, Bart. be at Liberty to petition the House, touching the Election for the said City of *Peterborough*, within fourteen Days next, if he thought fit.

The next Day, *John Stanley*, *William Wye*, *Edward Cave*, and *Elias Delpuch*, in Custody of the Serjeant at Arms, attending this House, were brought to the Bar, where they, upon their Knees, received a Reprimand from Mr. Speaker, and were ordered to be discharged out of Custody, paying their Fees. Then Mr. *Vincent*, reported the Resolutions of the Committee, to whom the Petition of the Commissioners for Building a Bridge cross the River of *Thames*, from the Town of *Fulham* in the County of *Middlesex*, to the Town of *Putney* in the County of *Surrey*, had been referred; which Resolutions were agreed to, viz.

1st, That unless Leave be given to the said Commissioners and Trustees to grant Annuities by Assignment of the Tolls in Perpetuity, they will not be enabled to raise a Sum sufficient for erecting the said Bridge.

2^{dly}, That the said Commissioners and Trustees ought to have a Power of Lending or Advancing Money, in the same Manner as other Persons, towards erecting the said Bridge.

Whereupon a Bill was ordered to be brought in, to explain and amend the Act for Building the said Bridge, &c. Then a Bill for the more effectual preventing Abuses in the making of Bricks and Tiles, was read the first, and ordered to be read a second Time.

The next Day, (April the 11th) Mr. Speaker reported to the House, his Majesty's most gracious Answer to their humble Representation about the Publick Debts, &c. Whereupon it was resolved, that an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, to return the most humble Thanks of this House to his Majesty, for his most gracious Answer to their Representation. And then, in a Grand Committee, a further Progress was made in the Bill for encouraging Seamen.

On Friday the 12th, Mr. *Frecker*, from the Treasury, presented to the House a Copy of the Report made to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury by *Edward*

Harley

Harley and Thomas Foley, Esqrs. and by Mr. Nicholas Paxton, dated the 26th Day of February 1723, relating to the Debt due to the Crown from George Townshend jun. Mountagu Bacon, John Atwood, and John Burton, late Commissioners for Licensing Hawkers and Pedlars, with several Papers thereunto annexed. Then Mr. Earle, from the Committee of Privileges and Elections, reported their Resolutions, touching the Election for the Borough of Hindon in the County of Wilts, which were agreed to, viz.

1st, That the Right of Election of Burgesses to serve in Parliament for the said Borough, is in the Inhabitants of Houses within the said Borough, being Housekeepers and Parishioners, not receiving Alms.

2dly, That George Heathcote and Townshend Andrews, Esqrs. are duly elected for the said Borough of Hindon.

The next Day, (April the 13th) Mr. Oxenford and Mr. Harnage, from the Commissioners of the Customs, presented to the House an Account of the Exports of Gold and Silver, either in Foreign Coin or Bullion, from the Port of London, from Christmas 1722 to Christmas 1727, distinguishing each Year, and the Places to which the said Exports were made; as also an Account of what Gold and Silver, either in Foreign Coin or Bullion, have been Exported from all the Ports in England (except London) from Christmas 1722 to Christmas 1727, distinguishing each Year, and the Places to which the said Exports were made; together with an Account of what has been since entered for Exportation from all the Ports of England, and for what Places, to the 15th of March 1727; and likewise, an Account of the Quantities of Foreign Coin and Bullion entered for Exportation from the 15th Day of January 1717 to the 15th Day of March 1727, distinguishing each Year, and the Countries for which the said Entries were made. After this, the Commissioners of Excise were ordered to lay before the House, an Account of the Produce of Two Pence per Gallon on Low Wines and Spirits of the first Extraction, drawn from foreign Materials, or any Mixture therewith, for seven Years last past, distinguishing each Year. And then Mr. Parsons (Deputy to Mr. Foley, one of the Auditors of the Imprests) presented to the House, a Copy of the Letter of the Treasury, dated the 31st of January 1723, directing the Auditors of the Imprest, Mr. Cracherode and Mr. Paxton, to enquire into the Accounts of the Commissioners of Hawkers and Pedlars;

Pedlars; as also, a Copy of the last Original Certificate delivered to the King's Remembrancer by the Auditors of the Impress. After this, the engrossed Bill for granting an Aid to his Majesty by a Land-Tax, &c. was read the third Time, passed, and sent up to the Lords.

On Monday the 15th, the Commons read the third Time, passed, and sent up to the Lords, the engrossed Bill to enable the Commissioners of the Treasury to compound with Tho. Hammond, &c. After which it was ordered, that the proper Officer do lay before this House an Account of the Net Produce into the Exchequer, of the several Funds applicable to the Sinking the Principal, or Payment of the Interest of the National Debt, distinguishing each of the said Funds, and the annual Exceeding or Deficiency of them respectively, from Lady-Day 1710 to Lady-Day 1717; and also an Account how much of the said Deficiencies had within that Time been made good by Parliament. It was also ordered, that the Trustees for the South-Sea Company do lay before this House, a distinct and particular Account of what Money has been raised out of the Estates and Effects of the late South-Sea Directors, from the 13th of March 1723 to the 15th of April 1728, and what Part thereof then remained undisposed of by the said Trustees; and also an Abstract of all such Accounts of the Estates and Effects of the said late Directors as have been delivered into Parliament; together with a particular Account of the Charges and Expences which have attended the Execution of the said Trust, from the first Establishment thereof to the 15th of April 1728, distinguishing each Year. Then, in a grand Committee, some further Progress was made in the Bill for encouraging Seamen.

The next Day, several Papers that had been called for, were laid before the Commons, who ordered, 1st, That the House be called over upon Thursday the 2d Day of May next. 2^{dly}, That such Members as should not then attend the Service of the House, be sent for in Custody of the Serjeant at Arms attending this House. Then the House resumed the adjourned Debate upon the Report from the Committee appointed to search Precedents, in relation to a Petitioner claiming a Seat in this House for one Place, and who is afterwards elected for another Place, pending such Petition; and also Precedents in Cases of such Election, where the first Election is controverted, upon the Petition of the Electors.

Upon