

THE
Historical Register

Containing
An impartial RELATION
of all TRANSACTIONS, Foreign
and Domestick.

WITH A
Chronological Diary
OF ALL

The remarkable OCCURRENCES,
viz. Births, Marriages, Deaths, Removals,
Promotions, &c. that happen'd in this
Year.

VOLUME VI.

For the Year 1721.

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N. B. This Title is design'd for such Persons as think fit to bind the four *last Registers* in one Volume. And for the same Reason, a Table is added at the End of the *Twenty-fourth Register*, of all the principal Matters contain'd in them.



THE
Historical Register.

NUMBER XXI.

S P A I N.

*The War in Africa between the Spaniards and the Moors,
continued from Page 363 of the 4. th Register.*



THE Marquess de Lede having thus rais'd the Siege of Ceuta, posted himself in the Camp of the Enemy, where he began immediately to fortify himself, not doubting but that, encourag'd by the Superiority of their Troops, they would soon attack him in his Intrenchment: Nor was he deceiv'd in his Expectations: For they attack'd him on the 9th of December, and a second Time on the 21. th of that Month; but were both Times repuls'd with great Loss. We have not, nor can expect any other Account of these two Victories, than what has been given us by the Spaniards themselves; and therefore we will insert the following Relations thereof, as they were publish'd by Authority at Madrid.

A Relation of the signal Victory obtain'd by His Catholick Majesty's Arms, under the Command of the Marquess de Lede, the 9th of December 1723, over the whole Forces of the Moors, consisting of about 36000 Men.

Several Alcaydes being arriv'd in the Camp of the Moors, with a good Number of Foot, and their Army being also reinforc'd by their King's Horse Guards, they thought these Troops were sufficient to force our Lines; in order to which, their Forces,

which came several Times, to reconnoitre our Camp from the neighbouring Heights, and camp'd on the 8th, and we judg'd they consist'd of about 12000 Horse, and 24000 Foot, taking their Way by the Hills that lay between their Camp and ours. Their Foot extend'd themselves as near as they could to our Left, and their Horse march'd by the Hills which cover the Road to *Tangier*, and took Post with their Front, to the Center of our Camp, out of the reach of our Cannon.

That Day pass'd without any other Action, excepting that some Parties of the *Moors*, who advanc'd through the Defiles and deep Roads, made some Discharges upon our advanc'd Parties, and march'd back about Four in the Afternoon, as if they design'd to return to their Camp; but when they were come to the deep Road going to the Hills, they made a Counter-march to possess themselves of another deep Road and Defile, leading from the Shore to the Hills on the Road to *Tangier*, by which they were entirely cover'd. The *Marquess de Lede* suspecting this was a feigned Retreat, sent out Part of his Horse, with Orders to march as far as the said Road, where they discover'd the *Moorish* Army in their conceal'd Posts; and as this Detachment retir'd, they were charg'd by Part of the Horse and Foot of the *Moors*; but being sustain'd by the Fire of our advanc'd Grenadiers, they engag'd the *Moors* with such Fury, that 'twas thought the Action would become general; but in little more than half a Quarter of an Hour, the *Moors* retir'd to their Hills and the Roads before-mention'd, and our Foot continu'd all Night in their Posts, and our Horse return'd to their Camp.

The next Day, being the 9th in the Morning, the *Moors* came down from the deep Roads aforesaid, in four Columns, three of Foot, and one of Horse; the Horse posted itself from the said Road, which reach'd to the Shore on our Right, and their Foot, which was already come down from the Road, posted themselves directly against and close to our Camp.

The *Marquess de Lede* order'd all the Horse to salley out, and posted them in the most advantageous Manner from our Right to the Front of our Center, with Orders to retire by the Right gradually, as the *Moors* should come down, both to have a proper Ground.

Ground to move, and because of the Inferiority of our Numbers, and that the *Moors* coming to charge them, should, when they retir'd, find themselves expos'd to our Fire, which accordingly fell out: As we had some Parties out under the Command of Don Vincent Fuentabuena, Colonel of the Prince's Regiment of Foot, the *Moors* charg'd them with such Vigour, that had it not been for the great Fire of the *Spanish* Guards, they had made their Retreat with great Difficulty; but in doing the same Don Vincent Fuentabuena was dangerously wounded, as were also some of the Troopers and Dragoons. By this Time the *Moors* had attack'd a small Guard cover'd by a Cassine, which Guard was at the Head of a Half-Moon which cover'd our Center, and which the *Moors* took with some Loss, and then planted their Standards thereon, with great Shouts of Joy, and advanc'd to the Foot of our Half-Moon, which was defended by 3 Companies of Grenadiers, who receiv'd them so briskly, that they paid dear for their Temerity. The *Moors* extended themselves all along the lower Ground, which is before our Ditch, and continu'd their Fire against the Half-Moon, and the Center of our line; the Horse at the same Time were not idle, and ours having posted themselves behind our Line, the *Moorish* Horse advanc'd on the same Side with such Intrepidity, that they cover'd themselves from the Fire of the *Spanish* and *Walloon* Guards, who were on the Right of the Line towards the Sea, there being a Heighth on the Left, which was defended by the two Battallions of the Regiment of *Leon*. The *Moorish* Horse and Foot continu'd their Fire against our Infantry, and our Artillery could make no Execution against them, because of the Lowness of the Ground on which the *Moors* fought, but which, however, did great Service afterwards; for we turn'd our Cannon against them, four of which flank'd the Center of their Horse, and did great Execution. The Fire on both Sides was so vigorous, that it did not cease one Moment from Eight in the Morning, when it began, till half an Hour after Eleven, that the *Moors* retir'd, and our Men fir'd so briskly at them, that they had new Ammunition given them five several Times, after they had fir'd the thirty Shots which every Man had given him before the Fight. Most of those who fir'd, reli'd one another, during that great Fatigue; and be-

cause many of their Arms were render'd unfit for service, several of the Men were oblig'd, contrary to their Inclinations, to leave the Action.

Notwithstanding the Horrors of the Engagement, it was a Pleasure to see with what Courage and Eagerness both Officers and Soldiers fought, 'till at last, about half an Hour after Eleven, the *Moors* gave Ground, and retir'd with their Colours and Standards by the same Way they came, having lost, as near as we can compute, between 5 and 6000 Men, amongst them several Alcaydes and Officers, though many of them withdrew in the Time of the Action, during which we saw several Parties of the *Moors* carrying off their Dead and Wounded up the Hills, and through the deep Roads, to hinder us from knowing their great Loss, which, however, we had evident Tokens of, since the Rivulets, near which they fought, were dy'd with their Blood.

On our Side we had few kill'd or wounded; those of Distinction are only the Mareschal de Camp Don *Sancho de Eboli*, who commanded the Center, and Don *Vincenzo Fuenfuen*; most of the General Officers have receiv'd some Wounds, and the Marquess de *Lede* has one in his Right Arm, which has occasion'd a great Modification in the same.

The Valour and Intrepidity with which his Majesty's Troops fought, is not to be express'd. The *Moors* march'd all Night in great Haste to their Camp, and by countermarches have again, with some of their Forces, appear'd on the Hills, that our Men should thereby be oblig'd to continue under Arms, tho' they despise those Toils, when they expect to go against their Enemies.

That Day may be reckon'd for one of the most glorious to the King's Arms, both for the great Loss sustain'd by the Enemy, and for that they vanquish'd an Army so superior to them in Number, of great Undauntedness, and which attack'd with equal Bravery, and maintain'd the Fight, during three Hours and a Half, notwithstanding the continual Fire of our Infantry, which redounds to the great Honour of his Majesty's Troops. Don *Joseph de Cordova*, Colonel of the Regiment of *Majorca*, who was dispatch'd with this important News, arriv'd at Court the 15th Instant, and has given his Majesty an Account of the Particulars

Particulars of this Action, which we shall soon inform you of.

An Account of a Third Victory obtain'd by the Spanish Army over the Moors in Africa, the 2^d of December, 1720.

AFTER the Victory obtain'd on the 2^d of December by his Majesty's Forces, it was concluded, that the Infidels, notwithstanding their great Loss, and the terrible Reception they had met with, would again attack us, as well on Account of their natural Obstinacy, as by Reason of the fresh Encouragement they would receive from the Reinforcements sent by their King from the Upper Country, and from the Frontiers to the Southward, and to the Eastward towards *Tetuan*, to strengthen their Army. These Considerations, join'd to the Zeal and Prudence of the Marquess *de Lede*, prevail'd with him providently to improve the Fortifications of our Camp, by finishing the Works already begun, adding others, and increasing the Batteries; so that our Army lay encamp'd behind an Intrinchment that reaches from Sea to Sea, the Front of it extending about half a League, and about a quarter of a League distant from the Town of *Ceuta*. This Line is drawn answerable to the Unevenness of the Ground, jutting out in some Places, and drawing back in others, as has been requisite to take in the Hill and other Eminences, to which Purpose it has been unavoidable to form some obtuse Angles, by Means whereof, and of some saillant Points made to that Effect, all the Front is flank'd, as well by the Musketeers, as by several Batteries conveniently dispos'd.

Besides this Line, some advanc'd Works were thrown up on the principal Avenues, and more particularly, a very large one, call'd the *Tennille*, at 50 Paces Distance before the Centre of our Infantry, with a good Communication between it and the Line, to convey along it the necessary Supplies.

This Work was secur'd by a Ditch five Foot in Depth, and ten in Breadth, and before it a Parapet, on which was fix'd a Row of *Cheveaux de Frise*, for farther Check to the advancing of the *Moors*.

About half a Musket Shot from this Work is a little Hill, with some Brakes or Sloughs behind it, which might serve to cover the *Moors* that should approach

proach that Way, and yet it was not thought convenient to fortify or possess the same, in Regard that it was commanded by other Eminences, and for other sufficient Reasons.

The Openings in our Line left to relieve the Out-Posts, were made good by two Rows of *Chevaux de Frize*, and well flank'd.

Our Infantry lay incamp'd in two Lines; but every Batallion having the particular Place they were to repair to and make good, in Case of an Attack, assign'd them, they all could and were accordingly to repair immediately to their respective Posts, by this Means, drawing the two Lines into one behind the Breast-works, excepting only some Parties and Companies of Grenadiers, that were in the advanc'd Posts, and others remaining in the Rear as a Reserve, to reinforce such Posts as should have need of them, besides the Regiments of Horse and Dragoons appointed to remain in the Rear of the Infantry, and on their Flanks to sustain them.

All these Precautions were thought requisite, in regard that his Majesty's Army at that Time, consisted of only 12000 Foot, divided into 26 Batallions, and 4000 Horse and Dragoons in 32 Squadrons; for though a considerable Reinforcement of Troops lay imbarc'd in the Bay of *Gibraltar*, they had not been able to cross the Streights by Reason of the bad Weather.

Such was the Disposition of the Camp and Army, when, on the 18th, some Volleys fir'd by the *Moor*s in their Camp at *Castellejos*, were heard, which it was known they had done to salute one of their chief Commanders, then arriv'd in their Camp with a considerable Reinforcement of Troops; and they having the foregoing Days receiv'd several Supplies, the *Marquess de Lede* concluded, that they would attack us the next Day, whereupon he gave his Orders to the Troops, that they might be in a Readiness to march, upon the first Signal given, to the Posts assign'd to every Corps.

The same Day, at Eight in the Evening, it began to Rain, which continu'd all the next Day in so violent a Manner, that it oblig'd the *Musquets* to put off their intended Operations.

On the 20th, at Noon, the great Guards gave Notice, that a considerable Body appear'd coming down the *Brake de les Canas*, intending, as it seem'd, to hold on their March along the Bank call'd *Infierno*, in order to get into the Road of *Tangier*, and from thence to extend themselves on the Eminence of the *Serraille*, before the great Guard of our Center, which accordingly they perform'd. This Body consisted of between 800 and 1000 Horse, who seem'd to be a Guard to several principal Officers that march'd at the Head of them, and were distinguishable by their Habit, and the rich Furniture of their Horses. Having continu'd on that Eminence observing our Camp, and the Posture of our Army, 'till Four in the Afternoon, they then retir'd to their own.

This Motion of the Infidels, confirm'd the Marquess de Lede in his Opinion, that they would advance, as soon as possible, with their whole Army, since they could not do it the Day before by Reason of the Rain; and accordingly, on the 21st at Sun-rising, some Parties of their Horse appear'd, and at eight, of the Clock one Column of their Cavalry, directing their March to the Eminence of the *Serraille*, near the Road of *Tangier*. Soon after follow'd two large Columns of Infantry, one of which march'd towards the Coast and Anchoring-Place of *Tramaguera*, which comes up directly to our Left, and the other to the *Brake de les Canas*, at the Center of our Left. The Column of their Cavalry, at eleven of the Clock, countermarch'd towards their Left, and came down the Brake that is opposite to the Center of our Infantry; but there appear'd no other considerable Motion of theirs, 'till the very Moment of the General Attack. A Party of about 60 or 70 Horse advanc'd to the Road that is on the Right of that of *Tangier*, a very high Ground, and open to overlook our Camp, and it was immediately discern'd, that they were their Bashaws and other chief Commanders, who continu'd in that Place 'till near one of the Clock, when they were seen to return on their Left to join their Army, and gave the Signal for the General Attack, as they did, some small Parties of Horse they had posted to that Effect, firing along from one Eminence to another, whereupon one of their Columns of Infantry immediately mov'd in a very hasty Manner, and close Order, making a large Front, but being much more

more considerable in Depth, and with the same Swift-ness advanc'd to the little Hill, said above to be before our advanc'd Work, call'd the *Tenaille*, in order to attack it, as they did with the greatest Boldness, fixing their Colours close by it, and marching up to our *Chevaux de Frise*, which they endeavour'd to remove with such Resolution, that it might be accounted Rashness; for they were expos'd and lay open to the great and incessant Fire of our Infantry, and of several Batteries, which flank'd that Place, and yet they continu'd their Attempts all along the Front of the *Tenaille*, and in other Places, firing continually, and seconded by the Fire of some other Bodies of their Infantry from the Eminences, whence, tho' somewhat distant, they not only reach'd with their long Firelocks, but, in some Posts, could see our Men from Head to Foot, as they stood behind the Breastworks.

The Marquis *de Lede* being sensible of the great Importance of that Post of the *Tenaille*, had provided it very well; and (with the Supplies he sent from Time to Time, when he perceiv'd the Enemy mostly bent against that Place) there were in it, during the Heat of the Action, the two Battalions of the Regiment of *Murcia*, 26 Companies of Grenadiers, three Piquets of Infantry, and the Companies of Carabineers of the Regiments of *Belgia*, *Saxantum*, and *Dublin*; and the Infidels carrying on their Attacks with the greatest Resolution and Undauntedness, he order'd the said three Regiments of Dragoons, with their Brigadier the Count *de Pezuela*, who commanded them, to dismount, and take Post in the Intrenchment, to reinforce the Infantry that defended it.

The Fight began at one of the Clock after Noon, and held on 'till five in the Evening, with a Fire so great and continual, that all the old Officers declare, that of all the Actions they ever were in in Europe, they never saw the like of this.

Though this Attack was begun by one great Column of Infantry, it was sustain'd, and several Times renew'd, by two other Columns or Bodies of between 8 or 10000 Men, each, which follow'd in the Rear, and were in the Nature of a Reserve. Perceiving that they could not possess themselves of the *Tenaille* by the Front or Head, they made three several

several Attempts to enter in at the Gorge; but all those Posts being well flank'd by the Fire of our Infantry, and our Artillery, which was charg'd with small Shot, they lost so many Men, that at length, having met with so many Repulses, and finding all their Attempts were in vain, their Fire began to abate about half an Hour after Four, and being convinc'd of the Impossibility of succeeding, they fur'd their Colours, and began to fly at Five in the Evening; nor is it strange, that they should draw off with such Precipitation, for in the same Manner they move and come on to their Attacks. It was observ'd upon their Retreat, that they took up some Standards as well as Colours, whence it was concluded, that some of their Cavalry dismounted, had been join'd with the Infantry in carrying on their Attack. The main Body of the Cavalry did not come near the Trenches, (as they had done, to no Purpose in the Action of the 9th) for being either warn'd by the great Loss they had then sustain'd, or better commanded by an abler General, they advanc'd, and continu'd in the Rear of the Infantry, sustaining and encouraging them, as also helping to carry off their dead and wounded Men, as is usual with them on all Occasions, to ease the Infantry of that Trouble. It was also observ'd, that most of the Kill'd and Wounded being carry'd beyond the Brake by the Infantry, many of those who had perform'd this Part, either would stay there, or scour'd off, to avoid returning to the Engagement; whereupon the Commanders of the Enemy's Cavalry appointed some Parties to force those Runaways back to the Attack, with their drawn Scymiters in their Hands. It is not easy to express how extraordinary careful they are to carry off the Kill'd and Wounded, nor is the Reason of it known, but they themselves kill'd all that were dangerously wounded before they carry'd them off.

According to all the best Intelligence that could be had of the Strength of the Infidels, and what was observ'd during the Engagement, their Army amounted to 6000 Men, and among them 1500 Horse, including 1000 Blacks, call'd the King's Guards, being the Troops most depended on for their Courage and Conduct. The Loss they suffer'd upon this Occasion, is computed at 7 or 8000 Men kill'd and wounded, as near as can be guess'd, as well by those they carry'd

carry'd off, and what remain'd in the Camp, as by the great Slaughter there was seen to be made by the Fire of our Infantry and Artillery; which never ceas'd playing during the four Hours the Action lasted, sometimes with their Bullet, and at other Times with Cartridge Shot, as Occasion requir'd, having been duly and skilfully serv'd by its Commandant the Brigadier Don *Joseph Gayoso*, and by the Colonels Count *Maylani* and Don *John Pingarron*. The Infidels also suffer'd very much in their Retreat, especially at the Time they ascended the Eminences, being expos'd to the Fire of our Infantry and Artillery. Our Loss may be above 300 Men kill'd and wounded, according to the Accounts of the 21st. Among the kill'd is Major-General Don *Felix de Aragon*, who commanded at the Attack. Brigadier Don *John Pacheco Portocarrera*, Colonel of the Regiment of *Murcia*, and Colonel Don *Peter de Pineda*, Captain of Grenadiers in the Spanish Guards, are dangerously wounded, both of them in the Thigh, as is Don *Francis Fantoni Valderama*, Sub-Lieutenant in the Spanish Guards, and several other Officers, of whom an Account is expected, and of all the other Particulars. Lieutenant-General Don *Joseph de Chaves*, and Major-General *Chateaufort*, though they were sick in Bed, went out to be present at the Action, and continu'd till the last; the former of them receiv'd a Contusion, and the Brigadier Count *de Yve*, Colonel of the Regiment of *Belgia*, two.

The Marquess *de Lede* was, during the whole Time of the Action, in the Center, at the Attack, making the necessary Dispositions, and giving Orders for the Defence, and all that was requisite, and his Horse was shot under him with two Musket Balls.

The Regiments of Dragoons of *Belgia*, *Saguntum*, and *Dublin*, were posted on the Way of our Center; but as soon as they dismounted, and were incorporated with the Infantry for the Defence of the Intrenchment, their Place was supply'd by the Regiments of Horse of the Prince and *Roussillon*, to be ready upon Occasion. The Regiments of Horse of the Orders and *Montesa*, had their Post on the Right, and that of Dragoons of *Avia* on the Left.

All the general and inferior Officers signiz'd their Valour, Conduct, and Zeal, as appears by the Success of this great Victory; and the Bravery and Steadiness

diness of the Soldiers was suitable; which was so extraordinary in the Grenadiers who defended the Post of the *Tenaille*, that many of them, not valuing the Security of the Breastwork, mounted upon it, and continu'd there firing 'till they were wounded, or their Officers by Force oblig'd them to come down, which they no sooner did, than others got up to fill the Places they had left, the Authority and Threats of their Officers not being sufficient to keep them behind the Breastwork, being so animated, that without regarding the Duty of Obedience, or the Danger they expos'd themselves to, they chose the greatest Hazards, to do the more Harm to the common Enemy of Christendom.

The Bishop of *Ceuta*, giving fresh Proofs of his Zeal and Charity, went into the Camp, and continu'd there during the whole Action, attended by several Priests, administering the Holy Sacraments to such as were dangerously wounded, and assisting all in their Spiritual and Temporal Concerns with extraordinary Fervour and Constancy in the midst of Dangers; for one of the Chaplains that assisted him in these pious Functions was wounded by his Side.

The Chevalier *Gomicour*, Colonel of the Regiment of Horse of *Milan*, and Quarter-Master-General of the Horse of the said Army, arriv'd at Court with this important Advice on the 28th of December at Night, and being immediately admitted by his Majesty to Audience, gave this present Account, 'till farther Particulars can be had.



G R E A T B R I T A I N.

The Proceedings of the Parliament continu'd from the Register, N^o XIX, Page 208.

ON the 8th of December, 1720, the Parliament of Great Britain being met at Westminster, pursuant to their last Prorogation, the King came to the House of Lords, and the Commons being sent for up and attending, the Lord Parker, Lord Chancellor, by his Majesty's Command, read his Speech to both Houses, as follows.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

SINCE we last parted, the Face of our Affairs Abroad is become more favourable: The Peace in the South only wants the Form of a Congress, and that of the North is brought much nearer to a Conclusion. I shall, at a proper Time, order the several Treaties I have made, to be laid before you; by which you will perceive the Success of our Endeavours to establish a Peace throughout Europe, and to secure and support the Protestant Religion: At the same Time, I can never sufficiently express my Concern for the unhappy Turn of Affairs, which has so much affected the Publick Credit at Home.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons

I do most earnestly recommend it to you, that you consider of the most effectual and speedy Methods to restore the National Credit, and fix it upon a lasting Foundation. You will, I doubt not, be assisted in so commendable and necessary a Work by every Man that loves his Country, and especially by the several great Societies of this Kingdom. I hope you will, on this Occasion, remember, that all your Prudence, your Temper, and Resolution, are necessary to find out and apply the proper Remedies to our Misfortunes; which will, if you succeed, serve to increase that Reputation you have so justly acquir'd, particularly, if you shall be able, notwithstanding these Difficulties, to discharge a Part of the Publick Debt.

I have order'd the several Estimates to be laid before you of the Expence of the ensuing Year; and must desire you to dispatch the Supplies necessary for them.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I am glad to observe to you, that our Trade does appear to have been more extended this Year than in the preceding one; we have the most flourishing Navy of any Nation whatsoever to protect it: And I hope you will turn your Thoughts to the best Methods for the Security and enlarging of our Commerce. You may depend on my hearty Concurrence to all such Provisions, as shall appear to you necessary for the Good of my People.

The King being withdrawn, a Motion was made in the House of Peers for an Address of Thanks, which being unanimously agreed to, the said Address was immediately

immediately drawn up, reported, approv'd, and the next Day presented to his Majesty, as follows:

Most gracious Sovereign,

W^E your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, beg Leave to return to your Majesty the Thanks of this House, for your most gracious Speech from the Throne, and to congratulate your Majesty upon the near Prospect of a general Peace being establish'd throughout *Europe*: And we do acknowledge, with the greatest Gratitude, your Majesty's Care and Endeavours for the Security and Support of the Protestant Religion; towards the attaining which great Ends, your Majesty may depend upon our utmost Support and Assistance.

We cannot sufficiently express to your Majesty how much we are concern'd at the present unhappy State of Publick Credit; and we do, upon this Occasion, assure your Majesty of our zealous and ready Concurrence, in all such Measures as shall be most effectual, and speedy to restore it, and fix it upon a lasting Foundation; and also in all other Measures that may tend to the Security and enlarging the Commerce of these Kingdoms.

The King's Answer was to this Effect:

My Lords,

I Thank you for this dutiful and loyal Address: And I perswade my self, that your Zeal for the Good of your Country, your Temper, Wisdom, and Unanimity, will greatly contribute towards extricating us out of our present Difficulties.

Dec. 8. The Commons being return'd to their House, and their Speaker having reported to them the King's Speech, Mr. Pulteney made the following Motion, viz.

That an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, to return him the Thanks of this House for his most gracious Speech from the Throne; to express the Satisfaction of his faithful Commons at the near Prospect there is of Peace being establish'd throughout *Europe*, by the Success of his Majesty's Endeavours; to acknowledge his Majesty's great Goodness in his tender Concern for the Misfortunes of

of his People, occasion'd by the unhappy Turn of Affairs, that hath so much affected the Publick Credit of this Kingdom; to assure his Majesty, that this House will, at this critical Conjunction, where-in his Majesty's Government, and the Interest of his People are so highly concern'd, proceed with all possible Care, Prudence, and Temper, to enquire into the Causes of these Misfortunes, and apply the proper Remedies for restoring and fixing Publick Credit upon such solid and lasting Foundations, as may effectually give Ease and Quiet to the Minds of his Majesty's Subjects; and that this House will, with Readiness and Cheerfulness, grant the Supplies necessary for the Service of the ensuing Year, and consider in what Manner the Trade and Commerce of the Nation may be best secur'd and extended.

Mr. Pelham seconded this Motion, and was back'd by some other Courtiers; but Mr. Shippen offer'd a Clause to be added after the Words for *restoring and fixing Publick Credit*, viz.

As far as it is consistent with the Honour of Parliaments, the Interest of the Nation, and the Principles of Justice.

Mr. Shippen gave his Reasons for this Addition, urging, in particular, That in order effectually to remedy the present Misfortunes, it was absolutely necessary to maintain the Honour and Faith of Parliamentary Engagements, and to shew the highest Resentment against those who, abusing the Trust repos'd in them, had given so fatal a Wound to Publick Credit, and enrich'd themselves by the Wound of the Nation: That, in his Opinion, the Managers of the *South Sea* Project were not the most criminal, since there were those above them, whose Duty it was to overlook and direct their Proceedings, and who ought to have given a reasonable Check to that Extremity of Folly, by which *South Sea* Stock and the Subscriptions were advanc'd to an extravagant Rate: Adding, That had those at the Helm interpos'd in the Affair of the *South Sea*, as they did in the Case of the two Assurances, and other Projects, they would have prevented that dismal Calamity which has since befallen the Nation. Mr. Shippen was seconded by Mr. Bromley, and Sir William Wyndham, who, among other Things, said,

said, That it would be a Disgrace to a *British* House of Commons, to shew, on this Occasion, less Vigour and Spirit than the Parliament of *Paris*, then sitting at *Pontoise*: That that Parliament was justly look'd upon as the Shadow of an *English* Parliament; and yet that very Parliament had, by their Firmness and Resolution, carry'd their Point so far, as to get that Person remov'd from the Administration, whom they look'd upon as the Author of the present Misfortunes of *France*. The Lord *Molesworth*, who spoke with great Vehemence on the same Side, run over the King's Speech from the Throne, and said, in particular, He was glad they were told, that the Peace in the *South* only wanted the Form of a Congress, which gave him Hopes, that the Difficulties started by *Spain*, in Relation to *Gibraltar*, were, at last, surmounted, and that we were like to preserve that important Conquest of the preceding War, together with *Port-Mahon*, which would make us some amends for the great Expence of Blood, and Treasure we had lately been at, to conquer *Sicily* for the House of *Austria*. When his Lordship came to speak of the present Calamity, he said, That before they consider'd of proper Remedies, they ought to enquire into the Cause and Nature of the Distemper: That it is with the Body Politick, as with the Body Natural; and therefore they ought to imitate skilful Surgeons, who, in order to cure a Wound, begin with probing it, and, when they find it necessary, make Incisions and Scarifications to get the venomous Core out of it, before they apply healing Plaisters; and that they who follow a contrary Method, are but meer Empiricks, who, by using Palliatives, make the Sore rankle and fester, and endanger the Life of the Patient. He own'd it had been by some suggested, that there was no Law to punish the Directors of the *South Sea* Company, who were justly look'd upon as the immediate Authors of the present Misfortunes: But that, in his Opinion, they ought, on this Occasion, to follow the Example of the ancient *Romans*, who having no Law against *Parricide*, because their Legislators suppos'd no Son could be so unnaturally wicked, as to embroe his Hands in his Father's Blood, made one to punish so heinous a Crime, as soon as

it happen'd to be committed; and adjudg'd the guilty Wretch to be thrown alive, 'sew'd up in a Sack, into the *Tyber*. Concluding, That as he look'd upon the Contrivers and Executors of the villainous *South Sea* Scheme, as the *Parricides* of their Country, he should be satisfy'd to see them undergo the same Punishment.

Sir *Joseph Jekyll* spoke on the same Side, and, in particular, said, 'That as he doubted not but among the *South Sea* Directors some might be Innocent, and others Criminal; so he was of Opinion, there were those, who were not Directors, no less, if not more criminal, than the Directors themselves; and who therefore deserv'd an equal, if not a severer Punishment: Adding, That upon extraordinary Emergencies, where the Laws are deficient, the Legislative Authority may, and ought to exert itself; and he hoped a *British* Parliament would never want a vindictive Power to punish national Crimes.' Mr. *Grey Neville*, Mr. *Pitt*, and some other Gentlemen, spoke also for the Clause offer'd by Mr. *Shippen*: But, on the other Hand, it was represented by Mr. Secretary *Craggs*, Mr. Solicitor General, and Mr. *Robert Walpole*, 'That such a Restriction did but ill suit with an Address of Thanks; which, in their Opinion, ought to run in the usual Form, and answer, in general Terms, the several Heads of the Speech from the Throne: That as to the main Drift of that Clause, they thought it inconsistent with the Rules of Prudence, to begin this Session with irritating Enquiries: That if the City of *London* were on Fire, they did not doubt but all wise Men would be for extinguishing the Flames, and preventing the spreading of the Conflagration, before they enquir'd into the Incendiaries: That in like Manner, Publick Credit having receiv'd a most dangerous Wound, and being still in a bleeding Condition, they ought to apply a speedy Remedy to it; and that afterwards they might enquire into the Cause of the present Calamity.' Mr. *Walpole*, in particular, declar'd, 'That for his own Part, he had never approv'd the *South Sea* Scheme, and was sensible it had done a great deal of Mischief: But since it could not be undone, he thought it the Duty of all good Men to give their helping Hand towards retrieving it: And that with this View, he had already bestow'd

shew'd some Thoughts on a Proposal to restore Publick Credit, which, in a proper Time, he would submit to the Wisdom of that House. The Majority of the Assembly acquiesc'd in these last Reasons; so that the Question being put for inserting the Clause before-mention'd, it pass'd in the Negative, by 261 Voices against 109. However, the next Day, upon the Report of the Address of Thanks, a Motion being made by Mr. Milner, for inserting the Words, *and for punishing the Authors of them, (viz. our present Misfortunes)* and seconded by Sir Joseph Jekyll, the same was carry'd without dividing. On Saturday the 10th of December, the Commons, with their Speaker, waited on his Majesty with the said Address, as follows:

Most gracious Sovereign,

W E your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Commons of *Great Britain* in Parliament Assembled, beg Leave to return your Majesty our most dutiful and hearty Thanks for your most gracious Speech from the Throne.

We can never sufficiently express our Gratitude to your Majesty, for your constant Care of the true Interest of your Subjects; nor the Satisfaction of your faithful Commons, in seeing that the just Influence of your Majesty's Councils Abroad, has procur'd so near a Prospect of a general Peace throughout *Europe*; which is a fresh Instance to them, that your Majesty places your Greatness only in the Prosperity and Happiness of your People.

If any Thing could more effectually endear your Majesty to us than the Mildness of your Government, it would be that tender and affectionate Concern you express for the present Misfortunes of your People, occasion'd by the unhappy Turn of Affairs, that hath so much affected the Publick Credit of this Kingdom.

But your faithful Commons are met together with Minds fully dispos'd to take the most just and effectual Methods, and to do every Thing that becomes an affectionate Parliament, (at this critical Conjunction, wherein your Majesty's Government, and the Interest of your People, are so highly concern'd) to restore and fix the Credit of this Nation upon such solid and lasting Foundations, as may effectually give Ease and Quiet to the Minds of your Majesty's Subjects:

And

And we flatter ourselves, that our Undertaking will be the more easy, since we are determin'd to proceed with all possible Prudence, Temper, and Resolution, to enquire into the Causes of our present Misfortunes; and, with the maturest Deliberation, apply ourselves to find out the most proper Measures for redressing them, and for punishing the Authors of them.

The Improvement of our Trade is of so publick a Concern, and so necessary for the Support and Power of this Kingdom, that we will employ our utmost Endeavours to consider in what Manner the Commerce of the Nation may be best secur'd and extended.

And we beg leave to assure your Majesty, that we will, with all Cheerfulness and Unanimity, grant the Supplies which shall be necessary for the Service of the ensuing Year, and the Support of your Government, upon which the Happiness of the Nation, the Liberty of your Subjects, and the Security of our Religion so entirely depend.

To this Address his Majesty return'd the following Answer.

Gentlemen,

I Return you my hearty Thanks for this Address; and as I depend on your applying a speedy Remedy to the present Distress, I am perswaded you will take the most prudent Measures to make it effectual.

The same Day the Commons order'd their Speaker to issue out two new Writs, for electing two Barons for the Town and Port of *Dover* in *Kent*, one in the Room of *Philip Papillon*, Esq; who had accepted the Office of Receiver of the Stamp-Duties, and the other in the Room of *Matthew Lord Aylmer* of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, deceas'd. Two Days before, five other new Writs were also order'd to be issu'd out, for electing a Burgess for the University of *Cambridge*, in the Room of *Thomas Piske*, Doctor of Laws, deceas'd; a Citizen for the City of *Rochester*, in the Room of *Sir John Jennings*, Kt. who had accepted the Office of Master of the Royal Hospital at *Greenwich*; a Burgess for the Borough of *Plymouth* in *Devonshire*, in the Room of *Sir George Byng*, Kt. and Bart. who had accepted the Office of Treasurer of his Majesty's Navy; a Knight of the Shire for the County of *Stafford*, in the Room of *William Ward*, Esq; deceas'd; and

and a Knight of the Shire for the Shire of *Elgin* in Scotland, in the Room of *James Brodie* of *Brodie*, Esq; deceas'd, and, *December 13*, another new Writ was also order'd to be issu'd out, for electing a Knight of the Shire for the County of *Lincoln*, in the Room of *Sir Willoughby Hickman*, Bart. deceas'd.

The 12th of *December*, the Commons, in a grand Committee, consider'd of the Motion made the Saturday before, to grant a Supply to his Majesty, which was unanimously agrsd to. After this *Grey Neville*, Esq; mov'd, that the Directors of the *South Sea* Company should forthwith lay before this House an Account of their Proceedings; and he was seconded by *Mr. Pitt*, and back'd by the Lord *Molesworth*. Some of the Courtiers appear'd surpriz'd at this unexpected Motion; and thereupon Mr. Secretary *Craggs* endeavour'd to shew, ' That it was preposterous; and that ' the House having already appointed the Thursday ' following to resolve into a grand Committee, to ' consider of the present State of the publick Credit ' of this Kingdom, the same would naturally bring ' on the Enquiry into the Conduct of the *South Sea* ' Directors.' Mr. *Craggs* was seconded by the Lord *Hinchinbroke* and by Mr. *Horatio Walpole*, who own'd indeed, ' That the *South Sea* Scheme was weak in its ' Projection, villainous in its Execution, and calamitous in its End; but that, in his Opinion, they ' ought to begin with applying a Remedy to the Evil.' Mr. *Robert Walpole*, his Brother, added, ' That as he ' had already declar'd, he had spent some Time upon ' a Proposal for that Purpose; but he was apprehensive, that if they went on in a warm passionate ' Way, the said Scheme might be render'd altogether ' impracticable; and therefore he desir'd, that the ' House would proceed regularly and calmly, lest by ' running precipitately into odious Enquiries, they ' should exasperate the Distemper to such a Degree, ' as to render all Remedies ineffectual.' Sir *Joseph Jekyll*, on the other Hand, set forth, ' The Necessity ' of examining, without the least Delay, into the ' Conduct of the *South Sea* Company, to see whether ' they had made good their Engagements, and strictly ' follow'd the Rules prescrib'd to them by the Act ' pass'd last Session of Parliament in their Favour; ' urging, That this was the most natural Way of proceeding in an Affair of so great Importance: That,

‘on the contrary, it seem’d absurd to attempt the
‘Cure of a Distemper before they were acquainted
‘with it: But that as soon as it was thoroughly known;
‘he hoped that wise Assembly should not want
‘Schemes to apply proper Remedies to it.’ This
Speech made so deep an Impression, that some Mem-
bers, who offer’d to speak on the contrary Side, were
not much listen’d to; and, on the other Hand, Gil-
frid Lawson, Esq; having supported Mr. Neville’s Mo-
tion, the Courtiers thought fit no longer to oppose it;
so that without coming to a Division, the House made
the following Orders, viz.

1. That the Directors of the South Sea Company do
forthwith lay before this House, an Account of all
their Proceedings whatsoever, relating to an Act pass’d
the last Session of Parliament, entitled, *An Act for*
enabling the South Sea Company to increase their present
Capital Stock and Fund, by redeeming such publick Debts
and Incumbrances as are therein mention’d, and for raising
Money to be apply’d for lessening several of the publick
Debts and Incumbrances, and for calling in the present
Exchequer Bills remaining uncancell’d, and for making
forth new Bills in lieu thereof, to be circulated and ex-
chang’d upon Demand at or near the Exchequer.

2. That the Managers and Directors appointed by
the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, by virtue
of the said Act, do forthwith lay before this House,
all such Matters and Things as they have done and
perform’d, or order’d to be done, and perform’d, in
relation to the said Act.

3. That the said Managers and Directors do forth-
with lay before this House, an Account of all Orders
they have receiv’d, from Time to Time, from the Lords
Commissioners of the Treasury.

4. That the Directors of the South Sea Company
do forthwith lay before this House, an Account of
what Money and Exchequer-Bills have been receiv’d
by or for the Use of the said Company, since the
25th Day of December 1719, and the respective
Uses and Purposes to which the same have been
apply’d.

5. That the said Directors do forthwith lay before
this House, an Abstract of what publick Debts and
Incumbrances have been subscrib’d to, or discharg’d
by the said Company, pursuant to any Act or Acts of
Parliament in that Behalf, since the 25th Day of De-
cember

ember 1719, and in what Manner such Subscriptions were made.

6. That the said Directors do forthwith lay before this House, an Account of what Sum or Sums of Money have been taken up or borrow'd on Account of the said Company, or which they stand engag'd for upon Bills, Bonds, or other Contracts under their common Seal or otherwise, since the 25th Day of December 1719.

Dec. 12. Mr. Farrer reported to the House the Resolution for granting a Supply to his Majesty, which having been agreed to, *Nemine Contradicente*, the Commons resolv'd to address his Majesty for the several Accounts and Estimates, relating to the Deficiency on several Funds, the Ordinary of the Navy, the Guards, Garrisons, and Land Forces, the Office of Ordnance, the Half-Pay for the Year 1721, the extraordinary Repair of the Navy, the Ships in Sca-Pay, employ'd in the Year 1720, and the Surplus of the Aggregate or South Sea Fund. This Address was readily comply'd with, and accordingly, the next Day, Mr. Treby, Secretary of War, laid before the House the Accounts and Estimates relating to his Office: After this, Mr. Pitt complain'd of the Dilatoriness of the South Sea Directors in complying with the Orders made two Days before by the House, and he was seconded by Sir Joseph Jekyll: But Sir Theodore Janssen, one of the Directors, and a Member of the House, having assur'd them, that the next Day Part of the Papers call'd for would be laid before them, the House acquiesc'd.

Dec. 15. Some of the Commissioners of the Customs laid before the Commons the usual Accounts of prohibited East India Goods, and naval Stores imported; Mr. Cockburn, from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, laid also before them an Estimate of the Debt, the ordinary Estimate, and a Scheme of the Extra-Repairs of the Navy.

After which the Sub-Governor and Deputy-Governor of the South Sea Company presented to the House several Papers, with a Schedule of them, and acquainted the House, that they were directed by the Court of Directors of the South Sea Company, and the Managers and Directors appointed by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, by Virtue of the Act for enabling

enabling the South Sea Company to increase their present Capital Stock, &c. to acquaint this House, that they were using all possible Diligence to prepare an Account of all their Proceedings whatsoever, relating to the said Act, and that the same, as soon as finish'd, would be laid before the House. Then the said Schedule was read as follows, viz.

1. An Account of all such Matters and Things as the Managers and Directors, appointed by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, to take Subscriptions for enlarging the Capital Stock of the South Sea Company, have done and perform'd, or order'd to be done and perform'd, in relation to the Act in that Behalf.

2. An Account of all such Orders which the Managers and Directors, appointed by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to take Subscriptions for enlarging the Capital Stock of the South Sea Company, have receiv'd from their Lordships in relation to the Act in that Behalf.

3. An Abstract of what publick Debts and Incumbrances have been subscrib'd or discharg'd by the South Sea Company, pursuant to an Act of Parliament in that Behalf, since the 25th of December 1719, and in what Manner such Subscriptions were made.

4. An Account of what Monies and Exchequer-Bills have been receiv'd by or for the Use of the South Sea Company, since the 25th of December 1719, and the respective Uses and Purposes to which the same have been apply'd.

5. An Account of what Sum or Sums of Money have been taken up or borrow'd on Account of the South Sea Company, or which they stand engag'd for upon Bills, Bonds, or other Contracts, under their common Seal, or otherwise, since the 25th Day of December 1719.

Hereupon it was order'd, that the Papers mention'd in the said Schedule be referr'd to the Committee of the whole House, who were to take into Consideration the present State of the publick Credit of this Kingdom. Then the House resolv'd itself into the said Committee; and after the Reading of the said Papers, which lasted till about four a Clock in the Afternoon, Mr. Sloper, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Milner, Sir Richard

Richard Steele, and *Mr. Lawson*, made several Exceptions to the Conduct of the *South Sea* Directors, and, in particular, to their lending out vast Sums of Money belonging to the Company, without being duly authoriz'd for that Purpose: But as the Committee could not regularly proceed in that Matter without exact Accounts of these Loans, the farther Consideration of the present State of the publick Credit was adjourn'd to Monday the 19th; and, in the mean Time it was order'd, that the Directors of the *South Sea* Company should lay before the House,

1. A particular Account of the Nine Millions three hundred and thirty thousand six hundred sixty eight Pounds, eleven Shillings, lent out by the said Directors upon the Stock of the said Company, to whom, at what Times, and upon what Securities the same was lent; and how much of the said Sum has been repaid, by whom, and at what Times.

2. A particular Account of the Two Millions two hundred and twenty eight thousand eighty nine Pounds, lent out by the said Directors upon Subscriptions taken in by the said Company, to whom, at what Times, and upon what Security the same was lent; and how much of the said Sum has been repaid, by whom, and at what Times.

3. An Account of the Authorities and Powers they had from the general Court of the said Company, to lend out any Money on the said Stock or Subscriptions.

Dec. 16. Being the publick Fast appointed by his Majesty's Proclamation, *Dr. Hugh Boulter*, Lord Bishop of *Bristol*, preach'd before the House of Lords in *Westminster-Abbey*, and *Dr. Wilcocks*, one of the King's Chaplains, before the House of Commons in the Church of *St. Margaret's, Westminster*.

Dec. 17. The Commons being met again, order'd the Thanks of their House to be return'd to *Dr. Wilcox*; and a Petition of the Magistrates and Inhabitants of the Town and County of *Poole*, was presented to the House and read, complaining of the great Decay of our Home Manufactures, by the great Quantities of Goods run on that and the *Eastern* Coasts, and of Wooll carry'd out of this Kingdom, and of the daily Importation of Oysters from several Parts of *France*; and praying, that Consideration may be had of the clandestine Running of Wines and

and Brandies, and the Exportation of Wooll, and the great Hardship and Misery of the poor Fishermen, by the Importation of *French Oysters*: Which Petition was order'd to lye on the Table. Then Mr. Lowndes, and Mr. Treby, Secretary at War, laid before the House several Accounts and Estimates: And a Bill was order'd to be brought in, *For altering and amending the Laws for obliging Ships, coming from Places infected, to perform their Quarentine, and for preventing the Spreading of the Infection.* It was also order'd, that the Directors of the *South Sea Company* do forthwith lay before this House,

1. The Lists of the Money-Subscriptions that were deliver'd to, or made by them, upon the second, third, and fourth Subscriptions, and the Sums that have been paid thereupon.

2. A particular Account of the Three hundred thirty one thousand five hundred Pounds Stock, bought by the said Company for Two Millions three thousand forty three Pounds, the Days when purchas'd, the respective Parcels and Prices, and the Persons by whom it was bought, and by whom and to whom transferr'd.

3. A particular Account of the Five hundred seventy four thousand five hundred Pounds Stock, sold by the said Company for One Million two hundred fifty nine thousand three hundred twenty five Pounds, the Days when sold, the respective Parcels and Prices, and the Persons by whom it was sold, and by whom and to whom transferr'd.

Then, in a grand Committee on the Supply, the Commons came to several Resolutions, the Report of which was referr'd to the next Sitting: But before the House was adjourn'd, it was order'd, that the Directors of the *South Sea Company* do forthwith lay before this House, an Account of the Uses to which the Money by them receiv'd for last *Christmas* Dividend was apply'd, so far as the same, or any Part thereof, was satisfy'd in Bonds of the said Company.

Dec. 19. Mr. Farrer reported to the House the Resolutions of the grand Committee on the Supply,

1. That 10000 Men be allow'd for the Service of the Year 1721, beginning from the 1st Day of *January* 1721.

2. That

2. That 4*l.* per Man per Month, be allow'd for maintaining the said 10000 Men for 13 Months, including the Ordnance for Sea Service.

3. That 219,040*l.* 14*s.* be granted for the Ordinary of the Navy, for the Year 1721, including Half-Pay to Sea-Officers.

4. That 50,200*l.* be granted for Extra-Repairs of the Navy for the Year 1721.

5. That the Number of effective Men to be provided for Guards and Garrisons in *Great Britain*, and for *Jersey* and *Guernsey*, for the Year 1721, (including 1859 Invalids) be 14294 Men, Commission and Non-Commission Officers included.

6. That 567,070*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* be granted for the Charge of the said 14294 effective Men.

7. That 150,743*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, be granted for the Land-Forces and Garrisons in the Plantations, *Astoria*, and *Gibraltar*, and for Provisions for the Garrisons of *Annapolis Royal*, *Placentia*, and *Gibraltar*, for the Year 1721.

8. That 94,500*l.* be granted upon Account to reduce Officers of the Land Forces and Marines.

The first four of these Resolutions being severally read the second Time, were agreed to by the House; but the fifth being also read a second Time, Mr. *Shippen* represented, 'That a general Peace being so near a Conclusion, Part of the Land-Forces, now on Foot, might well be spar'd, and the saving Sum apply'd towards repairing the publick Calamity; and therefore he mov'd, that the said 5th Resolution be re-committed.' He was back'd by Mr. *Bromley*, Sir *William Wyndham*, and Mr. *Hungerford*; but was oppos'd by Mr. *Robert Walpole*, and his Brother, Mr. *Smith*, and some other Gentlemen, who endeavour'd to shew, 'That the Number of our Forces was so moderate, that it could hardly be lessen'd, even altho' a general Peace were concluded, without exposing the Nation either to foreign Insults, or domestic Factions; and therefore it were highly imprudent to make any Reduction in the Army before the Conclusion of the Peace: That, on the other Hand, the Sum that might be sav'd by disbanding 3 or 4000 Men, was very inconsiderable, and ought not to come in Competition with the Advantage of being in a Posture of Defence: Since nothing contributes more to the publick Credit of a free Na-

tion, than the being in a Condition not to fear any Thing, either at Home or Abroad.' These Reasons had so much Weight, that the Question being put upon Mr. Shippen's Motion, it pass'd in the Negative, without dividing; and then the other three Resolutions being read a second Time, were agreed to by the House. Then the Commons went into a grand Committee, to take into farther Consideration the present State of the publick Credit of the Kingdom; and thereupon Sir Joseph Jekyll mov'd, that a select Committee be appointed to enquire into all the Proceedings relating to the Execution of the South Sea Act, and he was seconded by Gilfrid Lawson, Esq. But Mr. Robert Walpole having represented that the proceeding in that Manner would take up a great deal of Time, and that the publick Credit being in a bleeding Condition, they ought to apply a speedy Remedy to it; that Motion was not insisted on. After this Mr. Sloper made a Speech, wherein he shew'd, That the present Calamity was mainly owing to the vile Arts of *Stock-Jobbers*, whereby the publick Funds were wound up far above their real Value: Which being readily assented to, the Committee came to this Resolution, viz. That nothing can tend more to the Establishment of publick Credit, than preventing the infamous Practice of *Stock-Jobbing*. After this, Mr. Robert Walpole acquainted the Committee, That (as he had hinted some Days before) he had spent some Time upon a Scheme for restoring publick Credit; but that the Execution of it depending upon a Position, which had been laid as a Fundamental, he thought it proper, before he open'd the said Scheme, to be inform'd, whether he might rely on that main Foundation, viz. Whether the Subscriptions of publick Debts and Incumbrances, Money-Subscriptions, and other Contracts made with the South Sea Company, should remain in the present State? This Question being stated, occasion'd a warm Debate, particularly in relation to the Validity of the second Subscription of the redeemable and irredeemable publick Debts. Sir Joseph Jekyll, Serjeant Pengelly, and some others, urg'd, in Favour of the Subscribers, That most of them having been drawn in to set their Names to a Sort of a Letter of Attorney, which was never read to them; and not having had afterwards the Option of the Terms offer'd them, as the former

mer Subscribers had, the said Subscription was surreptitious, and therefore not binding: But they were answer'd by Mr. *Robert Walpole*, Mr. Secretary *Craggs*, Mr. Attorney, and Mr. Solicitor General, and some others, 'That the Letter of Attorney, by Virtue of which the Contract of the second Subscription was made, having been plac'd at the Top of every Page of the Book, all the Subscribers might have read it, as many of them had done, and so might have chosen whether they would have set their Names to it or not; but that, it seems, some Persons thought the Subscription valid while they got, and not binding when they were like to lose by it: However, if any Thing were defective in the said Subscription, they thought it adviseable to leave it to the Determination, either of a general Court of the *South Sea*, or of the Common Law.' These Reasons being relish'd by most of the Landed Gentlemen, after the Debate had lasted 'till near Eight in the Evening, it was at last resolv'd by 259 Voices against 117, that all the Subscriptions of publick Debts and Incumbrances, Money-Subscriptions, and other Contracts made with the *South Sea Company*, by Virtue of an Act made the last Session of Parliament, remain in the present State, unless alter'd for the Ease and Relief of the Proprietors by a general Court of the *South Sea Company*, or set aside by due Course of Law.

Dec. 20. A Petition of several Proprietors in sundry redeemable Debts, and Lottery Tickets, was presented to the House and read, praying, That their Case might be taken into serious Consideration, and that they might be defended in their just Rights against the illegal Proceedings of the *South Sea Company*, by forcing them to take Stock for their Debts, at a much higher Rate than it would sell for; and admit them to be heard, either by themselves or Counsel, or grant them such other Relief as should be thought fit: But this Petition was order'd to lye on the Table. Then Mr. *Farrer* reported the two Resolutions of the grand Committee on publick Credit; the first of which, with some Amendments, was agreed to by the House, as follows, viz. That it will very much contribute towards establishing of publick Credit, to prevent the infamous Practice of *Stock-Jobbing*; and a Bill was order'd to be brought thereupon. Then a Motion

being made, that the House do agree with the Committee in the second Resolution, there arose a very warm Debate, that lasted from three a-Clock till half an Hour past six in the Evening. Mr. *Walpole*, who spoke for the Motion, 'Set forth the Views with which the *South Sea* Act was made, to wit, to consult the landed and trading Interest of the Nation, by lessening its Incumbrances and publick Debts, and putting them in a Method of being paid off in a few Years; which could not have been done, unless a Way had been found to make the Annuities for long Terms redeemable, which had been happily effected by the *South Sea* Scheme, without a Breach of Parliamentary Faith; and if they should now unravel what had been done, they should not only ruin the *South Sea* Company, but, instead of alleviating, aggravate the present Misfortunes.' In Answer to this, Sir *Joseph Jekyll* urg'd, 'That in order to remedy the present Distemper, and restore publick Credit, they ought, in the first Place, to resolve and assert publick Faith, Equity, and Justice, which the *South Sea* Managers had notoriously Violated, with respect to the first and second Subscribers of Annuities, and other publick Debts: For the former had not the Stock, to which they were entitled, deliver'd to them, till six Months after they had subscrib'd their Effects, and when the Stock was fallen above half in its Price; and the latter had not the Option either to accept or reject the Terms that were offer'd them.' Mr. *Walpole* having, among other Things, reply'd, 'That if any Injustice was done to the Subscribers, they were, by the Resolution in Question, left at Liberty to seek their Relief by Law; Mr. *Lechmere*, Chancellor of the Dutchy, took up the Cudgels, and insisted, 'That if the *South Sea* Company, whom the Parliament had appointed Trustees for the publick Debts, had not duly executed that Trust, in relation to the Annuity-tants, the latter could seek for Relief no where but in Parliament, and that it was a Duty incumbent on the Legislature to relieve them.' Serjeant *Pengelly*, Mr. *Hutchenson*, and some other Gentlemen, spoke on the same Side; but were answer'd by Mr. Secretary *Craggs*, Sir *William Thompson*, and Mr. *Hungerford*. And after some other Speeches, the Country Party

Party mov'd for adjourning the Debate; but the Question put thereupon being carry'd in the Negative, by 232 Voices against 88, the House agreed, without dividing, to the 2d Resolution of the Day before above-mention'd.

Dec. 21. Mr. Lowndes presented to the Commons several Accounts and Estimates; after which the House resolv'd itself into a grand Committee on the supply, and came to several Resolutions thereupon. Then the Members in *Westminster-Hall*, Court of Requests, and Places adjacent, having been summon'd to attend, the House resolv'd itself into a grand Committee, and Mr. Robert Walpole laid before them a new scheme to restore publick Credit, which was, in substance, to ingraft nine Millions of *South Sea* Stock into the *Bank of England*, and the like sum into the *East India* Company, upon the Conditions therein mention'd, and which shall be specify'd hereafter. Mr. Hutcheson, and other Members, made some Exceptions to that Scheme; but none offering a better Remedy for the present Misfortunes, Mr. Farrer, the Chairman, was directed to move the House, and it was accordingly order'd, That the said Committee have Power to receive Proposals from the *Bank of England*, the *South Sea* Company, and the *East India* Company, towards restoring publick Credit.

Dec. 22. Mr. Farrer reported the Resolutions on the Supply, which were agreed to, viz.

1. That 15,278*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* be granted for Out-Pensioners of *Chelsea Hospital*, for the Year 1721.
2. The sum of 4,581*l.* 19*s.* 3*d.* for extraordinary Expences of the Land Forces for the Year 1720.
3. The sum of 153,805*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.* principal Money remaining unsatisfy'd for the Duties on Malt, for the Year 1719.
4. The sum of 82,793*l.* 19*s.* 10*d.* for the Deficiency of the general Fund of 724,849*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* for the Year ended at *Michaelmas* 1720.
5. The sum of 67,878*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* for the Ordnance for Land-Service for the Year 1721.
6. And the sum of 25,290*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* for extraordinary Expence of the Ordnance for Land-Service for the Year 1720.

Dec. 23. A Petition of the City of *Worcester* was presented to the Commons, and read, complaining of the great Decay of all sorts of Trade in the said City,
by

by the pernicious and detestable Practice of *Stock-Jobbing*, and praying the Consideration thereof: Which Petition was order'd to lye on the Table, until the Bill for preventing the infamous Practice of *Stock-Jobbing* should be brought in. Then the Commons, in a grand Committee, consider'd of Ways and Means to raise the supply, and resolv'd, 1st, To grant a Land-Tax of 3^d in the Pound for the Year 1721. 2^{dly}, To continue the Malt-Tax from *June 25, 1721, to June 24, 1722.* After this, a Person from the *South Sea Company* having presented to the House an Account of all the Proceedings whatsoever of the Court of Directors, and general Court of the *South Sea Company*, relating to the Act of the last session of Parliament; an Order was made, that the House be call'd over on Monday the 9th of *January* next; and then the Commons adjourn'd 'till Thursday the 29th of *December*, by reason of the *Christmas* Holidays.

Dec. 29. The Commons met again, and the Sub-Governor and Deputy-Governor of the *South Sea Company* attended, and at the Bar presented to the House several Books, containing, an Account of several Matters order'd to be laid before the House by the Directors of the said Company, with a Schedule of them, and a Return of the said Directors relating thereunto; and they acquainted the House, that the rest of the Accounts order'd to be laid before the House, were for the Purpose preparing with the utmost Expedition; and then they withdrew.

The said schedule and Return were read, as follow:

The Schedule. In Obedience to an Order of the Honourable House of Commons, of the 15th of December Instant.

A particular Account of the Nine Millions three hundred thirty thousand six hundred sixty eight Pounds eleven shillings, lent out upon the stock of the *South Sea Company*, to whom, at what Times, and upon what Securities the same was lent; and how much of the said sum has been repaid, by whom, and at what Times.

Also an Account of the Two Millions two hundred twenty eight thousand eighty nine Pounds, lent out upon Subscriptions taken in by the said Company,

to whom, at what Times, and upon what Security the same was lent; and how much of the said sum has been repaid, by whom, and at what Times.

Both which Accounts are contain'd in Book, N^o 1.

In Obedience to an Order of the Honourable House of Commons, of the 17th of December Instant.

The Lists of the Money-Subscriptions that were deliver'd to, or made by them, upon the second and third Subscriptions, and the Sums that have been paid thereupon; which Lists are alphabetical, and contain'd in five Books, viz.

One Book, containing the Lists of the second Money-Subscription, N^o 2.

Four other Books, containing the Lists of the third Money-Subscription.

The Return. In Obedience to the said Order of the 17th of December Instant, the Directors of the South Sea Company do lay before this House the Lists of the Money-Subscriptions that were deliver'd to, or made by them, upon the second and third Subscriptions, and the Sums that have been paid thereupon; which Lists are alphabetical, and contain'd in five Books, viz.

One Book, containing the Lists of the second Money-Subscription.

One other Book, containing the Lists of the third Money-Subscription of the Letters A, B, C, D.

One other Book, containing the Lists of the same Subscription, of the Letters E, F, G, H, I, K.

One other Book, containing the Lists of the same Subscription, of the Letters L, M, N, O, P, Q.

And one other Book, containing the Lists of the same Subscription, of the Letters R, S, T, U, W, X, Y, Z.

Then Mr. Farver reported the two Resolutions on Ways and Means, (before-mention'd) which were agreed to, and Bills were order'd to be brought in thereupon. This done, Mr. Shippen made a long speech, wherein he represented, 'That besides the Papers that had already been laid before them, it was necessary to have others, in order to discover the Frauds and deceitful Management of the South Sea Directors, and their Accomplices: That, in his Opinion, the most villainous Contrivance, whereby they

they ensnar'd unwary People, was their taking in Money-Subscriptions at 1000*l.* per Cent. and their declaring a Dividend of 30*l.* per Cent. at Christmas, and of not less than 50*l.* per Cent. per Annum, for 12 Years after; which had impos'd upon the Understanding of all such as depended upon the Wisdom and Integrity of the Directors, and occasion'd the Ruin of many Thousands of Families. He therefore mov'd, that the Directors of the South Sea Company do lay before this House the Calculations or Inducements on which they took in the third and fourth Money-Subscriptions at 1000*l.* per Cent. and also the Scheme, or Calculation, or other Inducements, upon which they grounded the Resolutions of making a Dividend of 30*l.* per Cent. at Christmas, and of not less than 50*l.* per Cent. per Annum for 12 Years after. Mr. Shippen was seconded by Sir William Wyndham, and no body opposing that Motion, an Order was made accordingly. Then Mr. Shippen mov'd, and it was likewise order'd, that the Sub-Governor and Deputy-Governor of the said Company, do lay before the House, a List of the Directors of the said Company, together with the Names of the Treasurer, Secretary, and Accountant of the said Company. And that the Directors of the said Company do lay before this House the original Book or Books of the Minutes of the Committee of Treasury of the said Company, since the 25th Day of December 1719, as also a Copy of the By-Laws of the said Company. After which the Commons adjourn'd themselves to Wednesday the 4th of January.

On Monday the 12th of December, his Grace the Duke of Wharton made a speech to the House of Lords, wherein he took Notice of the present calamitous state of the Nation, occasion'd by the South Sea Project; gave several Instances of the unfair Management of the Directors; and mov'd, that a Day might be appointed, to consider of the present state of the Nation, particularly with relation to publick Credit. The next Day w^{as} appointed accordingly; but that Affair was then put off till the 20th. when the Lord North and Grey made a long speech, wherein having, in the first Place, animadverted on some jicentious and prophane Writings, that struck at the very Foundation of the Christian Religion, his Lordship then took Notice of the South Sea Project, which,

which, as he had foretold ten Months before, had been attended with such dismal Consequences. He was seconded by the Earl of *Aylesford*, and then his Grace the Duke of *Wharton* spoke on the same Subject, and (among other fraudulent Practices of the *South Sea* Managers, instanc'd in some collusory Bargains about Stock, between the *Sword Blade Company* and Mr. *Knights*, Treasurer to the *South Sea*) concluded, he hoped that noble Assembly would exert their Power in punishing the villainous Projectors and Executors of the *South Sea* Scheme. After some other Speeches, the Consideration of the State of the publick Credit was refer'd to a Committee of the whole House, into which their Lordships were to go on Thursday the 22^d of *December*; but the Papers they had call'd for, not being yet laid before the House, their Lordships adjourn'd themselves to Monday the 9th of *January*, by reason of the ensuing Holidays.

Jan. 4. The Commons being met Mr. *Farrer* presented the Land-Tax Bill, which was receiv'd, read a 1st Time and order'd to be read a 2^d. After which Mr. *Treby* mov'd for bringing in the Bill to prevent Mutiny and Desertion, &c. and was seconded by the Lord *Carpenter*. Hereupon Sir *Joseph Jekyll* said, 'He could not but be surpriz'd to see a Bill mov'd for so early, which seldom or never used to be brought in till towards the End of a Session: That such a Hurry seem'd to be intended to stop the Prosecution of the Authors of the present Misfortunes: That they all very well knew that their Days were number'd, and that as soon as they had dispatch'd the Money Bills, and the Bill now mov'd for, they should immediately be dispatch'd Home: That therefore he was for staying those Bills, until they had done Justice to the Nation, who call'd aloud for it.' Mr. Secretary *Craggs* said thereupon, 'He wonder'd to see any Opposition made to a Bill so necessary for the Safety of the Government, especially by a Person who had receiv'd signal Favours from the Crown.' Upon this the Lord *Molesworth* stood up, and said, 'Mr. Speaker, Is it come to this, that every Man who has a Place must do all the Drudgery that is enjoin'd him? This may be true of some Underlings; but I don't believe it, I'm sure 'tis false of King *George*, he commands his Servants nothing, but what's according to the Laws, and for the Good of his Subjects.'

jects. Then Sir *Joseph Jekyll* added, ' That he was
' as zealous as any Man for the Service of the King
' and his Government: But he was of Opinion, that
' the doing Justice to the Nation, and punishing them
' who had brought it into the present calamitous Con-
' dition, was the most effectual Way both to serve
' the King, and at the same Time to discharge their
' Duty to their injur'd Country: Concluding, how-
' ever, that he did not oppose the bringing in of
' the Bill in Question, which was thereupon order'd
to be brought in.

After this, according to the Order of the Day, the
Commons were to go into a grand Committee to take
into farther Consideration the present State of the
publick Credit of this Kingdom: But Sir *Joseph
Jekyll* resuming his Speech, represented, ' That before
' they proceeded any farther, they ought to secure the
' Persons and Estates of those they had reason to look
' upon as the Authors of the publick Misfortunes;
' and therefore he mov'd, that Leave be given to bring
' in a Bill to restrain the Sub-Governor, Deputy-Gov-
' ernor, Directors, Treasurer, Under-Treasurer, Cas-
' slier, Secretary, and Accountant of the *South Sea*
' Company, from going out of this Kingdom for the
' Space of one Year, and until the End of the next
' Session of Parliament, and for discovering their
' Estates and Effects, and for preventing the trans-
' porting or alienating the same. He was seconded
by *Horatio Walpole*, Esq; who gave some Instances
both of the unfair Methods by which the *South Sea*
Directors, and their Officers, had got immense Riches,
and of their Pride and Insolence. Serjeant *Pengelly*,
Mr. Attorney and Mr. Solicitor General, Mr. *Spencer
Comper*, and several other Members having likewise
supported Sir *Joseph Jekyll's* Motion, it was carry'd
Nemine Contradicente, and order'd, that the Master of
the Rolls, Mr. *Horatio Walpole*, Mr. Serjeant *Pengelly*,
Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Solicitor General, Mr.
Jefferies, and Mr. *Comper*, do prepare and bring in the
said Bill.

This done, Mr. *Shippen* express'd his great Satisfac-
tion, to see a *British* House of Commons resume their
pristine Vigour and Spirit, and act with so great Unani-
mity for the publick Good, ' He own'd the Ne-
' cessity of securing the Persons and Estates of the
' *South Sea* Directors, and their Officers: But said,
' that

that, in his Opinion, there were some Men in great Stations, whom, in Time, he would not be afraid to name, who were no less guilty than the Directors. Mr. Secretary *Craggs* being somewhat nettled at this, said, 'That he was ready to give Satisfaction to any Man that should question him, either in that House or out of it.' This Expression gave no small Offence; and thereupon the Lord *Molesworth* said, 'That he had had the Honour to be a Member of that House upwards of thirty Years, and never before now knew any Man bold enough to challenge the whole House of Commons, and all England besides: That for his Part, tho' past sixty, he would answer whatever he had to say within the House, and hoped there were young Members enough, that would not be afraid to look Mr. Secretary in the Face out of the House.' Upon this Mr. Secretary seeing the House in a great Ferment, got up again, and modestly said, 'That by giving Satisfaction, he meant clearing his Conduct. As soon as this was over, the House debated in what Manner they should proceed in the intended Inquiry, whether in a grand or a select Committee. After several Speeches on both Sides, it was resolv'd, *Nemine Contradicente*, that a Committee be appointed to enquire into all the Proceedings relating to the Execution of the *South Sea Act*. 2. That the Number of the said Committee be thirteen. 3. That the said Committee be chosen by Way of Ballotting. After this, the Lord *Hinchinbroke* represented, 'That it was to be fear'd, that before the Bill order'd to be brought in against the Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors of the *South Sea Company*, was gone through both Houses, the most criminal amongst them might withdraw themselves out of the Kingdom; and therefore his Lordship mov'd, that they might be immediately order'd into Custody.' But Mr. *Lechmere*, and some other Members, having shew'd the Inconveniences that might ensue thereupon, that Motion was dropt; and then the Commons, in a Committee of the whole House, resum'd the Consideration of the present State of the publick Credit of this Kingdom.

Jan. 5. They met again, in a grand Committee, upon the same Business, and took into Consideration the Proposals laid before the said Committee by the *South Sea Company*, for ingrafting nine Millions of

t heir Stock into the *East India Company*, and the like Sum into the Bank of *England*, as also the Proposals of the *East India Company* and the *Bank*, for taking in the said Stock, and after some Debate, it was resolv'd, by a Majority of 173 Voices against 130, that an Ingraftment of Part of the Capital of the *South Sea Company* into the Capitals of the *Bank of England* and the *East India Company*, pursuant to the several Proposals of the said Companies, will contribute very much to the restoring and establishing publick Credit. Mr. Speaker having resum'd the Chair, the Court Party mov'd, that Mr. *Farrer*, the Chairman of the grand Committee, should the next Day report the said Resolution; but this Motion was strenuously oppos'd by the other Party, and the Question being put thereupon, it pass'd in the Negative by a Majority of 153 Votes against 140; after which it was order'd, that the said Report be receiv'd on Tuesday the 10th.

Jan. 6. The Commons were to proceed to the Choice of the select Committee by Way of Ballotting, but that was put off 'till the Monday following. After this the Sub-Governor and Deputy-Governor of the *South Sea Company* presented to the House several Books of Accounts, (pursuant to several Orders of the House) with a Schedule of them, which, after they were withdrawn, was read, as follows, viz.

Pursuant to an Order of the 25th of December last.

An Account of the Authorities and Powers the Court of Directors of the *South Sea Company* had from the general Court of the said Company, to lend out Money on the Stock and Subscriptions of the said Company.

Pursuant to an Order of the 20th of December last.

A List of the Names of the Directors of the *South Sea Company*, together with the Names of the Treasurer, Secretary, and Accountant of the said Company; and also,

Copy of the By-Laws of the *South Sea Company*, and also,

The original Minutes of the Committee of the Treasury of the *South Sea Company*, since the 25th of December 1719, contain'd in one stich'd Book, and one bound Book.

Pursuant

Pursuant to an Order of the 17th of December last.

A List of the Money-Subscriptions that was deliver'd to, or made by the Directors of the *South Sea Company*, upon the fourth Subscription, and the Sums that have been paid thereupon.

The said Books and Papers were order'd to lie upon the Table to be perus'd by the Members of the House. After which, it was also order'd,

1. That the Directors of the *South Sea Company* do lay before this House, a State of their present increas'd Capital, and how the same has been distributed and dispos'd of, viz. how much of the said increas'd Capital has been dispos'd of to the first and second Subscribers of the publick Debts, and how much to the last *Midsummer Dividend* of 10*l. per Cent.* in Stock, and to how much of the said increas'd Capital the Proprietors of the four Money-Subscriptions are intitled respectively; according to the last Allowance at the general Court of the said Company.

2. That the said Directors do lay before this House an Account of the whole Sum paid, and to be paid, on the four Money-Subscriptions, according to their present Scheme and Contracts, distinguishing how much of the said Sum has been actually paid, and how much remains to be paid.

3. That the said Directors do lay before this House a State of what their Capital Stock will be, in Case the remaining Payments of the last three Money-Subscriptions are discharg'd, and Stock be allow'd to those Proprietors, at the Rate of 100*l.* Stock, with the *Midsummer Dividend* of 10*l. per Cent.* for every 400*l.* actually paid in.

4. That the Directors of the *East India Company* do lay before this House the Agreement that was made by them with the Directors of the *South Sea Company*, for the Disposition and Distribution of the one Million and an half, Part of the nine Millions propos'd to be ingrafted upon the Stock of the *East India Company*, from that of the *South Sea Company*.

After this the Commons adjourn'd to the 9th of January; when Mr. Henry Lyell, one of the Directors of the *East India Company*, presented to the House the Agreement made by the said Company with the *South Sea Company*, for the Disposition and Distribution.

bution of one Million and a half, Part of the nine Millions propos'd to be ingrafted upon the Stock of the *East India Company*, from that of the *South Sea Company*; which Agreement was order'd to lie on the Table. The Call of the House being adjourn'd to that Day se'night, the House proceeded to the Choice of the thirteen Persons to be a select Committee, and the Clerk and Clerk-Assistants went on each Side the House with Glasses, to receive from the Members in a Billot, the Lists of Persons Names to be the said Committee: After which, a Committee was appointed to examine the said Lists, and report to the House upon which thirteen Persons the Majority fell.

Jan. 10. The Sub Governor of the *South Sea Company* presented to the House several States and Accounts that had been call'd for, and which were order'd to lie on the Table; and then Sir *Joseph Jekyll* presented to the House a Bill to restrain the Sub-Governor, Deputy Governor, Directors, Treasurers &c. of the *South Sea Company*, from going out of this Kingdom; &c. which was read the first, and order'd to be read a second Time the next Morning, it was also a Bill, presented by the Attorney General, for altering and amending the Laws for obliging Ships, coming from Places infected, to perform their Quarantine, and for preventing the spreading of the Infection. After this, Mr. Farrer, according to Order, reported from the Committee of the whole House of the Thursday before, the Resolution above-mention'd, about the Ingratiment of nine Millions of *South Sea Stock*, upon the respective Stocks of the *Bank* and *East India Company*; and a Motion being made that the said Resolution be recommitted, it occasion'd a warm Debate, that lasted from Three in the Afternoon 'till Eight at Night. Mr. Sloper, Mr. Clayton, Sir *Joseph Jekyll*, and some other Gentlemen, represented, ' That the Project before them was more like to prove a dangerous Palliative, than an effectual Remedy to the present Distemper; and being founded on a notorious Piece of Injustice, viz. (the obliging the Subscribers of Annuities and Money, to take *South Sea Stock* at above double its Value,) would rather farther hurt, than restore publick Credit. Mr. *Hutcheson* spoke to the same Effect, urging, ' That this Scheme seem'd to be calculated with the same View as the former, (the ill Effects of which

which they intended to remedy) viz. to enrich the Proprietors of the original *South Sea* Stock, at the Expence of the long Annuities, Proprietors of the Redeemables, and Money-Subscribers; whereas, in his Opinion, all the Proprietors of the increas'd Capital, ought to bear an equal Share in the Loss, occasion'd by the ill Management of the *South Sea* Scheme. He also rais'd several other Objections to the new Scheme, and insinuated, that if the Resolution in question were recommitted, he might propose something better for the restoring of publick Credit. Mr. Robert Walpole answer'd all Objections, and carry'd the Votes of many Members, who had been stagger'd by the Arguments of the opposite Side: He was strongly supported by Mr. Secretary Craggs, Mr. Attorney and Mr. Solicitor General, and by several other Members; so that the Question being put upon the Motion for recommitting the Resolution about the Ingraftment, it was carry'd in the Negative, by a Majority of 267 Voices against 134. Then the House agreed to the said Resolution, and a Bill was order'd to be brought in thereupon by Mr. Robert Walpole, Mr. Secretary Craggs, Mr. Aislaby, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Lownds, and Mr. Stanhope.

Jan. 11. The Bill for punishing Mutiny and Desertion, &c. was brought in, read the first Time, and order'd to be read a second; and after the Reading of several private Petitions, Mr. Serjeant Mead reported the Names of the thirteen Persons, on whom the Majority fell, to be a Committee to enquire into all the Proceedings relating to the Execution of the *South Sea* Act, viz. Thomas Broderick, Esq; Archibald Hutcheson, Esq; Sir Joseph Jekyll, Master of the Rolls, Edward Wortley, Esq; Sir Thomas Pengelly, Serjeant at Law, William Clayton, Esq; Edward Jeffreys, Esq; Robert Lord Viscount Molesworth, Thomas Strangways, Esq; William Sloper, Esq; Nicholas Lechmere, Chancellor of the Dutchy, the Honourable General Rosse, the Honourable Dixie Windsor, Esq.

These Persons, or any five of them, were to meet that Afternoon in the Speaker's Chamber, with Power to adjourn from Time to Time, and from Place to Place, as they should find it convenient, and to report their Proceedings from Time to Time to the House,

House, and to have Power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records; and the several Books and Papers which had been laid before the House by the *South Sea Company*, were refer'd to the said Committee. Then the *Bill to restrain the Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, Directors, &c. of the South Sea Company, &c.* was read the second Time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

On the 12th, a Petition of the said Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors, was presented to the Commons, and read, praying, That they might be heard by their Council against the said Bill; but after some Debate, that Petition was order'd to lie on the Table. Then Mr. Broderick, Chairman of the select Committee, reported, that he was directed to move the House, that such Persons as the Committee should think proper to be examin'd, relating to the Matter of the said Enquiry, might be examin'd in the most solemn Manner, which was order'd accordingly: After which the Commons, in a Committee of the whole House, made some Progress in the Quarentine Bill. The same Day the Land-Tax Bill was read a second Time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Jan. 13. The Commons order'd, that it be an Instruction to the said Committee, that they should provide, by the *Bill for restraining the Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, Directors, &c.* that all Forfeitures of the real and personal Estates of any of the Persons to be nam'd therein, be made subject and liable to the Disposition and Appropriation of Parliament; after which, in a grand Committee, they went through the Bill, and made several Amendments thereto.

On the 14th, upon a Petition of the *Turky Company*, praying to be heard by themselves or Council against some Clauses in the Quarentine Bill, the Commons, in a grand Committee, heard some of the Members of the Company, and made some Progress in the Bill.

Jan. 16. Mr. Horatio Walpole reported the Amendments made to the Bill against the Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors of the *South Sea Company*; which, with Amendments to several of them, were agreed to, and the Bill order'd to be engross'd; after which it was order'd, that the Committee appointed to enquire into all the Proceedings relating

relating to the Execution of the *South Sea Act*, be a Committee of Secrecy. And then the Call of the House was again adjourn'd to that Day seve'night.

Jan. 17. The Commons, in a grand Committee, went through the *Quarentine Bill*; and, on the 18th, Sir *Henry Hoghton* presented to the House, a farther Report humbly offer'd by the Commissioners and Trustees of the forfeited Estates who acted in *Scotland*. Then the Commons, in a grand Committee, made some Progress in the *Land-Tax Bill*, to which they order'd a Clause of Credit to be inserted.

Jan. 19. The ingross'd Bill against the *South Sea Directors* was read the third Time, pass'd, *Nemine Contradicente*, and sent up to the Lords. After which, upon a Motion made by the Master of the Rolls from the Committee of Secrecy, that Sir *Robert Chaplin*, Sir *Theodore Janssen*, *Francis Eyles*, Esq; and *Jacob Sawbridge*, Esq; four of the Directors of the *South Sea Company*, and Members of the House, might attend the said Committee, and be examin'd before them in the most solemn Manner, the same was order'd accordingly. Then Mr. Secretary *Craggs* reported the Amendments made to the *Quarentine Bill*, which, with other Amendments made thereto, was order'd to be ingross'd.

Jan. 20. A Petition of the Magistrates and Freemen of the Town and Port of *Rye* in *Sussex*, complaining, that for want of preserving the ancient Course of the Back-Waters, the said Port is in Danger of being totally destroy'd, to the great Prejudice of Navigation and Trade, &c. was referr'd to the Consideration of a Committee; and it was resolv'd to address his Majesty for the Papers relating to the Survey of the Harbour of *Rye*, taken by his Majesty's Command. After this the Sub-Governor and Deputy-Governor of the *South Sea Company*, presented to the House several Accounts and Papers, pursuant to the Orders of the 15th, 17th, and 29th of *December* last, with a Schedule of them; and then they withdrew.

The said Schedule was read as followeth, *viz.*

A Supplement to the Account presented the 29th of *December* last, of Money lent out upon the Stock of the *South Sea Company*.

An Account of the Uses to which the Money receiv'd by the *South Sea* Company for the last *Christmas* Dividend was apply'd, so far as the same, or any Part thereof, was satisfy'd in the Bonds of the said Company.

An Account of the Inducements on which the Directors of the *South Sea* Company took in the third and fourth Money-Subscriptions at 1000 *per Cent.* with the Inducements for declaring the Dividend of 30 *per Cent.* at *Christmas*, and not less than 50 *per Cent.* *per Annum* for twelve Years.

An Account of the Calculation on which the Court of Directors of the *South Sea* Company grounded their Resolutions for making the Dividend of 30 *per Cent.* at *Christmas*, and not less than 50 *per Cent.* *per Annum* for twelve Years.

An Account of all Quantities of Stock which have been bought for the Use of the said Company, and the Prices and Times of buying the same.

An Account of the Inducements on which the Directors of the *South Sea* Company took in the third and fourth Money-Subscriptions at 1000 *per Cent.* with the Inducements for declaring the Dividend of 30 *per Cent.* at *Christmas*, and not less than 50 *per Cent.* *per Annum* for twelve Years, having been read, the said Accounts and Papers were referr'd to the Committee of Secrecy. Then, in a grand Committee, the Commons went through the Land-Tax Bill.

By this Time the House of Lords were enter'd upon the *South Sea* Affair, and had made a considerable Progress in that Enquiry. Their Lordships being met again on the 9th of *January*, the Sub-Governor and Deputy-Governor of the *South Sea* Company laid before them several of the Papers they had call'd for, and the next Day their Lordships went into a grand Committee, of which the Earl of *Clarendon* was chosen Chairman, to consider of the State of the Nation, with relation to publick Credit. Some of the Court Lords were the first that complain'd of the Mismanagement of the *South Sea* Directors, which had occasion'd the present Distress and Calamity, and, among the rest Earl *Sanhope* said, 'That the Estates of the Criminals, whether Directors or not, Directors, ought to be confiscated, to make good the publick Losses.' The Lord *Carteret* spoke to the same Effect, as did likewise the

the Earl of *Sunderland*, who own'd, indeed, ' That he
' had been for the *South Sea* Scheme, because he
' thought it calculated for the Advantage of the Na-
' tion, in order to lessen the publick Debt, and, in
' particular, to take off the heavy Incumbrance of
' long Annuities; and no Man would imagine, that
' so good a Design could have been so perverted in the
' Execution, as to produce quite contrary Effects: But
' that, in his Opinion, no Act of Parliament had
' ever been so much abus'd as the *South Sea* Act, and
' therefore he would go as far as any Body to punish
' the Offenders.' Several Lords were somewhat sur-
priz'd to find themselves forestall'd by those whom
they were ready to oppose, upon a Supposition that
they entertain'd more favourable Thoughts towards
the Directors, against whom the others left them but
little to say: Nevertheless, several Lords spoke both
against the *South Sea* Scheme, and the Execution of
it, and among the rest, the Duke of *Wharton* said,
' That they ought to have no Respect of Persons:
' That for his Part, he would give up the best Friend
' he had: That the Nation had been plunder'd in a
' most flagrant and notorious Manner, and therefore
' they ought to find out the Offenders, and then pu-
' nish them with the utmost Severity.' The Lord
North and *Grey*, the Earl of *Abington*, and some others,
urg'd also the ill Effects of the *South Sea* Project, which
the Lord Bishop of *Rocheſter* justly compar'd to a Pestilence.
Earl *Comber* spoke likewise on the same Side,
and, in particular, ' Blam'd those who, by the Act of
' Parliament, were appointed to overlook and check
' the *South Sea* Directors; and who, in Discharge of
' that Trust, ought to have prevented their jumping
' from a Subscription at 400 to 1000, which was the
' main Cause of the Misfortunes that ensu'd.' The
Earl of *Sunderland* finding himself and the other
Lords of the Treasury thus attack'd, spoke in his
own and their Vindication, and said, ' That by the
' *South Sea* Act they were directed to appoint such
' Persons as they should think fit, to be Managers
' and Directors on the Part of the Treasury, for the
' due Execution of the said Act: That as they had
' Reason to look upon those Persons who had the
' principal Share in framing this Scheme, as the most
' able and proper to execute it, they had accordingly
' appointed

‘ appointed some of the *South Sea* Directors, to be Managers and Directors for the Treasury: Concluding, that in this they had follow’d former Precedents.’ Hereupon a Question was propos’d and stated, that the Commission issu’d out by the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty’s Treasury, to three of the Directors of the *South Sea* Company, &c. was according to former Precedents, and legal. This occasion’d a great Debate, that lasted till Eight in the Evening; but after the Reading of some Papers, the Lord *Harcourt*’s Opinion for the Affirmative prevail’d by a Majority of 63 Voices against 28, who were for the Negative; and most of whom enter’d their Protest against that Resolution. This done, some Lords mov’d for appointing a secret Committee to inquire into all the Proceedings relating to the Execution of the *South Sea* Act; but this was oppos’d by others, who said, that they ought, in the most solemn Manner, to examine the Persons concern’d; whereupon it was resolv’d to resume that Affair the Thursday following, when the Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, Directors, and Officers of the *South Sea* Company were order’d to attend.

Accordingly, on the 12th of *January*, the Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, about 24 of the Directors, Mr. *Robert Knight* Treasurer, Mr. *Surman* his Deputy, and some other inferior Officers, attended the House of Lords, and, at the Bar, were sworn to make true Answers to such Questions as should be put to them. After this, the Lords went into a grand Committee; and, in the first Place, examin’d the Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Treasurer, separately, and then the Directors; and, in the Intervals, read several Papers that had been laid before the House. These Examinations lasted till Nine at Night, when after a small Debate, their Lordships resolv’d, that the Sub-Governor and Directors of the *South Sea* Company had prevaricated with them, in giving false Representations of several Matters of Fact: That by lending Money on Stock and Subscriptions, they were guilty of a notorious Breach of Trust; and that they ought to make good the Losses which the Company had sustain’d by their fraudulent Management. Some Lords were willing not to involve all the Directors in this Censure, and to distinguish the Innocent from the Guilty; but they were told, that the whole Court

of Directors were guilty, either in acting or assenting, upon which those Lords acquiesc'd in declaring them all Criminal. After this, the Directors being call'd in again, the Lord Chancellor gave them a severe Reprimand for giving the House such lame Accounts, and for having order'd their Clerks to omit several material Things in the Copies that had been laid before the House; commanding them, at the same Time, to lay before the Lords Committees, either the Originals themselves of several Accounts of their Treasury, or authentick Copies of them. Then their Lordships adjourn'd the farther Consideration of that Affair till the 16th of January.

Jan. 14. The Committee of Secrecy appointed by the House of Commons, repair'd in the Morning to the *South Sea House*, took Possession of it, and of all the Books belonging to the several Offices, and afterwards examin'd severally, the Sub-Governor, the Deputy-Governor, Sir John Blunt, and Mr. Grigby, Accountant-General, who, by reason of his being much indispos'd with the Gout, could not attend the House of Lords. These Examinations lasted till near Ten at Night; and the secret Committee continu'd the next Monday, and the following Days, their Inquiries with the utmost Strictness and unwearied Application.

Jan. 16. Sir John Blunt attended with his Brethren at the House of Lords, who, after they had examin'd Sir John Fellows, Mr. Joye, and Mr. Knight, put off the farther Examination of that Affair to the Thursday following, when Mr. Stroude, Mr. Wymanfel, Mr. Testard, Mr. Lacour, Mr. Lockier, and some other Brokers, who negociated for the *South Sea Directors*, were order'd to attend. In the mean time their Lordships order'd a Bill to be brought in, *To disable the present Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors of the South Sea Company, at, and from and after the respective Times for electing a Sub-Governor, and Deputy-Governor, and new Directors of the said Company, to take, hold, or enjoy any Office, Place, or Employment in the said Company, or in the East India Company, or Bank of England, and from voting upon Elections in the said Company:* Which Bill was accordingly brought in and read twice on the 19th.

The same Day the Lords, in a grand Committee, examin'd, severally, the Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor,

vernor, and Treasurer of the *South Sea Company*, as also four of the Brokers, viz. Mr. *Stroide*, Mr. *Tesard*, Mr. *Lacour*, a Jew, and his Son: By which three last their Lordships made large Discoveries, and having sat till Seven in the Evening, adjourn'd to Saturday the 21st.

Jan. 21. The Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors, petition'd their Lordships to be heard by their Counsel against the Bill for disabling them; but that Petition was rejected, and the Bill read the third Time, pass'd, and sent down to the Commons for their Concurrence. Then the Lords, in a grand Committee, receiv'd and examin'd some of the Extracts of the Brokers Books that had been call'd for: by which it appearing, that large Quantities of *South Sea Stock* had been transfer'd to the Use of Mr. *A—e*, one of the Lords of the Treasury, several Lords took Notice of it, and, among the rest, the Duke of *W—* said, 'He hoped some great Men would produce some good Fruit, else they would break out into Blotches, that would stick upon them like the Leprosy of *Naaman* the Syrian on *Gebazi*.' The Earl of *Peterborough* made also a notable Speech on that Occasion; and then their Lordships adjourn'd to the 24th, when some other Brokers were order'd to attend.

In the mean time, Mr. *Knight*, Treasurer of the *South Sea Company*, who was entrusted with the principal Secret of this dark Intrigue, either of his own Accord, or, as 'twas shrewdly suspected, at the Suggestion of others, thought fit to retire out of the Kingdom; and having, on Sunday the 22^d, absent'd himself from his House, embark'd on Monday Morning in the River, on Board a Vessel that carry'd him the same Evening to *Calais*. The same Morning, a Porter deliver'd to Mr. *Sumner* the following Letter, directed to the *South Sea Directors*.

Gentlemen,

I Write this from a true Sense of the Obligation I am under to make up my Accounts with the Company, and to pay them their full Demand: And tho' Self preservation has oblig'd me to withdraw myself from the Resentment against the Directors and myself, yet I am not conscious to myself of having done any one Thing that I can reproach myself for, so far as relates to an honest, sincere

sincere Intention and Zeal for the Company; but I can, and do charge myself with a great many Indiscretions, and am (besides the Concern I must be under for leaving my own Family, Friends, &c.) very sensibly touch'd with what you are like to suffer on this Account; and it will be the more, I am afraid, from your Want of Unanimity, which I heartily recommend to you for the future, and, I am sure, wish you as well as you wish yourselves.

I write this at a Distance from Home, and under a great deal of Concern, so cannot be so particular, as otherwise I would have been. I have herewith sent Mr. Sumner the Key of my Desk, who knows so much of the State of the Cash, as to be able to make it up. There are a good many Bills of Exchange, and other Payments, to write off, and the weekly Receipts to write on. There is Cash in the Bank, in the Company's Book, which, together with the Notes taken on the third and fourth Subscriptions, and the Company's Bonds, will make up the Bullance, as I do believe: But if it fall short, I have 3000 Equivalent Stock, 1000 Bank Stock, 2000 India and South Sea Stock, over and above what I owe the Company on the Loan, as will be sufficient to make it up with Money owing on Securities on my particular Account. The Company need not deliver or be answerable for the Subscription Receipts or Stock on the third and fourth Subscriptions, unless these Notes are paid; so the Loss can only be the Difference between the Subscriptions and Money in Value; and, I think, it would be hard for me to bear the Loss, because the Clerks took by far the greatest Part of them, as thinking them better than none: And most of them would have been Non-Payments, if they had been refus'd: However, I submit this to the Company. I have taken with me but little more than a Sufficiency to maintain myself, and the Effects left will more than answer for all Deficiencies. I have bought no Land in Trust for me, nor have I ever convey'd or settled any Part of that I had formerly, or have bought lately; it remains to answer any Demands on me from the Company or the Legislature. I have wither'd myself only to avoid the Weight of the Inquiry, which I found too heavy for me; and I am sensible that it would have been impossible for me to have avoided the Appearance and Charge of Perjurification and Perjury, not from my own Intention to do so, but from the Largeness and Extent of the Inquiry, and the Nature and Largeness of the Transactions. I am sure
I am

I am a great deal concern'd to add to your present Difficulties; though I must say, that I have deserv'd better Usage than I have had from the Court the last Week: But this I say without any Resentment, otherwise than that it has been an Addition to the Weight I had before upon me.

I am press'd for Time, so can only assure you, that I am, with all Respect, in Inclination, though not in Power,

*Sunday Evening,
Jan. 22, 1720.*

*Gentlemen,
Your most obedient
humble Servant,
Robert Knight.*

Mr. Surman deliver'd this Letter to the Committee of Secrecy, then sitting at the South Sea House, from whence they immediately repair'd to the House of Commons, and in their Name Sir Thomas Pengelly acquainted the House, that they had that Morning receiv'd Information, that Mr. Robert Knight, Cashier of the South Sea Company, had, on Saturday Night last, (after he had been in Part examin'd by the said Committee) withdrawn himself from his Habitation, and had not been heard of since by his Family. Hereupon it was resolv'd, *Nemine Contradicente*, to present two Addresses to his Majesty, that he would be graciously pleas'd, first, immediately to issue his Royal Proclamation, (with such Reward as his Majesty should think proper) for discovering, apprehending, and detaining Mr. Robert Knight, in order that he might be brought to Justice. 2^{dly}, To give Orders, that the Ports might be forthwith stop'd; and that such effectual Care might be taken of the Coasts, as might prevent the said Mr. Knight, or any of the Directors, or other Officers of the South Sea Company, from escaping out of this Kingdom. These two Addresses were immediately carry'd to the King at St. James's, by Mr. Methuen, Controller of the Household, who being return'd, acquainted the House, by his Majesty's Command, that his Majesty would immediately give the necessary Orders and Directions according to the Desires of this House.

In the mean time, the Commons having order'd the Doors of their House to be lock'd up, and the Keys to be brought upon the Table, and summon'd Sir

Robert

Robert Chaplin, Sir Theodore Janssen, and Jacob Sawbridge, Esq; to attend in their Places immediately, General *Rosse*, and some other Members of the secret Committee, acquainted the House, ' That they had already ' discover'd a Train of the deepest Villany and Fraud ' that Hell ever contriv'd to ruin a Nation, which, ' in due Time, they would lay before the House; ' and that, in the mean while, in order to a farther ' Discover^y they thought it highly necessary to secure ' the Persons of some of the Directors, and principal ' South Sea Officers, and to seize their Papers. Here- upon it was order'd, 1st, That Mr. *Edward Wortley*, Mr. *Hutchinson*, and Mr. *Clayton*, go immediately and secure all Books and Papers belonging to, or in the Custody of Mr. *Robert Knight*, Mr. *Robert Surman*, and Mr. *John Gripsby*. 2^{dly}, That Mr. *Robert Surman*, Deputy-Cathier, and Mr. *John Gripsby*, Accomptant of the South Sea Company, be taken into the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms attending the House. 3^{dly}, That Mr. *Rosse* and Mr. *Sloper*, go immediately and secure all such Books and Papers belonging to, or in the Custody of *Elias Turner*, Sir *George Caswal* and Company, as they should think necessary to be secur'd for the publick Service. 4^{thly}, That Sir *John Blunt*, Bart. Sir *John Lambert*, Bart. two of the Directors, and Sir *John Fellows*, Bart. Sub-Governor of the South Sea Company, be taken into the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms attending this House. Then Mr. *Sawbridge*, and Sir *Theodore Janssen* being come into the House, a Motion was severally made, that they were guilty of a notorious Breach of Trust, as Directors of the South Sea Company, and thereby occasion'd very great Loss to great Numbers of his Majesty's Subjects, and had highly prejudic'd the publick Credit: And Mr. *Sawbridge* and Sir *Theodore Janssen* having severally been heard in their Places, and being withdrawn, the Question was severally put upon the said Motion, and carry'd in the Affirmative *Nemine Contradicente*; after which it was order'd, that the said *Jacob Sawbridge* and Sir *Theodore Janssen* be, for their said Offence, expell'd this House, and taken into the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms: It was also order'd, that the Committee of Secrecy should secure all Papers belonging to, or in the Custody of the Sub Governor, Directors, or other Officers of the South Sea Company, directed to be taken into Custody, that Sir *Robert Chaplin* and

Francis

Francis Eyles, Esq; should attend in their Places on Saturday Morning next, and that the Call of the House be farther adjourn'd 'till the next Day seven night.

Jan. 24. The Lords, in a grand Committee, examin'd Mr. *Joye*, Deputy-Governor of the *South Sea Company*, who made a very ingenuous Confession of several important Matters, and communicated to their Lordships the Letter before-mention'd from Mr. *Knight* to the Directors, which their Lordships pleas'd to be read. After this the Lords Committees examin'd severally Mr. *Joye*, and the Brokers, and upon Motion made by Earl *Stanhope*, Sir *William Chapman*, Mr. *Holditch*, Mr. *Hawes*, Mr. *Gibbon*, and Mr. *Chester*, five of the *South Sea Directors*, were order'd to be taken into the Custody of the Gentleman-Usher of the Black Rod.

The same Day the Commons having order'd the Land-Tax Bill to be ingross'd, and their Speaker to issue his Warrant for a new Writ for the electing a Burgess for the Borough of *Cricklade* in *Wiltshire*, in the Room of *Jacob Sawbridge*, Esq; expect'd this House; resolv'd, *Nepine Contradicente*, to address his Majesty, that he would be graciously pleas'd to give Directions to his Ministers residing in the Courts of foreign Princes and States in Alliance with his Majesty, that they should make their Application, that Mr. *Robert Knight*, Cashier of the *South Sea Company*, if he should shelter himself in any of their Dominions, might be surrender'd in order to his being brought to Justice; which Directions his Majesty gave accordingly. The same Day a Person from Earl *Stanhope's* Office of Secretary of State, presented to the House several Papers relating to the Survey of the Harbour of *Rye*; after which, upon the reading of several Petitions, a Bill was order'd to be brought in To preserve and encourage the Woollen and Silk Manufactures of this Kingdom, and for the more effectual employing the Poor, by prohibiting the Use and Wear of all printed, painted, stained, and dyed Callicoes in Apparel, Household-Stuff, Furniture, or otherwise. They also resolv'd to address his Majesty, that he would be pleas'd to direct the Commissioners of Trade to lay before the House any Scheme they had prepar'd for effectually preventing the Use and Wear of Callicoes, as also their Report relating to the preventing the running of Wooll.

Jan. 25. The Members of the Committee of Secrecy, who had been order'd to secure the Papers of several Persons, acquainted the Commons, that they had obey'd the said Orders. Then the Commons receiv'd a Message from the Lords, acquainting them, that their Lordships had, for divers weighty Reasons, order'd Sir William Chapman, Bart. Robert Chester, Edward Gibbon, Francis Hawes, and Richard Holditch, Esqs. Directors of the South Sea Company, to be taken into Custody of the Gentleman-Usher of the Black Rod attending their House, and their Papers, and the Papers of Mr. Clark, the Company's Solicitor, to be seiz'd by the said Gentleman-Usher; and had likewise given Order to the said Gentleman-Usher, that the said Persons and their Papers, should be, from Time to Time, produc'd, in such Manner as should be desir'd by the House of Commons, or by any Committee of that House. Which Message contributed very much to keep up a good Correspondence between both Houses. The same Afternoon the King went 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 three publick and one private Bill, viz. ,

An Act for restraining the Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, Directors, Treasurer or Cashier, Deputy-Cashier, and Accountant of the South Sea Company, from going out of this Kingdom for the Space of one Year, and until the End of the then next Session of Parliament, and for discovering their Estates and Effects, and for preventing the transporting or alienating the same.

An Act to disable the present Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors of the South Sea Company, at, from, and after the respective Times for electing a Sub-Governor, Deputy Governor, and new Directors of the said Company, to take, hold, or enjoy any Office, Place, or Employment in the said Company, or in the East India Company, or Bank of England, and from voting upon Elections in the said Companies.

An Act for repealing an Act made in the ninth Year of the Reign of her late Majesty Queen Anne, intitled, An Act to oblige Ships, coming from Places infected, more effectually to perform their Quarentine; and for the better preventing the Plague being brought from foreign Parts into Great Britain, or Ireland, or the Isles of Guernsey,

sey, Jersey, Alderney, Sark, or Man, and to hinder the Spreading of Infection.

An Act for naturalizing John Robethon, and George Robethon his Son.

Jan. 26. The Commons order'd a new Writ to be issu'd out for electing a Burgess for the Borough of Grampound in Cornwall, in the Room of Sir Charles Cooke, Kt. deceas'd; and a Bill to be brought in for preventing the corrupting of Juries, and for the more effectual enforcing the Laws for making up the Freeholders Books.

The same Day the Lords in a grand Committee, examin'd several of the South Sea Directors, particularly Mr. Astell and Sir Harcourt Maser, who made very ingenuous and large Discoveries, and nam'd several Persons, both in the Administration, and in the House of Commons, to whom large Sums, in South Sea Stock, had been given for procuring the passing of the South Sea Act. This Examination lasted about four Hours; after which, upon a Motion made by the Earl Stanhope, and seconded by the Lord Viscount Townshend, and Earl Cowper, their Lordships came to the following unanimous Resolution, viz.

Resolv'd by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, that the taking in of Stock, the transferring of Stock belonging to the South Sea Company, or giving Credit for the same, without a valuable Consideration actually paid or sufficiently secur'd; or the Purchasing Stock by any Director or Agent of the South Sea Company, for the Use or Benefit of any Person in the Administration, or any Member of either House of Parliament, during such Time as the late Bill relating to the South Sea Company was depending last Year in Parliament, was a notorious and most dangerous Corruption.

After which their Lordships order'd the said Resolution to be forthwith printed and publish'd.

Jan. 27. The Commons read the third Time, and pass'd the Land-Tax Bill, which was sent up to the Lords; and then Mr. Foye Deputy Governor of the South Sea Company, presented to the House an Account of Stock, &c. which was referr'd to the Consideration of the Committee of Secrecy.

Jan. 28. Sir Robert Chaplin, and Francis Eyles, Esq; two Members of the House, and Directors of the South Sea Company, attending in their Places, the same

same Censure was severally past upon them, as four Days before on Mr. *Sawbridge*, and Sir *Theodore Janssen*, and they were both, for their Offence, expell'd the House. After this, the Commons, in a grand Committee, went through the *Bill for punishing Mutiny and Desertion*, &c.

On Monday the 30th of *January*, being the Anniversary of the Martyrdom of King *Charles the 1st*, both Houses attended divine Service, and the Lord Bishop of *Bangor* preach'd before the Lords in *Westminster Abbey*, and the Reverend Mr. *Baker* before the Commons, who, the next Day, return'd him their Thanks, and desir'd him to print his Sermon. The same Day (*Jan. 31.*) the Commons order'd three new Writs to be illud out, for electing, 1. a Burgess for the Borough of *Devizes* in *Wiltshire*, in the Room of *Francis Eyles*, Esq; 2. a Burgess for the Borough of *Yarmouth* in the County of *Southampton*, in the Room of Sir *Theodore Janssen*, Bart. 3. and a Burgess for the Borough of *Great Grimsby* in *Lincolnshire*, in the Room of Sir *Robert Chaplin*, Bart. all three expell'd the House. The same Day, upon a Motion made by the Lord *Molesworth*, the Call of the House was farther adjourn'd to the 6th of *February* next, and order'd, that Mr. Speaker do write circular Letters to summon all absent Members to attend then the Service of the House, notwithstanding any Leave to be absent, &c. After this *Samuel Tufnel*, Esq; and Colonel *Momoe* complain'd to the House of a scandalous List that was hand'd about, and in which their Names were inserted, suppos'd to be of the Members of that House who receiv'd *South Sea* Stock for giving their Votes for the *South Sea* Bill: Of which false Imputation they offer'd to clear themselves. Hereupon they were given to understand, that if a Motion was made and seconded for examining into that Affair, a Day might be appointed for it: But no such Motion being made, that Matter dropt: and then the Bill against *Callicoes* was presented to the House and read the first Time.

On the 28th a select Committee of the Lords, of whom the Earl of *Westmoreland* was chosen Chairman, examin'd the several Papers that had been laid before them, relating to the *South Sea* Affair, and segregated and cull'd out such as their Lordships thought necessary. On the 31st of *January*, their Lordships, in a grand

grand Committee, examin'd some Brokers, as also Mr. Waller, Son-in-Law to Mr. Aislaby, and Mr. Aspel, severally, in relation to a great Quantity of *South Sea* Stock which appear'd to have been transferr'd to, and negotiated by the said Mr. Waller, who pretended not to have kept Minutes of what he had done in *Exchange-Alley*. This some of the Lords look'd upon as Prevarication, and after the said Examination had lasted till near seven in the Evening, their Lordships came to the following Resolution, viz. That the Directors of the *South Sea* Company having order'd great Quantities of their Stock to be bought for the Service of the said Company, when Stock was at a very high Price, and on Pretence of keeping up the Price of the Stock; and, at the same Time, several of the Directors, and other Officers belonging to the said Company, having, in a clandestine Manner, sold their own Stocks to the Company, such Directors and Officers are thereby guilty of a notorious Fraud and Breach of Trust, and their so doing was one great Cause of the unhappy Turn of Affairs, that has so much affected publick Credit.

On the 1st of February Sir John Norris presented to the House of Commons a Bill for the better Preservation of the Harbour of Rye, &c. which was read the first Time, and order'd to be read a second, as was also a Bill, presented by Mr. Freeman, For preventing the corrupting of Juries, and for the more effectual enforcing the Laws for making up the Freeholders Books. Then Mr. John Chetwynde, from the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, laid before the House the Representation from the said Commissioners, upon an Address from the House of Lords relating to the Prohibition of Callicoes, &c. after which, several Petitions of Weavers, Clothiers, and Stuff makers, were presented to the House and read, complaining of the Using and Wearing of Callicoes, and *East India* wrought Silks.

Feb. 2. The Lords sent a Message to the Commons acquainting them, that their Lordships having under their Examination several Matters of Importance relating to the *South Sea* Company, desir'd, that such of the Directors of the said Company, and other Persons, as were in the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms, might be from Time to Time produc'd before their Lordships, or any Committee of their House, when desir'd;

desir'd; which was readily comply'd with, and an Order was thereupon made for the Serjeant at Arms, or his Deputy, to attend the Lords with such of the Directors, or other Officers of the South Sea Company, as were in his Custody, in such Manner as was desir'd by their Lordships. Then a Bill to preserve and encourage the Woollen and Silk Manufactures of this Kingdom, and for the more effectual employing the Poor, by prohibiting the Use and Wear of all printed, painted, stained, or dyed Callicoes, &c. was read a second Time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Hereupon the next Day (Feb. 3.) a Petition of the united Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, was presented to the House, and read, praying, that they might be heard by their Counsel before the Committee of the whole House, to whom the said Bill was committed, which was accordingly granted. Then Mr. Robert Walpole presented to the House a Bill of Powers for ingrafting Part of the Capital Stock and Fund of the South Sea Company into the Stock and Fund of the Bank of England, and another Part thereof into the Stock and Fund of the East India Company; which was read the first Time, and order'd to be read a second on the 7th of February, to which Day the Commons adjourn'd.

On the 2^d of February the Lords, in a grand Committee, examin'd Mr. Hawes, one of the late Directors of the South Sea Company, and some of the Brokers; after which, their Lordships came to the following Resolutions, viz.

1. That the Directors, &c. buying the Midsummer Dividend about the 4th of January 17¹/₂, and paying 5^{l.} down, and 3^{l.} after the Receipt of the said Dividend, was a Fraud to the Persons with whom they contracted.

2. That the giving a Premium for the Refusal of Stock at higher Prices than they knew the Value was, was a fraudulent Artifice to raise the Price of Stock.

3. That promoting the third Subscription at 1000 per Cent. was to answer a particular End, and to cheat the Publick.

4. That the declaring 70 per Cent. Dividend for the half Year, ending at Christmas, and 50 per Cent. per Ann. for

for no less than 12 Years after, was a villainous Artifice to delude and defraud his Majesty's good Subjects.

5. That the declaring the *Midsummer* Dividend to be paid in Stock, when they had Money by them to answer the same, was a notorious Fraud, and was one Occasion of the Misfortunes that ensued.

Feb. 4. The Lords design'd to have examin'd Sir *John Blunt*, the grand Projector of the *South Sea* Scheme, who had been summon'd to appear before them, and it was generally expected that he would make great Discoveries; but instead of that, he would not so much as be sworn to answer to such Interrogatories as should be put to him, avowing, that he had already been examin'd before the secret Committee of the House of Commons, and to such Extent of Affairs, that unless he had a Copy of his former Examination, he could not remember every Particular; and as no Man is oblig'd to accuse himself, he would not run the Hazard of prevaricating. The Lords were much surpriz'd at this extraordinary Proceeding; but upon a Surmise that Sir *John Blunt* might thereby design to break the Harmony that had hitherto been preserv'd in this nice Affair between the two Houses, their Lordships thought fit not to shew immediately their Indignation against his Obstinacy. After he had been order'd to withdraw, their Lordships debated how they should proceed in this unprecedented Case; and it unluckily fell out, that some Reflections were made against those in Power by a noble Duke, who observ'd, that the Government of the best of Princes, was sometimes made intolerable to their Subjects by ill Ministers; which his Grace illustrated by the Example of *Sejanus*, who had made a Division in the Imperial Family, and rend'ed the Reign of the Emperor *Claudius* odious to the *Romans*. This Reflection was highly resent'd by Earl *Stanhope*, who took upon him to vindicate his Colleagues, and brought in several Instances from the *Roman* History, particularly that of the great Patriot *Brutus*, who in order to assert the Liberty of *Rome*, and free it from Tyrants, sacrific'd his own degenerate Son. My Lord *Stanhope* spoke with so great Vehemence, that finding himself taken suddenly with a violent Head ach, he went Home and was cupp'd, which eas'd him a little. The next Morning he was at Blood, and continu'd pretty well 'till about six a Clock in the Evening, when

when falling into a Drowziness, his Physicians thought fit to order him a Glyster; but as he was turning himself to receive it, he fell on his Face, and was instantly suffocated.

On the 7th of February the Commons read a Petition of the Master-Tailors in London and Westminster, complaining that their Journeymen had enter'd into Combination to demand greater Prices, and to work fewer Hours than they us'd to do, &c. and praying, that a Law might be made for redressing the said Grievances, and refer'd it to a Committee, which was appointed for that Purpose. After this, several other Petitions were read; and then a *Bill of Powers for ingrafting Part of the Capital Stock and Fund of the South Sea Company, &c.* was read the second Time, and a Motion being made for committing it to a Committee of the whole House, it occasion'd a high Debate, in which Mr. Robert Walpole, Mr. Heath, and some others, insisted for the Affirmative, and Mr. Milner, Mr. Sloper, Mr. Clayton, and Sir Joseph Jekyll for the Negative; and it was at last carry'd for the former, by a Majority of 237 Voices against 139. A Question was afterwards put, whether it be committed to Friday or Monday next, and it was carry'd for the latter.

Feb. 8. The *Bill for preventing the corrupting of Juries, &c.* was read a second Time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House; and then Mr. Hungerford presented to the House a *Bill for the better Establishment of publick Credit, by preventing, for the future, the infamous Practice of Stock-Jobbing*, which was read the first Time, and order'd to be read a second. The same Day the Commons order'd, that the grand Committee to whom the Callico Bill was committed, have Power to receive a Clause to prevent Master-Weavers from taking too great a Number of Apprentices, and then the House resolv'd itself into the said Committee, and having heard the Counsel of the East India Company, made some Progress in the Bill.

Feb. 9. The Lord Moleworth, from the Committee of Secrecy, acquainted the Commons, that they had receiv'd Information, that Mr. Robert Knight, late Cashier of the South Sea Company, was taken, and was in Custody in the Castle of Antwerp: Hereupon his Lordship mov'd, and it was resolv'd, *Nemine Contradicente*, that an humble Address be presented to

his Majesty, to return his Majesty the Thanks of this House for his great Goodness in giving such effectual Directions to his Ministers Abroad for securing Mr. *Robert Knight*, pursuant to the Address of this House; and humbly to desire, that his Majesty would be graciously pleas'd to give Orders to his Ministers, residing in the Courts of *Vienna* and *Brussels*, to make the proper Applications, and use the most effectual Instances, that the Person of the said Mr. *Robert Knight*, together with his Papers and Effects, might be secur'd, and deliver'd up to such Persons as his Majesty should appoint to receive the same; and that his Majesty would be graciously pleas'd to give Orders, upon the said Mr. *Robert Knight's* being brought into *Great Britain*, that he be forthwith deliver'd and put into the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms attending this House. This Address was immediately sent to the King by Mr. *Mathuen*, Controller of the Household, who being soon after return'd, acquainted the House, that his Majesty had commanded him to acquaint the House, that he would give the necessary Orders and Directions according to the Desires of this House; and that in Case his Majesty's Endeavours to have him secur'd and brought over into *Great Britain* should succeed, his Majesty would forthwith cause him to be deliver'd into the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms attending this House. The Commons were extremely well pleas'd with this Answer, and adjourn'd the End of their House to that Day sevenight. We must take Notice, that while Mr. Controller was upon presenting the Address before-mention'd, a Question was propos'd, that the Directors of the *South Sea Company* do forthwith lay before this House, an Account of what Stock the said Company will give to the Proprietors of the four Money-Subscriptions, for the Money actually paid in upon the said Subscriptions respectively: But the previous Question being put, that that Question be now put, it pass'd in the Negative.

The same Day (*Feb. 9.*) a noble Earl took Notice in the House of Peers of the Report of Mr. *Knight's* being taken and in Custody, which being a Matter in which the Publick was highly concern'd, he desir'd those in the Administration to acquaint the House whether there was any Ground for that Report. The Earl of *S—d* having, upon this, inform'd the House

in what Manner Mr. *Knight* had been apprehended and secur'd, a Motion was made to address his Majesty, to order his Ministers Abroad to use the most effectual Instances to have him deliver'd up and sent over. Whereupon the Lord who spoke first, represented, 'That the Person, who, at present, took Care of his Majesty's Affairs at *Brussels*, being a Foreigner, it were therefore proper, for the House either to send a Messenger of their own, or to desire his Majesty to send a special Messenger to bring over Mr. *Knight*, who was so material an Evidence in the present Enquiry into the villainous Frauds committed by the late *South Sea* Directors and their Abettors.' The Lord Viscount *Townshend*, who, the Day before, was declared Principal Secretary of State (in the Room of the Earl *Stanhope*) said thereupon, 'That either of these would be so far disrespectful, as it should imply a Distrust of his Majesty's Care in this Affair, which they had all the Reason in the World to be satisfy'd in: That upon the Application made to his Majesty for doing his Endeavours to get Mr. *Knight* secur'd, twelve Expresses were immediately dispatch'd for that Purpose to his Majesty's Ministers Abroad; and that these Orders had been executed with such Punctuality and Diligence, by the Secretary of his Majesty's Resident at *Brussels*, that Mr. *Knight* was actually apprehended and in safe Custody: Concluding, that it became the Wisdom of that august Assembly to express their grateful Acknowledgments to his Majesty for his past Care, and to rely on his future Endeavours for getting Mr. *Knight* deliver'd up, and sent over.' This being agreed to, an Address, much to the same Effect with that of the Commons, was presented to his Majesty; who appointed Colonel *Churchill* to go to the Court of *Vienna*, to make Instances for the delivering up of Mr. *Knight*; An Account of whose Apprehension was publish'd in the *London Gazette* of Saturday the 11th of *February*, as follows.

His Majesty's Orders having been dispatch'd by several Messengers to his Ministers residing in the Courts of foreign Princes and States in Alliance with his Majesty, for their making immediate Application, if Mr. *Robert Knight*, Caller of the *South Sea* Company, should shelter himself in any of their Dominions, to

get him seiz'd and surrender'd, in order to his being brought to Justice: And M. *Gaudot*, Secretary to Mr. *Leathes*, his Majesty's Resident at *Brussels*, who, in the Absence of the Resident has the Care of his Majesty's Affairs there, having Information that the said Mr. *Knight* had pass'd thro' *Brussels* and was going towards *Louvain*, did, pursuant to those his Majesty's Orders, apply to the Marquess de *Prie*, who, out of Regard to a Request made to him in his Majesty's Name, readily appointed a Major, nam'd *Branden*, an Adjutant with 16 Dragoons, and a Quarter-master, to attend Mr. *Gaudot*, and follow such Directions as he should give. Hereupon Mr. *Gaudot* (leaving some Persons to watch and follow Mr. *Knight's* Son, whom he had left at *Brussels*, but was to come after him) set out on Thursday the 2d Instant O. S. at three a Clock in the Morning, accompany'd by the Major, with the Detachment of Dragoons, for *Louvain*, where they arriv'd just after the Opening of the Gates: To avoid raising a Talk in the Town, by entering it with the Dragoons, M. *Gaudot* and the Major left them without the Gate, and going to the Burgo-master, got Information, by his Assistance, that two *English* Gentlemen, who had lodg'd at an Inn there the Night before, went away that Morning at the Opening of the Gates, and had taken the Road to *Tirlemont*. Upon this Information M. *Gaudot* and the Major took fresh Horses, and ordering only four of the best mounted Dragoons to go with them, bidding the rest follow as they could, made the best of their Way to *Tirlemont*, where they put into the same Inn at which the two said Gentlemen had stop'd, of which they had Intelligence by a Postillion which they had sent before to make Enquiry. M. *Gaudot* entering the Inn, met Mr. *Knight*, who, with his Companion, instantly yielded themselves Prisoners to him and the Major. Soon after, Mr. *Knight's* Son, and another *English* Gentleman, arriv'd at *Tirlemont*, who being also seiz'd, they were all four carry'd back to *Brussels*: Arriving about one of the Clock in the Morning, the 3d Instant, at the outer Barrier of that Place, whither they had dispatch'd Advice of their Success; they found there a Coach with four Horses, a Detachment of 12 Dragoons to relieve the other, and a Letter from Count *Wrangel*, with a Warrant inclos'd

clos'd from the Marquess de Prie, ordering Major Branden to carry Mr. Knight to the Citadel of Antwerp, without passing thro' Brussels. Mr. Knight's Son went with his Father to the Citadel. M. Gaudot having at the Marquess de Prie's Desire waited on him as soon as he got to Brussels to acquaint him with his Proceedings, went, the third in the Evening to Antwerp, the Marquess having order'd, that none should be admitted to speak to the Prisoner, except the Gentleman who was taken with him, and he only in M. Gaudot's Presence and Hearing. Mr. Knight is kept in safe Custody by an Officer, who lyes in the same Room with him, and four Sentinels without, and as many within the House, and not allow'd the Use of Pen, Ink, and Paper.

On the 7th of February the Lords examin'd Sir John Fellows, late Sub-Governor, Mr. Joye, Deputy-Governor, and Sir Robert Chaplin, one of the late Directors of the South Sea Company; and voted Sir John Blunt guilty of a high Contempt of the Judicature of the House of Lords, for refusing to be sworn, and examin'd before their Lordships.

Feb. 8. Their Lordships, in a grand Committee, examin'd some others of the late South Sea Directors, particularly Mr. Gibbon and Mr. Holditch; and on the 10th of February, the five late Directors, who had been committed to the Custody of the Usher of the Black Rod, were, upon their humble Petition, suggesting, that they had given Security as the late Act of Parliament directs, order'd to be discharg'd, paying their Fees. The same Day, and the next, some other Directors were examin'd by the Lords, in relation to Stock given to those in the Administration, and to Members of Parliament, while the South Sea Act was depending, but little or nothing could be got from them.

On the 10th of February the Commons, in a grand Committee, went through the Callico Bill, and made several Amendments thereto. The next Day the King went 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 Act for granting an Aid to his Majesty by a Land-Tax, and to a Naturalization Act. The Commons being return'd to their House, and having resolv'd themselves into a grand Committee, went through the Bill for preventing

preventing the corrupting of Juries, and made several Amendments thereto.

On the 13th of February Mr. Broderick acquainted the Commons, from the Committee of Secrecy, that they should, in a few Days, be ready with a Report to be laid before the House, and desired, that the House would appoint a Day for receiving it; whereupon it was order'd, that the said Report be receiv'd upon the 16th. After this, Mr. Speaker was order'd to issue out his Warrant for a new Writ for electing a Burgess for the Borough of Corfe-Castle in the County of Dorset, in the Room of Joshua Churchill, Esq; deceased. Then upon the reading of the Order of the House for going into a grand Committee upon the Bill of Powers for ingrafting Part of the Capital Stock and Fund of the South Sea Company, &c. a Petition of the South Sea Company was offer'd to be presented to the House, and the Members, in Westminster-Hall, Court of Requests, and Places adjacent, having, by the Serjeant at Arms, been summon'd to attend the Service of the House, the said Petition was brought up and read, praying the Consideration of the House, in relation to the Payments of the several Sums of Money, which, by the Act of Parliament of the last Session, the said Company are subject and liable to, for the Use of the Publick, at the Times, and in the Manner by the said Act directed, and praying such Relief, as to the House should seem meet. Hereupon a Motion was made, and insisted on by Mr. Shippen, and the Country Party, that the said Petition be rejected; but the said Motion being oppos'd by Mr. Robert Walpole, and all the Court Party, the Question being put thereupon, was carry'd in the Negative, by a Majority of 253 Voices against 166; however, the said Petition was order'd to lie on the Table; and then another Motion was made by the Country Party, that it be an Instruction to the said Committee, that they have Power to receive a Clause for excluding the Directors of the South Sea Company, the East India Company, and the Bank of England, from being elected Members, or sitting and voting in any future Parliament: But, after some Debate, the Question being put thereupon, was carry'd in the Negative, by a Majority of 111 Votes against 164; and then, in a grand Committee, some Progress was made in the said Bill.

Feb. 14. Upon the reading of two Petitions of Button-makers in the Counties of *Somerset* and *Dorset*, a Bill was order'd to be brought in for making more effectual the Act of the 4th Year of his present Majesty's Reign, for enforcing a former Act for encouraging the Consumption of Raw Silk and Mohair Yarn. Then a Petition of the Borough of *Cricklade* in *Wiltshire*, complaining of an undue Election and Return for the said Borough, was read, and order'd to be heard at the Bar of the House on the 7th of *March*. After this, Mr. *Bacon* reported the Amendments made in a grand Committee to the Callico Bill, which were agreed to, and other Amendments having been made, the said Bill was order'd to be ingross'd, as was also, the next Day (Feb. 15) the Bill for preventing the corrupting of Juries, &c. The same Day Mr. *Controller* deliver'd to the Commons the following Message from his Majesty.

GEORGE R.

HIS Majesty having receiv'd a Petition from the Court of Directors of the South Sea Company, relating to the Payment of the Money due to the Publick from the said Company, has thought fit to transmit the said Petition to the House of Commons; and, at the same Time, to acquaint them, that his Majesty has no Objection in the Parliament's giving to the South Sea Company such Ease and Relief, in the Times of making the Payments due to the Publick, as the House of Commons shall think fit and reasonable.

This Message was referr'd to the Consideration of a Committee of the whole House the Friday following; and then a Clause was order'd to be inserted in the Bill for ingrossing Part of the Stock and Fund of the South Sea Company, to restrain the Corporations of the Bank of England, of the South Sea Company, and of the East India Company, from lending any Sum of Money to their Proprietors upon their Stock, exceeding 100l. for 100l. Capital Stock. Then the Commons, in a grand Committee, made a farther Progress in that Bill.

The next Day (Feb. 16.) Mr. Speaker was order'd to issue out his Warrant for a new Writ for electing a Knight of the Shire for the County of *Worcester*, in the Room of *Thomas Vernon*, Esq; deceas'd. Then upon