

1727-279
A
L E T T E R

TO THE

PROPRIETORS

OF

EAST INDIA STOCK,

Upon the Question to be ballotted for on
TUESDAY the 23d Day of March;
for granting to Lord CLIVE
three Hundred Thousand
Pounds.

to be voted for the 29



L O N D O N :

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1727. 279. 6

TO THE

PROPRIETORS

OF

EAST INDIA STOCK.

GENTLEMEN,

IN the quarterly court of the East India Company, held on the 17th instant, a motion was made for granting, out of your property, thirty thousand pounds a year, for ten years certain, which is equal in value to a sum of 300,000*l*. A ballot was demanded upon this question by nine Proprietors, as it is to be taken at Merchant-Taylors Hall on Tuesday next.

As this is a measure not only of the most serious consequence, but also most alarming, as to the manner in which it is at-

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tempted

tempted to be carried through, I thought it my duty to expose to my fellow Proprietors, in as distinct a manner as the hurry of the occasion would permit, the reflections which have occurred to me upon it, hoping that they will induce every man who values his own interest, and has the general good of the Company at heart, to give his attendance at the ballot, to oppose this shameful delapidation of the Companies fund, and disappoint the selfish views of those men who are thus liberal of your property for their own ends, even too, at a time when the right to the very acquisition, out of which this enormous sum of 300,000*l*, is demanded for Lord Clive, is contested with us; and no man can yet positively say, whether, in consequence of the resolutions of P—t, he may ever be benefited one shilling by all his Lordship's boasted services.

But, before I enter into a discussion of the merits of Lord Clive's pretensions, let me suggest, that this rash and precipitate measure, into which you are attempted to be hurried, may have consequences of a very

very disagreeable nature; for there are many gentlemen among your own number, men of knowledge and ability, who are of opinion that it is not in the power of the majority of the voters, either at a general court or by ballot, to give away the property of their fellow Proprietors, and that such a gift is void in law.

The votes of the majority of an incorporated body, may, no doubt, regulate the ordinary management of affairs, they may also settle, by compromise or arbitration, doubtful questions at law; but, in order to give away the undoubted property of the Company, the consent of every single Proprietor seems in law to be requisite.

If, therefore, this unreasonable and unprecedented grant is carried at the ballot, it is not to be supposed that those gentlemen will submit to it, they will apply for redress where it best can be obtained, either to the ordinary courts of justice, or to the supreme Legislature of Great Britain; nay it has been openly declared as a determined purpose, to seek a remedy by petition to

that respectable body; and how dangerous it may prove, in our present critical situation, to have our rights and managements discussed by P—t, I leave every man to judge.

I hope the event of the ballot will prevent this disagreeable necessity. The mischievous consequences, which naturally follow such proceedings as are here complained of, are so obvious, that every disinterested Proprietor must see and oppose it. Let us only suppose, that it should come about hereafter, that a few men, with the overgrown fortunes of German Commissaries, or Indian Governors, should possess themselves of a large proportion of the Stock, would it not be in their power to rob the rest of the Proprietors, under the cover of a general court, composed of their own split votes, where, by a violent resolution, they might give away to one another, under various pretences, the greatest part of that fund which ought to be applied to a general dividend upon the Companies Stock. In the case now before us, there are circumstances not altogether different from those which

which I have supposed. It is certain, that the number of split votes intended to serve this jobb, are very considerable; that unless the real Proprietors do exert themselves in the most vigorous manner, they will certainly be overpowered, their property shamefully lavished away, and the means of redress become very difficult, and perhaps impracticable.

Let us now consider the specious pretence for this wonderful benevolence. It is said that the Company owe to Lord Clive the great acquisitions lately obtained in India, and that therefore they cannot be too liberal in rewarding him. Those who argue thus, are themselves conscious of the obvious answer which must occur to every person who is acquainted with the facts: no man, no servant of the public in any country or any age, ever was so liberally rewarded as that noble Lord has already been. Had my Lord Clive lived in ancient Rome, admitting all his pretensions to be well founded, he would have been rewarded with a crown of oak and a triumph; but to bring an instance from our own times, and our own

own manners: the great duke of Marlborough, bred up in a court, the companion, the favourite of three successive Monarchs, Minister at home, and General over half the united armies of Europe, victorious in all his attempts, over the most powerful rival of his country, and the most military people in the world at that time; this great man at last became the object of envy and prosecution; for having amassed a fortune of about 12,000 l. *per annum*, during the long course of his services in his country's cause. But our hero, from a small fortune and obscure situation, has been advanced to opulence, dignity and power: and hardly two years have elapsed, since this company, notwithstanding the immense fortune he had before acquired in their service, voted to him 30,000 l. a year for ten years, if he should live so long.

Every Proprietor must remember the declarations of that aspiring nobleman, when he obtained this last grant from the Company, That he would go out to India on the Company's service, without meaning to increase his fortune a single rupee.

And

And, indeed, gratitude to a Company, in whose employment he had reared up so large a fortune, required this return at his hand.

His letters from India contain the most extravagant protestations of his disinterestedness, and his great contempt for money, at the same time that his friends here request a grant from the Company of no less a sum than 300,000*l*. They tell us, as an argument for this demand, that he has left his family, and risked his life, for the Company. But surely a voyage to India, which is no new thing to his lordship, can with no propriety be called risking his life. And it is acknowledged, that since he left us, he has encountered no dangers of a higher kind—having never yet seen the face of an enemy. A separation from his family for two years, in order to serve the Company, to whom he owes every thing, does not appear to intitle him to this enormous accumulated reward, which is with so little decency now demanded. We are told; as another argument for this grant, that his lordship intends to bestow amongst his
his

his friends and favourites in India all the money which may come into his possession there ; and that he is to return home not a shilling richer than he went away.

The partisans and abject flatterers of his lordship may, if they please, give credit to such declarations ; but if they were true, what pretence does this afford to demand from the Company so immense a sum, merely to enable him to be profuse to his creatures and dependents ; which, in effect, the Company, by this reasoning, are to vote for these favourites of his, whose names and whose services are equally unknown to the Proprietors.

This affectation of generosity in his lordship is too thin a disguise, not to be seen through. He pretends to give away, to a set of dependents in Asia, considerable sums, that he may have a pretence for demanding infinitely more from the Proprietors at home ; and the Company are to pay back ten-fold to him the money which he pretends to have unnecessarily distributed to his followers abroad.

I shall

I shall now endeavour to make an estimate of the present situation of my lord Clive with respect to fortune, that the Proprietors may judge how far he is an object of their compassion, that they should thus, charitably grant to him a yearly pension equal to 2 *per cent.* on their whole capital stock, before they have divided from their last acquisitions one farthing among themselves.

His lordship's estate already in England, which he intirely owes to his being employed in the service of this Company, may be computed at no less *per An.* than - - - - - £. 10,000

His jaghire, which he holds for life, is - - - - - 30,000

His salary and emoluments, as governor of Bengal, are, at least, (besides his extraordinary expenses in the field) - - - 9,000

His profits from the monopoly of salt, beetlenut, and tobacco, not less than, - - - - - 26,000

In all, *per annum* - - - 75,000

C

All

All this, besides the presents which it is natural to presume he must receive, and which, to a certain extent, he may lawfully receive, notwithstanding the covenants.

In the foregoing state, the article of monopoly is of so curious and extraordinary a nature, that it merits a particular explanation.

Salt, beetlenut, tobacco, opium, &c. are in India considered as the absolute necessities of life: the trade on these articles is, therefore, very extensive, and the revenues arising from thence considerable to the sovereign. We contrived, by a treaty with Meer Jaffer in 1764, to secure this trade entirely to ourselves. The Directors disapproved of this, as productive of a thousand disorders, and expressly ordered lord Clive, in concert with the Nabob, to settle it on a more free and equitable footing. My lord Clive no sooner arrived in India, than, in direct contradiction to his instructions, he changed the trade from bad to worse, and, instead of leaving it *exclusively* in

In the hands of all the English, he reduced
 it to a vile *monopoly* among a few friends,
 and helped himself to a fifth share. I know
 this is a charge so home and of so heavy a
 nature, that it will startle many an honest
 man; who never before viewed his lord-
 ship's conduct in so bad a light. But to
 shew them how much I am warranted in
 what I advance, I will give them an extract
 of a letter from the present Directors them-
 selves to lord Clive, dated 19th February
 1766. They say, " We must and do con-
 sider what you have done (*viz.* in the
 affair of monopoly) as an express breach
 and violation of our orders, and as a de-
 termined resolution to sacrifice the in-
 terest of the Company, and the peace
 of the Country, to lucrative and selfish
 views." Fellow Proprietors, you are
 now to vote 300,000l. to this man, whom
 your Directors deem to have *sacrificed* the
 interests of the Company to *selfish* views.

In the 28th paragraph of this letter they
 add, " We do pronounce that every ser-
 vant concerned in that trade, stands guilty

of a breach of his covenants with us, and
 " of our orders."

Directors, are you to reward, with
 30,000 l. a year, the servant who broke
 the covenants which he voluntarily ac-
 cepted himself, and, with the most impla-
 cable zeal, imposed on other men?

I now appeal to the judgment of every
 impartial man, whether the above appoint-
 ments and emoluments are not ample testi-
 monies of the Company's profuse disposi-
 tion, and might, as one would think, be
 sufficient to satisfy the avarice of one who
 was not born to a fortune of 500 l. a year.

Every person does admit that his lord-
 ship has been fully and compleatly re-
 warded for the services which he per-
 formed to this Company, before his last
 voyage to India; and it is fresh in the me-
 mory of every one that he himself declared,
 before his jaghire was voted, that he ex-
 pected no further reward for the services
 which he might perform upon his return

to that country, for the third time; and here it may be proper to consider what these services have truly been.

That the Company's Stock is become much more valuable than it was, is true; and it is the common opinion, that this has been entirely owing to lord Clive. No opinion, however, can be more erroneous. Every enemy of the Company was subdued before the arrival of this hero in India; and a treaty actually concluded, by which the Company obtained a revenue of 60 lack, or 800,000 l. for the maintenance and support of their military establishment, besides near 300,000 l. yearly more from Banares; so that at his lordship's arrival in Bengal, he found the country in a state of perfect tranquillity, and the Company in possession of an income of 140 lacks, or about one million seven hundred and fifty thousand pounds; viz,

| | Lacks. |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Former concessions - - - | 6,000,000 |
| Monthly allowance for the troops | 6,000,000 |
| Province of Banares - - - | 2,000,000 |

14,000,000

These

These large sums were acquired to the Company by the good conduct of their servants, civil and military; whose names have hitherto, most unaccountably, been allowed to remain in oblivion. Had the affairs of the Company remained upon this footing, I do aver, that the Proprietors would have found themselves in a better situation than can be expected in consequence of any of the propositions now offered to government. If these propositions should be accepted, of which we have no certainty; had his lordship contented himself with the advantages claimed by that treaty, there is not the least reason to suppose that government would have interfered with our acquisitions. The last grant being only a sum for maintenance of our military establishment, it was impossible that government could have made any demand for a share of it; and our former acquisitions had been enjoyed, for many years, without being challenged; so that upon the footing of that treaty made by Mr. Spencer, the Proprietors would have obtained 20 *per cent.* dividend out of the revenues, after paying all military charges, besides the whole

whole profits of their trade. But the
 boasted treaty of lord Clive will not, upon
 the footing of any of the propositions of-
 fered to government, yield a dividend of
 15 *per cent.* over and above the profits
 of the trade; and therefore the Company
 has, in reality, received no real benefit
 from lord Clive's proceedings, but have
 been thereby involved in the most disagree-
 able altercation with the legislative power
 of this country, to which the wisest man
 cannot see an end. Must not, therefore,
 every impartial person agree with me, that
 his lordship has already received a most
 ample reward for these unfruitful services.
 Every man, who knows the situation in
 which our affairs stood in India when his
 lordship arrived, will declare, that any en-
 sign or writer of the Company could, in
 consequence of an order from the governor
 and council, have obtained the same grant
 of the duanny, which his lordship procured,
 and there was neither merit nor difficulty
 in obtaining it. A grant had been offered
 of this duanny as early as the year 1761;
 but the Company's servants abroad refused
 to accept of it; and their reasons were
 stated,

stated, and sent home to the Court of Directors, where they met with the fullest approbation ; and the Proprietors may, at the first General Court, call for these reasons, and the reply of the Directors which approved of them ; so that the great merit ascribed to lord Clive, upon account of obtaining that grant, appears to have no sort of foundation, so far as the Proprietors are concerned ; and we cannot be at a loss to guess at the motives of the Directors (who are known to be persons nominated by lord Clive) for concealing from the publick the advantageous treaty, already mentioned, concluded by governor Spencer, and his council, before his lordship arrived, which leads the Proprietors to think, and indeed it is generally imagined to this day, that every thing has been owing to his lordship : whereas the direct contrary is the fact.

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If it is pretended that lord Clive has any claim to this enormous sum of 300,000 l. on account of the grant he had of his jaghire ; I answer, that it was demonstrated, to the conviction of all mankind, by the very

very able answer to his lordship's printed letter, published in 1764, that his right to that jaghire was destitute of foundation. 'Tis true, he did obtain the opinion of a learned counsellor, his particular friend, favourable to that right; but I am assured that no other gentleman at the bar did then, or does now, entertain such an opinion. It has further been averred, in a printed letter to the Proprietors, not contradicted, that there was a nullity in the grant which would have appeared from the face of the writings, and would have been known to every Proprietor, had these writings been fairly laid before them, and not partially printed at the end of his lordship's letter. Translations of these papers, transmitted from India, are now in the hands of the Directors; and from them every Proprietor may satisfy himself with respect to the nullity. If any proposition, therefore, was to have been made with respect to this jaghire, the Proprietors had reason to expect, that it would have been for an enquiry into the validity of the original grant, in order to recal the consent which the Proprietors had been

hastily led to give in favour of his lordship three years ago, by an erroneous publication of the titles. This jaghire his lordship has already enjoyed for ten years: it was obtained at a time, and in a manner, which has exposed his reputation to many remarks; and the proposition now made, is for continuing it to him for near twenty years more.

If there could be a time more peculiarly improper than any other for making a proposition of this sort, it is the present, when the Company's right to their whole acquisitions has been called in question by the supreme legislative power, and the decision altogether uncertain: when the Company owes debts to the amount of more than a million in England, and their creditors pressing for payment; besides 1,800,000 l. due upon their interest bonds, beyond what is due to the Company by government: when an encrease of dividend of no more than 64,000 l. was so lately opposed by the Court of Directors, on account of the embarrassed circumstances of the Company's affairs: when

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the Directors have so lately applied to his Majesty's ministers for leave to borrow a million to pay off the most pressing of their creditors: when it appears, by accounts delivered into parliament, that the Company have expended during the war, no less than four millions sterling, which is not yet reimbursed. In this situation of the Company's affairs, to propose a grant, of no less than 300,000 l. in favour of the most opulent man perhaps in this kingdom, must appear to all impartial men as the most impudent and indecent party-job that has been attempted in this or any other age.

We have been told a great deal of the savings which lord Clive has made for the Company, by reducing the batta allowed to the Company's officers in India; and indeed the affairs of the company required an exertion of economy. But this saving, I am well informed, does not amount to 20,000 l. a-year; and, in order to obtain it, his lordship has actually put to the hazard the whole of our new acquired possessions; for this batta is so necessary for

the comfortable subsistence of the officers abroad, and they have been so long accustomed to receive it, that it is still uncertain whether an universal revolt may not be the consequence of their dissatisfaction. It is surprising that his lordship, who thought the Company's affairs required the risking their whole possessions to save about 20,000 l. yearly of batta, should now make a demand of 30,000 l. yearly, to be granted to himself and his personal representatives.

The glaring partiality which has been shewn in favour of his lordship, must have the most disagreeable effect upon the conduct of every other servant of the Company. No notice has been taken of * general

* * Left it should be objected that I have concealed the reward bestowed on General Lawrence, as forming a *striking* precedent in favour of lord Clive, I shall here give it in all its force.

General Lawrence, an officer of approved valour and unrivalled abilities, who carried on a war for near fifteen years in India, against an European rival, superior in force, and furnished with infinite resources, who restored the Company's affairs when they were almost desperate, and laid the foundation of our military power

ral Lawrence, colonel Coote, colonel Ford, major Adams, colonel Munro, and Sir Robert Fletcher, to whose services I will venture to say the Company have been more indebted than to lord Clive himself: no mention is made of grants to be made to them, nor even of any acknowledgment whatever for their gallant behaviour. The civil servants of the Company, who laid the foundation of every thing which has been lately done in India, have not only been treated with total neglect, but prosecutions, I am told, have been brought against them for presents received at the time they made the most advantageous treaty for this Company that ever was made in India. The whole of these presents do not amount to 120,000 l. and these servants have been loaded with every species of abuse on that account, by the same persons who applaud lord Clive for having taken

power in India, came home at last, old, broken in constitution, and with a very moderate fortune: the Company, in full reward of his great and faithful services, granted him an annuity of—not 30,000 l.—but 500 l. for life, and the general thanked them for their generosity.

to himself a present of 300,000l. after the battle of Plassey, and for having secured to his private use a jaghire of 30,000l. at a time when the Company's affairs required the aid of that jaghire for their most necessary expences : and the same men are now demanding a grant of 300,000l. more in favour of his lordship, when no man can say that the Company will reap the least advantage by his lordship's late voyage to India.

Fellow Proprietors, it is your business not to be led away by the cry of a faction. Every means has been used to depreciate and undervalue every gentleman who has done you service, in order to exalt one favourite minion, and to heap praise and wealth upon his head : he has not been wanting in art to accomplish this ; he has even dared to attack the characters of every single man employed in your service in Bengal, in order to induce you to believe that he alone is fit to be trusted and proper to be rewarded. He has put himself in possession of all power, both in India and at home, and, in order to support himself in that power,

power, he now endeavours, by means of split votes, to grant away to himself another 300,000 l. of your property; supported, I am told, by a late German commissary, who having himself shared largely of the public money, is willing to assist in granting away yours. And a governor, lately returned from one of your settlements with an immense fortune, solely acquired by presents, has united himself to the same band. No doubt the noble lord in question will repay the obligation, by obtaining grants out of your property in favour of these his able assistants. All shame and all decency seems to be laid aside: but I hope, if this Cabal shall carry their point at the ballot, that the real Proprietors of this Company will apply by petition to Parliament for redress.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your humble Servant,

AN INDEPENDENT PROPRIETOR.




A
L E T T E R

FROM THE

E S C U R I A L.



MY LORD,

 EING at present detained
by some unforeseen Accidents,
since the Time of my Arri-
val at the *Escorial*, and hav-
ing through Means of *Don de*
Patimbo, Master of Horse to the late
Marquis de Tabernagua, during that No-
bleman's

bleman's Stay in *England*, been introduced to the Acquaintance of the Secretary to Foreign Affairs; and by these Gentlemen to the Company of some Connoisseurs; in order to gratify your Curiosity, I shall briefly state to your Lordship the present Sentiments of the People in general at the Court of *Madrid*.

Your Lordship is not insensible, that the *Spaniards* if left to themselves, are far from having any Animosity against the People of *Great Britain*, it being a received Maxim among them, *be at Peace with England, and at War with all the World*! This is the Language of a true and real *Spaniard*, for the Gloominess of Religion has not entered the Counting-Houses of the Merchants, nor yet into the Factories of the Maritime Towns.

The *Spaniards*, though in a State of Slavery, as being under an Arbitrary Government, yet discover some of the most generous Sentiments, especially the trading Part of the Nation, but particularly such as live upon the Coast: They indeed are all professed *Roman Catholics*, but I assure you that the Merchants are as little subject to the Friars and Priests.

as the Merchants in *Thames-Street*, and the other trading Parts of the City of *London* are to the Parsons and Curates of the Church of *England*: The Clergy in both Kingdoms (I mean the inferior Class) are equally treated and respected in both Kingdoms: The same might be said in some respect of the higher Class; for I observe that in every Place, and among all Conditions of Men, Affluence and Riches procure the greatest Veneration and Esteem. The Archbishop of *Toledo*, whose Revenues are computed at an Hundred Thousand Pounds *per Annum*, receives as great Honours as a Subject could desire; but indeed all the Homage shewn is but the Effect of the valuable Tithes he possesses.

It may not appear incredible that the *Spaniards* do not much regard the *French*; in Effect these are hated by them; for the Natives of *Spain* are apt to throw all the Blame of their Disappointments upon them: They have not forgot the many indirect Means used by the *French*, both in *Europe* and *America*, for worming them out of the several Branches of their Trade, and how the Natives of *France* come down from *Languedoe* and *Picardy*, and enhance the whole Wages of the Labourers in the Kingdoms

- Kingdoms of *Galicia*, *Catalonia* and *Extremadura*, and their Encroachments in the *West-Indies*, are notorious; an Instance of which I shall give for an Example :

The Island *Hispaniola* ~~came~~, after several Changes and Vicissitudes, to be possessed, partly by the *Spaniards*, and partly by the *French*; who at last found Means to get the better Part of it into their own Hands. The River of *Neyba*, which still takes its Rise from a Ridge of Mountains near *Maquana*, at first running South-West for about twenty Miles, did, after several Meanders and Windings, discharge itself into the Sea, at the Bay of *Traban*, and was the settled Boundary of the Possessions of the two Crowns.

The *French*, in Process of Time, observing an Eminence, which, if cut through, the Course of the Water would entirely be turned to another Channel. A Passage was digged, the Water-Course of the *Neyba* was diverted to the South by East, by which it run into *Cape Alongia*, a large Tract of Ground near sixty Miles in Length was gained, and the *French*, since that very Time, have kept Possession of it.

To enumerate the *Gallie* Encroachments upon the *English* Colonies would only be tedious, and the Fact is notorious: The *Spaniards* are sensible of this, and that nothing but a Want of Opportunity would prevent their meeting with the self same Treatment: The Opinion of the *Spaniards* is, that the *French* ought not in good Policy to be admitted into too close a Neighbourhood. They have not forgot how much they were outwitted in the Affair of the fine Provinces of *Perpignan* and *Roussillon*, which were ceded in Complaisance to the *French* for the long War sustained in *Spain*, only for the aggrandizing of their own Family. The Kingdoms of *Castile* and *Catalonia*, were, during the Campaigns of *Philip* the Fifth, one continued Field of Rapine, Plunder, and Cruelty: The *French* Officers seemed to have delighted in Blood: It is true, the M. Duke *de Noailles*, when Commander in *Catalonia*, did, by his Moderation, in some Measure, alter the dreadful Opinion the Natives had of the *French* Soldiers; but it will be a Work of Time to erase the Memory of some inhumane Barbarities.

And here I must observe, that to this Day the Mildness of the *Earl of Peter-*
And

borough, a Nobleman of the greatest Abilities, is remembered with Gratitude and Esteem; the bright and shining Qualities of *John, Duke of Argyle*, while Ambassador at *Madrid*, and General of the *British Forces in Spain*, are faithfully handed down to Posterity. While speaking of this Nobleman, renowned in Conquest, and skilled in Council, I beg Leave to submit to your Lordship's Judgment, the following *Latin Translation* of that inimitable Passage in Mr. *Addison's Campaign*, comparing the Duke of *Marlborough* to an Angel sitting in the Whirlwind, which I apply to the Duke of *Argyle*, both when at *Malplaquet* and on *Sheriffmuir*.

** Angelus hic veluti cælorum jussa secutus
Fulmine terribili terram tonitruque tre-*
(*mendo*)
*Concutit horrifonam! qualem sensere Britanni
Æquorei nuper, subito fremitante pavore!
Inſedit nimbis, mitis per inania ventus
Exequitur Mandata Dei, ceu turbine tor-*
(*quet*)
Axe Polas fixos dextra jaſſante procellos.

** So when an Angel by divine Command,
With rising Tempest shakes a guilty Land,
Such as of late, o'er pale BRITANNIA past!
Calm and serene he drives the furious Blast
And pleas'd th' Almighty's Orders to perform,
Rides in the Whirlwinds and directs the Storm.*

I hope your Lordship will pardon this Digression, when I inform you that I sometimes divert myself in Paraphrases of this Kind at my leisure Hours.

It is not for the Interest of *Spain* that *France* should aggrandize herself, either in *Europe* or in *America* any further: The proper Natives of *Spain* are convinced of this, and the Royal Family, though a younger Branch of the House of *Bourbon*, are not insensible of it. They do not desire their *French* Neighbours should extend their Dominions beyond the *Rhine*; or suppress the House of *Austria*, being fully assured, that if the Grand Monarch should fix the *Flower de Luc* in *Germany*, that the *Pyrenees* will be but a weak, and slender Barrier to them upon the Southern Quarter.

Every Person knows, that when the *Pyrenean* Mountains were subdued on the Side of *Spain* in the long Wars of *Lewis XIV.* and the *Alps* on the Side of *Italy*, the *Apennines* themselves were insufficient to oppose the Arms of *France*; and it is in a Manner past Doubt, that if the *Duke of Marlborough* had not gone over to *Flanders* at a Time when the *French* had passed the *Donube*, and the *Suedes* the

the *Oder*, the *Empire* would have been utterly undone: An Event, which, in the Issue, would have been a great Detriment and Loss to *Spain*, *Italy*, and *Portugal*, as they would next feel the Weight of the *French* Arms, tho' not to the Island of *Great Britain*, whose Treasures have been exhausted, Blood spilt, and Trade in a manner ruined and sacrificed for the sake of a Place, whose Inhabitants look upon the *English* as so many Barbarians and Foreigners, separated by Nature, distinguished by Custom, and generally as different in Religion as either the Subjects of the most faithful or yet the most catholic King.

And here it is observable that the Sea-Coast of *Germany* towards the South is in the Possession of a People whose restless Temper under a King of a haughty Disposition, with the Policy of many Princes, formed them into a Republick at present no less remarkable for the Grandeur they have attained, than for Selfishness, and the many Ways by which they outreach the *English* Merchants, not only in their Trade thro' the Empire, but in the different Articles of Commerce with the *Hanse Towns*, and along the Coast of the *Baltic*, but even in the *East* and *West-Indies*; in both which Places, they do more Hurt to the *British* Merchants than the Subjects
of

of the Grand Monarch : of this I shall give one Instance which is not only notorious, but is frequently mentioned at the Coffee-Houses of *Madrid* and the *Escorial*, but particularly in those of *Cadiz* and *Seville*.

The *Dutch* having ever since the Year 1590 that *Mynbeer Simon Cordes* sailed round the World, settled a Communication with the *Spice Islands*, which lie along the Coast of *India*, beyond the *Ganges*, and extend almost to the Borders of *China*, have erected Settlements in the most considerable of them ; to these they send Soldiers every Year without any Noise or *Bravado*, for the States of *Holland* tho' a Republick, yet keep their Business a perfect Secret ; their Votes are seldom printed, and their most material Schemes are carried on with as much Secrecy, the very Life and Soul of every expedition, as any at the Court of *France* ; they take care to engross the Spice Trade wholly to themselves ; for after their Ships have taken in their Lading from the Spice Islands, which in some Years amount to 5000000 *Florins*, their Soldiers are sent into them to cut down the *Spice*, and throw it into the Sea, that neither the *English*, who in the Language of People here gave them

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their

their very Being, and contributed to raise them, to that high Power in which they are at present tho' to the Loss and Detriment of themselves, nor any other Nation might profit by the Remainder: For I do assure you the *Spaniards* have much the same Regard for *Dutchmen*, as these have for the People of *England*: The *Spaniards* are fully convinced that nothing but a Desire of withdrawing Trade and Commerce in general from them, more than the Oppression and Tyranny, under which they pretendedly groand, was the Cause why the *Portuguese* joined the Duke of *Braganza*, and assisted him to mount the Throne, or why the Ancestors of the *Dutch* united under the Prince of *Orange* for establishing a Republic: With the Northern Nations the *Spaniards* are but little concerned; and while the Court of *Madrid* keeps fair with any of these Crowns, I mean either with that of *Petersburgh*, *Stockholm* or *Copenhagen*, nay with the Republick of *Hamburg*, she need be pretty easy with Regard to any of the other two; for these furnish with Timber, Pitch, Tar, Cordage, Flax, Hemp, and other such Commodities, which the Court of *Spain*, by due Care and Diligence might easily enable the Natives to furnish at Home: for the Mines of *Old Spain*
both

both in Gold and Silver are numerous and rich, tho' some of them were exhausted by the *Carthaginians* in the First and Second *Punic Wars*, and afterwards by the *Romans* and *Moors*, which last committed the most irreparable Ravages, a Circumstance that tends much to exasperate the Natives of *Spain* against them; for the *Spaniards* are far from being inhuman or barbarous, "more remarkable for Cruelty than Courage"; I know very well that the People of *England*, are apt to look upon the *Spaniards* as Cowards and incapable of Fighting, yet I do assure you that in this Particular they are much mistaken: The *Spaniards* were a very brave and martial People in the earlier Ages of the World, and made a great Figure in the *Carthaginian* Armies, nor was their Behaviour under the *Romans* less remarkable; they made a most splendid Figure at the Battle of *Philippi*; have shewn the most generous Efforts for Liberty, nor were they ever Slaves, till enthrall'd by the Fetters and Cords of a gloomy Religion: Sure, I am, neither the *French* or *Moors* have Occasion to call them by the Name of Dastards or Poltrons: the former have but little Reason considering the many Defeats they have sustained from the *Spaniards*, particularly

at the battle of St. *Quentin*, where *Philip II.* gave them as signal an Overthrow, as ever the *French* or any other Nation received: their Generosity is no less remarkable than their natural Abilities for understanding the Sciences, and discovering the Inconveniencies that may attend any Enterprize, which last seems to be their particular Talent; the Conquest of *Mexico* is indeed horrible, as it is represented; nor can it be denied that Cruelties were used, but these in some measure can be extenuated: nor would I have the People of *England* or indeed any other Nation, form an Idea of a whole People by the Conduct of a few penurious Adventurers; few are the Nations who have not committed Excesses of the worst Kind. The *French* did things shocking to Humanity for their Entertainment, and if we can believe the Author of the Civil Wars of *France*, *Katharine de Medicis*, the Queen Mother, upon the Night of the Massacre, of *Paris*, which was the Eve of *Bartholomew*, Anno 1572. look'd down from a Balcony situated toward the City, encouraged the Assassines, and gave no Interruption to her undisturbed Serenity, except by laughing at the dying Groans of the Murdered; her Son *Charles IX.* breathing the Spirit of his Mother, look'd from

from his Window upon the destined Victims who fled from the Massacre, to the *Seine*, and fired upon them with his Carabine as they were swimming over to the *Fauxbourg de Germain*; nay the Queen's Maids of Honour, and Ladies of the Court, following the Example of their Princess, went down into the Street, and with an uncommon Curiosity of a Piece with the general Behaviour of the Fair at the Court of *France*, examined the naked Body of one *Soubise*, who had been suspected of Impotency, and was just then killed under the Queen's Windows.

The burning of the Palatinate by the express Orders of *Lewis XIV.* cannot be palliated by *Voltaire* himself, nor indeed can the Bombardment of *Genoa*, and many other Places; and I heartily wish that the Governours sent to our Islands, were distinguished by the Goodness of their Disposition before they were employed; for by the supercilious and haughty Behaviour of Men in Power, the Affections of the *Minorquins* were alienated from the *English* Governours, and there is too much Reason to say the same of our *Indian* Colonies. *Spanish* Governours treat their Inferiours with less Inhumanity than they

they are represented to do, being generally Men of Education; for tho' Learning is not universal in *Spain*, nor indeed in any Catholic Countries, yet such as apply to Letters make no inconsiderable progress: The *Don Quixotte* of *Cervantes* will be a lasting Monument of the Liveliness of a *Spanish* Imagination, and how minutely their prying Genius can enter into the Nature of Men and Things, while the Poem called *Araucana*, from a small mountainous Country, near the Borders of *Chili*, inhabited by a Race of Men, stronger and more fierce than all the Nations of *America*, will be a lasting Proof of their breathing the Air of *Parnassus*.

The Poem whose Author was *Don Alonso d'Ereiffa y Cuniga*, is famous for some shining and particular Beauties, and for the Singularity of its Subject, but still more illustrious by the Character of its Author, who was Gentleman of the Bedchamber to the Emperor *Maximilian*, was bred up in the House of *Philip II.* and fought under his Orders at the Battle of *St. Quintin*, after which prompted with a Desire of true Learning, I mean of knowing Men and seeing the World, he travelled *France*, *Italy* and *Germany*, and from thence went over to *England*, where

where he heard that the *Araucanians* had taken Arms against the *Spaniards*, and animated with a Thirst of Glory, and desirous to save his Country, he sailed as Commander in Chief into *Chili*, at the Head of a few Troops, and by his Address and Moderation more than the Force of his Arms reduced these brave Struglers for their Liberty, and was charmed with their generous Efforts: His Expedition is the Subject of his Poem; nor must we forget that *Lucan* whose just Sentiments of Mankind, and whose poetical Characters of *Cato*, of *Cæsar*, and of *Pompey*, are as beautiful as any to be met with, was born at *Cardova* in *Spain*, and whose beautiful Description of *Cæsar's* Order to his Soldiers to cut Wood in the Forest of *Marseilles*, is equal to the most glorious Episode.

From these cursory Observations it is evident, that the *Spaniards* are naturally a brave, a generous, and learned People, no real Friends to the *French* or *Portuguese*, nor cordial Lovers of the *Dutch* the Inhabitants of the *United Provinces*: *England* is the Kingdom upon the Earth they regard most, which is the more surprizing as they have been engaged with each other in very dreadful Wars, that

that were always begun at the Instigation of *France*, and represented but with little Tenderness by the *French* Historians: Of this we have an Instance in *Voltaire's* History of the War Anno 1741, where he says p. 89, that a great many *English* became Pirates with Impunity, he calls them Free-booters, and avers that when they took a *Spanish* Vessel they used to sink it with all the Crew, "after gulling it, that there might not be any Proof of their Villainy:" Nor does the same Historian scruple to aver, that the *Spanish* Guarda Costas revenged themselves frequently of these Hostilities, took a great many *English* Vessels, and used the Crews extremely ill: The same Observation might be made of these Friends, and particularly *natural* Allies of *Great Britain*, the generous and disinterested Writers among the *Mynbeers*.

At this Time I am apt to believe that in no Court in *Europe* is there greater jarring, and hotter Contests than among the *Spanish* Ministry, and tho' the Royal Family be in the Interest of *France*, yet the King is too wise not to prefer the Welfare of the Kingdom whose Crown he wears, to any other: but whether the Party of the old Marquis *dele Ense-*
nada,

nada, or that of *M. Wall* may prevail,
Time can only declare.

One thing is certain, many *French* Families have settled in the Kingdom since the younger Branch of the House of *Bourbon* ascended the Throne: The Court, the Cities, the Army, the Navy, the Provinces and Villages abound with them; the Governors of the different Forts, and the Intendants of the Provinces are mostly of that Nation; their Artillery is commanded generally by *French* Engineers, one of whom the *Chevalier de Lage* second Captain of the Royal *Philip*, maintained an Engagement* against five *English* Ships, and opposed the Proposal for Striking, when a Fire-ship was within fifteen Paces of the Admiral's Ship, and cry'd out "You have then forgot that I am here! Upon which bringing four Guns to bear, he aimed them so sure that every one took place, and in two Minutes the Ship took Fire, and flew in a thousand Shatters."

Their Navy consists of Forty-six Ships of the Line, carrying 3142 Guns,

* Volt. Hist. War 1741. p. 145.

six of these Ships carry eighty Guns, each of whom are equal in Force to the Royal *Anne* or the *Britannia*. They have twenty-two Frigates, twelve Xebecs, two Packet-Boats, four Bomb Vessels, four Fire Ships, and five Gallies.

This Navy if united to the *French* would be formidable: but it is not so easy to victual a Fleet as every one imagines, nor will ever the *French* and *Spaniards* act cordially together, being always jealous of each others Power and any Junction between them will resemble that of the *Dutch* with the *British* Forces at the Battle of *Fontenoy*; the ancient Antipathy will rise in the Breasts both of the *French* and *Spaniards*, notwithstanding the Friendship between the two Kings, and 'tis remarkable that after the Sea Engagement off *Toulon*, the *Spaniards* complained of not being properly supported by the *French*, and these again charged the Former with being ungrateful.

The present Dispute at the *Escurial* is whether or not *Spain* by a Neutrality can profit herself, or serve the elder Branch of the House of *Bourbon* more effectually,

ly, than by declaring War? If the Interplants of the Provinces as much assist the *French*, as the Governor of *Catalonia* did M. de Richlieu in his Expedition to *Morocco*, or as the Governor of *Cadix* did the Commander of the *Duke de Penthièvre* and their Crew, 'tis easy to see which of the two is most for the Interest of *England*.

At present the Connoisseurs speak much of the Execution of Mr. Byng, and tho' the *Spaniards*, who are a reclusé, but honest People, talk sparingly of it; yet the *French*, who affect Politeness, and are so elevated with their *Voltaire*, as to quote him on every Occasion, loudly condemn the *English* for Cruelty in punishing General Officers for Want of Success, which may be entirely owing to an Error in Judgment, and insist with M. *Voltaire*, in his History of the War, that it is an inhuman Custom, unknown to Christian Princes, till introduced from the *Turks*.

However polite and humane the *French* may affect to be, yet the Execution of *Damien* will be a Testimony of their Tenderness being sometimes interrupted:

ted: for though the vile Paricide deserved to die in Tortures, yet I cannot reconcile to the Principles of Compassion (the Method of appointing Physicians to confer about what could create the most excruciating Pains.

It is a new Thing to invent Deaths for a Criminal, after he is taken. The Law describing his Crime, likewise describes his Punishment. However the FRENCH had a Precedent from the *Turk*, for contriving a new Punishment, in Imitation of *Solyman XI.* who caused one *Damien* to be devoured by a wild Beast, for intending to stab him, *Anno 1537.*

If the Catholic King declare War, let me intreat your Lordship to stir up in yourself and the several Officers of the Navy a Spirit of Humanity toward the *Spaniards*, that so the Character of old *English* Hospitality, notwithstanding the Detractions of the *French* and *German*, may again be revived.

A CORRECT COPY of
THE
PROTEST
AGAINST THE BILL
FOR RESCINDING THE
EAST INDIA DIVIDEND,

Voted by a GENERAL COURT, on the
Sixth of May, 1767; and confirmed by
three several GENERAL COURTS
held afterwards.

A PARIS,

Chez J. W. Imprimeur, Rue du Colombier Fauxbourg
St. Germain, à l'Hotel de Saxe. M DCC LXVII.

Prix, Six Sous.

Avec Approbation, & Privilège.

A P R O T E S T.

Die Veneris, 26^o Junii, 1767.

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Dissentient,

1st, **B**ECAUSE the Bill containing, in appearance, nothing but matter of future regulation, is so contrived as to operate retrospectively, and rescind a Dividend actually declared by a General Court of the East-India Company on the 6th of May last, of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for one half year, ending at Christmas next. This was, in the argument, avowed to be the principal object of the Bill; though the bill itself does not even mention that act, or suggest any reason for rescinding it. And we conceive, that if the measure had been substantially right, yet this manner of doing it, is unbecoming the dignity of Parliament, which should, in all cases, go openly and directly to its object.

2dly, * Because this measure appears to us to be as exceptionable in the substance as in the form; being an *ex post facto* law, rescinding a legal act of the Company, in the exercise of their dominion over their own property; notwithstanding their application and earnest entreaties to the contrary; and without necessity or occasion from any consideration of private justice or public utility.

3dly, Because, considering the East-India Company as a national object, and the members of it as bound to attend to the interest of the public, as well as their own, the Dividend they had voted, and which is by this Bill to be rescinded, appears to be liable to no objection; for the only legal restriction on the Company's power to divide, is, "that the sum total of all the debts which they shall owe, do not exceed the value of the principal or capital stock or stocks, which shall be and remain undivided;" and it appears by the clearest evidence, that the Company's effects are amply sufficient, not only to discharge every just demand, but that, after even repaying their capital, there will remain a very great surplus.

4thly, Because it appears also to us, that the Dividend declared on the 6th of May is expedient; for the Dividend being in fact the only medium whereby to fix and compute the price of the stock, as between buyer and seller, justice to both requires such a Dividend as will fix that price as near as may be to the real value. And the Dividend of 12. $\frac{1}{2}$ is, in that respect preferable to a Dividend of 10 per cent. to which this Bill has arbitrarily restrained it.

5thly,

5thly, Because it appears to us to have been a Dividend regularly declared; the objections which have been made to it upon this head, being manifestly void of all foundation. We admit, that the Court did proceed without an account actually before them; but the want of this account, so far as relates to the propriety of the Dividend, appears to have been sufficiently supplied. The Directors, in their negotiations with the government, and their declarations at former Courts, had themselves proposed such a Dividend, and acknowledged the ability of the Company to make it. The Proprietors, by these and other means, had full reason to be satisfied of that ability. And the account now produced, examined, and proved, does fully warrant their proceedings, and verify the ideas they then entertained and acted on.

6thly, Because the Dividend appears to have been voted by a very numerous Court, and so nearly unanimous, that no ballot was taken, because none was demanded; and no ballot was demanded, because there was not a competent number of Proprietors who disapproved the measure; and tho', for that reason, the sense of the members present only was taken by holding up of hands, it now appears to be beyond a doubt, the confirmed deliberate sense of the Company; having been reconsidered at no less than three subsequent Courts, convened for the purpose of concerting the proper measures to support it; at the two last of which the votes of the Company at large were taken by a regular ballot; and the Dividend previously voted, was approved and ratified by a large majority. To the validity of the act of the 6th of May no objection could be supported, though attempted. It was clearly a valid act; and if not valid, the

Bill to rescind it would be unnecessary, for the act of itself would be void.

7thly, Because every argument used to shew the impropriety of dividing $12\frac{1}{2}$ applies with equal force to a Dividend of 10 per cent. (which the Bill allows,) and indeed to any dividend at all; and would, if admitted to be a proper ground for rescinding this Dividend, be equally so for rescinding every Dividend the Company has ever made, or probably will ever make. For it is hardly possible, that during the existence of the Company, their debts can be actually paid off, or their cash in hand suffice to discharge those debts, and pay a Dividend, and at the same time the trade be carried on to that extent, as will yield to the Company and the public the most ample returns. The whole argument in favour of the Bill being reduced to these two propositions; that the Company ought to discharge its debts before a Dividend can be allowed to take place, and that a Dividend ought to be made upon a cash account; principles contradicted by the uniform practice of the Company from its commencement.

8thly, Because this Bill cannot be meant for the interest either of the Company's creditors, or of the Proprietors; for it is observable, that the latter, as far as they may be supposed to understand, and may be permitted to judge of their own interests, entertain, and have strenuously expressed a very different sense of that matter. And as to the Creditors, it is remarkable, that none of them appear to have called for their money; nor have any of them, by any petition to this House, or otherwise, made any complaint, or signified any desire of such an interposition in their favour. On the contrary,

it appeared on evidence, from the cross-examination of the principal witness for the Bill, that so far from doubting of the sufficiency of the security, the greatest evil the Company's Bond creditors apprehend is, the being paid off; and that their bonds, which some time since bore an high premium, though they carry only 3 per cent. bear at present a premium considerably lower, merely from that apprehension.

9thly, Because a legislative interposition controuling the Dividend of a trading Company, legally voted and declared by those to whom the power of doing it is entrusted, and to whom there is no ground to impute an abuse of that power, and who lent their money to the public upon the express stipulation, that they might exercise their discretion with regard to the Dividends, provided their effects, undivided, were sufficient to answer their debts; is altogether without example. And, as it tends to lessen the idea of that security and independence of the power of the state, which have induced all Europe to deposite their money in the funds of Great Britain, the precedent may be attended with the most fatal consequences to PUBLIC CREDIT.

10thly, Because, if a Bill restraining the future Dividend of the Company were proper, as has been argued, upon any ideas of fixing and preventing a fluctuation in the price of their stock, that end requires only, that the Dividend should be fixed; without any regard to the quantum of it; and may be as well attained by a Dividend of 12 as of 10 per cent. and consequently affords no argument for the retrospective part of this Bill, or for fixing the future Dividend below the value of the stock.

But this is in truth so far from being the real object of any part of the present Bill, that the short period to which the restriction is confined, cannot but increase, instead of preventing that fluctuation, and encourage, instead of checking, the infamous practices of the Alley. The passions of men will be warmly agitated during the summer, in speculating on the probability of this restriction being suffered to expire at the opening of the next sessions of parliament, or being continued further. The ignorant and unwary are sure to be the dupes of those who have the good luck to be in the secret, and are wicked enough to employ it to their own advantage. But the proposal made by the Company, of submitting to a restriction of Dividend at the rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and extending that restriction during the temporary agreement, would have obviated all those mischiefs, and secured every good end, which may have been proposed, but cannot be attained by this Bill; and such restriction with their consent would have been liable to no objections of injustice or violence.

1. Because, if at the opening of the next session of parliament, the restriction is permitted to expire, the whole effect of the Bill, except the mischiefs it may produce, will be the keeping back for four or five months, from the pockets of those to whom it belongs, a sum of 40,000 l. the difference between the Dividend the Company wishes, and that which it is allowed to make by the Bill. This sum is ridiculously disproportioned to any real purpose of paying off and reducing the Company's debts.
2. On the other hand, the restriction is then to be continued, and the parliament henceforward to regulate the Dividends of the Company, and the whole of their affairs for that purpose is to be

be from time to time laid open to public examination, it is not difficult to foresee the ruinous consequences to the Company; and as the precedent will go to the subjecting every other Company to the same sort of controul, the speedy dissolution of them all will be perhaps the happiest event the public can wish, that they may not become so many engines of power and influence, the consequences of which it is easy to conceive, and unnecessary to describe.

12th, Because, the argument in favour of this limitation, drawn from a supposition, that the Company had exceeded their legal power of borrowing on their bonds, appears to us to be neither well founded nor conclusive; it appears on the plain and express words of the engrafting act, that they had a power thereby to borrow five millions; so they have always understood; and so parliament understood and declared in a subsequent act. And we cannot comprehend the justice, the policy, or the decorum, of cavilling at this particular time, at the exercise of a power publicly exerted, and which has come frequently within the cognizance, without incurring the censure of parliament; and as this doubt never was started before, the objection seems to arise, not from the Company's having exceeded their power of borrowing upon bond, but from the necessity of such a supposition, in order to find a pretence, however insufficient, for this limitation.

13th, Because, the inability of the Company to make the Dividends rescinded by this Bill, has been argued on a supposition, that the right to the territorial acquisitions of the Company, in the East Indies, is not in that Company, but in the public; which

which method of arguing, if admitted as one of the grounds of the Bill, we conceive to be inconclusive as to the subject matter, and highly dangerous as to the precedent; for the Company being in possession, and no claim against them being so much as made, much less established, we hold it highly dangerous to the property of the subject, and extremely unbecoming the justice and dignity of this House, by extrajudicial opinions, to call into question the legality of such a possession; and to act, without hearing, as if the House had decided against it.

14th, Because, the forms of proceeding upon this Bill have been contrary to precedent; inasmuch as it appears by our journals, that whenever a bill, judicial in its nature, as affecting legal rights and private property, has come up from the Commons, stating no facts as a ground for that Bill, or stating facts, the evidence of which does not appear in the preamble, the invariable practice of this House has been to desire a conference with the other, in order to be informed either of the facts, or the evidence to support such facts (if alleged) on which the Bill was originally framed; and the Commons have on like occasions done the same by this House; instances of this mutual application from one House to the other, appear in the following cases, viz. Mr. Duncomb's case, March 1697. Directors of the South Sea Company, Aislaby and Craggs, July 1721. Sir Thomas Cooke's case, 1695. Cases of Kelly, Plunkett, and bishop of Rochester, March 1722. ~~Rushbridge's case~~, April 1729. Robinson and Thomson's case, March 1731. Sale of lord Derwentwater's estates, &c. 1732. Case of Sir Robert Sutton,

Sutton, and others, March 1732. Case of Al.
Wilfon, and the city of Edinburgh, May 1737.

5th, Because, in the proceedings on this Bill, no Council was appointed in support of the Bill, to state the grounds, to examine the witnesses, and methodize the evidence; for want of which the lords themselves were obliged to call and examine witnesses, and appear more like parties than judges

6th, Because also, in the proceedings on this Bill, when lords, who declared themselves patrons and friends to the Bill, had examined two witnesses, and said, they were satisfied with their examination, other lords were not permitted to call in any other witnesses, before the council for the East India Company, against this bill, were ordered to proceed. It was ever denied to lords, to bring again to the bar the two gentlemen who had been examined (Mr. Rous, and Mr. Saunders, the chairman, and deputy chairman of the Company) although by the arrival of the ship Cruttenden from Bengal, after their examination, which brought a new and very particular account of the flourishing state of the Company's affairs in India, it was very possible those gentlemen might have changed their opinion; their former evidence having been merely matter of opinion resulting from such information, as they were at that time possessed of. Witnesses were dismissed unexamined, whom several lords wished to have been heard; and the Bill was passed, without waiting for the return of an account, declared by Mr. Rous to be such, that without it no judgment of the present state of the affairs of the Company could be formed, and which had been ordered by the House, and as the officers

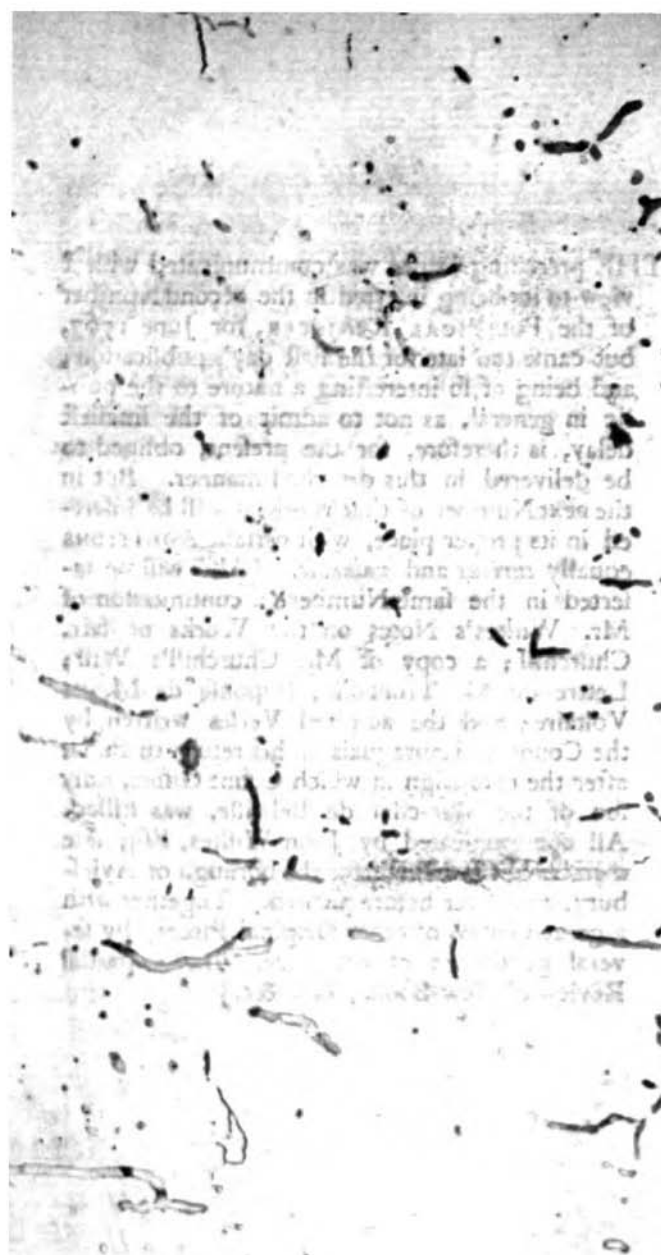
officers informed the House might have been prepared in a few days. In this manner this Bill has passed, which we are apprehensive may be found in its consequences very injurious to private property, and alarming to public credit.

Winchilfea and Nottingham,
Scarborough,
Temple,
Trevor,
Fortescue,
Richmond,
Dudley and Ward,
King,
Weymouth,
Gower,

Fred. Exon,
Portland,
Sondes,
Dorset,
Rockingham,
Albemarle,
Eglintoune,
Abergavenny,
Ponsonby.

B I N I S.

THE preceding Paper was communicated with a view to its being inserted in the Second Number of the POLITICAL REGISTER, for June 1767, but came too late for the first day's publication; and being of so interesting a nature to the public in general, as not to admit of the smallest delay, is therefore, for the present, obliged to be delivered in this detached manner. But in the next Number of that Work, it will be inserted in its proper place, with certain ADDITIONS equally curious and valuable. [Also will be inserted in the same Number, a continuation of Mr. Wilkes's Notes on the Works of Mr. Churchill; a copy of Mr. Churchill's Will; Lettre de M. Tronchin; Reponse de M. de Voltaire; and the admired Verses written by the Count de Lauraguais on his return to Paris, after the campaign in which Count Gisors, only son of the Marechal de Bellisle, was killed. All communicated by John Wilkes, Esq; late member of parliament for the borough of Aylesbury, and never before printed. Together with a great variety of other Original Pieces, by several gentlemen of eminence. An impartial Review of New Books, &c. &c.]



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that happened in the persons that composed them, with the occasion thereof, are related in chronological order, and many things concerning the English government, the antiquity of the laws of England, and the feudal law, are occasionally illustrated and explained.