A CRITICAL HISTORY OF THE LAST
Important Sessions OF PARLIAMENT,
Which probably put a Period to B—\( \phi \) LIBERTY.

WITH
An ENQUIRY into the CONDUCT of the principal Leaders in that Poli-
tical Campaign.

Ablum est — illicet — Periisti.
Terent.

Wilti flattering Hope assured us golden Fruit,
Our secret Poison prey'd upon the Root.

Dryden.

By a MEMBER of the House of Commons.

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M DCC XLII.
A CRITICAL HISTORY
OF THE
Last Sessions of Parliament, &c.

OUR Septennial Revolution, for a general Election of new Representatives to serve in Parliament, taking Place the last Summer, there was the warmest Struggle for a Majority between the two contending Interests amongst us that had yet been known. Even the Influence of one Part of the Royal Family was vigorously exerted against that of the other, by which Means many of the Western Boroughs, that used to be staunch for the reigning Minister were brought over to the Opposition; whilst in North Britain, the greatest Number who had before gone plumb with their Cornish Brethren, were made Proselytes to a new Political Creed, by the Perswasion and Prevalence of a noble Duke.

The Elections were no sooner over than both Sides began triumphantly to sing Te Deum, and Lists of the Members were propagated in the publick Papers, with Indications
cations of which Interest each was supposed to be engaged in.

At length the important Day appear'd! The first of December, so impatiently long'd for, when our new Senate was appointed to meet, dawn'd upon us; in Consequence of which his Majesty came to the House of Peers that Day, and having ordered the Commons to attend him there, signified his Pleasure that they should return to their House and make Choice of a Speaker, and present him to his Majesty the Thursday following for his Approbation: They returned accordingly, when Arthur Onslow, Esq; who had been Speaker to the two preceding Parliaments, and had acted with the utmost Honour and Impartiality in that high Station, was unanimously chosen and was presented to his Majesty upon the 4th of that Month, when he again came to the House of Peers and open'd the Sessions with A most gracious Speech from the Throne, à-la-mode d'Angleterre, the Import of which was "That His Majesty was glad to meet "his new Parliament that he might know "the more immediate Sense of his People "from their Representatives chosen in such "a critical Season; That he had taken "particular Care of the War against Spain, "in America, as had been recommended "to him by both Houses; that he had en- "deavour'd to assist the Queen of Hungary "agreeable to the Addresses of his last Par-
"liament, but that nothing had been done,
"-- for why?-- because the other Powers,
"who were equally engaged had refused
"to join in the same good Work; that how-
"ever there was huge Hopes of Something
"better to come; that Unanimity amongst
"themselves would be very expedient at
"this Time; and lastly, that the One thing
"most needfull was their granting liberal
"and speedy Supplies."

This Speech after some Debate was by the
Peers according to Custom echo'd back
again to the Throne, but the Commons
seem'd to break in a little upon that laudable
Practise, and were more upon the Reserve
in their Address than they had usually been.

People's Expectations were now wound
up to the highest Pitch; the Eyes of all
waited on the House of Commons, every
Tongue was tuned and every Ear open to
what was there transacting, so that the Char-
acter St. Paul gave of the Athenians, was
strictly applicable at this Time to us; for
we, indeed, spent our Time in nothing else but
either to hear or to tell some new Thing.

The Decision of the many controverted
Elections was one of the principal Particu-
lars that claim'd the Attention of those
without Doors as well as the Application
of those within. The first Opportunity the
two opposite Parties had of trying each
others Strength, in that Respect, was the
11th of this Month when the Merits of the
Return for the Borough of Bosseney in Cornwall between Sabine and Towers, Petitioners, and Foster and Liddell Sitting Members, came to be heard at the Bar of the House. The Contest lasted till Two the next Morning, when after four Divisions, in each of which the Court Party got the Advantage by a small Majority, it was given against the Sitting Members, Liberty being granted them to petition the House touching that Election within 14 Days, if they thought fit.

Being vanquish'd in this one Engagement was far from discouraging the Patriot Combatants, for as there was but a Majority of Six against them upon the first Division, and as the utmost Interest was made by a noble Peer to prevent if possible one of the Sitting Members from continuing in the House, for which his Lordship had a very particular Reason, they concluded they had wrought Miracles in coming so near to Victory as they did.

The next Particular that occasion'd a Division was the Petition of Sir Watkin Williams Wynne, which was prefer'd the 14th of this Month, complaining of an undue Election and Return for Denbighshire. Here the Opposition at length prevail'd, it being carried by them in favour of the Petitioner so far as to have it order'd to be heard at the Bar of the House on the first of February, 202 against 193.

But
But now the Point of the greatest Moment came to be disputed, which was the Choice of a Chairman to the Committee of Elections. The controverted Elections, as I observed before, were so many in Number, and some of them attended with such extraordinary Circumstances, that it was of the utmost Consequence to either Party to fill the Chair with one of their own Body. Upon this the Gentlemen in the Opposition, therefore, built all their Hopes, and publickly owned, that on the Event of that Engagement, the Success of their political Campaign would in a great Measure depend; whilst, on the other Hand, the Minister wrap'd himself up in full Security of winning the Day; and put his Adversaries to open Defiance.

The Decision of this interesting Affair came on the 17th of December, when the same honourable Gentleman was nominated by the Minister for that Post, who had filled it in the two preceding Parliaments, whilst Dr. Lee, an eminent Civilian, a Gentleman of unquestioned Integrity, and of a favourite Character in all Respects, was judiciously fixed on by the opposite Party, and in spite of the utmost Efforts and Vigour of the Minister and his Myrmidons, had the Dignity of the Chair conferred upon him, on a Division 242 against 238.

Inconceivable were the Shouts of Joy and Triumph both within Doors and without upon
upon this important Victory. Now the Gentlemen in the Opposition no longer feared their Labour being in vain; the Nation now no longer despaired of their Wrongs being redressed, and the grand Corruptor found too late that his over Confidence had betrayed him. In the Management of this weighty Particular, his best Friends acknowledge him for once to have blunder'd, for had he not out of a rash Defiance proposed the Person he did, but cull'd from among his Associates one of a more sweet smelling Savour, he might possibly have carried his Point: But too much Security made him mad. The great Majority in his Favour, upon a Motion made the preceeding Sessions, to address his Majesty to remove him from his Councils and Presence for ever, had so inflated him with a Notion of his own Omnipotence, and a Contempt of all Opposition, as render'd him remiss both in the getting and managing of this Parliament.

That, I say, in the Judgment of most People, pav'd the Way to his Fall, tho' some of his Advocates, who are always ready to take the Reproach of any Blunders or Male-Practices from him, and cast it on his Betters, will have it that it was his M——'s going abroad that Summer, and the Cash going with him, which prevented their Chief from getting a House of Commons in this Parliament, to his Mind.
The next Affair of any Consequence which came to be canvass’d by us was the Election for the City of Westminster, the Merits of which, between Vice-Admiral Vernon, and Mr. Edwin, Petitioners, and Lord Sundon, and Sir Charles Wager, sitting Members, were ordered to be heard at the Bar of the House on the 23d of that Month. This having been in all Respects the most extraordinary of the many extraordinary Elections that were brought on the Tapis this Sessions, and wherein his Honour and his Tools had infinitely outdone their usual Outdoings, a brief Account of it may not perhaps be without its Entertainment to the Reader.

As soon as the Poll-Books were open’d, the High Bailiff, who was the Returning Officer, discover’d his Partiality for Lord Sundon and Sir Charles Wager, the Court Candidates, and pursued it afterwards by the most illegal and scandalous Practices; such as the hiring a Troop of Ruffians, armed with Bludgeons, and other dangerous Weapons, to make Riots, and intimidate the Electors; the allowing the Inspectors for the Sitting Members to administer the Oath to the Electors, and disallowing the Inspectors on the other Side to do the same; the calling in Soldiers to protect them in their illegal Proceedings, and lastly, the closing of the Poll-Books in an abrupt and arbitrary Manner, upon the Appearance of a large Body of Electors coming to vote for the Petitioners. This
This partial and unprecedented Behaviour of the Returning Officers, and the Westminster Justices, who busied themselves in this Affair, exasperated the Populace to that Degree, that it was lucky for them that they escaped with their Lives. My Lord Sundon, who was present at all these Proceedings, for Sir Charles was then attending upon his Majesty abroad, was saved entirely by the Dexterity of his Charioteer, who drove, a la Jehu, thro' the raging Crowd that pursued his Master in his Flight; with Stones and Excreations, and bore him safe home, without any other Damage than the Demolition of his Chariot-Glasses; his Lordship having discreetly sat a Squat in the Bottom of his Machine during the Heat of the Action.

The independent Electors of the City and Liberty of Westminster not brooking this Invasion of their Rights and Privileges, had several Meetings to consider of a Method of proceeding, in order to procure Justice to be done both to themselves and the two honourable Gentlemen they had nominated for their Representatives. In Consequence of this, a Petition was agreed upon to be preferred in the House of Commons, at the Meeting of the Parliament, and a Subscription raised for the Prosecution of it. This brave and critical Stand in Defence of the Liberty of the Subject, and the Freedom of Elections in the very Purlieus of a Court, in spite of all the Power, Places, Influence, Promises, Threats,
or even Purse of that Court, must redound to the immortal Honour of those who made it.

This Petition, jointly with that of Mr. Edwin, in Behalf of himself and Admiral Vernon, at this Time in the West Indies, was received by the House the 9th of December.

Here again our righteous Minister exerted his utmost; and this indeed was a Cause truly worthy of him. During his whole Administration he had made it his Business to go about doing Evil, to blot out all Remembrance of Justice; to make a Mock of Conscience; to brand Honour for Phrensy; Liberty for a Phantom; and the Love of Country for Cant and Enthusiasm. All the Opposites to these odious Virtues, therefore, being crouded into this single Transaction, no wonder it met with an ardent Advocate in him. The Champions of Liberty on the other Side, were as industrious, and determin'd; justly judging that should he carry a Point not only of such Moment, but such flagrant Injustice likewise against them, it would in all Probability cast a dangerous Damp on the Courage of their Followers.

After a full Examination, then, and fair hearing on both Sides, this Controversy came to an Issue on the 23d of the same Month at five in the Morning, when the Return was voted undue, and the Election void, upon a Division 220 against 216. After this
the House resolved, That Mr. John Lever, High Bailiff of Westminster, had been guilty of the illegal Practices above mentioned, relating to this Election, and ordered him into the Custody of the Serjeant at Arms, upon a Division 206 against 202: And at the same Time Messieurs Blackerby, Howard, and Lediard, three of the Westminster Justices, who were concern'd in sending for the Soldiers, &c. during the Time of the Election were ordered to attend that House the 23d of the Month following, when they were upon their Knees severely reprimanded by Mr. Speaker, whose excellent Speech upon that Occasion was afterwards printed.

The Event of this Contest was another terrible Stroke upon our State Colossus, and gave him such boading Apprehensions of the Consequences likely to attend it, that he cast about him under the greatest Anxiety what Method to pursue. The next Day happening luckily for him to be Christmas Eve, he procured the Adjournment of the House to the 18th of January, in hopes that during so long a Recess, he might, by his old Practices, gain a Majority once more in his Favour. Accordingly all the low Tricks and wicked Expedients usually practis'd in such bad Causes, were tried over again, but to no Purpose, for the Genius of the Nation seem'd at length to prevail, and Corruption to become impotent and unsuccessful:

Thus
Thus ended December 1741, a Month which afforded the most reviving Prospect to the British Nation, that it for many Years had been flattered with. The Freeholders had in general done their Duty, by electing Persons of the best Characters to represent them; a Set of Gentlemen of the noblest Families, and largest Estates in the Kingdom, now filled that Place, where paltry Tools, beggarly Pensioners, and obsequious Place-men used to make up a Majority. A Zeal for the Deliverance and Welfare of the Publick, against Bribery, Corruption, and Dependency of Parliament, for an Enquiry into the Conduct of those who had been the chief Patrons and Agents in publick Inquiries, and for inflicting an exemplary Punishment on them, broke out for the present into a noble Flame, and gave us an Earnest of what not for the future.

We had at this Time indeed but a very melancholy Prospect with regard to foreign Affairs. The distressed Condition of the Queen of Hungary and whole House of Austria, the vast Success of the Prussian Arms, the Conjunction of the French and Spanish Fleets in the Mediterranean, whilst ours were a Swan-hopping at home, and the sudden March of the Troops of the former into the very Heart of Germany, together with the unexpected Revolution in Russia, the Swedifh War against that People, and above all the Insolence and exorbitant Power of the
House of Bourbon, deeply affected every wise and honest Briton, who had the Preservation of the Balance of Power in Europe at Heart. But then when we turn’d our Eyes on our new elected Representatives again, we found the Gloom even in this Respect clearing away, and a Dawn of Hope breaking in upon us: We found them daily calling for the Instructions, Letters, and other Papers which had passed between the Ministry at home, and our Admirals, Generals, Ambassadors, &c. abroad, which seemed to imply a Determination of enquiring into what Steps had been taken, and whether there were not some amongst us culpable, thro’ Inactivity, Treachery, or other scandalous Motives for Mal-Administration in that Branch of Government. This we flattered ourselves might possibly give a Turn to foreign Affairs, and set our Concerns in a better Posture abroad, at the same Time that they were coming to a happier Situation at home.—— But it is now Time to enter upon the New Year, and to observe what the Opening of that produced.

A new Writ having been issued out before the Adjournment for another Election for Westminster, the Lord Perceval was nominated by the independant Electors of that City, in the room of Admiral Vernon, who had made his Election for another Place. The Minister applied to several Gentlemen of Fortune and Interest in Westminster, to oppose
oppose the above Candidates, promising to serve them with all the Influence, &c. that he was Master of; but no Champion hardy enough could be found to enter the Lists against Adversaries so vigorous in themselves, and so strongly supported. The independent Electors however did not suffer themselves to be lull’d in Security; but as they had Reason to apprehend Trickery in every Shape possible, they held themselves prepared to guard against it, and accordingly on the Day of Election attended their Candidates in great Multitudes to Westminster-Hall, where the Poll was taken, when they were chosen without any Opposition. The Joy and Exultations upon this Occasion were inconceivable. The new Representatives were borne home in Triumph, attended by Thousands, with Peals of Acclamations and in the Evening the whole City blaz’d with Bonfires, and Illuminations, and resounded with the Clangour of Bells and other Instruments of Rejoicing.

There is a Story told upon this Occasion, which is said to be as true as it is pleasant, and which is at the same Time a notable Instance of the Artifice of Courtiers, and of the Disadvantages which Princes lie under of getting at the Truth of Things from the deceitful Tribe who surround them. The Incident is affirmed to be as follows: An Express had arrived a few Days before with an Account of the Ps—s of H—e being
ing delivered of a young Prince; his Majesty being surprised this Evening of the Election at the vast Illuminations, and other Instances of publick Joy, enquired very earnestly after the Motives to them, when a noble Lord, who was then in Westminister, not caring to give the real Reason, and being at that Instant unfurnished with a fallacious one, replied, that he was entirely ignorant of the Matter, but if it was his Majesty's Pleasure, he would make immediate Enquiry. Being ordered so to do, he returned with this Answer, "That the safe Delivery of the Prince of Wales, and the Birth of a young Prince into his Majesty's most august Family, occasioned these public Testimonies of the Fidelity and high Affection of his Majesty's loyal Subjects towards his House and Person."

The Joy upon this Occasion was not confined to Westminster, but spread all the Kingdom over; surely, cry'd the exulting People, we shall down with our grand Adversary at last, since he is beat out of his own strong Hold; since his own City, and his own House have rose up against him, and defeated him, he must be down.

And indeed it looks like a very great Paradox in Practice, that a Court should lose its own Borough where it constantly resides, and wherein it has the Disposal of a Multitude of Places both of Honour and Emolument, as well as Employment for great Numbers of
Trademen, Artificers, &c. But when the Spirit of Liberty is once abroad it breaths Inspiration and works Incredibilities.

The 18th of January whereupon the House was to meet again, now appeared, when the grand Corruptor saw himself in no better a Situation than at the Time of the Adjournment. He for once found his old Maxim, that every Man was to be bribed, if you'd come up to his Price, prove false in Fact, for he stuck at no Price, but no Price would now bribe. Fain would he have purchased at any Rate, but there were none who would be purchased; this sunk his Spirits to that unusual Degree, that in Spite of all his Dissimulation and affected Gaiety it was strongly legible in his Countenance; his very Insolence began to forsake him, and the only Anchor of Hope which he had to lay hold of, was the Non-attendance of the opposite Party. But here he found himself greatly deceived; for these Gentlemen now found, that by Unanimity and constant Attendance they might be able to serve their Country, which for several Years past they had no Prospect of doing: Besides, during the Recess the Doctrine of Attendance had been explained and inculcated by many excellent Hands in so forcible and affecting a Manner, that not a Member at this Conjunction could have shewn his Face any where with Honour, but in St. Stephen's Chappel, or Places near it;
The Day of their meeting again, the Commons upon the Supply resolved unanimously that Forty Thousand Men for Sea Service should be this Year granted to his Majesty; and the Day following they took into Consideration the Merits of the Double Return for the Shire of Berwick, between Mr. Campbell and Sir John Sinclair, when the former in the Country Interest was declared duly elected without a Division, and the High Sheriff was order'd into Custody, for making a false Return.

A Multitude of Petitions against undue Elections and Returns had by this Time been received and referred to the Canvas of the Committee, but the Petitioners in the Court Interest who were the most forward in preferring, were now as busy in withdrawing, as they found Justice had once more taken up her Abode in the House, whilst those which were examin’d into were adjudged almost universally in favour of the Country Party, the most corrupt and atrocious Proceedings generally appearing on the opposite Side.

A vast Number of Papers, Instructions, Letters, &c. relating both to Domestick and Foreign Affairs having been laid before the House agreeable to the several Addresses which had been presented to His Majesty upon that Head, a Motion was made the 22d of this Month, that a Secret Committee of 21 be appointed to examine the said Papers,
Papers. This threw the Minister into new Terror: He was very well acquainted with the Power of Secret Committees; and as an Examination of those Papers would be little less than an Examination into his Conduct, which his Conscience loudly told him could not bear the Light, he exerted all his Influence and Artifice against the Motion. The Gentlemen on the other Side of the Question were not behind-hand with him in either Industry or Skill to support it. The Debate ran very high, and into a great Length, it keeping the House together till One o'Clock the next Morning, when the Question being put a Negative was cast upon the Motion, on a Division 253 against 250.

This meagre Majority of 3 in so full a House, and upon a Subject which several were very tender in, it being well known what harsh Consequences had heretofore attended the Appointment of Secret Committees, fat but squeamish upon our Gentleman's Stomach, and made him tremble for the next Attack.

The House of Peers had likewise at this Time a Variety of Papers laid before them, which, according to lordly Custom, they made nothing at all of. The 27th of this Month that Right Honourable House, for Reasons which no Body could ever divine, ordered an Address of Thanks to his Majesty.
jefty for his Care and Endeavours in the Affairs of the Queen of Hungary. This surprising Piece of Complaisance made every Body stare, and as the noble Lords within Doors, who regarded the Welfare of their Country, knew that it would do so, They opposed it to the utmost of their Power, with the strongest Arguments and Eloquence. The Debate was very warm, and lasted till late at Night, when Thankfulness prevailed, upon a Division 72 against 56.

It was upon the 26th of January when that Noble Assembly gave such an uncommon Instance of their Loyalty and Gratitude. The next Day they begun to take into Consideration the State of Gibraltar and Minorca, and ordered the Lords to be summoned upon the same for the following Day, when General Anstruther being called in, and examined as to the Absence of the Officers, from the Regiments which were in those Parts, the Question was put after long Debate, Whether such Officers should be censured or not, which, to the Astonishment of People a second Time, passed in the Negative, 69 against 57. This was an Earnest of what Redress or Reformation we were to expect from that Quarter; so Good-b'ye to the Lords for a While, and another Turn to the Commons.

The Plot had been now thickning a long Time here, and the Eyes of all the Nation hung
hung upon the Catastrophe, which plainly appeared to be drawing on a-pace.

On the 28th of this Month, the House proceeded to take into Consideration the Petition of Mr. Hume and Mr. Frederick, complaining of an undue Election for the Borough of Chippenham in Wilts, who stood on the Court Interest, against Mr. Rolt and Sir Edmund Thomas, Sitting Members, who were in the Interest of their Country. The carrying this Point was as strenuously laboured by the Minister, as that of the Westminster Election had been before, for he now found that the Difference of Four would make a fatal Alteration in the Balance. This was well known likewise to those without Doors, and therefore the Attention of every one was again strongly engaged, and their different Hopes resulting from their different Interests dwelt upon the Event. The Hearing of this Day related entirely to the Rights of the Voters, when after a sharp Dispute thereupon, the Question was put at 1 the next Morning, which was carried in favour of the Sitting Members, upon a Division 236 against 235; after which the farther Hearing of the Petition was adjourned till the Tuesday following. Now our Pulse beat high, our Spirits mantled, and all that was within us dwelt upon Tuesday; after a tedious Interval Tuesday came, and this momentous Contest was again resumed. The Engagement lasted long, and was extremely hot, each Side urg-
ing the Battle with the most determined Vigor; at length the Enemy retreated, the Body of Corruption was broken, and a compleat Victory was gained on the Side of Liberty and Truth; or to speak without Metaphor, the decisive Question being put, after long and eager Debate it was carried in favour of the Sitting Members, upon a Division 241 against 225.

It may very justly indeed be stiled the Decisive Question, for this tremendous Majority of 16 struck the Minister with such a horrible Pannick, that he immediately fled the House, sneaked behind the Throne for Shelter, and a few Days after resigned the Posts and Employments he had so long and so iniquitously kept himself in Possession of.

Now nothing but the Voice of Triumph and Exultation was heard: Every honest Man's Countenance was lighted up with Joy, and every Tongue burthen'd with Hymns of Praise to their Deliverers. The Tools, Creatures, and Dependents of this British Sejanus were the only ones now who wore the Livery of Woe; their Pride indeed was humbled, their Hopes frustrated, and their Honours laid in the Dust.

Solomon, I think, says, That when it goeth well with the Righteous the City rejoiceth, and when the Wicked perish there is shouting. The City did indeed now both rejoice and shout, whilst the rest of the Nation joined in the Chorus. Now the Prayers of the People seemed
seemed to be answer'd, and their Deliverance accomplish'd, but alas! how soon did they begin to find themselves in good Measure mistaken?

This Man, who by his corrupt and wicked Administration, had reduced the Nation to the lowest Degree of Ignominy and Indigence, and rendered it the most contemptible in what it was wont most to excell, its naval Influence and Commerce: This Man, I say, turned out a second Time from amongst the Representatives of the Land, and loaded with the Excreations of the whole People, instead of being sent to a proper Confinement, in order to be brought to Justice, and receive the Recompence of his Doings, was immediately exalted above his Fellows, and had the Dignities of a Baron, Viscount, and Earl of the Kingdom of Great-Britain conferred on him; being created Baron of Haughton, Viscount Walpole, and Earl of Orford. Nor were such high Honours confined to his own Person, but a natural Daughter, whom he had by one Miss S—t, during his former Lady's Lifetime, (for he was afterwards married to this Miss S—t) was by Royal Warrant enobled and impowered to enjoy the same Precedency and Place with an Earl's Daughter.

All the Men of Quality and Fortune in the three Kingdoms, except those who were joined with him in his baneful Administration, were his Enemies before, and this enormous
mous Instance of Vanity and Insolence made him abhorred by all the Women of Rank and Figure. Shall $S$—t's Bastard, says Lady —, take Place of my Daughter, whose Veins swell with noble Blood, that has flown in an untainted Stream from the Time of the Conqueror! Shall $W$—'s base-born Brat, cries Lady Kitty, fit by my Side, whose Papa and Mamma's Great Grandfather's Great Grandfather bore a Coronet for a Crest! Filthy Thing! My Papa has a Bastard as well as $W$—e, but he does not suffer the ignominious Creature to associate with any of us. — My Stars! If the Thing ever comes nigh me, I shall put on a larger Hoop, if possible, than what I usually wear, to keep the Pollution from me as far as I can.

Such as these were the repeated Exclamations of the Ladies upon the News of this extraordinary Promotion, whilst many of them combin'd in a League not to admit this new kindled Bavin of Quality to any of their Assemblies, or upon their visiting Days. This must be allowed a Hardship upon the guiltless young Creature, but 'twas a just Mark of Resentment for the Impudence of the Father, in procuring a Creation of that flagrant Manner.

The late Sir Robert Walpole was now then Earl of Orford, and his natural Daughter Lady Mary Walpole; but as these extraordinary Honours were not equal to his extraordinary Services, he is said to have been offered
ferred a considerable Pension from the Crown: But as he had Reason to suspect that ready Money would now be the Thing of most avail, and as he had always had a great Affection for the Cash of the Publick he chose to wave accepting the Pension and in lieu thereof to carry off the moderate Sum of Eighteen Thousand Pounds along with him out of the Exchequer.

But to return from St. James's to Westminster—The next Day after this scattering Majority happen'd in the Lower House, His Majesty came to the House of Peers, where, the Commons attending him, he signified his Pleasure, that both Houses should adjourn themselves for 15 Days. They adjourn'd accordingly from the third to the 18th of February, which Time was then thought intended to be employ'd in raising and marshalling a new Set of Persons for the Administration of the publick Affairs, but it was in Truth no other than to get Time to screen the old ones, and to treat with some of the Chiefs in the Opposition, in order to compound Matters as well as could be; accordingly Places were doled out amongst several of those Gentlemen, and other quieting Draughts administer'd.

During the Christmas Recess, the Members in the Country Interest, of both Houses, had frequent Meetings at the Fountain Tavern in the Strand, in order to keep their Forces
Forces the better together, and to maintain a Unanimity amongst themselves, which was without Question highly conducive to their future Success. They did the same during this Adjournment, for on the 11th of February they met there, to the Number of 300, to consider of what was expedient to be done at that critical Junc-
ture, when most of them looked on it as a very bad Omen, to see so many new-gifted Place-men amongst them, and to find a Chancellor of the Exchequer at their Head; not that they had any Objection to those Gentlemen's serving His Majesty, but to their serving Themselves so soon, and standing in the Augean Stable with so many of the Cattle who had befouled it, instead of seeing it thoroughly cleansed before they had enter'd.

For the Alterations made in the Ministry at this Junc
ture, I refer my Readers to the Gazette and other publick Papers, and shall here only take Notice of the four principal Promotions upon the immediate Abdication of his Honour. Mr. Sandys then, was made Chancellor and Under-Treasurer of the Ex-
chequer in the Room of his now Earlisthip, my Lord Carteret one of the principal Sec-
retaries of State, in the Room of Lord Harrington who was made President of the Council, His Grace of Argyll was reinstated in the high Employments he was some Years
Years before in Possession of, and Mr. Pulteney resworn one of his Majesty's Privy Council, from the Lift of which his Name had been for a considerable Time obliterated. These noble Personages, and other Gentlemen, however, who were at that Time promoted, declared at this Meeting, that the Places they had accepted of, should not have the least Influence upon their Conduct, and that if they should at any Time find them inconsistent with the Regard which they had always professed for the general Good, and the Duty they owed to their Constituents, they would more readily quit them, than they had entered upon them. These Declarations obtained Credit for a Time, and the honourable Assembly broke up, to all Appearance, with one Heart, and one Mind.

Four or five Days after this, various Messages having passed during this Time, between His Majesty and the Prince of Wales, his Royal Highness, after several Years Banishment from Court, waited upon his most Sacred Sire at St. James's, and was—received and a Guard was ordered to attend him. The succeeding Day, which was the 18th of this Month, there was the greatest Court at St. James's that ever had been known; a vast Number of the highest Rank in Nobility, and of the best Fortunes and Families in the Kingdom, who had not seen the Inside of a Drawing-room for many a
Day, crowded thither now, to manifest their Joy for this happy Reconciliation between the Father and Son, and at the same Time to shew that it was no Disaffection to the reigning Family that had so long kept them away, but the baneful Presence and Counsel of one who was now exorcised the Place.

The glorious Spirit of Liberty which had at length prevailed over that Torrent of Oppression and Corruption, which had borne it down for these twenty Years past, gave inexpressible Joy to the whole People of England, and they now trusted that their Redemption was accomplished, and that the Days of refreshing were come from the Presence and Power of their political Lords. Representations accordingly, from all Parts of the Kingdom, were poured in upon them, fraught with the strongest Expressions of Gratitude for their Vigilance and faithful Conduct in the Business of this Sessions hitherto, which had already produced such miraculous good Effects, and expressing their Hopes, that there would be a total Change of Measures as well as of Men, earnestly requesting, at the same Time, their most strenuous Endeavours to promote such salutary Laws as should be proposed, in order to restore the ancient Freedom of our Constitution, to maintain the Independency of Parliament, and to secure us against any future Subjection to corrupt and ministerial Influence; such as a Place-Bill, a Pension-Bill,
Bill, the Repeal of the Septennial Act, and more particularly a strict and immediate scrutiny, into the Causes of our late Mismanagements, and the Authors of those Grievances we had so long groan'd under, in order to avenge an injur'd People, and to deter future Ministers from such a wanton and wicked Exercise of their Power.

On the 18th of February the two Houses met upon the Expiration of their Adjournment, and the late, or perhaps rather present Minister, took his proper Place amongst the Lords, as Earl of Orford: The same Day the Commons upon the Supply, resolved, that 35,554 effective Men for Land Forces, and 11,550 Marines be granted for 1742. This extraordinary Body of Forces was voted nemine contradicente, an Instance scarce ever known before! and shewed such a Zeal and Unanimity in the Representatives, for the Recovery of the British Honour and Influence in Europe, which had been so basely bartered away, and for the Support of our ancient and natural Allies, who had been treacherously deserted, that it made the hostile Powers begin to look about them, trembling to find the British Lyon once more unmuzzled, and to think that her Warriors would now be turned to serve different Ends, than merely to parade it at Reviews, influence Elections, and like Locusts and Grasshoppers, to sing and dance amongst the Plants and Branches,
and devour the Fruits and Flowers for nothing.

The 23d of this Month the Denbighshire Election came to be decided between Mr. Middleton and Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, when the latter Gentleman was declared duly elected, and William Middleton, Esq.; the High Sheriff of the County, ordered to Newgate for illegal Practices at that Election, the House resolving at the same Time to address his Majesty to remove the said Middleton from the Commission of Peace, and from being General Receiver of the Land-Revenue in North-Wales.

Mr. Middleton was accordingly sent to his new Lodgings the next Day, when it was hoped by a great many, that a certain Right Reverend, who had shared with him in some of the paw Tricks relating to that Election, would likewise have shared with him in the Reward of his Demerit.

Well! now Things seemed to go on as they should do: The People now flattered themselves, that as the Tools were so well handled, Those who had employed them would shortly come upon the Carpet, or the Scaffold rather, and that their Representatives continued determined to see Justice done both to them and their Oppressors: How these Hopes were accomplish'd, we shall see by and by, but must now return to our political Diary.
The same Day that the Denbigh Election was decided, the Commons voted One Million to be granted towards the Supply for this Year out of the Sinking (some read Stinking) Fund. The latter Epithet had in Verity been most applicable for some Years, considering what offensive Uses it had been put to, and that instead of being employed to sink the National Debt, for which it was originally constituted, it was laid out to sink the Nation itself.

On the 26th of this Month, Mr. Lyddell and Mr. Foster's Petition against Sabine and Towers, touching the Election for Bosfenney in Cornwall, was ordered to be heard at the Bar of the House the 18th of March, upon a Division 235 against 190, at which Time the two former Gentlemen were declared duly elected.

The Merits of the Return for this Election, as we have informed the Reader at the Beginning of this Narrative, was the first Struggle of Consequence this Sessions between the two contending Parties, when it was carried in favour of the Courtiers; but as the other Gentlemen had a Power of petitioning left, they, knowing the Justice of their Cause, exerted it accordingly. Here then that Party, who for this very Reason had opposed them at first; that Hydra, I say, whom every Body now thought to be quite hunted down, began to rear its Head, and hiss again
again, tho' it made but a sickly Figure upon the above Occasion.

The latter End of the last Month, the Merchants of London brought up their Petitions, and presented them to both Houses, complaining, "That the Navigation and Commerce of the Kingdoms had been exposed from the Commencement of our War with Spain, to the growing Insolence of the Enemy's Privateers, and that notwithstanding the repeated Applications of the suffering Merchants for Protection and Redress, their Losses and Misfortunes had considerably increased of late, occasioned by Neglects and Delays, in appointing and sending out of Convoys, and by their Ships being even deserted by those Convoys at Sea, and left a Prey to the Enemy, &c. &c."

Petitions of the same Nature were about this Time likewise presented from the principal Sea-Ports and trading Cities in the Kingdom, which were all ordered to be taken into Consideration by the Commons, at the same Time with that of the London Merchants.

The Merits of these Petitions having been at several different Times thoroughly canvassed at the Bar of the House, on the 3d of March the Commons came to the following Resolutions thereupon, viz. "That notwithstanding the repeated Applications of the Merchants for Cruizers to be properly stationed for the Protection of the Trade of
"of this Nation, that due and necessary Care had not been taken in that Respect, to the great Loss of many of His Majesty's Subjects, the Advantage and Encouragement of the Enemy, and the high Dishonour of this Nation, and that the Detention of the Merchant's Fleet bound to Portugal, for near Twelve Months, gave our Rivals in Trade an Opportunity of introducing a new Species of their Woolen Manufactory in Portugal, to the great Detriment of this Kingdom."

In Pursuance of these Resolutions, a Bill was ordered in for the better Protection and Security of our Trade and Navigation in Time of War; and at the same Time a Number of small Ships were appointed by the Admiralty to cruise in the Channel, and about the Coasts, in order that more Care might be taken for the future.

This singular Regard paid by the House of Commons to the Merchant's Petitions, and the vigorous Resolutions taken thereupon, occasioned extraordinary Rejoicings in the City of London, and other Mercantile Towns. The Lords likewise took the above Petitions under their Consideration, which turned out much to the same Purpose as the several other Particulars that came before them this Sessions.

The 9th of March a Motion was made in our House by my Lord Limerick, which was seconded by Sir John St. Aubin, that a Select Com-
Committee should be appointed to examine into the Conduct of the Administration for 20 Years past: Upon this Occasion the vanquish’d Party rallied again, and exerted themselves with the utmost Vigour, in Defence of their Chief, who above all Things dreaded Examinations of that Kind; nor were we on the other Hand guilty of Slackness in the Combat; however, after a long and warm Engagement, the Victory fell on the Side of the Adversary, the Motion being rejected upon a Division 244 against 242. This surprising Piece of Success quite reanimated the Corruptor’s Gang; and they, who were so lately struck speechless and impotent, now boasted loudly again of their Force and Prowess, and talk’d of being exalted in the State, instead of at Tyburn.

The next Day after this Disappointment a great Number of the Members of both Houses, who were in the honest Interest, met once more at the Fountain-Tavern in the Strand, to consult how they should proceed at this critical Juncture. Amongst these his Grace of Argyll made the most glorious Figure, he having just then resigned the several Places he had been so lately reinstated in, perceiving that such Methods were taken, and Proceedings entered upon as were inconsistent with his Honour to have any Part in. Some Particulars which have since occurred, convince all the World how great and disinterested his Grace’s Conduct was upon that Occasion.
Notwithstanding these Contests, the Commons continued to shew an extraordinary Regard to the Particular of the most Moment in His Majesty's Speech to them at their Meeting, which was the granting of Speedy and liberal Supplies, for at this Time they resolved that 4 s. in the Pound should be granted as a Land-Tax for the Year 1742.

Dr. Lee, who was Chairman to the Committee of Elections, being made one of the Lords of the Admiralty at the Time of the late Promotions, and his Place being consequently vacated, a Motion was made the 15th of this Month, that the Committee should be closed for this Sessions, which was carried in the Affirmative, 211 against 190.

Both Houses having passed the Mutiny and Sinking Fund Bills, His Majesty went to the House of Peers the 16th, and gave his Royal Assent to them; upon which Day the Pension-Bill was for the third Time read in our House. Here the Train-band of Corruption again took the Field, as a Bill of this Kind struck directly at their Copy-hold; however this Time they were entirely routed, and the Victory carried against them, by 233 against 153. The same Day we went through the Place-Bill, and ordered it to the Upper-House the next.

These two Bills, the passing whereof was so absolutely necessary towards the Freedom and Independency of Parliament, and consequently
quently towards the Preservation and Welfare of the whole Constitution, and which had worked their Way up to the Lords several Times before, met with the same Reception from them now as formerly, being kick'd out of Doors almost as soon as they entered. The Pension-Bill was rejected by them the 25th of this Month, by a Majority of 30, viz. 76 against 46; — and the Place-Bill on the 6th of April, by a Majority of 29. --- Such was the Fate of the two principal Articles of Reformation, so earnestly wished for and expected by the People this Sessions.

The whole Nation still continuing to cry aloud for an Enquiry into the shameful and corrupt Conduct of the late Minister and his Agents, both in foreign and domestic Affairs; the Patriot Champions in the Lower House were determined to make farther Attempts towards procuring it; agreeable to which worthy Resolution a new Motion was made in the House on the 23d of March, That a Select Committee of Secrecy, consisting of Twenty One, be appointed to inspect into the Conduct of Sir Robert Walpole, now Earl of Orford, during the last ten Years of his being Chancellor of the Exchequer, &c. when after a noble Struggle, they, at length, gloriously carried the Day, by a Majority of Seven, upon a Division 252 against 245. The Members of this Committee were ordered to be
be chosen by Ballot the Friday following, when upon the Scrutiny, which was not concluded till 3 o'Clock next Day in the Afternoon, a large Majority appeared of the Gentlemen in the Interest of their Country, who met for the first Time on the 31 of the same Month, and made Choice of the Lord Limerick for their Chairman.

The same Day that the Secret Committee was voted, the Commons resolved to present an Address to His Majesty; " Assuring him of their Fidelity and Affection to his Person and Government, representing the dangerous Situation to which the Balance of Power in Europe had been reduced by the Distresses of the Queen of Hungary, &c. as likewise the Possibility of restoring the said Balance, by timely Assistance to that Princess, and promising to support His Majesty in such Measures as should be necessary to attain that desirable End, &c." To which Address His Majesty returned a most gracious Answer.

The 31st of March a Motion was made by my Lord Mayor for the Repeal of the Septennial Act, and to make the Election for Members of Parliament Triennial. This was the next strong Demand of the People; and as those very Gentlemen who had for many Years together laboured to procure it, were now supposed to preside in the House, we had no Question of its passing here, and that the Honour of rejecting it would have been
been left to the Lords. I am heartily sorry to say, that so proper an Employment was taken out of their Hands, but so it was, for after some Debate, a Negative was passed on it by the Commons, upon a Division 204 against 184. I know not how to account for it, but some of our Chiefs, who had often contested for this Bill with such Warmth, as if the Salvation of British Liberty entirely depended on it, were now of a different Opinion, as it were. 'Twas an improper Time, belike. — Annual Elections would be still better, may be — and — and — and thus fared it with the Place, Pension, and Triennial Bills, those Favourites of the People, and which were the Burden of all their Petitions, Instructions, and Remonstrances to their Representatives.

Some Time after, indeed, there was an other Bill ordered in by us, to exclude certain Officers from being Members of the House, which some People would fain have had pass under the Denomination of a Place-Bill, as a Barrel to divert the Whale a little, but the Cheat was instantly seen thro'. This poor innocent Bill therefore, since it was neither Fish, Flesh, nor good red Herring, run thro' both Houses with the utmost Celebrity; even the Wisdom of the Peers could find nothing in it which made it worth rejecting.

Here ends the Month of March, and I wish my Undertaking ended here too, for I am
am sure I grow heartily sick of it now, and I believe my Reader does the same; — however, if I must play the April Fool, I must.

April the 1st, a Message from His Majesty was presented to the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, recommending a Supply for the Support of the Queen of Hungary, &c. This Message was the next Day taken into Consideration by the House, when Half a Million Sterl. was voted for the Purpose therein mentioned. — Liberal Commons! On the 8th of the same Month we agreed upon the Supply, that another Half Million should be granted to His Majesty for various good Purposes. — Liberal Commons! — And on the 13th we likewise agreed that upwards of another Million and a Half should be farther granted for like good Ends, being the Sum which the Bank had stipulated to pay for the Renewal of their Charter for 21 Years — Still Liberal Commons!

On the 13th of this Month Mr. Middleton the late High Sheriff for Denbigh, was by Order of the House discharged from Newgate, to make Room for a worthy Brother in political Iniquity, who was soon after sent thither, I mean the noted, or notorious, if you will, Nich. P — n, Esq; for the same Day the Lord Limerick, Chairman of the Committee of Secrecy acquainted the House, that this said Gentleman, who was Solicitor of the Treasury, having been examined upon Oath, did refuse to answer the Questions put
put to him by the Committee; whereupon, after a long Debate on a Point which one would have imagined could bear no Debate at all, he was ordered into Custody of the Serjeant at Arms, and debarred the Use of Pen, Ink, and Paper, on a Division 197 against 136.

The next Day but one, my Lord Lime-rick reported from the Committee, that Mr. P—n having been again interrogated by them, persevered in refusing to answer what was demanded of him; upon which a Motion was immediately made, That he should for his Obstinacy be committed close Prisoner to Newgate. This Motion was likewise strongly opposed by the honourable Fraternity of Pensioners and Place-men; however, they were at this Time found wanting in the Balance, and good Mr. P—n was recommended to the Air of Newgate for the best Part of the Summer, upon a Division of 180 against 128, and his Lady, upon certain Conditions, was allowed the Pleasure of going with him. The same Day His Majesty came to the House of Peers, and gave the Royal Assent to such Bills as the Lords had ready for him, viz. the Land-Tax Bill, about Half a Dozen Turnpike Bills, and one for erecting Houses of Correction, &c. After which the Lords adjourned to the 27th of that Month, and the Commons to the 26th, on account of the Easter Holidays, but the Committee of Secrecy continued sitting.

The
The time of this Adjournment being expired, the Sessions was resumed, when his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, who came of Age the 15th of this Month, was introduced into the House of Peers, and took the Oaths and his Seat in the Chair on the Left Hand of the King. Whither the Arrival of this princely Guest had any Influence upon the future Conduct of that right honourable House we shall soon see. In the mean time the Commons, thinking they could not possibly do enough to shew their Zeal and Affection, after the great things that had been done for Them and their Constituents, with regard to the turning out and so amply punishing the late Minifter and his Confederates, voted 4000 additional Land-Forces to the handsome Number they had before granted for this Year — most liberal Commons! There were some Gentlemen indeed present at this Motion, who were both so ungratefull and stingy as strongly to oppose it, and to insist that sufficient Complements had been made already, and that we could very well spare the Number of Forces intended for Flanders, out of those already granted, without leaving ourselves any ways defenceless at Home; but we were soon silenced by the Question being put, there appearing upon the Division 280 against 169.

On the 13th of May the liberal Commons granted several more large Sums for defraying the Charge of the Danish and Hessian Troops,
Troops, and a variety of other Purposes; amongst the rest 20000L. towards the finishing of Westminster Bridge; after this they put off the Call of the House for a Fortnight upon a Division 230 against 221. The same Day we received the first Report from the Secret Committee, complaining of the Difficulties and Discouragements they lay under in the Prosecution of their Enquiry from many Persons following the worthy Squire P—n's Precedent, and refusing to answer any Questions demanded of them, under Pretence that they might thereby involve themselves, and that no Man could be compelled to turn his own Accuser. After the Report was read, it was moved that a Bill should be brought in to indemnify every one who should on such Examinations make any Discoveries. This occasioned a warm Contest again, and the Corruptor's Gang fought it out to the last; however the Battle was to the upright, for it was at length carried in the Affirmative upon a Division 251 against 228.

Mess, here's the. Wind changed again! as Ben says in the Play. Who would have thought that the liberal Commons who had employed all their Time of late in granting boundless Supplies, and raising abundantly more Men and Money than ever had been done in one Year during the Arch Adversary's Reign there, Who would have imagined, I say, that they should have come into such a Bill
Bill as this? However they did, and that after several tight Struggles too, for upon the second Reading the Legion were up in Arms again, and it was not committed till after a long Dispute, upon a Division 229 against 217. At eight o'Clock the same Evening we went into a Committee upon the said Bill, but not without a Division again, it passing in the Affirmative only by 221 against 214. The next Day, which was the 19th of May it was read for the third Time, and a Motion being made that it should pass, the Party persevering in their Opposition to it, there was obliged to be a fourth Division, when it was resolved in the Affirmative 274 against 186. About the same Time the noble Colonel B—I, Controuler of the Post-Office was ordered into Custody, upon a Complaint from the Committee of Secrecy of his acting the Part of 'Squire P—n, upon a Division 117 against 110.

The Success of the above Bill in our House made Those without Doors who had lately been very uneasy at some of our Operations, begin to think a little better of us, and to imagine, that there might be some Reasons for our Conduct in those Particulars, which they were ignorant of. They rejoiced at the flattering Prospect that all Obstructions from a free Enquiry would now be removed, and that they should come at the Authors of their accumulated Grievances: But, alas, F they
they found too soon that they could not save their Darling from the Power of the Dogs; For the Bill was then ordered to the Lords, whose Treatment of it we shall take Notice of in its proper Place.

The Day following the passing of this Bill my Lord Limerick moved for an Address to His Majesty that all the Papers relating to the Convention might be laid before the Committee, which was warmly opposed by the Adherents of Him who was both the Author and Patron of that infamous Contract; but was at length carried in the Affirmative, 202 against 182.

The 25th of May the Indemnity Bill above-mentioned was read in the House of Peers for the second Time, the Lords being summoned upon that Occasion, when after a long and needless Debate it was sent a packing to its Comrades the Place and Pension Bills, upon a Division 109 against 57, Proxies included — Soh! — most merciful Lords! What right honourable Peer or Right Reverend Father-in-God would put it in People's Power to tell dangerous Truths? — Why yes there were some in that House who had no more good Nature or Christian Charity than strenuously to promote it, and, upon the Bill's being rejected, to enter a bitter Protest, signed by 28 of them.

The same Day the Commons rejected a Bill which had been brought in for the Relief
Relief of insolvent Debtors, upon a Division 87 against 79, as, the Day before, they had done a Bill for the more easy Recovery of small Debts, 111 against 97. They then proceeded to ballot for Seven Commissioners to state and examine the publick Accounts of the Kingdom; tho' this proved afterwards to be an unnecessary Trouble, for the Bill, by which such a Commission was appointed, was thrown out of the House the Week following, upon a Division 136 against 56.

There having been heavy Heart-burnings in our House upon the Lords rejecting the Indemnification Bill, a Motion was made the 26th, that a Committee should be appointed to inspect into the Journal of the House of Peers, and to report the Reasons of their Lordships most wonderfull Conduct in that Respect. This Motion was strongly combated by the late Minister's Adherents, but the honest Party carried the Day, upon a Division 167 against 159; and a Committee was accordingly appointed. The next Day they gave in their Report, in Consequence of which a Motion was made, that the Lords having not concurred with them in that Bill, was an Obstruction to Justice, and might prove fatal to the Liberties of this Nation; which Motion, however just, necessary and laudable, had a Negative cast upon it on a Division 245 to 193. Thus all Means were now
now taken away of rendering the Enquiry of
the Committee in any Measure successful.

The Commons having the March before
received a Petition of the Inhabitants of
Westminster complaining of the irregular and
fraudulent Practices of Select Vestries, and
referred the same to a Committee, who
made several Reports thereupon, my Lord
Percival made a Motion the 28th of this
Month for Leave to bring in a Bill re-
lating to such Vestries; but it was not a
Motion it seems accommodated to the
present Disposition of the House; it was
therefore rejected 160 against 130, and
a much better carried in its Room, which
was for granting Eight hundred Thousand
Pounds more to His Majesty, on Annuities
at Three per Cent. payable out of the Sink-
ing Fund. The Sum at that Time to be
rais’d, was but Something upwards of Seven
Hundred Thousand Pounds, but the right
liberal Commons, in spite of all Arguments
to the contrary, insisted upon making it a
round Sum, as they termed it. The whole
Money voted this Sessions amounted now to
very near Seven Millions.—A Round Sum
truly! But what one Request of the People was
granted in Return for this Liberality? Not
One indeed! Nor could they expect one now;
The Money the Money was all granted; granted
both profusely and unconditionally. Had those
Gentlemen who opposed the late Minister
and
and obliged him at last to give up his Posts, been as eager to comply with the Demands and secure the Rights of their Constituents, as they were to secure Places of Profit and Power to themselves, they would not have parted with the only Means which could make the obtaining of them likely. When the Court had got all the Money it wanted, the People, they well knew, might go whistle after their Claims. Where was their Honour, then? Where was their Integrity, where their boasted Patriotism? All the Motions therefore made by those Gentlemen, which regarded the Satisfaction and Security of the People, all the Bills passed in the House of Commons to that End, and all the affected Bustle made about them, after they had given this Power out of their Hands, was mere solemn Farce, an Endeavour only to fling Dust into the Eyes of their Constituents, and without the least Hopes or Expectation of their succeeding in the other House. ---- but to return to the Business.

About this Time a Motion was made in our House, after the reading of the new Place Bill or rather No-Place Bill, before mentioned, that no Military Officers under the Rank of Lieutenant Colonels should sit as Members in that House. This shared the Fate of every other Motion now which was good for any Thing, being rejected upon a Division 146 against 113. This being
being the wretched Case, then, let us plunge through the remaining Part of our Journey as fast as we can, for the Road is now most heavy and dirty.

The Call of the House of Commons, which had been adjourned from Time to Time, was now put off for two Months, upon which several of the truly honest Party, perceiving that nothing of any Service could be done this Sessions, retired to their respective Countries, grieving that they were obliged to give their Constituents so poor an Account of the long Attendance, painful Watchings, and frequent Fastings, they had undergone for their Sakes.

The 31st of this Month the Commons, after some Debate, ordered the Journals of the House to be printed in 30 Volumes Folio, commencing with the Book call'd Seymour, which begins with the Reign of King Edward the Sixth; and the next Day, being the first of June, the Right Honourables and Right Reverends rejected the Bill, which had unanimously pasted our House, for the better securing of the Trade and Navigation of the Kingdom in Time of War, upon a Division 59 against 25.

People had now done wondering at any Thing that was transacted in some Places, otherwise they might have marvell'd greatly what Provocation a poor harmless Bill for the Security of Trade and Navigation could pos-
fibly have given to merit such a Rebuff. —

But the Lords understood the Nature of Trade and Navigation better than the Commons,

— that's all.

Two Days after this both Houses adjourned to the 10th, on account of the Whitsun-Holidays, and the 16th following the King went to the House of Peers, and most graciously gave the Royal Assent to the Bill for granting 800000 l. to his Majesty, and more Bills for Turnpikes, Houses of Correction, &c. The same Day the Commons put off, for two Months, the Report of a Bill they had gone through, for the farther Qualification of Justices of the Peace, upon a Division 152 against 104. As this was a Bill very much wanting, especially with regard to the Traders in that Business in and about the Cities of London and Westminster, no Body will wonder that it now miscarried.

The 29th of this Month we received a Report from the Committee which had been appointed to examine into the State of Georgia, and the Petition of one Stevens pretended Agent for the People of that Colony against the Trustees of the same, when several Resolutions were come to in favour of, and for the Encouragement of the said Colony, on a Division 57 against 34; and Stevens was reprimanded for Falsities contained in his Petition.

The next Day we received a further Report from the Committee of Secrecy, laying before
before us the Conduct of the Earl of Orford, under Three General Heads, viz. The Payment of the Troops, the Freedom of Elections, and the Quantity, as well as Manner and Consequence, of issuing and receiving the publick Money. Under the first Head it appeared, that he had entered into an infamous Contract for the Payment of the Forces in the West Indies, whereby the poor Soldiers lost one Day's Subsistence-Money in Seven, at a Time when Provisions bore an excessive Price there; only to make a Job for some of his Tools at home. Under the second Head it appeared from several flagrant Particulars, that he had perverted the Wealth, Power, and Places in the Gift of the Crown, to influence Elections, and introduce a criminal Dependency into the House of Commons; and under the last Head, were ranged a Multitude of astonishing Instances of his enormous Profusion of the publick Money, within the last Ten Years of his Administration; such as disbursing near Two Hundred Thousand Pounds for the Reward of his Venal Scribblers, and for propagating their corrupt Writings thro' the Kingdom, to impose, if possible, upon the very Senses of the People; the issuing 1500 l. to the High Bailiff of Westminster whilst in Custody of the Sergeant at Arms for his illegal Practices at the Election for that City; The making Presents of 7000 l.
to a certain Duke, and 3000 l. to a certain Earl, for uncertain Purposes; and lastly, the carrying off with him when he left the Treasury, near 18000 l. tho' it was so stripp'd before, that he was obliged to pawn the Warrants, in order to raise the Money; whence it appeared upon the whole, that the Money for Secret Service, &c. issued the last 10 Years, was considerably above a Million more than what was issued under the same Articles in the 10 Years from 1707 to 1717, during which Time the Nation was engaged in a general War, the Accession of the present Royal Family happened, and the Rebellion which ensued thereupon.

After this Report, and the Appendix to it containing various Papers, &c. had been read, a Motion was made for its being printed, but the previous Question being put, that the said Question should be then put, it passed in the Negative without a Division. Thus the Commons had likewise a Stroke at the Enquiry before they parted, and then a Finis was put to that Farce.

A Bill having some Months before been brought into this House, to explain the Laws touching Elections for Members of Parliament, and to restrain the Partiality, and regulate the Conduct of Returning Officers, at such Elections, and much Time and Pains having been spent upon it, the Question was put the 6th of July whether the said Bill should pass or not, when it narrow-
narrowly escaped Reprobation after all, being carried in the Affirmative by a Majority of 1 only, the Numbers being 93 to 92; and it was entirely owing to the Influence of the Right Honourable Gentleman who brought it into the House that it got off as it did. Being ordered up to the Lords it was by those noble Personages, read the next Day both for the first and last Time; not that it was rejected, no no, the Lords were now resolved to shew a Piece of Complaisance to the Commons in Return for their Civility to their House, upon the Motion made against them relating to the Indemnity Bill, and therefore most modestly dropped it only.

The House of Commons having spent a great deal of Time this Sessions in considering of a Method to obviate the Exportation and running of Wool, it came to nothing more at last than producing an Address to His Majesty to issue out a Proclamation to enforce the Laws already in Being for that Purpose. We had a little before this passed a Bill for the Encouragement of our Linnen Manufactory, but it was such a flimsy Affair, as was next to no Encouragement at all.

We are at length happily come to the Conclusion of our Task, for upon the 15th of this Month his Majesty went to the House of Peers, and put an End to the Sessions with a gracious Speech from the Throne, intimating, "That the Treaty lately concluded be..."
tween the King of Prussia and Queen of Hungary, brought about by his Mediation, must produce the best Consequences to the common Cause; that the present happy Situation of the Queen of Hungary's Affairs were chiefly owing to our Assistance, that he had prosecuted the War against Spain with the utmost Vigour; that the Zeal and Dispatch with which the Commons had raised such large Supplies, demanded his Majesty's Thanks; that he had the justest Confidence in the Affections of his People, and the greatest Care of their Rights and Liberties; and, lastly, signifying His Majesty's Desire, that those his good Intentions should be made known to the People.

Then the Lord Chancellor signified His Majesty's Pleasure, that this Parliament should be prorogued to the 16th of September next.

A few Days before the Close of the Sessions, comes out a Gazette full of new Promotions and Removals, by which it appeared that several of the Tory Party, who had hitherto been kept at a Distance, were now admitted within the Pale of the Court, and intrusted with some of the highest Offices there; that the Chairman of the Secret Committee had obtained a considerable Reversion for his Son; that some other Members of that renowned Body had accepted of Places; and
that the Right Honourable William Pul
tenev, Esq; was now the Right Honour-
able the Earl of Bath, as which he took his
Seat amongst the Lords before the breaking up
of the Sessions.

Thus ended our political Campaign, when
the Forces of both Sides, after having kept
the Field upwards of Seven Months, peace-
ably retired to their Summer Quarters.

Having thus given my Reader a punctual
Relation of the various Incidents which
passed in both Houses the last very remark-
able Sessions of Parliament, and made such
Reflections as naturally offered themselves
thereupon, I shall, by Way of Conclusion,
propose two or three Queries in Pursuance of
what my Title-Page seems to assert, that in
all Probability the Transactions of that Ses-
tions have put a fatal Period to B—h Liber-
ty.

Query I. When a Nation had for twenty
Years together been making a glorious Stand
against a Torrent of Corruption poured in
upon them, and Shackles preparing for them
by a rapacious and wicked Minister, and
when, by that noble Struggle, they had at
length tumbled him out of the Seat of
Power which he had polluted, and wrested
from his Hands, as they thought, the cruel
Scourge he had so long chastised them with,
if instead of being able to procure a Punish-
ment for him proportioned to his Deserts,
they should find him to be still the Man whom the King delighteth to honour; behold him triumphing in his Retreat, loaded with all the Rewards of the most distinguished Services, and still retaining the Power of Government, tho' he had shook hands with the Form of it; would not this make them very apt to think, that a farther Struggle for Liberty was now in vain?

Query II. When the same People saw their own chosen Champions, on whose Conduct they had relied through such a long Opposition, and upon whose Integrity and Disinterestedness they at this Time depended, instead of procuring Justice on Those who had already oppressed them, and Security against all Those who should attempt the like for the future, striving only how each of them should fill the Basket, who should be at the Head of the Treaty or Calling, who should have this Title, or that Ribband? Would not they probably shake their Heads, and say, that there was no Redemption for B----n.

Query III. When the same People, again, beheld these their Leaders whom they were shipped as the Guardians of their Rights, and the Physicians of their political Constitution, not only stepping into the same Places of Those who had broke in upon the one, and poisoned the other, but likewise pursuing the very same destructive and pernicious Measures, granting more exorbitant Sums, raising more numerous standing Armies, and making higher Com-
Compliments to the C----t, than what they had exclaimed against in their Predecessors; and lastly, skreeing the grand Delinquent and all his Implements, who had so long robb'd and enslaved them would not they probably shake their Heads again, and say, that there was no Redemption for B----n.

QUERY IV. Lastly, when the same People saw that boasted Coalition of Parties, which they had so long suppos'd to be firm in the Interest of their Country, now gone over to the contrary Interest, and linked against them, would not they with Reason, exclaim, that B---H Liberty was now NO MORE.

ERRATA.
Page 11, line 16, instead of Inquiries, read Iniquities.