EVERY MAN
HIS OWN
BROKER:
OR,
A GUIDE to EXCHANGE-ALLEY.

IN WHICH

The Nature of the ſeveral FUNDS, vulgarly called the STOCKS, is clearly explained, and accurate Computations are formed of the Average Value of EAST INDIA STOCK for ſeveral Years, from the current Year.

The Myſtery and Iniquity of STOCK-JOBBING is laid before the Public, in a New and Impartial Light.

The Method of Transferring STOCK, and of Buying and ſelling the ſeveral GOVERNMENT SECURITIES, without the Aſſiſtance of a BROKER, is made intelligible to the meaneſt Capacity; and an Account is given of the Laws in force relative to BROKERS, Clerks at the Bank, &c. With Directions how to avoid the Loſſes that are frequently ſuſtained by the Deſtruction of BANK NOTES, INDIA BONDS, &c. by Fire, and other Accidents.

ALSO,

An Hiſtorical Account of the Origin, Progreſs, and preſent State of PUBLIC CREDIT, of the NATIONAL DEBT, both PRINCIPAL and INTEREST, of BANKING, and of the SINKING-FUND; with Advice to Adventurers in the State-Lotteries.

To which is added,

A SUPPLEMENT, containing RULES for forming a Judgment of the real Cauſes of the Riſe or Fall of the STOCKS; and ſeveral uſeful Tables.

Quid faciunt leges, ubi ſola pecunia regnat.

The TENTH EDITION, conſiderably Improved.

By THOMAS MORTIMER, Eſq.
Author of the ELEMENTS of Commerce, Politics, and Finances.

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ferent circumſtances of the nation: the fluctuations of public and private credit: the mal-adminiſtration of the great commercial concerns of the EAST INDIA Company, and diverſe other adventitious events, have always given the author a fair opportunity to make conſiderable alterations and improvements, in every new edition he has preſented to the public ſince the year 1761, when the firſt appeared: it was then only a rough ſketch, in which the outlines of a more finiſhed piece were given; but, as it was natural to expect, that the bare deſign of expoſing the iniquities of profeſſed Stock-jobbers would excite every invective that malice, avarice, and diſappointment could ſuggeſt, it was very candidly ſent forth into the world an anonymous publication; that its enemies might have the

field open for repriſals, and be at liberty fully to controvert the truth of every propoſition contained in it, without expoſing themſelves to diſagreeable perſonal altercations with the author (a circumſtance which has diſgraced ſome of our beſt criticiſms.)

His ſucceſs, however, exceeded his moſt ſanguine hopes; no marks of diſapprobation or cenſure appeared, either publicly or privately; but, on the contrary, ſeveral letters were inſerted in the news-papers, and many others were received by the publiſher, commending and encouraging the undertaking; corroborating facts which before reſted on his ſingle evidence, and throwing new lights on the ſubject: this correſpondence was thankfully acknowledged; and ſome of the letters were inſerted in former editions, but

PREFACE.

THE AUTHOR of this little Manual, thinks he cannot open his Preface to a new edition more properly, than by making his grateful acknowledgements for the univerſal, continued approbation it has met with, not only from his own countrymen, but from the inhabitants of neighbouring kingdoms, where it has been tranſlated into different languages.

At home, it has paſſed through NINE editions, and its character has been ſo firmly eſtabliſhed, that it has been quoted by counſel at the bar, in

caſes relative to the funds, and has been referred to, as an unqueſtionable authority, by the brighteſt luminary of the law on the bench.

Its general utility has been experienced, in the courſe of *twenty-three* years, by all perſons intereſted in the public funds, and it has been acknowledged even by many ſenſible, candid STOCK BROKERS, men of unblemiſhed reputation, to be the ſole check, publicly given, to the ignominious practices of the diſhoneſt part of the fraternity, who ſubſiſt entirely on the knaviſh tricks carried on in the ſtock-jobbing tranſactions of the Alley; which are amply expoſed, and againſt which the public are ſtrongly cautioned in this treatiſe.

The changes that have happened in the ſtate of the public funds: the dif-

deed, if not totally ſubſide; though, from the favourable ſtate of the company's affairs delivered in at the bar of the houſe of Lords in 1767, the public had the greateſt reaſon to imagine, they would be able to ſupport the large dividends, they then gave, for a great number of years, if not to increaſe them conſiderably: the event has juſtified his apprehenſions, and ſeveral gentlemen have kindly acknowledged the benefit they derived from conſulting him, and following his advice; with pleaſure, therefore, the ſubject is reſumed in the following ſheets, and probable conjectures are formed, from the preſent ſtate of the Company's affairs, as to the future value of their ſtock for eight years to come.

Conſiderable additions are made, in this edition, to the inſtructions of the greateſt utility to thoſe who frequently tranſact buſineſs in the different funds—particularly, a new chapter, containing an authentic ſtate of the National Debt, both PRINCIPAL and INTEREST, brought up to the very moment that this part of our treatiſe went to preſs, and which has not been clearly ſtated to the public for ſeveral years back.

A more ample diſcuſſion of that important ſubject, PUBLIC CREDIT, is introduced, with obſervations relative to bankers, occaſioned by the conſiderable failures in that branch of buſineſs, in the courſe of a few years.

Some notice is likewiſe taken of the blow given to PRIVATE CREDIT, in

they are now laid aſide, leſt it ſhould be thought to ſavour more of oſtentation than utility, to reprint them.

The beſt return the author can make to the public for the ſatisfaction he has had of ſeeing his performance ſo generally circulated and ſo univerſally eſteemed, is to render the preſent edition as perfect as poſſible; and, in order to accompliſh this, he has ſpared no pains, having diligently attended to, and accurately noted the ſeveral variations that have occurred in the ſtate of the public funds: the operations of government reſpecting the national debt, and the adminiſtration of the public revenues, ſince the year 1782, the date of the laſt edition.

But above all, he has had a watchful eye over the conduct of the affairs

of the Eaſt India Company, and he is ſorry to obſerve, that, by the mal-adminiſtration of them, his obſervations in every edition of this work, concerning the uncertainty of the premium on India Stock, have been fully verified.

In the year 1766, the infatuation of thoſe who gamed deeply, or were otherwiſe largely intereſted in India Stock was ſo great, that the author was expoſed to the ridicule of a numerous company of reſpectable gentlemen at a public dinner in the city, for aſſerting, that India Stock would never riſe to 500 per cent. So ſanguine indeed were many, that they warmly inſiſted it would riſe to 1000, yet in 1769, he ventured to predict, in a new edition of his little piece, that from many cauſes therein ſpecified, the premium might ſink very low in-

be held in the highest veneration by the citizens of London for his long and faithful services in parliament, some regulations proposed by him, were passed into a law, in the year 1734, under the title of "*An act for the better preventing the infamous practice of Stock jobbing*;" by which the most palpable and glaring frauds then in vogue, were indeed suppressed: the BUBBLES burst, and the RACE HORSES of Exchange-Alley, expired with the date of that act; but BULLS and BEARS still exist in full vigour. The rejected part of Sir John Barnard's scheme for the total extirpation of Stock-jobbers, was brought into parliament in the year 1773, with some alterations, and was again thrown out by the house of lords; and such must be the fate of all schemes of the same nature, in which public

regiſters are propoſed to be kept, of thoſe contracts in the funds made by the brokers with each other, called *time bargains*. The juſt apprehenſions that ſuch regulations would lay too great a reſtraint on the buſineſs of buying and ſelling, impede the free circulation, or ſhut the preſent open market for the funds, will always be an inſurmountable objection to them.

It appears then to be a ſelf-evident propoſition, that the diſcouragement and final ſuppreſſion of Stock-jobbing muſt proceed from the voluntary conduct of all perſons concerned in the public funds. They muſt be unanimous in their abhorrence of the practice, and the only way to make them ſo, is to convince them of the injury they ſuſtain in their reputation and property by gaming in the Alley,

the year 1772, occaſioned, in a great meaſure, by the univerſality of the infamous practice of Stock-jobbing.

The ſhameful imitation of the form, and even of the paper on which bank notes are printed (by private perſons, in order to make their own notes current) having been prevented by a new act of parliament, the remarks on that head, in former editions, which furniſhed the government with the hint for this neceſſary regulation, are omitted in this; and the author finds his reward, in the ſervices he has rendered his country, upon this and other ſimilar occaſions, though unnoticed by adminiſtration.

After having thus briefly mentioned the principal improvements made in the preſent edition, it may be neceſſary to remind the reader, of

the original design of "Every Man his own Broker."

The fatal effects of stock-jobbing were so severely felt, both by the community and individuals, in the memorable year 1720, that, from that period to the present time, our complaints on the subject have never ceased; but it has been constant matter of debate, by what means this destructive practice could be totally suppressed; and though the circumstances of the nation became so critical, in proportion to the extension of its PUBLIC CREDIT, as to render it a delicate and difficult task to engage the legislature to enact, or our ministers to enforce the execution of laws for that purpose; yet, through the intrepid and truly patriotic conduct of the late Sir JOHN BARNARD, whose memory ought to

and gentlemen: indeed if this were not an inconteſtable truth, it would be hard to account for the continual demand that has been made for a book, otherwiſe of little value, during ſuch a length of time as TWENTY-THREE years; or that another edition ſhould now be required.

The original deſign of employing brokers muſt certainly have been for the convenience of the ladies, for whoſe ſervice theſe gentlemen are always ready; it were indeed to be wiſhed that moſt of them had more favourable aſpects, and a genteeler addreſs; for really many an innocent young lady, who has but juſt heard of 'Change Alley, may reaſonably conclude theſe are the identical Bulls and Bears ſhe has been told of: but the utility of theſe gentlemen may be eaſily ſupplied,

even to the ladies, as it cannot be imagined any lady is ſo deſtitute of relations and friends, as not to be able to find one gentleman, who would be ſo obliging as to tranſact her buſineſs for her in the funds, eſpecially when it ſhall appear, that it is the moſt ſimple and eaſy affair in the whole circle of buſineſs, and attended with very little loſs of time.

Nothing is ſo common at preſent, as for executors of wills (when they happen to be men of underſtanding) to transfer a legacy out of the name of the teſtator into that of the legatee, without calling for the aſſiſtance of a broker; and why ſhould not every gentleman, in the ſame manner, give his aſſiſtance to his ſiſter, his couſin, or any other female relation, or friend, when ſhe wants to lay out a ſum of

and thereby expoſing themſelves to be the dupes of Stock-jobbing Brokers and their employers.

With this laudable view the ſcenes of chicanery, duplicity, and fraud, exhibited at Jonathan's Coffee houſe, in Exchange Alley, the then uſual rendezvous of Stock-jobbers, were painted, from the firſt, in true and lively colours: in the preſent edition they are retouched; and ſome new inſtances of deceit are introduced. The ſcene only is ſince changed, the brokers having built a room by ſubſcription, oppoſite the Bank, and called it the STOCK-EXCHANGE, in which they now aſſemble to tranſact their buſineſs. Any perſon may enter as freely, as into any other Coffee houſe; however, ſixpence muſt be paid at the bar, by every one who does buſineſs.

But the grand object of this work always was, and ſtill is, to perſuade the proprietors of our public funds to tranſact their own buſineſs; to make them the managers of their own property; the only effectual method that can be taken to reduce the great number of Stock-brokers; to diminiſh the extenſive operations of Stock-jobbing; and, in the end, to extirpate this infamous practice, which ruins many capital merchants and tradeſmen, every year. The plaineſt and moſt ample inſtructions for buying, ſelling, and transferring the ſeveral funds at the reſpective offices is given in this convenient pocket volume, with this view; and the author has the ſatiſfaction to know, that they have been followed with facility and ſucceſs by an incredible number of merchants

employed in trade: but though the author's end ſhould not be completely anſwered, by accompliſhing the total ſuppreſſion of ſtock-brokers, it is certain the information he has laid before the public, will put men upon their guard, and enable them to diſtinguiſh between the reputable broker, who purſues only the legal duties of his vocation, and thoſe Jeſuits of the Alley, who came into it mendicants, but have amaſſed princely fortunes, by plundering the innocent and unwary, and have left in it ſcyons of the ſame ſtock, to continue the ſame infamous practices.

In fine, for the reaſons before ſpecified, a diſtinct and clear account of all the arts of ſtock-jobbing are given in the following pages, but not with any deſign to make gentlemen turn

jobbers; and therefore, though the learning the method of transferring at the books, is the high road to ſtock-jobbing, it is hoped the ſenſible reader, who may only want to lay out his own money, or his friend's, in the funds, or to ſell out of them, as his various occaſions may require, will be content with ſaving the brokerage, and will go no farther; for though he will find every requiſite inſtruction here for walking the Alley, yet, as there are every day ſome new ſcenes of iniquity contriving behind the curtain, it is impoſſible for any man to inſure ſucceſs; which is ſcarce ever certain, till thoſe troubleſome companions, that generally attend the innocent, *viz.* honour, honeſty, and a good conſcience, are entirely diſcarded.

money in the funds, or to ſell a ſum out of them? When not only the practicability, but likewiſe the facility, of rendering this ſervice to the ladies, ſhall evidently appear from the rules laid down in the following pages, no gentleman will refuſe to devote half an hour occaſionally, to the agreeable employment of delivering the fair ſex from all connections with this medley of barbers, bakers, butchers, ſhoemakers, plaiſterers, and taylors, whom the *Mammon of unrighteouſneſs* has transformed into Stock-brokers. If in conſequence of a compliance with the propoſed plan, theſe gentry ſhould loſe the fair ſex, their greateſt ſupport falls to the ground, ſince one of their principal emoluments ariſes from the management of the fortunes of women, whoſe ignorance, joined to a

propenſity for gaming, (become of late years a female paſſion,) renders them the eaſy dupes of Stock-jobbing brokers.

It will likewiſe be ſhewn in the courſe of this treatiſe, that it is almoſt impoſſible for a jobbing broker to give any gentleman candid and diſintereſted advice, when to buy into, or ſell out of the funds; and if this is demonſtrated to the ſatisfaction of the public, it will then follow, that, after having learned the method of tranſacting buſineſs, and being diſpoſed to aſſiſt the fair ſex, the gentleman and merchant will have no occaſion for a ſtock-broker; nor will the public any longer be under a neceſſity of giving to a low kind of ſervants, an almoſt abſolute power over all the circulating monied property in the nation, not

EVERY MAN
HIS OWN
BROKER.

CHAPTER I.

Explanation of the Nature of the Public Funds, commonly called the Stocks.—Diſtinct Account of India Stock.—Review of the Adminiſtration of the Eaſt India Company's Affairs.—Account of the new Regulations of Parliament reſpecting them.—Exact Liſts of the Variations in the Prices of India Stock for eight Years paſt.—Deduction from thence, of the Medium or Average Price of each Year.—Rules for eſtimating the medium Value, for eight Years to come, &c.

THE national credit of Great Britain having long ſince arrived at the higheſt degree of reputation, and her ſecurities for the loan of money

being now eſteemed the beſt in Europe, not only by her own ſubjects, but likewiſe by all unprejudiced foreigners; a full explanation of the nature of theſe ſecurities deſervedly merits the attention not only of the inhabitants of Great Britain, but of all foreigners, on whom Providence has beſtowed any portion of wealth, that is not employed in commerce, or laid out in landed eſtates: for where will they find ſo ſafe a repoſitory for their money, and on ſuch advantageous terms as the public funds of England afford? Higher intereſt may indeed be obtained, but then the ſecurity is not ſo good.

A company or ſociety of merchants trading to any part of the world may ſuffer loſſes of various kinds, ſo as to leſſen the value of the principal ſum advanced them, and to oblige them to lower their dividends; while, on the other hand, private ſecurities are ſtill more hazardous: from whence it neceſſarily follows, that the government ſecurities being the ſafeſt, are

the moſt advantageous to lay out money in.

But for want of rightly underſtanding theſe ſecurities, great numbers of perſons, eſpecially in the remote parts of the kingdom, loſe the opportunities of engaging in them, and often lend their money, to their great loſs and diſappointment, on hazardous private ſecurities.

Beſides the utility of being converſant in the nature of the funds, it will afford a ſecret ſatisfaction to the public in general, to ſee by what eaſy methods a free government raiſes the large (but neceſſary) annual ſupplies, for carrying on heavy and extenſive wars, in compariſon of thoſe grievous and oppreſſive meaſures taken in deſpotic governments, on the ſame emergencies.

Surely the breaſt of every Engliſhman, poſſeſſed of monied property, muſt glow with rapture and admiration, when he conſiders, that while the unhappy ſubjects of the other powers engaged in the laſt war were quite exhauſted, and thouſands of

them totally ruined, owing to the demands made on them by their arbitrary monarchs, he voluntarily contributed towards defraying the public expences of his country, in a manner that was ſo far from being burdenſome to him, with reſpect to the large principal ſums wanted yearly, that, on the contrary, he ſerved himſelf at the ſame time, by lending his money on parliamentary ſecurity.

The ſame ways and means being ſtill purſued, for raiſing the extraordinary ſums wanted for paying off the remainder of the debts contracted for carrying on the late extenſive war againſt France, Spain, Holland, and the American revolted Colonies; the Britiſh ſubject, while he is contributing his quota, by the taxes impoſed upon him to pay the intereſt of the principal ſums borrowed by government; if he is poſſeſſed of monied property, and can make intereſt to ſubſcribe to the annual loans, actually repays himſelf, and is more than *ſcot-free*, by the profit he makes

from lending his money to the public; every loan of late years having borne a conſiderable *premium*, or profit, to the ſubſcribers, when brought to market.

The preſent government funds, transferable at the BANK of ENGLAND, are,

Three per cent. BANK *reduced* annuities.
Three per cent. conſolidated ditto.
Three per cent. . . . . ditto, 1726.
Four per cent. conſolidated ditto.
Four per cent. . . . . ditto, 1777.
Long annuities for 99 years from 1761.
Ditto . . for 98 years from 1762.
Short annuities for 10 years from 1777.
Ditto . . for 30 years from 1778.
Ditto . . for 29 years from 1779.
Three per cent. ſcrip. for 1784.
Four per cent. ditto . ditto.
Lottery tickets . . ditto.
Long annuities . . ditto.
New Navy and Victualling bills
Exchequer bills.

Transferable at the SOUTH SEA Houſe.

Old South ſea annuities.
New ditto.
Three per cent. . . 1751.

Theſe are what buſineſs is daily tranſacting in, and they are extracted from one of the printed liſts publiſhed by a broker, which printed liſts are to be had daily (about one o'clock in the afternoon) at any of the brokers offices near the Exchange; and at ſome of them, may be ſeen ſtuck up at the windows. I chooſe to diſtinguiſh the above from ſome other funds that are inſerted in theſe liſts, or printed in the public news-papers, under the general name of Stocks, that the public may be acquainted with the difference between the funds of public companies, and thoſe of the government.

The word STOCK, in its proper ſignification, means, that capital in merchandiſe, or money, which a certain number of proprietors have agreed to make the founda-

tion for carrying on an united commerce, to the equal intereſt and advantage of each party concerned, in proportion to the ſum or ſhare contributed by each.

A number of merchants uniting, and applying to the government for an excluſive charter, to prevent others from engaging in the ſame commerce, and for a power to raiſe money by an open ſubſcription, in order to form their ſtock, or capital, are generally denominated COMPANIES.

A conjunction of three or four perſons, who jointly contribute different, or equal ſums towards forming a general ſtock to trade with, is called a COPARTNERSHIP; but the ſum of money, or the value of the merchandiſes they begin trade with, is ſtill properly called their Stock; and ſo is the capital, with which any ſingle man carries on his particular buſineſs.

From this definition of the term, it follows, that the application of it to the liſt of government ſecurities, here inſerted, is highly improper, as they are abſolutely

public debts, and not ſtocks, for they are all aids granted by parliament to the government, to enable it to defray the public expences at ſundry times, and on ſundry occaſions; and have been borrowed of the public on the different conditions contained in the ſeveral acts of parliament by which they were raiſed; one of which conditions is, that they ſhall be redeemable by parliament, or, in other words, that the parliament reſerve a power of paying off theſe ſums borrowed of the public. However in all this, there is not the leaſt ſhadow of ſtock or capital; but what amply ſupplies the place of it, National Credit, on the ſtrength of which the national debt has been contracted; and ſo long as the government can keep this credit in reputation, which it will always be able to do, while it can find ways and means of paying the annual intereſt of this debt, in the ſame punctual manner that it is paid at preſent, ſo long will national credit ſupply the place of ſtock to the government; and

will be a better ſecurity for money than a ſhare in the ſtock of any Company whatever, for reaſons which I ſhall give in their proper place.

The ſtock or capital of our Public Companies has been raiſed by authority of parliament; and by the ſame authority has been confined to a limited ſum: ſo that as ſoon as the ſum allowed to be raiſed was completed, the number of proprietors was likewiſe aſcertained and completed, and no perſon whatever could afterwards be admitted on the ſame footing; but as every proprietor had a power reſerved to him, his heirs and executors, of transfering or aſſigning over his right in the ſaid ſtock, to whom he thought proper—this laid the foundation of opening transfer-books, and of appointing particular days and hours for transfering, aſſigning over, and accepting, or, in other words, for ſelling and buying of ſtock.

Every original ſhare of a trading company's ſtock muſt greatly increaſe in value,

in proportion to the advantages arifing from the commerce they are engaged in; fuch is the nature of trade, in general, that it either confiderably increafes, or falls into decline; and nothing can be a greater proof of a company's trade being in a flourifhing condition, than when their credit is remarkably good, and the original fhare in their ftock will fell at a confiderable premium.

No commercial company, in any part of the habitable globe, ever poffeffed fuch fignal and extenfive rights, privileges, and advantages as thofe which have been allowed by government to the Britifh Eaft India Company, from their firft eftablifhment to the prefent time.

In a nation, renowned for its political freedom, fucceffive exclufive charters have been granted to this company, by which they have been vefted with powers and privileges, feemingly incompatible with the firft principles of our conftitution. For inftance, the territorial acquifitions they have made by conqueft from, or by trea-

ties with the Indian princes, have remained in the Company's poſſeſſion, though they of right belong to the Crown; and they have a power to prevent any of their fellow-ſubjects from going to and ſettling in any part of their territories in Aſia; though every Engliſh ſubject has a conſtitutional right to travel to, and fix his reſidence in any part of the dominions of his Sovereign.

Yet, while the public revenue of the kingdom continually receives large annual ſupplies from the immenſe imports of this company, and likewiſe ſuch loans, on extraordinary emergencies, as aſtoniſh all Europe, government is moſt aſſuredly juſtified in conniving at a monopoly, which, though it infringes on the political rights and privileges of its ſubjects, as individuals, contributes ſo largely to the real and relative riches of the nation; by augmenting its capital ſtock in merchandiſe; by repleniſhing its public treaſury; and by conſuming its manufactures.

But, at different periods, this prosperous state of their affairs has been reversed, and instead of contributing either to the general commercial interests of Great Britain, or to the increase of her finances, the company, in their turn, in the year 1773, required the loan of a very large sum, no less than 1,400,000*l.* to be drawn from the public treasure of the nation, for the support of their declining credit; and also found themselves reduced to the necessity of restricting their commercial operations, and of confining them for the future within narrower limits. It then became essentially necessary for parliament to interpose, in order to put a stop to the manifold abuses of the extensive powers vested in the company by their charter; and to prevent those infamous exertions of unlimited authority, usurpingly practised by their haughty servants abroad, in open defiance of the most positive instructions sent from home, by the directors.

It was matter of aſtoniſhment and concern to the public, to ſee individuals, who had been employed but a few years in the company's ſervice in Aſia, return home with immenſe fortunes, and wallow in wealth and luxury; while the affairs of the company were declining, notwithſtanding the great profits they derived from an extenſive, excluſive trade, and from the revenues of newly-acquired extenſive territories. Such a ſtrange ſituation of their affairs could not eſcape the vigilance of the Britiſh legiſlature. Accordingly, a ſelect committee of the Houſe of Commons began an enquiry into the ſtate of the company's affairs, and into the management of them for ſome years paſt, both at home and abroad. From the reports of that committee to the houſe, it appeared, that the miſmanagement of the directors at home, and of the company's ſervants in India, whoſe avarice was inſatiable, had been the cauſe of reducing their affairs nearly to a ſtate of bankruptcy; for, without the aid of parliament, the directors

had not reſources to anſwer the demands upon the company. An act of parliament was therefore paſſed in the ſeſſion of 1773, for eſtabliſhing certain regulations for the better management of the affairs of the Eaſt-India company: in conſequence of theſe regulations, a governor-general, aſſiſted by four perſons, his counſellors, was appointed, and veſted with all the powers, military and civil, of the preſidency of Fort William, in Bengal; alſo with the ordering, management, and government of all the territorial acquiſitions and revenues in the kingdoms of *Bengal*, *Bahir*, and *Oriſſa*; with a ſuperintending and controlling power over the preſidencies of *Madras*, *Bombay*, and *Bencoolen*; and a ſupreme power of making war and peace, &c. A ſupreme court of judicature was likewiſe eſtabliſhed for the town of Calcutta, and the factory at Fort William, and the limits thereof, and factories ſubordinate thereto.

It was hoped theſe new regulations would be a check upon the peculations of

the company's ſubordinate ſervants in India, and reſtore the credit and proſperity of the company; but, in the year 1781, complaints arrived of the oppreſſive exerciſe of the authority of the ſupreme court of juſtice, though the judges were appointed by the King; the inhabitants ſubject to their juriſdiction, as well native as Britiſh, petitioning parliament againſt their conduct.

By miſmanagement likewiſe of the governor-general and ſupreme council at Fort William, or the wilful diſobedience of the ſubordinate preſidencies, the company was drawn into a dangerous war with the Marattas, the moſt powerful ſtates of India, and with the late Hyder Ally, a potent and warlike prince, who defeated a conſiderable force belonging to the company; and in conſequence of this and other diſaſters, a ſecret committee of the Houſe of Commons was appointed, in the ſeſſion of the year 1781, which continued ſitting in 1782 and 1783, to enquire into the

true cauſe of that war, and into the actual ſtate of the company's affairs. The reports from that committee have been publiſhed; and it was hoped ſome capital delinquents would have been called to account: however, after various well-known debates and conteſts in parliament, the total reſult of the enquiry has been the paſſing an act in the preſent year, 1784, entitled, *an act for the better regulation and management of the affairs of the Eaſt India Company, and of the Britiſh poſſeſſions in India; and for eſtabliſhing a court of judicature for the more ſpeedy and effectual trial of perſons accuſed of offences committed in the Eaſt Indies.* By this act, government has ſubjected the direction of the Eaſt India company's affairs at home, and their ſervants abroad, to ſuch a controuling power veſted in the hands of the miniſtry for the time being, and of the king in council, that it is almoſt morally impoſſible for the directors to be guilty of ſuch ſhameful miſmanagement as here-

tofore, or for their ſervants in India to enrich themſelves at the expence of the company, and of the Indian princes. At the ſame time, another act was paſſed, for the relief of the company, with reſpect to the ſtate of their caſh account; by which the debts they owe to government, for cuſtom-houſe duties and other demands, are poſtponed; and time is granted to them to diſcharge the bills of exchange drawn upon them from their ſettlements abroad, which were either actually due, or to become due in a ſhort time. This indulgence extends to the year 1790, before which time, if the peace continues in India and in Europe, it is imagined the company will have diſcharged all pecuniary demands upon them, at home and abroad, and will have ſuch a balance in hand, as to enable them to continue, if not to increaſe, their preſent dividend of *eight per cent.*

But, that the true deſign of giving this detail of the company's affairs may be

completed—which is, to advise and guide the monied man in his transactions with respect to the funds of this company, in order to prevent his being allured by false appearances and false hopes to game deeply in them, or to purchase at very high premiums; it will be necessary to go back to the year 1766, when such was the spirit of jobbing in India stock, that some brokers in the alley, and other interested persons out of it, propagated a report, soon after the news arrived of Lord Clive's success in India, that the company would be able, from their prodigious profits, to divide 50 *per cent. per annum*, in consequence of which India stock rose to 263, in the beginning of May, 1767; the general court declaring a dividend on the 6th of May of 6½ *per cent.* for the half year commencing at Midsummer, and ending at Christmas, 1767. No limitation being at that time fixed to their dividends, it is impossible to say to what height this madness might have run, if

parliament had not wiſely interfered to prevent it, by an act obliging the directors of the company to reſcind the vote of the 6th of May, and to limit their annual dividends to 10 *per cent.* But for this event, we ſhould have had a revival of the calamities of the South-Sea bubble in 1720. For ſuch was the infatuation previous to the interpoſition of parliament, that the author of this book was ridiculed in public company for aſſerting that India ſtock would never riſe to 300; the gentlemen contending, that it would be worth and riſe to 8 or 900, if not 1000*l.*

We have already noticed what paſſed in parliament in 1773. In 1774, the eighth edition of this work was publiſhed, and ſeveral accounts having been tranſmitted to the author through the hands of his publiſher, demonſtrating that very deep gaming was ſtill carrying on in India ſtock, to the ruin of the unwary, he thought he could not perform a more acceptable ſervice to the public than by inſerting in his

next edition——Lists of the variations in the prices of India stock during the eight preceding years, which included the periods of the greatest revolutions in the affairs of the company—specifying the variations in each year, and the *medium* or *average* price in each year.—Also a deduction from these tables, and the situation of the company's affairs in 1774, of the probable medium price for the ensuing eight years. The period of that calculation expired on the 1st of January, 1781. It is therefore unnecessary to reprint that calculation, or the lists inserted in the last edition; but, in order to shew what prodigious sums must have been won and lost by jobbing in India stock, between the years 1766 and 1773, inclusive, the following note is preserved.

N. B. Extreme variation in the price of East India stock, in the course of eight years, 138 *per cent.*—being the difference between the highest price, *viz.* 278, in June, 1768, and the lowest price, *viz.* 140, in December, 1773.

The probable medium price, fortold in the laſt edition, for the eight ſucceeding years, from 1774 to 1781, incluſive, was 160, and an allowance was made of 10 *per cent.* on the ſuppoſition that the company's affairs would be in a proſperous ſtate during that period; if, therefore, we deduct 10 *per cent.* for the late untoward circumſtances in India, we reduce the price to 150; and it will be found, by the liſts of the actual prices at market, inſerted in the ninth or laſt edition, that the author's anticipated calculation was a very juſt one.

It appeared likewiſe by thoſe liſts, that the extreme variation in the price of India ſtock, during the courſe of thoſe eight years, was 40 *per cent.* the higheſt price, in December, 1776, being 171; and the loweſt in July, 1778, being 131. The medium price between theſe extremes was 150, the average price for the whole time.

Let us now paſs in review the prices for the laſt eight years, including the current year 1784.

1777.

February 17,	169
July 29,	157
Auguſt 27,	161
September 15,	165
November 13,	167¾
December 20,	164½

Variations this year, 12 *per cent.* Average price 163.

1778.

January 16,	151¼
February 17,	147
21,	157½
26,	145¾
March 27,	130
April 30,	128¾
May 27,	134½
June 23,	136¼
July 23,	131
Auguſt 22,	138¼
October 8,	146¾
November 26,	141
December 23,	138¼

Variations this year, 27½ *per cent.* Average price 143¾.

N. B. When any months of the year are omitted, it is becauſe little or no variation has happened in them, from the prices of the preceding month.

1779.

January 14,	140½
19,	137
February 18,	143
25,	138½
March 4,	141½
27,	151½
April 22,	155½
May 27,	151½
June 17,	143½
July 15,	138
September 11,	140½
October 14,	143¾
November 25,	145½
December 15,	143½

Variations this Year, 18½ *per cent.* Average price 146¼.

1780.

January 13,	141½
February 2,	151
29,	153½

April 22,	$156\frac{3}{4}$
June 6,	150
July 12,	$148\frac{1}{2}$
August 3,	152
October 26,	$153\frac{1}{2}$

Variations this year, $15\frac{1}{4}$ *per cent.* Average price $149\frac{1}{8}$.

1781.

January 24,	$153\frac{1}{2}$
February 23,	$146\frac{1}{4}$
April 12,	148
19,	$144\frac{1}{2}$
May 10,	$147\frac{1}{4}$
23,	145
July 12,	$140\frac{1}{2}$
18,	135
21,	$138\frac{3}{4}$
August 28,	140
September 18,	138
October 9,	139
27,	$134\frac{1}{2}$
November 15,	$139\frac{1}{2}$
24,	$134\frac{1}{2}$
27,	$140\frac{1}{2}$

Variations this year, $19\frac{3}{4}$ *per cent.* Average price 143.

1782.

January 25,	$135\frac{1}{4}$
February 16,	$131\frac{1}{4}$
March 15,	$136\frac{1}{2}$
April 17,	139
July 10,	132
20,	$127\frac{1}{2}$
September 12,	$126\frac{3}{4}$
16,	$130\frac{1}{4}$
October 16,	$136\frac{1}{2}$
24,	$133\frac{3}{4}$
November 11,	$131\frac{1}{2}$
December 3,	$136\frac{1}{2}$
9,	$139\frac{1}{2}$
31,	141

Variations this year $14\frac{1}{4}$ *per cent*. Average price 133.

1783.

January 8,	$133\frac{1}{2}$
23,	$144\frac{1}{2}$
February 15,	$146\frac{1}{2}$
March 21,	$140\frac{3}{4}$
April 8,	137
19,	$132\frac{3}{4}$
29,	141
May 16,	$136\frac{1}{2}$
23,	140

July 11,	132
August 23,	139
September 9,	143
November 14,	137½
21,	120
December 18,	127

Variations this year 26½ *per cent.* Average price 133¼.

1784.

January 12,	118½
February 25,	123
March 11,	129½
23,	124¼
27,	126
May 13,	122½
26,	124½
June 8,	121½
11,	118½
17,	120½
25,	122
July 14,	117½
23,	121¼
August 5,	126½
October 13,	128

Variations this year 9½ *per cent.* Average price 123¼.

Let it here be remarked, that gaming in this Stock has not been ſo exceſſive, during the laſt eight years, as in former periods; and it is highly probable that the publication of the tables in the two laſt editions, which pointed out the great danger of ruin by jobbing in a Fund, the price of which had varied in one year, no leſs than 138 per cent. checked the progreſs of ſuch pernicious gambling. However, it ſhould be remembered, that even in the laſt eight years, cloſing with the preſent year, jobbing in India Stock muſt have been a deeper game than jobbing in any other, the variation in it being $50\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* the difference between the higheſt price in February, 1777, viz. 169; and the loweſt price, $118\frac{1}{2}$, in January, 1784.

Having now found the average or medium price of India ſtock for ſo long a period as the laſt eight years to be $143\frac{3}{4}$, let us endeavour, from juſt reaſoning, to point out the probable, real value of this

ſtock for eight years to come, including the current year 1784. And the better to juſtify our conjectures concerning future times, let us make a few obſervations on the paſt and preſent ſtate of the company's affairs.

It is generally allowed, that during the peace of 1763 the company enjoyed every advantage that could poſſibly accrue to any trading company—ſuch as an excluſive right of conducting all their concerns at home and abroad, by their own bye-laws—an unbounded, perhaps a culpable demand for all the commodities brought home by their ſhips—an increaſed demand for re-exportation to other countries—new territories, and with them additional revenues: freſh ſources of commerce—and an unlimited credit at home, carried to a degree, at one time, bordering on the South Sea infatuation, to which the madneſs of the public might have made it parallel, if parliament had not put a check to the ſiniſter deſigns of certain directors and intereſted

proprietors.——What could the Company wiſh for, as an addition to theſe advantages?—Nothing, but public virtue and diſintereſtedneſs in the managers of their concerns at home; and common honeſty, tinctured with humanity, in their ſervants abroad—but both theſe neceſſary ſupports failing them, the ſuperſtructure has nearly fallen to the ground, and all the hopes of vaſt dividends and prodigious premiums have ſuddenly vaniſhed, to the great diſappointment of thoſe who purchaſed the ſtock at enormous premiums, particularly in the year 1766.

We will now put the queſtion—Can this company expect greater, or even ſo great advantages in the courſe of the next eight years, as thoſe they have poſſeſſed during the laſt? The anſwer is obvious, No. The opportunity has been loſt, by mal-adminiſtration; and though the wiſeſt regulations may be eſtabliſhed to prevent future miſmanagement, yet it will require more than eight years to reſtore the com-

pany's affairs to ſo flouriſhing a ſtate, as to enable them to increaſe their dividends on juſt grounds; and unleſs it can be done with a tolerable certainty of continuance for a given length of time, it is to be hoped government will prevent the fatal effects of haſtily adopting ſuch a meaſure a ſecond time.

From theſe premiſes, then, I think, we may fairly draw the following conclusions.

That India Stock cannot be worth more, upon an average, for the next eight years, than 150 *per cent.* allowing for every advantage to be derived from the new acts of parliament already mentioned, and from the continuance of the national peace; unleſs the government funds ſhould, by any unforeſeen circumſtance, riſe ſo rapidly as to reduce the value of money from 5 to 4 *per cent.* annual intereſt, in which caſe, the calculations on the value of India ſtock muſt be made accordingly.

That all ſpecious practices to raiſe it above that price, may be conſidered as the artifices of deſigning men, endeavouring to re-eſtabliſh thoſe deſtructive jobbing contracts, which give ſuch dangerous wounds to private credit.

And that of all others, the trading funds are the moſt diſadvantageous to buy into, when the premiums run very high, and the moſt hazardous on any ſtock-jobbing plan.

We will now return from this long, but very intereſting digreſſion, and diſcuſs the remaining ſubject of this chapter.

The GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES, and other ſecurities for money, ſtand nearly in the ſame light, with reſpect to the firſt raiſing of the ſums granted, in aid of government, as the ſtocks of companies, that is to ſay—The money is raiſed by authority of parliament, the ſum is limited; and after the ſubſcription is full, no more contributors can be admitted. In order, therefore, to remove the inconveniences that might ariſe to contributors

from being obliged to keep their money conſtantly in the hands of government, and that thoſe who have money to lay out, and had not an opportunity of ſubſcribing, may be enabled to purchaſe of the ſubſcribers, the ſame method has been taken of opening transfer-books, and of appointing certain days and hours for tranſfering and accepting, or for buying and ſelling of the annuities: ſo far the government ſecurities and the ſtocks of companies agree; we ſhall now ſee wherein they differ.

As the government are not engaged in trade, a ſhare in their annuities cannot bear any premium, but what will ariſe from the real value of ſuch ſhare at the time it bears a premium. To illuſtrate this, let us ſuppoſe that I buy at preſent 100l. ſhare of *three per cent.* annuities for 58l. the current price; the reaſon I buy it ſo low is, that money is worth at preſent above *five per cent. per annum*, and I am to receive only *three per cent.* therefore I give a principal ſum, in proportion to the intereſt I

am to receive. But, whenever the nation shall enjoy a general peace, during ten years, or more, my 100l. share in the *three per cent.* annuities, which I bought for 58l. may become worth 100l. or more; but from whence will this great profit arise? Not from the uncertain advantages of trade, but from a natural event, a long peace, which may in time lower the value of money (the government not being in want of extraordinary supplies) to such a degree, that more than *three per cent.* cannot be obtained any where, nor even that, on such good security as my share in the *three per cent.* annuities; therefore I may be offered a premium for it on account of its intrinsic value; and that the case here supposed is founded on a precedent, may be proved by referring back to the prices of *three per cent.* annuities in the time of the Scotch Rebellion *, and comparing them with the

* See the London Magazine for Nov. 1745.

price of the ſame annuities before the breaking out of the late war.

A time of peaee is no ſecurity for the premium given on the ſtock of any trading company, becauſe many events may happen, as eaſy to conjecture as to mention, by which they may ſuſtain great loſſes, and which may occaſion the premiums on ſhares totally to ſubſide. Again, the tranſactions of no ſociety whatever are ſo open, nor ſo ſoon known, when they concern the public, as the tranſactions of the Britiſh government. A number of fatal accidents may be concealed for a long time in trading ſocieties; but a rupture with a foreign power, which is almoſt the only thing in time of peace that ought to affect the price of the government ſecurities, is preſently known; and conſequently, as ſoon as the rumour of a war is ſpread, the perſon who has given a premium on annuities has an opportunity of ſelling at a ſmall loſs, *four* or *five per cent.* but whenever a long-concealed misfortune that has happened to any trad-

ing ſociety comes to be divulged, or that the ſociety takes any unexpected meaſures, the fall on the ſhares in the ſtock of ſuch a ſociety may be *twenty* or *thirty per cent.* in one day.

Beſides, the difference between the government annuities and the ſtocks of trading companies, when bought at a diſcount, (or under par) is very great; for ſhould it ever happen, that the ſhares in the capital or ſtock of any trading ſociety fall conſiderably under par, it may reaſonably be concluded that the finances of that ſociety are in a bad condition, and their trade on the decline; but the government annuities ſelling at a great diſcount is only a proof of the increaſe of the value of money, which will always be in proportion to the demands of the ſtate for it.

Thus he, who, at the beginning of the late war, would willingly have lent the government his money at *three and a half per cent.* will not now part with it under *five per cent.* and a douceur, becauſe the

wants of the ſtate continuing, have raiſed the value of money; but this is no argument, either that the finances of the ſtate are in a bad condition, or that its credit is on the decline: on the contrary, I do not know of any public event (the American war excepted) which has in the leaſt weakened public credit, nor which ought to have cauſed any great variation in the prices of the government ſecurities; and here I muſt add a few words, which I am certain will greatly offend the monied men, but may not be diſagreeable to the public.

I am humbly of opinion then, that a method might be found out of keeping the funds from theſe perpetual variations, (except in caſe of an actual, formidable invaſion, the total deſtruction of our maritime force, or any other more remarkable cataſtrophe than any that has happened during the war), and of ſupplying the government with what money they want, on the ſame terms at the latter end of a war as at the beginning, provided it does not

laſt ſo long as to make a real ſcarcity of money; which, I think, was not the caſe in the late war, as appeared by the immediate filling of every ſubſcription for raiſing the annual ſupplies.

I confeſs it to be an Herculean labour, but yet it is to be accompliſhed——if the influence the brokers have over the monied men is once deſtroyed, which it is hoped this work will, in part, if not totally, effect.

The Bank annuities, and other government ſecurities, inſerted at the beginning of this chapter, together with the following capitals, or ſtocks of companies, and their annuities and bonds, make up the liſt that is commonly inſerted, with their ſeveral prices, in the public news-papers, under the general title of Stocks.

Bank ſtock, five and a half per cent. per annum.

South-ſea ſtock, three and a half per cent.

India ſtock, eight per cent.

India annuities, three per cent.
India bonds, four per cent.

They are all transferable, or ſaleable, without any reſtraint or difficulty, as will appear in Chap. III. wherein the method of doing it is fully explained.

Having thus given a ſuccinct account of the public funds, in a ſtyle which, I hope, will be intelligible to the meaneſt capacity; I have only to add a few remarks that naturally ariſe out of the explanation I have given of them, and which, I hope, will not be entirely uſeleſs to the public.

It appears then, "That the government "ſecurities of England are abſolutely pre-"ferable to all others whatever.

"That ſhares in the ſtocks of the public "companies of England are nearly equal "to the government ſecurities, and far "preferable to the ſecurities given by pri-"vate ſocieties, or particular perſons.

"That ſhares in annuities bought at a "great diſcount, that is to ſay, greatly

" under par, are the cheapeſt and moſt
" advantageous to the purchaſer, and con-
" ſiderably more profitable than any ſtocks
" bought at a high premium: becauſe
" the probability of the premium (given
" on any ſtock) totally ſubſiding, is infi-
" nitely greater than that the low price
" given at preſent for three per cent. an-
" nuities, ſhould fall much lower; and
" there is a greater probability of their
" riſing, and a greater likelihood of its
" continuance, than there is that the pre-
" mium now given on any ſtock ſhould
" riſe much higher, or continue ſo high as
" it is, for any number of years: there-
" fore ſhares in ſtocks that bear a pre-
" mium, are the deareſt, and ſhares in
" funds or annuities under par, the
" cheapeſt to purchaſe.

" That perſons who have ſubſcribed, or
" bought into the three per cent. or other
" government ſecurities ſome years ago, at
" a much higher price than the preſent,
" ought not to ſell out now, unleſs on an

" unavoidable emergency, let what will be
" the temptations offered by brokers to en-
" gage them to do it; ſince, in their caſe,
" they will ſcarce better themſelves by any
" new ſubſcription; and ſince, whenever
" they offer to ſell, they will always find
" buyers, whoſe deſire of buying what they
" want to part with, plainly makes a doubt
" of the matter; for it ſhews that the pur-
" chaſers (or their brokers for them) have
" as good an opinion of the annuities the
" ſellers are going to part with at a great
" loſs, as they have of any new ſubſcrip-
" tion *: therefore, unleſs in a caſe of ne-
" ceſſity, never remove your money at a
" loſs; but wait patiently till the ſituation
" of public affairs has brought it back to
" the price you gave, or a much higher,

* It is the broker's buſineſs to throw out all poſſible baits to engage people to be continually changing from one fund to another, for this brings griſt to his mill; every movement of this kind producing freſh commiſſion-money.

" and never believe any idle rumours of
" bad news, ſo far as to let them frighten
" you out of your intereſt in the govern-
" ment ſecurities; for theſe ſecurities have
" not for many years, nor are likely again
" to be in any real danger.

" Finally, That the man who wants to
" engage you to be continually changing
" the ſituation of your money, is influ-
" enced by ſome private motive; for
" which reaſon never follow his advice,
" unleſs you are a jobber yourſelf."

CHAPTER II.

Of the myſtery and iniquity of Stock-jobbing, in all its various branches.

I GIVE this account of ſtock-jobbing the ſecond place in this little piece, becauſe it may prove an agreeable relaxation to the mind after ſo dry a ſubject as that of the ſtocks; and likewiſe, becauſe it is proper

to give an account of the various branches of ſtock-jobbing, before I inſert any general inſtructions for tranſacting the ſeveral parts of the buſineſs of the public funds.

It will be neceſſary to premiſe, that the iniquitous art of ſtock-jobbing has ſprung, like a great many other abuſes, from the beſt of bleſſings, CIVIL LIBERTY, the benign influence of which the Engliſh nation, to its immortal honour be it recorded, is ever ſtudious to extend to foreigners as well as to its natives.

Moral writers aſſert, that there is no good thing on earth which may not be abuſed: but this is no argument that the good, out of which evil is produced, is the leſs valuable: on the contrary, it only aggravates the guilt of thoſe who are ſo corrupt as to make even virtue itſelf ſerve the cauſe of vice.

From the free liberty granted to all foreigners to buy into, and ſell out of our public funds, the diabolical art of ſtock-

jobbing took its rise, and is now arrived at its meridian of iniquity.

The great concerns which foreigners, and especially the Dutch, have had in our funds for more than half a century past, demonstrate the goodness of the English securities in preference to all others; that the manner in which the business of them is transacted, is the plainest and most free from all difficulties and embarrassments; and that the punctual payment of small interest is, by all prudent people, more highly prized than the vain promises of much larger interest, where there is not a probability of its being regularly paid at the end of every six months, perhaps of its ever being paid.

The credit of Great Britain is greatly superior to that of France, owing to the inviolable honour of her Parliaments in keeping to their engagements with the public creditors of the nation. A most remarkable and glorious instance is at this time given of the unimpeachable and un-

paralleled honour of the Britiſh government, in the adminiſtration of the public Funds. Many of our fellow-ſubjects in America, as individuals, and many of the Revolted Provinces as bodies corporate, have monies veſted in our Funds, and though they openly revolted from their Sovereign and the Parent State, yet their capitals were as ſecure, and their intereſt as regularly paid, during the late fatal and diſhonourable civil war againſt them, as if no ſuch unhappy event had taken place.

The Dutch likewiſe, though they violated the faith of treaties, and forced Great Britain into a war with them, found their immenſe property in our funds perfectly ſecure; and were left at full liberty to withdraw it by ſale at market, the ſame as any other of the public creditors. The confiſcation of this property, money being the ſinews of war, would, in other countries, have been conſidered as ſound policy.

The French government, on the contrary, has often violated the conditions on which ſhe borrowed money for the exigencies of the ſtate: therefore, as long as the preſent happy conſtitution of Great Britain remains, ſhe will conſtantly have the advantage of France in obtaining loans on the ſtrength of her public credit, not only from her own ſubjects, but from foreigners of every denomination.

"Had one half of the acts of power "been exerted with us, which have been "ſo familiar in France; had half the "liberties been taken in tampering with "the claims of creditors, a total bank-"ruptcy would long ere now have been "the conſequence.

"Example works wonderful effects; "and the advantages of a ſecurity to be "depended on, will every day more and "more engage the monied intereſt to "prefer this to any violent and preca-"rious profits." This judicious remark is made by Sir James Stewart, in his ela-

borate work, intitled, "An Inquiry into the Principles of Political Oeconomy."

Again, the Dutch and other foreigners having ſo large an intereſt in our public funds, has given riſe to the buying and ſelling them for time, by which is to be underſtood, the making of contracts for buying and ſelling againſt any certain period of time, ſo that the transfer at the public offices is not made at the time of making the contract for transfering it; and this has produced modern ſtock-jobbing, as I ſhall preſently have occaſion to ſhew.

Nothing could be more juſt or equitable than the original deſign of theſe contracts, nor nothing more infamous than the abuſe that has been, and ſtill is, made of it.

The original intention of theſe contracts, I imagine, was, that a Dutchman, or any other foreigner, having occaſion to buy into, or ſell out of our public funds, and being informed by his correſpondent at London of an advantageous

opportunity of doing either, might be enabled to embrace ſuch an opportunity, by writing to his friend to contract immediately for any quantity of ſtock againſt ſuch a time, before the expiration of which, he might ſend his correſpondent a remittance, if it did not ſuit him to do it immediately; whereas, if it were not for theſe contracts, the transfer (in the common courſe of buſineſs) being to be made, and the money to be paid at the ſame time, if it did not ſuit his correſpondent to advance it, nor him to remit it, the opportunity would be loſt; and again, that his correſpondent might not be prevented from taking advantage of a favourable opportunity either of buying or ſelling for him, by waiting the arrival of powers of attorney, or other neceſſary inſtruments, authoriſing him to tranſact the buſineſs at the offices.

This is the ſhorteſt and moſt probable account I am able to give of the original intent of contracts for ſelling ſtock for time

—the four principal times for which contracts or bargains are made, are—February—May—August—and November—and these are called, in 'Change Alley, the Rescounter* settlings. The correspondents of

* In some former editions of this work the Author declared himself at a loss for the etymology of the word Rescounter, but he is now enabled to give a full account of it, for which the public are indebted to a deceased gentleman who formerly resided in Holland in a public capacity, who was so obliging to write the following letter to the author.

"SIR,

"I thank you for your book, which has made "me understand what before I had not the least no-"tion of.—In your 29th page, in the note, you say "you are at a loss for the etymology of Rescounter. "I shall take the liberty to give you the meaning "of that word as used among Dutch merchants, by "which you may see how it has been adopted in the "Alley.—It is customary with Dutch merchants, "who have mutual dealings and running accounts, "and who live in the same town, to give a receipt "at the bottom of a bill of parcels, or invoice of "goods sold to each other, in these words, *solvit*

ſuch foreigners as are concerned in our funds being generally merchants, theſe having no ſpare time, have recourſe to brokers, who make theſe contracts for them; and the method is thus: a broker declares that he has a commiſſion to buy (ſuppoſe in the month of May) 1000l, three per cent. annuities for the Reſcounters in Auguſt; and it is not long before he

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" *per reſcontre*, which is underſtood to mean, that " the value of ſuch invoice has been adjuſted in ac- " count current between them; even ſmall notes of " hand, or aſſignations (as the Dutch call them) are " thrown into theſe accounts current.—When pay- " ments are made other ways, they ſay, *ſolvit per* " *banco*, *ſolvit per caſſa*, *ſolvit per veſſel*, &c. this " denotes the different manner in which payments " have been made, and facilitates the tracing of any " articles that may be diſputed. I ſhall be glad if " this throws any light upon the etymology of the " word Reſcounter, as uſed with you, and am, Sir,

" Your humble Servant, &c.

Rotterdam. " ROBERT IRVINE,
" Agent to H. B. M."

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finds a brother broker, who declares he has a commiſſion to ſell 1000l, for the ſame time; after agreeing then on the price, the one marks down in his book—ſold to Zerubabel Ambuſh 1000l. three per cent. annuities for Auguſt—and the other—bought of Jemmy Sly 1000l. three per cent. annuities for that time; and thus the bargain is finiſhed till Auguſt: but the principal, or perſon who employed them, is not declared on either ſide, as it ought to be; of which hereafter, when we come to treat of the laws in force, reſpecting Brokers.

Were this proceeding to ſtop here, it would only anſwer the original deſign (except in the laſt-mentioned particular) and would be ſo far juſt and equitable; but the miſchief of it is, that under the ſanction of ſelling and buying the funds for time for foreigners, brokers and others buy and ſell for themſelves, and for all employers, in whom they think proper to place a confidence, though they have not any property in the funds they ſell, or any caſh to pay

for what they buy, or the leaſt deſign to transfer, or accept, the funds they ſell or buy for time.

The buſineſs thus tranſacted has been declared illegal by ſeveral acts of parliament, and is the principal branch of ſtock-jobbing, and the genuine ſource to which we are indebted for that variety of private letters from different quarters of the globe, in time of war—ſecret intelligence—important events—bloody engagements—invaſions—Spaniſh fleets joining with French—difference with foreign powers—deaths of certain great perſonages—breaking out of the plague—alterations in the miniſtry—and that infinity of *et cæteras* of the ſame kind, which are to be found inſerted in our news-papers one day, and contradicted the next; but which are all ſubſervient to the great purpoſe of promoting the trade of ſtock-jobbing.

In order to prove that ſtock-jobbing produces a great variety of articles in the news-papers, as well as rumours and reports in

coffee-houſes, and the better to explain the whole myſtery of this art, I ſhall endeavour to give a clear account of ſtock-jobbers; and ſhall diſtinguiſh the different claſſes of them; to convince the public, that it lies under a great error, when it confines the contemptuous term of ſtock-jobbers wholly to brokers; an error, however, which of late has univerſally prevailed; for whenever ſtock-jobbing has been brought upon the carpet, either in periodical eſſays, or upon the ſtage, the characters have been deſcribed either as Jewiſh or Chriſtian brokers, and thoſe of the meaneſt and ſhabbieſt ſort, except in a very ſenſible little eſſay in the Imperial Magazine for Auguſt, 1760, in which the author very juſtly introduces ſome characters in a higher ſtation of life: and indeed it were to be wiſhed that the higher orders of men amongſt us had not this diſgraceful title, to ſully their bright honours; but ſo it is, that the preſent immenſe national debt has introduced a

general ſpirit of gaming among all ranks of men poſſeſſed either of property or credit, and playing in the funds is become as common as playing at cards.

Stock-jobbers may be divided into three different ſorts :

The firſt are foreigners, who have property in our funds, with which they are continually jobbing.

The ſecond are our own gentry, merchants, and tradeſmen, who likewiſe have property in the funds, with which they job, or, in other words, are continually changing the ſituation of their property, according to the periodical variations of the funds, as produced by the divers incidents that are ſuppoſed either to leſſen or increaſe the value of theſe funds, and occaſion ſudden riſes or falls of the current price of them.

The third, and by far the greateſt number, are ſtock-brokers and their employers, who with very little, and often with no property at all in the funds, job in them on

credit, and tranſact more buſineſs in the ſeveral government ſecurities in one hour, without having a ſhilling of property in any one of them, than the real proprietor of thouſands tranſacts in ſeveral years; the following inſtance will ſerve to elucidate this remark.

A few years ſince, a ſtock-broker wanted to prove a debt of 100l. under a commiſſion of bankruptcy; the reſt of the creditors objected to it; and he was aſked, how his debt aroſe? he replied, it was for brokerage, for buying and ſelling of ſtocks for the bankrupt. This was thought very extraordinary, as the time of tranſacting this buſineſs for him was the very time when he was greatly indebted to his ſeveral creditors; and conſequently it was ſuppoſed, that if he had poſſeſſed ſuch a property in the funds as to enable him to owe his broker 100l. merely for commiſſion, which is no more than 2s. 6d. per cent. he had no occaſion to remain in debt. In ſhort, the broker was not allowed to come in as a

creditor, upon which he very foolishly commenced a suit against the parties concerned, and was most justly nonsuited. It appeared upon the trial, that he had bought and sold for the bankrupt, of various government securities, about 70,000l. in one quarter of a year, that is, from one rescounter to another; and that the bankrupt at this time had not, nor could not be supposed to have, 100l. property in any one of the funds. As the whole transaction therefore was stock-jobbing, and expresly contrary to act of parliament, the bringing such a cause into a court of judicature was reckoned a most extraordinary piece of assurance, and cast that odium and contempt on the gentlemen of 'Change Alley, who attended in behalf of their brother, that they justly merited. As for the broker himself, he received a very severe reprimand from that most discerning and upright Judge, Lord Mansfield, the honour and ornament of his country.

Foreigners, who have property in our funds, and are jobbers, are the moſt guilty of injuſtice to the public of any of the parties concerned in this iniquitous practice; becauſe they are often men of credit, and ſometimes of authority, in their own countries, which are perhaps in alliance with us in time of war, and therefore whatever falſe news they ſend over, to anſwer their private jobbing accounts, is not ſo ſoon ſuſpected, nor its falſehood ſo eaſily detected, as thoſe which are made at home.

For inſtance, if a magiſtrate of a renowned city, we will ſay a burgomaſter of Amſterdam, whoſe government is in alliance or at peace with us, ſends over a letter to his correſpondent at London, in which he aſſures him, that on ſuch a day, and at ſuch a place, the French gained a conſiderable advantage over the Britiſh arms, and backs his intelligence with orders to this correſpondent to ſell out 1000l. or 2000l. of his property in the funds, becauſe he thinks this advantage

gained by the French may prove detrimental to public affairs in England, and endanger, or at leaſt greatly leſſen the value of our funds: the public becomes immediately affected by this letter, at leaſt ſuch part of it as have concerns in the funds; for it is ſhewn publicly upon 'Change, and proper care taken to ſpread the intelligence of his having ordered ſtock to be ſold out: the gentlemen of the Alley, who know the meaning of ſuch letters (ſome of which during the laſt war arrived with almoſt every mail) receive the intelligence differently, as it ſuits their different intereſts; thoſe who want the ſtocks to fall, take the utmoſt pains to propagate the intelligence, and to enlarge on the authority, credit, and veracity of the letter-writer; but, to put the finiſhing ſtroke to this ſcene of ſtock-jobbing policy, they immediately ſend a copy of the letter to the printers of ſome of the news-papers, at the ſame time adviſing all their employers to ſell.

The unſuſpecting public, on reading of bad news, are eaſily inclined to believe it, becauſe it comes from a friendly quarter. Were it taken from the Bruſſels Gazette, it would of courſe be a falſehood; but as it is a private letter from one of our friends, who, we may ſuppoſe, would ſooner give the moſt favourable than the worſt account of things, it is univerſally credited. "The "patriot ſighs for his bleeding country— "the malecontent exclaims againſt the "meaſures of the miniſtry, and damns "politics—the antiquated maiden, who "ſubſiſts on the annual income of her pro- "perty in the funds, and the miſer, who "always hated paper-money, tremble "alike for their property, and reaſon thus "with themſelves—Stocks are fallen ſix "per cent. perhaps to-morrow it may be "worſe, and the following day worſe "ſtill; better ſell before all is loſt. Alas! "poor Old England, this national debt "will be thy ruin one day or other: well! "land cannot run away, I'll e'en go

" into the city, and ſell before it is too
" late."

With the ſame idle fears, hundreds run to the Alley, and ſell on the credit of ſuch ſort of letters, of which the foregoing, taken from a real matter of fact, is only a ſketch. The next day, the gentlemen brokers of the oppoſite party, who want the ſtocks to riſe, take care to have this intelligence contradicted; then, thoſe who have ſold ſee their error, and want to buy in again, which if they do, they are obliged to give an advanced price; the ſhock is over; and the funds have recovered their former price; or perhaps a true piece of good news has raiſed them much higher than they were, before our falſe friend's letter was made public. To complete this example of the miſchief that ſtock-jobbing foreigners make, and which many of my readers will allow is no exaggeration, there remains only to inform the public, that this worthy magiſtrate, at the time he ſends this news, and orders 1000l. to be ſold out,

ſends private orders to his broker to buy in 50,000l. (when the news has effected a fall) in order to ſettle his jobbing account in the Alley; for, alas! poor man, he had engaged to deliver 50,000l. for the enſuing reſcounters, which he had ſold on ſpeculation at a low price, without being poſſeſſed of it; but it mattered not, "the "French would ſend 150,000 men into "Germany, the king of Pruſſia would be "cruſhed before the time of ſettling;" and 50,000l. conſequently might be bought at a much lower price than he had ſold it at, and the account be adjuſted greatly to his advantage. Thus embarked, he naturally wiſhes deſtruction to Old England, which, as a foreigner, but more eſpecially as one of that nation whoſe God is ſelf-intereſt*, is not ſo much to be won-

* A French author ſays, that in Holland the demon of gold, being crowned with tobacco leaves, and ſeated on a throne of cheeſe, is publicly adored. —I ſuppoſe he had obſerved, that the Dutch make

dered at; "but, O ſhame, horrid ſhame "to Engliſhmen! ever to be engaged in "contracts which muſt make them wiſh "misfortunes may befal their country." For once, however, the poor magiſtrate finds his error, no misfortune has really happened to England, or her renowned ally; and therefore he is obliged, as we have ſeen, to forge a piece of bad news, to lower the ſtocks as much as he can; but the miſchief not having happened that he had formed in his brain, his account is obliged to be finally adjuſted greatly to his diſadvantage.

Numberleſs inſtances of this ſpecies of ſtock-jobbing might be given; but the author hopes that this one will ſuffice to give the common reader a diſtinct idea of the nature of it; and the judicious will need no key to realize this, or any other

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the *ſummum bonum* of this life to conſiſt in having plenty of theſe three articles, gold, tobacco, and cheeſe.

characters he may have occaſion to deſcribe.

To this branch of jobbers alſo belong the foreign ambaſſadors, miniſters, and reſidents at our court, with their numerous train of ſecretaries, agents, and other dependants, honourable ſpies, who watch every opportunity to avail themſelves of the folly of our Alley adventurers, and who being earlier appriſed than the public can poſſibly be of any alterations in the poſture of affairs in the different courts of Europe, likely to affect our funds, play a ſure game, and often retire to their reſpective countries with comfortable fortunes, acquired by this ſure and eaſy, but moſt infamous method.

A French ambaſſador, the Count de Guiſnes, ſtands charged (in printed memoirs) by his own ſecretaries, Meſſieurs Tort and Rogers, with having given them orders, while he reſided in London, to game very deep in the Alley for his Excellency's account, and, while

ſucceſs attended their enterprizes, the ambaſſador received the profits; but when a long run of ill fortune brought them conſiderably in debt, his Excellency denied having any knowledge of the tranſaction, refuſed to pay the balances againſt him, retired to France, and proſecuted his ſecretaries for defamation. By his great power and intereſt he got them thrown into priſon, but they publiſhed juſtifying memorials, which convinced the unprejudiced, that the ambaſſador had duped them, and defrauded his Engliſh ſtock-jobbing creditors.

The ſecond claſs of ſtock-jobbers are our own countrymen, of almoſt every rank and denomination; and as ſome of very high rank among us are extremely addicted to common gaming, it is no wonder to find them deeply engaged in the more refined and artful games of the Alley. Theſe do more or leſs prejudice to the public, in proportion to their ſtation and influence, and the ſums they job for.

Thus, for inſtance, a man who enjoys any conſiderable poſt in the nation, by which he may be ſuppoſed to have the earlieſt intelligence of all events that can tend either to riſe or fall the ſtocks, and whoſe veracity, or rather whoſe honour, will not admit the ſuppoſition of his propagating a falſehood—if he happens to be a jobber, and, in order to ſettle a great account in the Alley to his advantage, ſhould for once ſwerve from the truth, and, upon his honour, report a piece of news to be true, which is abſolutely falſe—will do as much miſchief for a ſhort time, as the foreigner already mentioned. Again, the general of an army, or the commander of a fleet, who are jobbers, ſhould they have a great deal depending in the Alley, and their account ſhould ſtand ſo as to require a fall of the ſtocks—if they diſappoint the ſanguine expectations of the public, and, inſtead of gaining or purſuing a victory, only juſt do as much as will barely ſave their lives at a

court-martial, becauſe they will not, by a complete victory, raiſe thoſe funds they want to fall—are ſtock-jobbers, who do the public a double prejudice; firſt, by not performing their duty in the important ſervices they are intruſted with; and, ſecondly, by cauſing a fall in the funds that may alarm and frighten many of the adventurers and proprietors, and engage them to ſell out their property to a diſadvantage.

I am ſenſible that it will appear an abſurd ſuppoſition to imagine, that perſons in ſuch high ſtations ſhould be capable of a neglect of duty on ſuch baſe motives: and indeed I will not poſitively aſſert, that we have ever had any inſtance of it; but, at the ſame time, give me leave to obſerve, —— that both ancient and modern hiſtory furniſh us with many remarkable inſtances of the baſeſt actions being committed by men of high rank, and the moſt exalted ſtations in government, for ſmaller pecuniary advantages than thoſe which might

arise in the cases here supposed—and that the gain of twenty or thirty thousand pounds may, with the covetous, or prodigal in high life, outweigh the loss of honour, or a disgraceful sentence from a court-martial.

It must certainly be of great advantage to any state, to examine strictly what gaming connections of any kind the person has, who is a candidate to represent the people of this kingdom in parliament; for who so likely to take a bribe, as he who loses thousands in an hour, and pays his debts of honour—like a man of honour.

Let us now proceed to the monied man, who has no other influence or authority, but that which his cash gives him; but who, with the advantage of having a current capital of ten or twelve thousand pounds, becomes a man of great consequence in the Alley, and has no small influence on that part of the public who have any concern in the funds.

He deals in the Alley with a design to double this sum by a much speedier method than by a slavish, tedious application to the small profits of merchandising. He has experienced the surprising effects of stock-jobbing already, having increased his patrimony, by a diligent attendance in the Alley, from two to twelve thousand pounds, and is now become an adept in the art: he has not a friend or acquaintance whom he does not attempt to convince of his superior judgment in the funds, and that he has the earliest and most authentic accounts from different parts of the world (by private letters) of all events that concern the nation, and can any ways effect the funds. Sometimes, when at war, he is well assured that we are at the eve of a peace, and advises all his friends to buy stock: this of consequence procures a rise, which was what he wanted, being a * BULL of twenty-

* A Bull is the name by which the gentlemen of 'Change Alley choose to call all persons who contract to buy any quantity of government securities,

thouſand three per cent. annuities; and by propagating the report of an approaching

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without an intention or ability to pay for it, and who conſequently are obliged to ſell it again, either at a profit or a loſs, before the time comes, when they have contracted to take it. Thus a man who in March buys in the Alley 40,000l. *three per cent. annuities*, for the reſcounters in May, and at the ſame time is not worth ten pounds in the world, or, which is the ſame thing, has his money employed in trade, and cannot really take the annuities ſo contracted for, is a Bull, till ſuch time as he can diſcharge himſelf of his heavy burden by ſelling it to another perſon, and ſo adjuſting his account, which, if the whole houſe be Bulls, he will be obliged to do at a conſiderable loſs; and in the interim (while he is betwixt hope and fear, and is watching every opportunity to eaſe himſelf of his load on advantageous terms, and when the fatal day is approaching that he muſt ſell, let the price be what it will) he goes lowering up and down the Stock Exchange, and from office to office; and if he is aſked a civil queſtion, he anſwers with a ſurly look, and by his dejected, gloomy aſpect and moroſeneſs, he not badly repreſents the animal he is named after.

A Bull is likewiſe a perſon who has bought, and actually paid for, a large quantity of any new fund,

peace, he has engaged ſo many people to buy, that he has raiſed the price, and by that means has got rid of his twenty thouſand, at two or three per cent. profit.

Another time he has juſt received intelligence that the Spaniards are on the point of joining the French, and will immediately aſſiſt them with a formidable fleet; he therefore adviſes all his friends to ſell out, for ſtock will fall ten per cent. and if they ſell out now, they will have a fine opportunity of buying in again much lower. To confirm their belief of the intelligence he has received, and to make his practice correſpond with his opinion, he really ſells out five or ſix thouſand pounds, which he has ready for this occaſion in ſome of the funds; his unſuſpect-

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commonly called ſubſcription, while there is no more than one or two payments made on it, but who is unable to pay in the whole of the ſum, and conſequently is obliged to part with it again before the next pay-day.

ing friends, being by this means convinced of the truth of what he has related, follow his example, and univerſally ſpread the report; ſo that the great number of perſons who are thereby induced to ſell, and the coolneſs of thoſe who want to buy, conſiderably lowers the price, which is all the good man aims at, who at this time is a *Bear in the Alley of thirty

* A Bear, in the language of 'Change Alley, is a perſon who has agreed to ſell any quantity of the public funds more than he is poſſeſſed of, and often without being poſſeſſed of any at all, which, nevertheleſs, he is obliged to deliver againſt a certain time: before this time arrives, he is continually going up and down ſeeking whom, or, which is the ſame thing, whoſe property he can devour; you will find him in a continual hurry; always with alarm, ſurpriſe, and eagerneſs painted on his countenance; greedily ſwallowing the leaſt report of bad news; rejoicing in miſchief, or any misfortune that may bring about the wiſhed-for change of falling the ſtocks, that he may buy in low, and ſo ſettle his accounts to advantage. He is eaſily diſtinguiſhed from the Bull, who is ſulky and heavy, and ſits in ſome

thouſand pounds of ſome of the annuities or ſtocks, which he has now had an opportunity of buying to adjuſt his account with, on much better terms than he could have bought them, if it had not been for this news; and the loſs he has ſuſtained on the five or ſix thouſand pounds (ſold only as a blind) is trifling, in compariſon of

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corner in a melancholy poſture: whereas the Bear, with meagre, haggard looks, and a voracious fierceneſs in his countenance, is continually on the watch, ſeizes on all who enter the Alley, and by his terrific weapons of groundleſs fears—and falſe rumours—frightens all around him out of that property he wants to buy; and is as much a monſter in nature, as his brother brute in the woods. The author hopes this, and the foregoing note, will be carefully attended to, as he ſhall often have occaſion to mention theſe two brutes in human form; and will not give any farther deſcription of them, imagining this ſufficient, not only for the underſtanding this little treatiſe, but likewiſe fully to deſcribe them, and the difference between them, to all tolerable judges of phyſiognomy, who may hereafter meet with them in their viſit to the Stock Exchange, the Bank, or any other public offices.

the loſs he has prevented, or perhaps of the profit he has made, on cloſing his ſtock-jobbing account. To finiſh this character, let me inform the public, that the letter of intelligence on which this ſcene of action is founded, was made abroad, by the gentleman's deſire, and according to his own form, to anſwer this very end. Nay, if that could not be contrived, for want of a correſpondent abroad, it was very eaſy to ſupply that defect by means of any German, French, or Dutch clerk, in the compting-houſe at home.

Next to this claſs of jobbers follows a whole group of characters, who are merchants, tradeſmen, and ſhopkeepers of various kinds; and who cannot reaſonably be ſuppoſed to have laid out their capitals in the funds. To ſay the truth, the greateſt part of them have not a ſhilling of property in any one of the government ſecurities. Theſe men therefore walk the Alley on credit and honour; that is to ſay, as they are known to be ſubſtantial tradeſmen, and

men whoſe word (in the city ſtyle) is as good as their bond; they have nothing to do but to give orders to a broker to buy them 50 or 60,000l. of any of the funds, for any particular time, or to ſell the ſame ſum. This order is executed as ſoon as the tradeſman has aſſured the broker, that he will act upon honour, and pay any loſs that may ariſe upon cloſing the account *.

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* Some tradeſmen, or rather merchants, of great eminence, have occaſionally given a terrible blow to ſtock-jobbing, by refuſing to pay the loſs on their jobbing accounts, artfully pleading the act againſt jobbing, mentioned in the former part of this work, which declares all ſtock-jobbing bargains to be illegal, null, and void. A few more inſtances of this kind will anſwer the end of extirpating this infamous practice, more effectually than twenty acts of parliament; but is by no means honourable or equitable, for the unfortunate broker, in this caſe, is made reſponſible to his brethren for the loſs, and muſt adjuſt it with them, or loſe his credit: it is therefore the fatality of this expedient, not the equity, that I mention as a means of ſuppreſſing time-bargains, which have no foundation in real property.

We will ſuppoſe for a moment then, that one of theſe people in trade is a coffee-houſe politician; and has lately in his own imagination found out, that ſome connections the adminiſtration are on the point of entering into abroad, or ſome meaſures they are likely to take at home, will tend to raiſe the ſtocks conſiderably, which now bear a low price. Fired with the idea of greater gain, and much eaſier to be procured, than any he could hope for by an attendance on his warehouſe, he quits it, and runs into the Alley, where he gives orders to buy 70,000l. three per cent. annuities, for the following reſcounters: when this is done, he returns home fully ſatisfied with his ſuperior judgment; and, to make his caſe the better, he once more quits his ſhop earlier than uſual in the evening, to entertain his fellow-citizens, at ſome punch-houſe or tavern, with an harangue on the great advantages we are likely to gain over the enemy in a ſhort time; and aſſures them, that now or never is the time to get

money by buying ſtocks: and if, luckily (in time of war) there is a town beſieged by the Britiſh forces, he is ready to lay nine to one all round the room, that it is in our hands before the thirtieth of May (the time, we will ſuppoſe, his account is to be ſettled.) This fatal day however advances, and no fortunate news arrives.—The good broker waits on his friend to acquaint him that the time is drawing nigh; and deſires to know what is to be done with the 70,000l. annuities, which he well knows the tradeſman never intends to take. "The young citizen replies by inquiring "if there is no news with the laſt mail, "no rumor of a peace, nor no advantage "gained over the enemy: to which the "ſeemingly melancholy broker anſwers, "No, dear Sir, quite the contrary; there is "a report that we have loſt a battle; and "that there will ſoon be a change in the "miniſtry.—A change in the miniſtry! "heaven forbid! then we are all ruined: "and do you really believe it, Mr. Long-

" ſhanks? Yes, Sir; upon my honour, I
" am afraid it is too true, for they are all
" turned ſellers to-day, and three per cents.
" are fallen four per cent. below the price
" you bought at; and they ſay the houſe
" are Bulls for the reſcounters. The devil
" they are, Sir! why what would you ad-
" viſe me to do then? I ſhall loſe finely, I
" ſuppoſe! Do, Sir! why I think—I think
" —I would adviſe you to ſell, and cloſe
" the account; for I am afraid you will
" only make it worſe by ſtaying till the laſt
" day. If indeed, either CONTINUATION
" or BACKADATION would ſerve your
" purpoſe, I would keep the account
" open, but the complexion of the mar-
" ket will not warrant any farther riſk *.

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* CONTINUATION is a premium given when the price of a fund, in which you have a jobbing account open, is higher for *time* than for ready money, and your ſettling day is arrived; ſo that you muſt take the ſtock at a diſadvantage: in this caſe, you give from 1 to 3 per cent. to put off the

" It is a little unlucky, to be ſure; but " we ſhall recover it again, and more to " it, next reſcounters. Shall I ſell, Sir? " —Why, yes; the firſt loſs is beſt; and " pray let me have the account, that I may " diſcharge it, for I ſhall be out of town " on the ſettling day." In a ſhort time, Mr. Longſhanks returns, and thus continues the ſcene: " Well, Sir, I have done " it at laſt at 1 $\frac{1}{8}$; I believe the people are " mad.—I thought I ſhould never have " got it done;—they are all ſellers to a " man.—Well, I muſt make all the haſte " I can to Sir Solomon Wronghead, for " he is a Bull of half a million; and I muſt " adviſe him to ſell before things grow " worſe. Here, Sir, is your account.

ſettlement, and continue the account open for a month, or three months.

BACKADATION means a conſideration given to keep back the delivery of ſtock when the price is lower for time than for ready money.

Feb. 28th, 1784.	May 25th, 1784.
Bought for Mr. Deputy Dowlas 70,000l. three per cent. annuities for the rescounters in May, a, 61.	Sold for Mr. Deputy Dowlas 70,000l. three per cent. annuities for May rescounters, a, 56½.

"The difference or loss, Sir, "is 4½ per cent. which "comes to	3150	0	0
"And my commission for "buying and selling at an ⅛ "per cent. is	87	10	0
	3237	10	0

"Well, Sir, you will write a receipt, and "I will give you a draught upon my "banker for the money. Pardon me, Sir, "you know this whole transaction is ex-"pressly against act of parliament*, and

* See an act 7th Geo. II. intitled, An act the better to prevent the infamous practice of stock-jobbing.

" therefore we never give receipts, nor
" take any; all is upon honour, Sir, which
" you will know by and by, when I have
" a larger balance to pay you. Well, Sir,
" how ſhall I write you in the draught?
" Pray what is your chriſtian name? Oh,
" Sir, you need not be particular, only
" write—To Jemmy Longſhanks, or
" bearer, that will be ſufficient: you may
" add, if you pleaſe, Captain-general of
" the band of gentlemen ſtock-brokers—
" Sir, I thank you; I hope we ſhall have
" better ſucceſs another time. I hope ſo
" too; Mr. Longſhanks, a good day to
" you—Sir, your very humble ſervant."

This example may be multiplied to a thouſand; but as the neceſſary explanation of it has taken up more room than I imagined, I ſhall wave giving any further inſtances of the ſame kind, and ſhall leave the judicious reader to form a caſe, *per contra*, wherein a trader ſells for the reſcounters, and wants to lower the price, in order

to buy in, under what he has agreed to deliver at; and to follow this man to the coffee-houſe, where he will be found exclaiming againſt the meaſures of the miniſtry, and pronouncing the nation to be on the brink of ruin.

In the room of other examples, I ſhall here introduce ſome remarks, which I hope the public will think deſerving of the moſt ſerious attention.

Granting then, that any tradeſman of this great metropolis has acted ſuch a part as I have juſt deſcribed, can it be ſuppoſed that he will ſit down quietly with his loſs? a loſs—which the profits of his trade will not, perhaps, recover in many years. No, certainly, he will ſport again, and probably a ſecond loſs may lead the way to bankruptcy: or grant that he gains, it is all upon honour; and perhaps when the day comes that he is to receive a balance in his favour, which would indemnify him for his former loſſes, his broker turns out a

LAME DUCK *; by which he has the mortification of loſing this balance without reſource, and probably of ſeeing his broker re-eſtabliſhed at the Stock Exchange, for a paltry compoſition to his creditors within the houſe, while he himſelf is declared a bankrupt for inability to pay his lawful creditors their juſt demands; which inability has aroſe from his having too punctually paid his debts of honour to the honourable gentleman, who has now left him to ſhift for himſelf.

But the worſt of all is, that, conſcious of his own folly, he has never placed this great loſs to account, and his books being regularly kept, except in this particular, it appears upon the examination under the commiſſion, that a large ſum has been re-

* A name given by the Brokers to thoſe who refuſe to fulfil their jobbing contracts. There are ſome of theſe at almoſt every reſcounter. The puniſhment for non-payment is baniſhment from the Stock Exchange, but they can ſtill act as brokers at the Bank and other public offices.

ceived in a ſhort ſpace of time, and no account is given how it is expended; this naturally leads to an enquiry of the bankrupt what is become of the money? To which he will perhaps anſwer (if he is a man that is not paſt the time of life for the indulgence of ſenſual pleaſures) that he has ſpent it in high living, and on women; for the laſt of vices that a man of ſpirit would chooſe to own, is gaming, as it carries with it no excuſe, having no gratification to plead; and is beſides the moſt blameable of any in a tradeſman. This account not proving ſatisfactory, he is condemned for the ſuppoſed ſins of his youth, but in reality for his follies in the Alley, to a perpetual impriſonment, perhaps to an ignominious death.

If an inſtance of this kind happens only once in ten years, is it not enough to make an humane people lament that ſuch a gaming ſcheme ſubſiſts in the very heart of the city? Ought it not to ſilence all clamours, as well as all lampoons and ſatires on card-

playing at the court end of the town? For how trifling are the ſums generally played for at cards, in compariſon of the deep ſtakes in the Alley? How infinitely do the conſequences fall ſhort of thoſe which attend gaming in the funds? In one caſe, noblemen and gentry dip their eſtates, and impoveriſh their families; in the other, ſubſtantial merchants and citizens, who are the very ſoul of commerce, are ruined; and the ſtate, which ſubſiſts by the extent and flouriſhing condition of its commercial intereſt, muſt ſuffer in the end.

Again, let it be conſidered, that in ſome, at leaſt, of our grand card aſſemblies, all foul play is excluded; and the chances are equal, except where ſuperior ſkill in the game gives the advantage. Now no ſuperior ſkill in any game at cards can give an advantage equal to that which the crafts and ſubtleties practiſed by the old ſtandards in the Alley, give them over the young and unexperienced; and this ſhould not only deter men from engaging on ſuch

unequal terms, but ſhould likewiſe induce them to be very ſparing of their reflections on thoſe who have loſt conſiderable ſums in the Alley, and have quietly ſat down with the loſs; ſince ſuch perſons might be ignorant at firſt, that the practice of ſtock-jobbing was diſhoneſt in itſelf; or that, in order to ſucceed in it, a man muſt diveſt himſelf of every ſentiment of humanity and integrity, and muſt be deaf to the cries of the wretched whom his ſucceſs has reduced to miſery: he therefore, who, having found his error, ſubmits to the fatal blow, and tamely wears the name of *dupe*, rather than ſtay in the Alley till he becomes a *ſharper*, merits the compaſſion, if not the applauſe of a Chriſtian people. A French author very juſtly ſays;

Le déſir de gagner, qui nuit & jour occupe,
Eſt un dangereux aiguillion.
Souvent quoique l'eſprit, quoique le cœur ſoit bon,
On commence par être dupe,
On finit par être fripon.

Happy therefore is that man, who has only the folly of being a dupe to reflect on; and not the infamy of ſtaying in the Alley till he became a fripon, or ſharper. In a word, the chance of gaining is very ſmall, and the uncertainty of being paid, when you gain, very great; for which reaſon, I intreat thoſe who have not yet entered the Alley, never to frequent it on a jobbing account; and thoſe who have ſinned already, to go their ways and ſin no more, leſt a worſe thing come unto them; leſt their fortunes, together with their liberty, fall a ſacrifice to the fatal conſequences of repeated loſſes in the Alley, and their names, which once ſtood foremoſt in the bright records of unſullied honour, ſhould be ſunk into oblivion, or, by the haſty judgment of an uncharitable world, be branded with undeſerved infamy. For how few are there in our day, who entertain the ſentiments of a late noble author, "Con-
"vinced as I am (ſays he) that every man
"has his failings, and that few are exempt

" from malice, I ſhall never be ready to
" confirm a report to the prejudice of my
" neighbour's honour; for if he proves
" guilty, I ſhall be ſorry to increaſe the
" burden of his crime by my reflections;
" and if he is found to be innocent, I
" ſhall be charmed to think that I was
" not of the number of his calumniators."
CHESTERFIELD.

To confirm the obſervations I have made in the preceding ſection, I am now at liberty to lay before the public a ſhort account of a tranſaction between a broker and his principal in the year 1761, which has hitherto been ſuppreſſed, out of tenderneſs to the principal, lately deceaſed.

The principal, a Weſt India merchant, having ſuſtained great loſſes in the courſe of his commercial connections, fell upon the expedient of jobbing in the Alley to retrieve himſelf. With this view he employed his broker, about the month of January, 1761, to buy for him a very large quantity of the current ſubſcription of that

year, I think 70 or 80,000, for the following month, having, as he thought, ſufficient grounds to imagine that a peace between England and France would ſoon be made, and conſequently that all the funds would riſe conſiderably. The commiſſion was executed, and it appeared afterwards that the broker, on the ſtrength of his principal's intelligence, bought largely for himſelf: the month of February ended, no peace took place; the bargain was continued on for March, and the difference (the price being againſt our adventurers) was paid in the Alley: March, April, and May, proved ſtill more unſucceſsful; a coolneſs between Mr. PITT and Monſ. de BUSSY, (the Frenchman having the Spaniſh promiſe of ſupport in his pocket) lowered all the funds conſiderably, and the broker now beginning to ſuſpect his friend's intelligence or judgment, after receiving from him the difference for May, turned over his own ſeparate bargain to him: thus our principal became more deeply engaged

for June, and the loſſes he had already paid for the differences through the preceding months, between the price he bought at, and the price at the end of May, amounted to ſome thouſands. June and July produced the ſame effect; then the difference to be paid by our principal amounted to ſo large a ſum, that he could not furniſh it in caſh, and therefore for this month's ſettling he gave notes of his hand to his broker, which were received by him at that time as caſh, nor did he make the leaſt objection to them, but declared to him that all was adjuſted, and his account continued on for Auguſt. In the courſe of that month, the proſpect of peace revived, and ſuch was the nation's opinion of Mr. Pitt's abilities, that conceiving he muſt make a moſt advantageous treaty, the funds roſe conſiderably, which gave our principal an opportunity, by ſelling at the then advanced price, to cloſe his account, and to recover the greateſt part of what he had hitherto loſt,

and faithfully paid to his broker for differences. Resolved now to dabble no more in the Alley, and convinced of his error, he communicated his intention to his family; snatched up the News-paper of the day, and drove away to find his broker; but, gracious heaven! who can describe his agony, when the perfidious wretch told him, he had no subscription of his to sell; that ever since our principal had given notes instead of cash, he had no account open for him at Jonathan's—for his brother brokers insisted upon closing it, and would not give him credit to continue it on for August. It was in vain to remonstrate, no redress could be obtained, but by applying to the laws of the land; an injunction was obtained to prevent the circulation of the notes still remaining in the broker's custody, amounting to many thousand pounds; and a suit was commenced against him in the Court of King's Bench for perjury, in his answer to a bill that had been filed against him in the

Court of Chancery, to discover for what valuable consideration those notes had been given. The author of this treatise was consulted in this case, on the nature of the fraud, and he soon found the deceit of the whole business: it evidently appeared to him, that the broker had finally settled and adjusted the whole account in May, when he pretended to turn over his own private bargain to the principal; that if *scrip* (the subscription) had risen in June, he would have given him the same answer he gave him in August, *viz.* that he had none belonging to him; but as it kept falling every month from May to August, he continued to charge and receive the differences, as if he had still had the contracts subsisting at Jonathan's; and instead of paying them, as he alledged in his answer, to his brother brokers, it plainly appeared by the indorsement of those notes he had negociated, and by those remaining in his hands, that he had kept the whole for himself, amounting to

14,000l. The cauſe never came to a trial, being put off one term for want of one of the broker's books, *viz.* for May, and before the next, the gentlemen of the Alley, to avoid the expoſure of this piece of iniquity, compromiſed the affair with the principal; and as a proof of the fraud, the notes not negociated, were immediately given up.

To this inſtance, another was added in the year 1776, when a very capital broker, in conjunction with a quondam banker, drew in a naval officer to job for a conſiderable ſum in India Stock. The bait held out was, a conſiderable riſe to happen upon an accommodation between Great Britain and her Revolted Colonies. This deſirable event, they aſſured him, would be very ſoon accompliſhed. In the mean time, the bankrupt banker, who had turned jobber, drained the officer's purſe for money to pay the differences, the ſtock conſtantly falling inſtead of riſing, beſides which, they made him

in future months, indebted to them a conſiderable ſum; at length, when a riſe came, which would not only have ſet the officer clear, but have produced a large balance in his favour, the broker became a LAME DUCK, the friend pretended that he had long before been inſolvent, and both had the impudence to menace a ſuit againſt the officer for their pretended debt due from him. But fortunately for themſelves, they were prevailed upon by their own attorney to deſiſt, and the poor deluded officer, on his part, was obliged to ſit down quietly with the loſs.

In ſhort, the jobbing brokers are the only perſons, who have been known to raiſe fortunes by jobbing, all the *loſing* accounts being for their employers, and all the *winning* for themſelves.

But, in order to demonſtrate this more clearly, it will be neceſſary, in the next place, to give an account of the tranſactions of the PROFESSORS of the art and myſtery of ſtock-jobbing, who, like the

members of other colleges, have different Degrees, according to the extent of their genius, or the length of time they have belonged to the ſociety. At the Stock Exchange there are *Servitors*, *Novices*, *Pupils*, *Tutors*, and *Doctors*; the latter of whom are eaſily known by their pride and arrogance, which breaks forth upon every occaſion into declamations againſt *freſh-men* or *novices*; and in praiſe of their own ſuperior ſkill and dignity.—If any of my readers have ever employed a Doctor in the art, they will eaſily recollect ſome ſuch advertiſements of his ſkill, as this—"I am always to be found in the very "worſt times, and know how things "ſtand, and the trim of the houſe, bet-"ter than theſe young boys, that live but "a few days in the Alley, and then are "heard of no more;"—which means only, that they can ſhave cloſer than the young ones; which may be taken either in a literal, or a figurative ſenſe, for more than one of the principal brokers in the

Alley, at the time of publiſhing the firſt edition of this tract, had been barbers. Tutors are thoſe who take Novices for their Pupils, and finding their ignorance (owing to their innocence) make bargains with them, and bring them into credit with the houſe, in which they ſuffer them to go alone, as ſoon as they have tricked them out of half their fortunes, for teaching them an art, which, if they have any honeſty left, they quit as ſoon as they know the infamy of it, leaving their tutors to enjoy the fruit of their guilty inſtructions.—The tutorſhip has generally been in the hands of Jews, and, with great propriety, one Aaron was for many years high-prieſt. Servitors are thoſe who wait on their maſters commands, and are ready to do all the dirty buſineſs they order them; and which they do not care to appear in themſelves; ſuch as aſſerting—that ſtocks were done at a different price than they really were, at any particular hour—or buying and ſelling under-hand

ſor their maſters, a large quantity of any of the funds for the reſcounters, in order to raiſe or fall the ſtocks at pleaſure, which buſineſs they tranſact with a brother Servitor, who is in the plot; and, after the end is obtained for which theſe bargains were made, they are cancelled, and the bounty of the maſter is equally divided, which, by the bye, is but very ſmall; and therefore the Servitors are to be diſtinguiſhed by their ſhabby appearance, and their frequenting the door of the Stock Exchange, which they can ſeldom afford to enter.

I remember indeed one exception, which was of a favourite Servitor, who was one morning employed to tranſact ſuch part of a great Doctor's buſineſs, as he himſelf could not perform for want of time; and his allowance, for this overplus on the other's buſineſs, amounted to fifteen pounds ſterling; by this it appears, that jobbing muſt be the principal ſupport of, and what enriches the gentlemen of the Alley; for it is next to incredible that any broker

(who was only moderately fond of wealth) ſhould really transfer in one morning, betwixt the hours of nine and twelve, ſo much ſtocks, or annuities (for which he has no more than two ſhillings and ſixpence per cent.) as would enable him to ſpare his Servitor fifteen pounds: but when once a jobbing account enters the liſts, as there are no bounds to this ſort of gaming, it is not to be wondered at, if, on a ſettling-day, after any reſcounters, a Doctor of the Alley ſhould be obliged to take a Servitor at the rate of twenty pounds per diem*:

* After the publication of the fourth edition of this work, a gentleman communicated to the author the following anecdote—That there was an office not far from the Exchange, kept by two brokers, whoſe commiſſions for one year amounted, upon a moderate calculation, to a hundred pounds, one day with another; and ſo poſitive is he in his computation, that he adds, he would willingly have rented the profits of their office, at the cloſe of the war, at that ſum, every day from the firſt report of a peace. Theſe gentlemen are now elevated to the dignity of bankers.

another part of the Servitor's buſineſs is, to make and carry paragraphs of falſe intelligence to the printers of public papers, whom we often find confeſſing that they were impoſed upon in particular articles of news: it were to be wiſhed that this apology was always true; and that the public might have no room to ſuppoſe, that for five ſhillings, they inſert any piece of intelligence, without conſidering the conſequences.

The gentlemen of the Alley have likewiſe their Terms and Vacations; but there are no ſtated times for theſe in general, though, in time of war, we may fix the commencement of their principal term to the beginning of November, or the meeting of Parliament; and its duration to the end of the following March, or the time of circulating the Miniſter's Budget in the market.

In this Term, there are ſeveral ſorts of buſineſs to tranſact, which keep the Alley in a perpetual ferment without the leaſt re-

laxation; insomuch that even many of the Doctors are obliged to lay up their equipages, and others to send their high-bred hunters to the livery stables. The very height of Term is, a few days before the drawing of the lottery, when those who have contracted to take, or are already possessed of more tickets than they can possibly hold (in the language of 'Change-Alley) begin to open their budget, or to let the cat out of the bag, and these may not improperly be styled the BULLS, plaintiffs;—and the opposite party, who have agreed to deliver a quantity of tickets without being possessed of them, the BEARS, defendants. The cause is depending nine months, before it comes to a final issue; there are indeed little trials of skill betwixt the Bulls and Bears at the end of every month, from February to November, because for each of these months, there are contracts made for twenty times as many tickets as there are in the whole lottery; but the grand and

final decision is on Friday before the first day of drawing, when that is appointed by the Lottery Act to be on any Monday; but when it is ordered to commence farther on in the week, then the day of settling at the Stock-Exchange is altered, so as to make the settling of accounts happen a day or two at most before the drawing begins.

It would be tedious, and indeed in some measure needless, to give more examples than one of the chicanery practised by the Professors of the college, and of the various artifices they make use of to impose on each other, and the public in general; because the same measures must be pursued, and the same tricks played, for all jobbing accounts, in every different branch of the funds: for which reason I shall confine myself to a jobbing account in the lottery, as being that which affects a larger body of the public than any other; for there are numbers who annually adventure in Lotteries, who know nothing of the

other funds; and probably have no property in them.

As a profe writer, and only a bare narrator of facts, I cannot properly call in the affiftance of the fairy train, nor yet conjure up aërial fpirits to convey my readers through the jarring elements to the place, where, for my own convenience, I would have them tranfported; I fhall therefore only fimply intreat them to awake the powers of their imaginations, and by their ftrength, fuppofe themfelves conveyed to the famous college of jobbers, not inferior to any college of jefuits; where I muft leave them to recollect, and call up the idea of Bartholomew Fair, or fome country wake, that they may have a juft refemblance of that horrid din of confufed voices, and that motley appearance of various characters, which prefent themfelves to their view, at their entrance into the college—while I for a moment paufe —to confider in what language and form I fhall explain the fubjects of their wild uproar.

Shall I throw it into dialogue? No; it is impracticable; for it consists of such a medley of news, quarrels, prices of different funds, calling of names, adjusting of accounts, &c. &c. continually circulating in an intermixed chaos of confusion, that it will not admit of digesting into that pure, decent method of expressing a familiar conversation.

Shall I invoke the comic muse; and in her lively vein of humour expose the deformity of these sons of iniquity? No; the characters are too low, the subject too mean, and the plot too dirty, unless I was writing fot a strolling company, and the piece were to be represented in a booth on a common, in the wilds of Kent.

Since then no borrowed style will suit it, nor no characters aptly represent it, let me give the explanation in their own language; and only inform such of my readers as are not likely ever to see the Stock-Exchange in reality, that their nonsensical medley of discourse nearly resembles the

advertiſements of the once famous orator Henly, a ſpecimen of which I have procured, that the public may judge for themſelves *.

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* Jan. 30, 1756. K. Charles I.'s Charge to Henly's Jury! At the Oratory K. GEORGE's Chapel

Sunday—N. B. Laſt Lord's day two or three puzzlepates ſaid—I had too much Divinity, on the Thomas's and John's—was too grave—Brethren Preſbyterians ſay—Religion is a grave Thing; and I am not grave enough: Split the difference, but don't ſplit me; Bleſſed K. Charles I. in the Common Prayer-Book; Ora pro nobis; And for thy Grand Nephew K. George! And my Reaſons; Loyal to the Hilts! And God's Providence and Man's Duties,—I hope that is grave—the Bible is wiſe and merry,—whether Chriſt was for faſting or againſt it.

Louis's Challenge and St. J's's Anſwer—Genl. Johnſon reſign'd—Pr. Naſſau's heart!—Mr. Whitfield's Victory——The art of Starving, and the Brighteſt ſhort Stripes, all for the Good of the People, who, therefore, will be for me, and I'll beat their Impoveriſhers—after that the beſt in the Houſe—10,062—Henly! be boldeſt in the Land of Reaſon—and Speech on Speech—diſpatch thy Foes—Blood for Blood.

The grand ſcene opens a little after twelve at noon (at which time the transfer books of moſt of the offices are ſhut for the day) and generally the actors hold forth in the following manner, and almoſt all at once: "Tickets—tickets—India ſtock for "the opening—Navy bills—Bank ſtock "for the reſcounters—Long annuities— "*Here the waiter calls,* Chance—Chance "—Chance; Mr. Chance is not here, Sir; "he is over at his office—Here, tickets "for Auguſt—Omnium gatherum for "September—Scrip for the third pay- "ment—Three per cent. conſols—*Here "the beef-headed Mr. Eye-Tony whiſpers a "friend, but is overheard,* They are all "Bulls by G—d, but I'll be d—d if they "have any of my ſtock; I'll go out of "town, and not come near them till the "reſcounters—Here, Long annuities; "who buys Long annuities?—Tickets "for the drawing—Well, what have you "to do in tickets for the drawing, Mr. "Mulberry? I am a ſeller of five hun-

" dred, Sir—And I am a buyer, Sir; but
" pray at what price?—Why, as you are
" a friend, Mr. Point-royal, I ſhall give
" you the turn; you ſhall have them at
" fourteen*. The turn, Mr. Mulberry!
" why do you think I do not know what
" I am about, as well as if I was ſelling
" pins or needles, or drawing patterns
" for ladies ruffles? they are all ſellers at
" thirteen.—Well, then, you ſhall have
" them at thirteen—I will take them at
" twelve, and no otherwiſe—Well, you
" ſhall have them, put them down (for
" the drawing, mind) but d—n it, Tom,
" where did you get that paſte wig?
" Why, you ſon of a b—h, it is as good
" as your mop——India ſtock without
" the dividend. Have you any thing to
" do in India ſtock, Monſieur Sham-it?

* They mean twelve pounds, or thirteen pounds fourteen ſhillings, as the price is; but this ſhort method has been improved to ſave the gentlemen's breath, otherwiſe it would be impoſſible for their lungs to hold out.

"Non pas, Monſieur, bien obligé—I "have been talking French ſo long to "Sir Harry Travel-ſick that I forgot "myſelf—I have nothing to do, Sir; "aſk my partner; I am but juſt come "from Tunbridge Wells, (angrily)— "India bonds? who buys India bonds? "— no buyers in the market?—Well, "Mr. Backward, where ſhall we dine to-"day?—You have never a pig in ſtore, "have you? No, no, Mr. Sharpſet, theſe "are bad times; I have made nothing of "it this term yet; but huſh, don't talk "of pig, for here comes the proud Dr. "Low-piſs, who never looks pleaſant at "the beſt, and ſhould you mention ſwine's "fleſh in his hearing, we ſhall make him "as ſurly as Old Nick*.—Enter Kit

* In the famous South Sea year, a haunch of veniſon ſold for five guineas, which was a proof of the luxury of the jobbers of that æra—Mr. Backward is an inſtance of luxury in another kind; he is fond of a pig prepared for his table in the follow-

" Cot—and Mr. Verjuice, from Spring-
" gardens, with each a book in his hand
" —Here, *Every Man his own Broker*, I
" am a ſeller for money—and I am a ſel-
" ler for time—to them, Mr. Skinit, for-
" merly a butcher, Mr. Onion, Sam
" Dangerleſs, Joe Dirtyface the baker,
" and Tom Steel the common council-
" man, who all at once demand, what
" is it? Any new ſubſcription, Mr. Ver-
" juice? I buy, I buy—No, no, gentle-
" men, it is not ſo good a thing; it is a
" d—d impudent libel againſt all the
" members of this ſacred college; and I
" would give all Spring-gardens (my real
" eſtate, gentlemen) to ſee the author well
" puniſhed for his inſolence: here he gives
" directions how to buy and ſell ſtock

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ing manner; it muſt be taken from the ſow, ſoon after it is littered, and laid on a ſoft cuſhion by the fire-ſide, where it muſt be fed with Naples biſcuits and cream, till it is a fortnight old, and then be whipped to death and roaſted.

" without a broker; and lays open the
" whole of our transactions; and all, for-
" sooth, because he has lost his money
" amongst us—Thousands have shared the
" same fate, why should he make such a
" noise about it? or why injure all to be
" revenged on a few? 'twas neither you
" nor I that stripped him; 'twas Aaron the
" Jew, Bob Falstaff, old Hodge, and two
" or three more—Well, pray don't be in a
" passion, gentlemen; pray what are you
" going to do with the books? Do! why
" sell them at a low price; you know that's
" the only way: and then tell all our
" friends out of doors, what cursed stuff it
" is; and that it was done here at—how
" much, Mr. Skinit? Why I will give you
" *ten pence* money—*both*, You shall have
" them——*Calls out*, Done at ten pence,
" gentlemen—Pray get it put in Chance's
" list, 'twill damn the book effectually *

* Saturday, May 30, 1761.—Mr. Chance was a very worthy good-natured man, who arrived at the highest pinnacle of fame by distributing the favours

" —Here, who'll ſell a hundred for time?
" —*Sam Dangerleſs replies*, I am a ſeller of
" a hundred for time—you ſhall have
" them at *nine pence* for September next
" —I will take them at *eight pence*—You
" ſhall have them—done at *eight pence*,
" gentlemen, for September—A good bar-
" gain; I ſhall get them at the ſtalls for *a*
" *penny*, long before that time.——Tom
" Steel the common councilman now in-
" terpoſes, and makes as formal an ha-
" rangue as if he were pleading in the
" city parliament for ſome darling pri-
" vilege.

" Gentlemen, you are highly in the
" wrong to take ſo much notice of this
" paltry performance, or its author; truſt
" me, the beſt thing you can do is to let

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of fortune, like his miſtreſs, at Hazard, ſometimes giving 10,000l. to blockheads, and to men of the greateſt merit, a blank. Unluckily for the gentlemen in queſtion, he did not put the Alley price of *Every Man his own Broker*, in any of his liſts.

" him alone; the thing will die of itſelf;
" beſides, he can really do us no harm, for
" we are ſo ſtrong a body, that he may as
" well attempt to beat down the Monu-
" ment with an old Shoe-Horn, as to de-
" ſtroy our college; we are too well ſup-
" ported: leave him to me, paſs quietly
" by him in the ſtreets, and do not ſtare
" at him as if you ſaw a monſter (nor
" don't you, brother Eye-Tony, call
" people out of their ſhops to leer at him)
" for that only marks rage, and a con-
" feſſion of guilt:—I have a ſafer and
" more quiet way; it is but arming our
" *under-ſecretary of ſtate* * againſt him,
" and this moth will ſoon be cruſhed. I
" can add no more, for here are ſome

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* In the courſe of Lord North's glorious adminiſtration, Monſieur Sham-it, mentioned in page 104, was tranſplanted from the Alley to the ſecretary of ſtate's office, for what ſervices the noble lord who promoted him beſt knows: his real name was Anthony Chamier.

" ſtrangers coming in; therefore let's
" adjourn the ſubject—but, by the bye,
" *whiſpers*, I have voted for a ſilk gown
" to-day, I hate to be numbered among
" the common livery.—Here, old an-
" nuities without the dividend——Enter
" Mynheer Vander Doubleface (with a
" packet of letters)—Two mails from
" Holland and three from Flanders. Ik
" ſal never go through myn buſineſs, 'tis
" too much; (looking round him) wat
" has my news ſent all de gentlemen to
" de poſt-huis—well—this is ongeluckt,
" for ik muſt buy een groot deal of ſtock,
" dar is heel good news—de Euſtatia is
" taken."

Having thus given a ſpecimen of the daily tumult at the Stock-Exchange, I am to apologize for letting any thing ſo very low appear in print, by aſſuring the public, that nothing could have induced me to have given it a place, but the deſire of ſhewing them what a trifling ſet of people they are in ſubjection to; for I call it

ſubjection, when ſo large a body of people, as that part of the public who have concerns in the funds are, tamely ſubmit to think, ſpeak, and act upon the judgments of theſe gentry.

I ſhall now return to Mr. Point-royal, and juſt exhibit a leaf or two of his jobbing book, before I take my leave of him.

Lottery Tickets for the Drawing.

Bought, viz. . . to take	Sold, . . . to deliver
200 of Levy, at 15l. 15s.	600 to Mr. Buck at 15l. 5s.
100 of Benjamin . 12s.	300 to Mr. Skin-flint 8s.
100 of Solomon . 14s.	200 to Dr. Wool 10s.
100 of Reuben . 18s.	400 to A. Avarice 11s.
500 of Mr. Mulberry 15s.	
1000	1500

It appears by this account that Mr. Point-royal is a BEAR for five hundred tickets; that is, he has ſold five hundred more than he has bought; conſequently he wiſhes they may fall; and as a means

to bring it about, he runs up and down the houſe, a few days before the drawing, declaring, that the tickets do not go off, that he has paſſed by all the offices, and did not ſee one cuſtomer in any of them; and, in ſhort, that the price muſt come down. The reaſon of this conduct is obvious. Tickets at the time of his acting thus, are conſiderably above the price he has agreed to deliver at; and ſhould they continue ſo till the drawing, he will be obliged to buy five hundred to adjuſt his account at a much higher price than he has ſold at.—This is only one account, and that a ſmall one; but let us ſuppoſe the accounts of the greateſt part of the houſe to ſtand thus, and that the majority are BEARS; it is upon the diſcovery of this, that the debates in the cauſe begin to grow warm, and the counſel to rail at each other, and brow-beat the evidence. This produces a ſcene of amazing confuſion and uproar; and the public are obliged to give that price for tickets in

the offices, which the ſentence paſſed in the college fixes on them: thus, for inſtance; if the BULLS get the better of the conteſt, by holding their tickets to the laſt, and oblige the BEARS to buy on their own terms, then the price of tickets riſes conſiderably, not from their intrinſic value, but from the artificial ſcarcity in the Alley: but if, on the contrary, the BEARS gain the victory by a ſeeming indifference, and by raiſing a thouſand artful ſtories, which frighten the BULLS, and cauſe them to ſell at once, then the price falls, from the market's being overſtocked, and the public will thereby procure them at a low price. I would therefore adviſe all private adventurers either to buy very ſoon after the firſt coming out of the tickets, which generally is in June or July, or elſe to wait till the very morning of drawing, and buy an hour or two before the wheel goes round.

It would puzzle my readers to divine the method of ſettling or adjuſting (as they

call it) ſuch an account as Mr. Point-royal's; and if I were not to give a ſlight ſketch of the manner of doing it, it would be thought incredible, that it ſhould ever enter into the heads of any ſet of men, to invent ſuch a perplexed and intricate form of adjuſting an account.

For the ſake of brevity, and to render myſelf as intelligible as poſſible, I ſhall take only one article on each ſide of Mr. Point-royal's account. Againſt the day of ſettling he has made out, what he calls, his liſt, with which he appears in court, and once more accoſts Mr. Mulberry—Sir, I am to take five hundred tickets of you, do you deliver them? No, Sir.—Who have you got then? Let me ſee—I have got Mr. Sham-it; go to him for four hundred, and ſee if you can adjuſt that, while I ſee who I have got for another hundred—*goes on*, I am put to you, Mr. Sham-it, by Mr. Mulberry, for four hundred tickets. Well, Sir, you muſt go to Dangerleſs—*goes on*, Mr. Dangerleſs, can you

deliver me four hundred tickets for Mr. Sham-it? Yes, Sir; are you ready to take them? No, Sir, I am to deliver to Aaron Avarice——*calls*, Aaron Avarice, here; will you take your four hundred tickets of Mr. Dangerleſs? No, Sir; I give you James the ſon of Zebedee—Zounds, Sir, that won't do, he is Mr. Mulberry's partner; and I am to take of him—Well then, let me ſee, oh! deliver them to Mr. Coal-hole—aye, aye, take 'em to Mr. Coal-hole, and there they'll ſettle.

In ſhort, Mr. Coal-hole agrees to take them, being in want of four hundred for a cuſtomer, (for he is no jobber, but when obliged to act for a principal): but here another difficulty ariſes about the price they are to be done at; Mr. Coal-hole is to pay for them, and will take them at no other price, than that which he agreed for with Aaron Avarice; which happens to be a great deal lower than Mr. Dangerleſs ſold them at to Mr. Sham-it; at laſt, however, Mr. Coal-hole, being a good-

natured man (and knowing Mr. Sham-it to be a Doctor, who has never been a Lame Duck) agrees to pay for them at twelve ſhillings, to ſatisfy Mr. Dangerleſs, who always takes care to be on the ſure ſide *.

Thus we have adjuſted four hundred of Mr. Point-royal's tickets; and happy will it be, if he ſettles any more ſo eaſily; for ſometimes theſe gentlemen put one another about from man to man, till they have gone all round the houſe.—The method of entering theſe accounts when adjuſted, is to the full as abſurd; and would afford no entertainment or inſtruction, for which reaſon only I omit it. The remainder of the Lottery Term

* Dangerleſs is ſo lame a Duck, that he has broke both legs three or four times, and has been twice trepanned; but, by the help of good ſplintering, he is at laſt perfectly reſtored, and enjoys his bottle and laſs as gallantly as the firſt peer in the land.

is employed in buying and ſelling of tickets during the drawing.

Having thus given an account of the buſineſs tranſacted at the beginning of term, I ſhall only obſerve, that all is pretty quiet after the drawing of the lottery is over, till the time of raiſing the ſupplies for the ſervice of the new year, throws the whole houſe into a freſh ferment; but for an account of this, I muſt refer my readers to Chap. IV. and ſhall conclude this, with relating their manner of ſpending the vacations. The ſpring vacation generally begins in April, when ſuch of the gentlemen of the Alley as are in town, paſs their time at the Stock-Exchange, in buying and ſelling of green peas, mackrel, &c. by way of piddling, to keep their hands in at jobbing, till the terms come on again.

The method of playing at this game is, to buy or ſell one hundred pecks of green peas for the earlieſt ſeaſon, or firſt coming in, at a particular high price; and the way

of adjuſting the account is, to ſend to Shuttleworth's to know the price of the firſt peck of peas that were brought to market; according to which the buyer or ſeller at the Stock-Exchange regulates his account, and pays or receives the difference betwixt the price they were done at by him and his antagoniſt, and the price at market. The mackrel bargains are generally for one thouſand, at their firſt coming in, and are adjuſted much in the ſame manner; for as ſoon as they are cried about the ſtreets, the contending parties buy as many as they want for a dinner; and this ſettles their accounts, and furniſhes them with a delicate repaſt. Now as theſe gentlemen follow only their own weak judgments, or the price of the precedent year, in this ſport, I ſhould think an underſtanding gardener, and a ſkilful fiſhmonger, might have the beſt of the game: for the one might give a better gueſs by obſerving the backwardneſs or forwardneſs of the ſpring, and

the other by knowing the run of the market at Billingſgate.

Another manner of ſpending the vacation is, in inſuring on the lives of ſuch unfortunate gentlemen, as may happen to ſtand accountable to their country for miſconduct. I am not willing to diſturb the aſhes of the dead, or I could give an inſtance of this cruel paſtime, the parallel of which is not to be met with in the hiſtory of any civilized nation: but I hope we ſhall hear no more of ſuch deteſtable gaming; and therefore, as a ſcene of this kind, fully laid open, might aſtoniſh, but could not convey inſtruction, humanity bids me draw the veil, and not render any ſet of men unneceſſarily odious.

A practice likewiſe prevailed of inſuring the lives of well-known perſonages, as ſoon as a paragraph appeared in the news-papers announcing them to be dangerouſly ill. The inſurance roſe in proportion as intelligence could be procured from the ſervants, or from any of the

faculty attending, that the patient was in great danger. This inhuman ſport affected the minds of men depreſſed by long ſickneſs; for when ſuch perſons, caſting an eye over a news-paper for amuſement, ſaw that their lives had been inſured in the Alley at 90 per cent. they deſpaired of all hopes; and thus their diſſolution was haſtened. But, to the honour of the principal merchants, underwriters; they cauſed an advertiſement to be fixed up at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe; declaring, that they would not tranſact buſineſs with any brokers, who ſhould be engaged in ſuch infamous inſurances.

Inſuring of property in any city or town that is beſieged, is a common branch of the inſurance buſineſs, in time of war; but ingenious gameſters, ever ſtudious to invent new, and variegate old games, have, out of this lawful game (for inſurance in general is no more than a game at chances) contrived a new amuſement for the gentlemen of the Alley; which is

for one perſon to give another forty pounds, and in caſe Gibraltar (for inſtance) is taken by a particular time, the perſon to whom the forty pounds are paid, is to repay one hundred pounds; but if, on the contrary, the ſiege is raiſed before the time mentioned, he keeps the forty pounds. In proportion as the danger the place is in of being taken increaſes, the premium of inſurance advances; and when the place has been ſo ſituated, that repeated intelligence could be received of the progreſs of the ſiege, I have known the inſurance riſe to ninety pounds for one hundred. A fine field this opens for ſpreading falſe reports, and making private letters from the Hague, &c.——but how infinitely more harmleſs to trifle with property, than to affect the life of a fellow-ſubject, or to injure him with the public, to ſerve a private end!

Of ſham inſurances, (that is to ſay, inſurances, without property on the ſpot) made on places beſieged in time of war,

foreign miniſters, reſiding with us, have made conſiderable advantages; it was a well-known fact that a certain ambaſſador inſured 30,000l. on Minorca, in the war of 1755, with advices in his pocket at the time, that it was taken—our government did not get the intelligence till two days after this tranſaction, it was the third, before it was made public, and thus, the ambaſſador duped our people, who continued to accept premiums till the third day.

I cannot more properly cloſe this chapter, than by leaving upon the minds of my readers this ſelf-evident inference from the whole:

That it is almoſt impoſſible for any broker, who is a jobber (and there are but few that are not) to give candid, impartial advice when to buy into, or ſell out of the public funds.

CHAPTER III.

Of the method of transferring and accepting, or of buying into, and selling out of, the public funds; giving full directions how to transact this business without the assistance of a broker.—Form of receipts given on transferring stock.—Explanation of the meaning of $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{5}{8}$, $\frac{7}{8}$, being part of the prices annexed to the list of the funds printed in the news-papers.—A short method of casting up any odd quantity of stock, at the price of the same per cent.—Laws in force to oblige the clerks of the Bank, and other public offices, to aid and assist all manner of persons whatever to transfer their property in the several funds.—Penalty on refusal.—Laws in force relative to brokers.—Advice concerning draughts on bankers—and a particular account of the nature and power of letters of attorney for transferring property in the funds, and receiving dividends.—Frauds described which may arise from granting these letters of attorney.—Proposal to augment the incomes of the clerks in the transfer offices.

THERE are numberless transactions in the common course of business, which are in themselves extremely easy to perform; but which some, through ig-

norance, others, through prejudice, and many more, for want of reſolution, commit to the care of others; and aſſign them a ſalary they often can but badly ſpare, for the execution of that, which, with a little induſtry and attention, they may be maſters of themſelves in a few days.

Of this number is the buſineſs now under our conſideration, which by the force of cuſtom has been conſigned to the management of a ſet of men, who were unknown to ſociety till within the preſent century; and who, by way of gratitude, very fairly attempted, in the year 1720, to turn their maſters out of doors; or, in other words, who, not content with their ſtated allowance of two and ſix pence for brokerage, laid a plan for appropriating to themſelves the whole fortunes of their benefactors, in which, for a ſhort time, they ſucceeded to a miracle; and they have ever ſince been piddling with the public property, and enriching them-

ſelves at the expence of the innocent and unwary.

It is indeed very hard to account for the folly and madneſs of the public, which has given to theſe their lowly ſervants, an almoſt abſolute power over the whole monied property of the nation. Yet ſuch is become the caſe. A broker will not tranſact any buſineſs in the Stocks, but with another broker, and they are to ſettle together as they pleaſe, the value of every man's property in the funds.

If, beſides the government annuities, and the other transferable Stocks; India bonds, Exchequer, Navy, and Victualling bills, and all other public ſecurities for money are conſidered as paſſing through their hands, the extent of dealings, now lying at the mercy of theſe people, muſt aſtoniſh all thinking men, eſpecially as it is well known that they form combinations ſufficient to terrify all ſtock-holders, and carry on ſuch ſcenes of jobbing as are

highly detrimental to trade, and to both public and private credit.

Let it then be every man's care, who has any property in the funds, to prevent the increaſe of the power, and influence, as well as of the number, of theſe invaders of their property, by boldly and manfully reſolving to tranſact his own buſineſs. Do you want to buy? examine firſt the funds and their prices in the daily papers, or if it ſuits you better, ſearch the liſts already mentioned in Chap. I. and when you have determined what fund to buy into, (concerning the choice of which you have likewiſe my opinion in the ſame chapter,) go boldly to the office where the fund you have made choice of is transferred, and be not diſmayed at the wild uproar and confuſed noiſe which will at firſt ſtrike your aſtoniſhed ſenſes—many of you have ſupported more for your amuſement, on the firſt night of a new play; and others, at the nocturnal revels of the choice ſpirits;

and will you not endure this temporary inconvenience for the valuable purpoſe of becoming the managers of your own property, and to ſave yourſelves the expence of brokerage!

Advance then, and attend a few minutes to the confuſed cries that reſound from all quarters; and you will ſoon find what you want—a ſeller of the ſum you propoſe to buy—you have only to demand the price, which, if there has been no particular news to occaſion a ſudden variation, you will find, by comparing it, to be nearly the ſame with that of the preceding day; if he is a common ſeller, he will name you the whole price as 60 $\frac{3}{8}$, or whatever it happens to be, for *three per cent.* conſolidated annuities; but if he is a Doctor, or Maſter of Arts in the Alley, he will only tell you the fraction of the price, viz. $\frac{1}{8}$ or $\frac{5}{8}$; and if he finds you do not know the principal ſum, he will thereby be aſſured that you are not a broker, and will probably quit you in ſearch of one,

for his intereſt is, to deal with none but brokers, as your's is, to do your buſineſs without them; therefore let him go, you will ſoon be accoſted by ſome other ſeller, who perhaps is not a broker, for there are plenty of ſuch every transfer day; and it is your buſineſs by adding one, to increaſe the number.—Should you wait a little, and no perſon offers to ſell you, venture to exert yourſelf, and call out luſtily, that you are a buyer of the ſum you want, whatever it be,—truſt me, you will find very little difference betwixt the articulation of the few words requiſite upon this occaſion, and the common aſpiration you are ſometimes forced to make uſe of in calling for your ſervant, or for a coach in a ſhower of rain.—When by this means you have found a ſeller of the ſum you want, you will, very often, be obliged to give the turn of the market, that is, if it is a doubt whether the market-price is exactly that which he aſks, or rather inclined to fall $\frac{1}{8}$ beneath it, you muſt give

the turn of the ſcale to get your buſineſs done; and this you will be obliged to do nine times out of ten, if you employ a broker—the better to underſtand the price, obſerve the following table, which is inſerted for the uſe of the many hundreds, who read the public news-papers, without knowing the meaning of the odd $\frac{1}{8}$ annexed to the price of ſtocks:

			s.	d.
$\frac{1}{8}$	is		2	6
$\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	5	0
$\frac{3}{8}$	—	—	7	6
$\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	10	0
$\frac{5}{8}$	—	—	12	6
$\frac{3}{4}$	—	—	15	0
$\frac{7}{8}$	—	—	17	6

By this table you find, that if you are aſked 57 $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. for three per cent. annuities, it means, *fifty-ſeven pounds ſeventeen ſhillings and ſix pence*, which is the price you muſt give for 100l. ſhare in them.

Having thus found the price, and agreed with the feller, you have only to give him your name, ſtyle, or title, and place of abode* ; it is his buſineſs (as the feller) to take care of the transfer, and prepare the receipt, only do you contrive to have the ſum you are to pay ready, and as near as poſſible in bank notes, ſo that you may not have more than four or five pounds to pay in caſh ; becauſe the hurry and buſtle is ſo great, that great inconveniences will ariſe in tranſacting your buſineſs, if you do not obſerve this rule. If you are well known on the Exchange, and keep caſh at any

* In the new office, at the Bank in Bartholomew-lane, the following advertiſement is wrote on the wall :

" To prevent miſtakes in the accounts, all per-
" ſons are deſired to write on the transfer tickets,
" the deſcriptions of the parties, and the ſtreets
" where they live, if in London, otherwiſe they
" cannot be forwarded, the name of the pariſh not
" being ſufficient."

banker's in the neighbourhood, your draught may do as well as bank notes.

Another rule to be obſerved is, to keep in one part of the room, till the transfer is prepared, that you may be in readineſs to anſwer to your name when called; for if you are out of the way, the clerk will not wait for you, but proceed to other buſineſs: the transfer being prepared, and your name called, you are to go to the clerk who has the transfer-book, who will ſhew you the form in which the ſeller has transferred the ſum agreed for, to you, your heirs, aſſigns, &c. (which form I would adviſe you to read the firſt time, that you may be thoroughly acquainted with the nature of the aſſignment) you will then be directed to ſet your name to a form of acceptance of the ſtock transferred to you, the ſeller having firſt ſet his hand to the transfer; this done, the clerks witneſs the printed receipt, which the ſeller gives you, ſigned by him; and which you muſt keep as a voucher for the

transfer, till you have received one dividend: the only reaſon for this, that I could ever learn, is, in caſe the transfer ſhould by any means be neglected to be poſted, and ſo the dividend warrant ſhould be made out in the name of the old proprietor; but this is a caſe that happens ſo ſeldom (if ever) that I think no perſon need be in great pain about loſing a receipt of this kind. I muſt here give a caution againſt keeping theſe receipts after you have received one dividend, for they then become uſeleſs; the caſhier having acknowledged your right in the fund by paying you a dividend, and therefore they ſhould be deſtroyed; for by people's keeping them in families (at their death) they ſometimes cauſe a great deal of confuſion, eſpecially among the lower ſort of people; and prove great diſappointments to many, who think, in finding them, they have found a treaſure. They immediately apply to the public offices from which the receipts have been iſſued, and the clerks

ſoon convince them, that they had better have been burnt; the fund having been ſold out: I hope, however, they pay nothing for examinations of this kind, ſince every executor has an undoubted right, at proper hours, on producing the probate of the teſtator's will, to examine the books of any public fund (gratis) wherein he ſuſpects the teſtator had any property. Having paid the ſum, and taken the receipt, the whole buſineſs is tranſacted; and this is all, with reſpect to a buyer *.

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* If you buy from a broker, or employ one to buy for you, you muſt take great care that you ſign the acceptance in the transfer-book, before you pay your money to the ſeller, frequent complaints having been lately made of the conduct of brokers, who deliver to the purchaſers the ſeller's receipt properly aſſigned, and take the money for the ſtock; after which they run away to tranſact other buſineſs, and do not return to ſee the acceptance ſigned by the purchaſer in the transfer-book. In conſequence of this neglect, the directors of the Bank have fixed up a printed notice in the transfer-offices,

Let us now explain the buſineſs of a ſeller, who, as has been remarked, has a little more to do than the buyer.

As the largeſt part of the national debt lies in the *three per cent.* conſolidated annuities, and as being the cheapeſt, they are the moſt dealt in, I ſhall ſelect them as the propereſt fund in which to give my explanation of the ſeller's buſineſs in transferring, or ſelling out, his property. Having found a purchaſer (by the means before mentioned in my directions to the buyer) the ſeller muſt get a piece of paper, about a quarter of a ſheet, and write on it his own name, ſtyle, and place of

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dated in April, 1781; cautioning all purchaſers not to leave the acceptance of the transfers unſigned.—For no dividend warrant can be made out to the new owner of any property in any of the funds, neither can he again part with his property, unleſs the transfer-book has been properly ſigned by him; though the transfer has been made to him by the clerks, and his name ſtands in the body of it with his full deſcription.

abode, with the ſum to be transferred, the fund it is to be transferred out of, and the perſon's name and deſcription to whom it is to be transferred; to make this more clear, you have here a form in the Three per cents. which will ſerve for any other fund, ſtriking out only the words Three per cent. Annuities, and putting in its place, the particular fund you have occaſion to transfer *.

* If there is any little difference between one public office and another, it is not material, and the clerks are obliged to ſet you right.

John Jolly, Eſq. of Southampton Street,

in the Pariſh of St. Paul, Covent-Garden,

100l. Three per Cent. conſolidated Bank Annuities.

To

James Goodman, Coal-Merchant, on Snow-Hill,

in the Pariſh of St. Sepulchre.

This paper you muſt deliver to the clerks that ſtand neareſt to, or under the letter with which your name begins, and to which you will be directed by the letters that are painted at large on the wall; and by this regulation, and ſome laws in force, but neglected, it appears that the government deſigned that the proprietors ſhould manage their own buſineſs in the funds. Having delivered in your paper, the clerk examines your account; and if he finds you have the property you mention in your paper, he prepares the tranſfer; and as you are not a broker, he, perhaps, will not call you when it is ready, therefore your ſureſt way is to attend till it is done; and in the mean time, to be making out the purchaſer's bill, which you are to do on a printed receipt; of theſe, there are a ſufficient quantity always hanging up in all the offices; you have therefore only to aſk the clerks for them. The better to enable you to perform this part of the buſineſs, you have

here a form of a receipt, filled up, which will ſerve you in all caſes, only altering the ſums, and the price, as occaſion requires: the parts which are left blank in the receipt, and are to be filled up by you, are thoſe printed in *Italics*.

Consolidated 3*l. per Cent. Annuities, at* 57 $\frac{5}{8}$.

RECEIVED this 10*th* Day of *May*, 1784, of *James Goodman, Coal-Merchant on Snow-Hill*, the Sum of *Fifty-seven Pounds Twelve Shillings and Six Pence*, being the Consideration for *One Hundred Pounds* Interest or Share in the Joint Stock of Three per Cent. Annuities, erected by an Act of Parliament of the Twenty-fifth Year of the Reign of King *George* II. intitled, An Act for converting the several Annuities therein mentioned into several Joint Stocks of Annuities, transferrable at the Bank of England, to be charged on the Sinking Fund, together with the proportionable Annuity at 3l. per Cent. per Annum, attending the same, by me this Day transferred to the said *James Goodman*. } £. 57 12 6

Witness my Hand,

John Jolly.

Witness,

[Here the Clerks sign.]

Having ſigned your receipt, and the transfer being ready, you are to ſign it in the book; and then to deliver your receipt to the clerks, who (as ſoon as the purchaſer has ſigned his acceptance in the book) will witneſs the receipt, then take your money of the purchaſer, and the whole is finiſhed.

By a late regulation, there are ſix clerks in the new Three per Cent. Conſolidated Annuity office, who act as ſuperviſors of the transfers, and witneſs them, ſo that now there are two witneſſes inſtead of one, to the transfers and receipts.

There remains yet one difficulty, as eaſy however to ſurmount as the reſt, which is, to caſt up odd ſums; for it does not always happen that the ſums to be bought, or ſold, are even, viz. 100l. or 500l. but ſometimes a mechanic, or a ſervant, has ſaved up twenty or thirty pounds, and wants to buy into the annuities; how ſhall a common perſon reckon up thirty-five or twenty-five pounds of annuities at

fifty-ſeven, without a broker? To make you eaſy on this head, you have the following plain and infallible examples, which I am the more particular in, becauſe a great many proprietors of large ſums retail out theſe ſmall ſums, and buy them in again, all together, in a capital ſum; by which means they make great advantages, and with leſs riſk than in any other way.

Rules for caſting up odd quantities of ſtock at the current price per cent.

Rule I. If the quantity of ſtock you want to know the value of, is larger than the current price of one hundred, multiply that quantity by the price of one hundred; then divide by 100, the quotient will give you the value in pounds: then reduce the remainder (if any) by common reduction to ſhillings—divide again by 100, and the quotient is the value in ſhillings, and ſo on to pence.—Obſerve, that if from the ſe-

veral quotients you ſtrike off the two laſt figures to the right, as remainders to be reduced, it is the ſame thing as dividing by 100, and the figures to the left will be pounds, if the quotient was ſo; and ſo on to pence.

To prevent miſtakes, I ſhall give examples of both ways.

Example of the first way.

What must I give for 126l. in the three per cent. annuities at 57, that is to say, when 57l. will buy 100l.?

```
      126
       57
     ----
      882
     630
     ----  £.
100)7182(71
     700
     ----
     .182
      100
     ----
       82
       20
     ----  s.
100)1640(16
     100
     ----
     .640
      600
     ----
     .40
      12
     ----  d.
100)480(4
     400
     ----
     .80
       4
     ----  f.
100)320(3
     300
     ----
     .20
```

Answe £71 : 16 : 4¾

Example of the second way.

```
126
 57
----
 882
630
----
£.71|82 struck off,
      20
----
s. 16|40
      12
----
d. 4|80
       4
----
f. 3|20
```

Answer £.71 : 16 : 4¾

Rule II. When the quantity of ſtock you want to know the value of, is ſmaller than the price per cent. then multiply that ſmall quantity by the price per cent. and divide by 100, as before directed; but if you are very careful to be exact, the ſhorteſt and beſt way is, to cut off the two figures to the right; for which reaſon I ſhall give the example of a ſmall ſum, according to that method.

Example. What muſt I receive for 35l. three per cent. Annuities, when the price is 58 *per cent?*

```
      58
      35
    ----
     290
    174
    ----
£. 20|30
      20
    ----
s. 6|00
```

Anſwer £. 20 : 6 *s.*

If the price happens to be an $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{5}{8}$, or $\frac{7}{8}$, in the caſe, where your quantity is larger than the price, *per cent.* take the $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{5}{8}$, or $\frac{7}{8}$, part of the large ſum, and throw it in, after your multiplication, thus:

```
      132
       58 5/8
    ------
     1056
     660
    ------
     7656
       66 the 1/2 or 4/8 of 132,
       16 : 10s. the 1/8 mak-
£. ----------------------- ing 5/8
  77|38 : 10 s.
       20
    ------
  s. 7|70
       12
    ------
  d. 8|40
        4
    ------
  f. 1|60 thus the fractions
          or odd eighths are
          introduced.
```

Anſwer £. 77 : 7 : 8 *d.* $\frac{1}{4}$

Purſue this method, even when the ſum is ſmaller than the price *per cent.* if it conſiſts of two figures; but if it conſiſts only of one figure, then the ſhorteſt way is to multiply that, by the price per cent. and to take in the fraction, in one line.

Example. What is the worth of 7l. at 57 $\frac{5}{8}$ *per cent?* By the table already given, you know that $\frac{5}{8}$ is 12s. 6d. therefore work it thus:

```
        57 : 12 : 6
                  7
      ------------
  £. 4|03 :  7 : 6
        20
      ----
   s. . 67
        12
      ----
   d. 8|10
```

Anſwer £. 4 : 0 : 8*d.*

It is by this eaſy and expeditious method, that ſmall ſhares in the funds are caſt up.

I muſt here appeal to the candid and judicious, and beg leave to aſk, if there is

them, will produce the authority of the laws, as a check to all oppoſition he may meet with from them. With a view to aſſiſt gentlemen in this point, and to ſave them the expence of purchaſing the acts of parliament for raiſing the ſeveral ſupplies that have been granted for the ſupport of government, I have extracted the following clauſe from one of them, which I leave to the judicious to make the proper uſe of, only obſerving, that thoſe who ſhall give occaſion to any gentleman to make uſe of it at all, create a ſuſpicion that (by their places) being forbid to act as brokers, they recommend their friends to particular brokers, and divide the profit of commiſſion with them.

Clauſe of an act of parliament, intitled, "An act for granting to his majeſty an additional duty upon ſtrong beer and ale; and for raiſing the ſum of twelve millions, by way of annuities, and a lottery," &c.

"And be it further enacted, that no fee, "reward, or gratuity whatſoever, ſhall be

" demanded, or taken, of any of his ma-
" jesty's subjects, for receiving or paying
" the said contribution moneys, or any of
" them; or for any tallies or receipt, con-
" cerning the same; or for insuring the
" moneys for paying the said several annui-
" ties, or any of them, or for any transfer
" of any sum, great or small, to be made
" in pursuance of this act, upon pain that
" any offender, or person offending, by
" taking or demanding any such fee, re-
" ward, or gratuity, shall forfeit the sum
" of twenty pounds to the party aggrieved,
" with full costs of suit," &c.——By a clause in the same act, it is enacted, That the transfer books shall be open at all seasonable times, wherein all persons may transfer, assign over, and accept stock; and in their absence, their attornies (lawfully authorised) may do it for them; but not a word is said of brokers.

Every money bill for constituting transferable annuities has the same clauses, so that the legislature leaves the power and

method of transfering open to every body; and as free for a ſervant, who has only ten pounds to lay out, as for a merchant with twenty thouſand; and in ſeveral of the monied acts it is expreſly enacted, That the clerks in the transfer offices ſhall aid and aſſiſt ſtrangers to transfer their property.

If, after all, therefore, mankind will ſhut their eyes againſt their own intereſt, I can only lament their blindneſs, and ſit down ſatisfied with my own intention to do a public good; which in a variety of inſtances communicated to me has had the deſired effect. The ingenious Mrs. Centlivre, in her comedy of, The Bold Stroke for a Wife, wrote ſixty years ago, introduces a ſtock-broker, who, upon ſeeing two gentlemen enter Jonathan's coffee-houſe, ſays to his brethren, "I would fain bite that "ſpark in the brown coat; he comes very "often into the Alley, but never employs "a broker." In this ſhort ſentence, ſhe has happily expreſſed the ſentiments of the

whole fraternity, and their adherents; and has given us a hint, that even in her days, ſenſible people ſaw through the fallacy of employing brokers, and tranſacted their own buſineſs; and if this was the caſe then, how much greater reaſon is there for it at preſent, when our funds are annually increaſing, and the brokerage conſequently muſt amount to a prodigious ſum?

I ſhall take my leave of this part of my ſubject with aſſuring my countrymen, the moſt formidable oppoſition ſhall not abate my zeal in their ſervice; and that, if it be neceſſary to give farther inſtructions, it ſhall not be wanting while a printing-preſs is to be found in this metropolis: in conſequence of this declaration, all letters, and inquiries relative to the funds, and all objections to this work (if ſent poſt paid) to the publiſher, ſhall be duly taken notice of in the next edition.

I have already mentioned the conveniency of carrying bank notes to buy ſtock with, or, if you are well known, of draw-

ing on your banker; and here I muſt add a remark or two about taking bank notes, and draughts.

When you are paid in bank notes, for any ſtock you have ſold, be careful to examine, if the notes are above a year old; for if they are, you ſhould inſiſt on having them examined, and marked in the accomptant's office in the Bank, before you take them; the mark of examination you will obſerve in red ink on the face of the note, referring to the letter and number in which it ſtands entered in the Bank-books of notes iſſued. If you are paid by the purchaſer's draught on a banker, remember to go and receive it as ſoon as convenient, any time before five in the afternoon of the ſame day; the reaſon is obvious, *viz.* that a man may have caſh at a banker's in the morning, and may draw it all out before night; and therefore it is proper, according to the common courſe of buſineſs, to preſent the draught the ſame day you receive it; otherwiſe, I am told, you have

no remedy, if payment ſhould be refuſed the next day.

But the ſafeſt way, when a purchaſer propoſes to give a draught on his banker by way of payment is, to deſire him to draw on the back of the receipt you are to give him as before directed; for by this means you do not part with the receipt till you have received your money at the banker's.

Of letters of attorney I ſhall only obſerve, that ſuch as are proper for all tranſactions in the funds, are to be had at the Bank, South Sea, and India Houſes; and that people ſhould be very careful what ſort of letters of attorney they give, as ſome are only for receiving of dividends; ſome for buying; others for ſelling; and *general* ones are for buying and ſelling, and receiving of dividends: the laſt, convey a moſt abſolute and unlimited power; and have ſometimes been given by ignorant people in the room of others, who have thereby put their property into the hands

of jobbers, who have loſt it all in the Alley; amuſing the proprietor, in the mean time, by a punctual payment of the dividends.

This caution particularly merits the attention of perſons reſiding in the country at a great diſtance from London, and who very rarely viſit it, perhaps hardly once in ſeven years. Theſe ſhould conſider, that by giving a general power of attorney to any agent in London, they abſolutely make over their property for a time, till this power is revoked; and they open the door, by leading into temptation, to diverſe ſpecies of fraud, which may in the end deprive them of their property, and expoſe them to the cruel neceſſity of making public examples of their fraudulent agents. A mortifying circumſtance indeed, when the criminal happens to be a near relation; and of this we had a melancholy inſtance ſome years ſince. A perſon poſſeſſed of a general power of attorney to buy, ſell,

and receive dividends for another, residing in the country, has it in his power, upon any emergency, to sell out, and replace the property entrusted to him, between the times of paying the half yearly dividends, without the knowledge of his principal; for if the sum be standing in the transfer-books, in the same name, at any one given time of making out the dividend warrants, that it did at a former period, no notice will be publicly taken of intermediate transfers, if it had been sold out, and bought in again twenty times; but when a principal suspects his agent, I would advise him to write secretly to some other friend in London, desiring him to go to the books, and examine his account, at some unknown period, between the times of paying the dividends: if the property has changed hands, it will appear by this method, for the temporary transfers will have been posted regularly in your account; though if the property remains unaltered when the dividend warrants are made out,

the clerks have nothing to do with theſe tranſactions. To make this matter intelligible to the meaneſt capacity, let me ſuppoſe, that a country gentleman, who has 1000l. 3 per cent. conſol. annuities, gives a general power of attorney to a young tradeſman, or to any agent in London who is occaſionally in want of a conſiderable ſum of ready money; can any thing be more eaſy than to ſell out the whole or any part of the country gentleman's fund, between the ſtated times of paying the dividends, and to buy it in again, juſt before a dividend becomes due? Can there be a greater temptation thrown in the way of a young perſon, to turn ſtock-jobber, to which he will probably be adviſed by the very broker he has employed to ſell, and buy in again, as he wanted the money, or has been able to replace it? And may not frequent ſporting with the fund, at length carry him one ſtep farther, if ſudden adverſity overtakes him, even to the laſt ſtage of iniquity, that of

ſelling out, and never replacing it again? I ſhould not have entered ſo minutely into this ſubject, if fatal examples of frauds of various kinds committed in conſequence of powers of attorney imprudently entruſted, had not made it expedient. One victim to public juſtice exceeded all his unhappy predeceſſors; for he forged the will of a living relation (whoſe dividends he uſed to receive) purporting a bequeſt of her property in the funds to himſelf, and by means of this impoſture, actually ſold out the property without ſuſpicion; the clerks having been accuſtomed to have the hand-writing of the principal produced by the young man, to the power of attorney, could not be expected to examine nicely the appearance of the ſame hand, ſigned to a will properly witneſſed: but the arrival of the unfortunate lady, in good health, at the office, to receive her dividend perſonally, thereby revoking the power of attorney, diſcovered the theft, and put it out of

her power to ſave the culprit. For it is to be obſerved, that in ſuch caſes the offices are obliged to repair the loſs of the ſufferer, having been impoſed upon by forgery; and therefore the Bank, or any other public company, where the event happens, become the proſecutors, for which reaſon no pardon is ever granted!—and as it may well be imagined, thoſe whom we could venture to inveſt with ſuch powers muſt be near and dear to us—how unſpeakable muſt be the regret!—how pungent the ſorrow, for having been the innocent cauſe of the deſtruction of a friend or relation!

I would, therefore, adviſe all perſons, who are unable, from ſickneſs, or the great diſtance of their reſidence from London, ro receive their dividends in perſon, to give their powers of attorney to the clerks in the offices to which their funds belong: theſe gentlemen having already given ſecurity for a public truſt, we can have no apprehenſion that they will be guilty

of any fraud in private transactions of the same nature. The consideration for this additional duty may be made very easy to the principals, and yet afford a comfortable addition to the incomes of those useful servants to the public, who at present are by no means compensated for their unwearied attention to business; and it would lessen, if not wholly remove, the inducement they now have to be concerned with the stock brokers in various transactions, which do not so well become their stations, and some of which, as I have already observed, militate against acts of parliament.

A few discreet persons have always taken the method here mentioned; but it is not generally known: it is therefore with a view to render it universal, that I so strongly recommend it, at a time, when it is hardly possible to be too cautious with whom we entrust a power over monied property.

As to the laws in force relating to brokers, they lie within the jurisdiction of the right honourable the lord-mayor, and court of aldermen, who have enacted, "That every person who acts as a broker, within the city of London, shall be impowered so to do, by being sworn in before the lord-mayor, and giving bond for his fidelity, and good behaviour; and likewise for the payment of forty shillings per annum into the comptroller's office."—The form of this bond may be had at the said comptroller's office, in Guild-hall, as likewise a list of licensed Exchange-brokers, amongst whom will be found a few stock-brokers, but not one half of the famous college, two thirds of which are not licensed by any authority but their own. On examining the bond, it will appear that brokers are not to assemble in 'Change-alley—nor to have any property in the funds, in which they transact business, by commission. The first clause respecting their as-

ſembling in 'Change-alley is now become uſeleſs, as the brokers aſſemble at a very large coffee-houſe, called the Stock-exchange, and have beſides ſpacious rooms in the Bank, adjoining to the Transfer offices, where they prepare their buſineſs before they tranſact it in the offices. But the other clauſe ought to be ſtrictly enforced, for a partial and intereſted line of conduct will ever be the conſequence of ſtock-brokers being deeply concerned for themſelves in jobbing accounts in the various funds, at the time they are employed to buy and ſell for principals.—One remark I cannot omit; which, if the honourable court juſt mentioned (for whom I have the moſt profound reſpect) ſhould view in the ſame light, they will probably alter the manner of admitting brokers.—The broker, on his admiſſion, gives only his own perſonal bond, in the penal ſum of 500l. for his fidelity to the public: but he finds the ſecurity of a ſubſtantial houſekeeper, for the forty ſhillings per annum

payable to the city;—how unequal this meaſure!——A broker, during his whole life, cannot owe the city above 150l. but he may in an hour forfeit the 500l. to the public.

Having thus given the plaineſt and moſt ample directions for tranſacting the buſineſs in the funds, I ſhall cloſe this chapter, for the ſatisfaction of all whom it may concern, with the genuine form of the broker's bond.

KNOW all men by theſe preſents, That I am held and firmly bound to the mayor and commonalty and citizens of the city of London, in five hundred pounds good and lawful money of Great Britain, to be paid to the ſaid mayor and commonalty and citizens, or their certain attorney, ſucceſſors, or aſſigns. To which ſaid payment, well and truly to be made, I bind myſelf, my heirs, executors, and adminiſtrators, firmly by theſe preſents. Sealed with my ſeal, this

day of in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord by the grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, defender of the faith, and in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and

WHereas the above bounden is, by the court of lord mayor and aldermen of the city of London, allowed to be admitted and ſworn a broker within the ſame city and the liberties thereof, to have, uſe, and exerciſe the ſaid office and employment, during the pleaſure of the ſaid court, and no longer. Now the condition of this obligation is ſuch, that if the ſaid for and during ſuch time as he ſhall and doth continue in the ſaid office and employment, ſhall and do well and faithfully execute and perform the ſame, without fraud, covin, or deceit; and ſhall upon every contract, bargain, or agreement by him made, declare and make known to ſuch perſon or

perſons with whom ſuch agreement is made, the name or names of his principal or principals, either buyer or ſeller, if thereunto required; and ſhall keep a book or regiſter, and therein truly and fairly enter all ſuch contracts, bargains, and agreements, within three days at the fartheſt after making thereof, together with the names of the reſpective principals for whom he buys and ſells; and ſhall, upon demand made by any or either of the parties, buyer or ſeller, concerned therein, produce and ſhew ſuch entry to them, or either of them, to manifeſt and prove the truth and certainty of ſuch contracts and agreements. And for ſatisfaction of all ſuch perſons as ſhall doubt whether he is a lawful and ſworn broker or not, ſhall, upon requeſt, produce a medal of ſilver with his majeſty's arms engraven or ſtamped on the one ſide, and the arms of the city with his name on the other. And ſhall not directly, or indirectly, by himſelf or any other, deal for himſelf or any other

broker in the exchange or remittance of money, or in buying any tally or tallies, order or orders, bill or bills, ſhare or ſhares, or intereſt in any joint-ſtock to be transfered or aſſigned to himſelf or any broker, ot to any other in truſt for him or them, or in buying any goods, wares, or merchandizes, to barter or ſell again upon his own account, or for his own or any other broker's benefit or advantage; or make any gain or profit in buying or ſelling any goods, over and above the uſual brokerage. And ſhall, and do diſcover and make known to the ſaid court of lord-mayor and aldermen, in writing, the names and places of abode of all and every perſon or perſons, as he ſhall know to uſe and exerciſe the ſaid office or employment, not being thereunto duly authoriſed and empowered as aforeſaid, within thirty days after his knowledge thereof. And ſhall not employ any perſon under him to act as a broker within the ſaid city and liberties thereof, not being duly admitted as

aforesaid. And shall not presume to meet and assemble in Exchang-alley, or other public passage or passages within this city or liberties thereof, other than upon the Royal Exchange, to negociate his business and affairs of brokerage, to the annoyance and obstruction of any of his majesty's subjects, or any other, in their business or passage about their occasions: then this obligation to be void and of none effect, or else to be and remain in full force and virtue.

Sealed and delivered
(the paper being first
duly stamp'd) in presence of

CHAPTER IV.

Giving an account of the method of raiſing the annual ſupplies granted by parliament, for defraying the public expences of the ſtate.—Of the manner of ſubſcribing, and of buying and ſelling ſubſcription receipts, for three per cent. annuities, and lottery tickets.—Diſtinction betwixt ſubſcription paid in upon in full, or only paid in, up to the time of ſale; called (in the language of 'Change Alley) Light Horſe and Heavy Horſe.—Difference betwixt Subſcription and Omnium, vulgarly known by the names of Scrip. and Omnium Gatherum.

IN times of peace, the ordinary annual revenues of the ſtate proceeding from the duties on the importation of merchandiſe, called THE CUSTOMS; and from the inland TAXES and EXCISES on almoſt every article of conſumption, and every convenience of life; are ſufficient to defray the expences of the civil and military eſta-

bliſhment of government, together with the annual intereſt of the funds.

But in times of war, the exigencies of the ſtate require very large ſupplies, over and above the uſual revenue, and the method of raiſing theſe ſupplies for many years paſt has been by redeemable annuities, bearing an annual rate of intereſt till redeemed, and transferable at the Bank of England, to which have been annexed, by way of *douceurs*, when the value of money has been more than the intereſt of the annuities, lottery tickets, and determinable annuities for a certain number of years. It is the duty of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who very often is likewiſe firſt Lord of the Treaſury, to find out ways and means of raiſing theſe ſupplies, which he does by ſetting on foot, a ſubſcription for a loan to government of the whole ſum wanted, over and above the ordinary revenues of the ſtate. The Miniſter is guided, in the terms he propoſes to the money-lenders, by the value of money at

the time of applying for the loan, and by the circumſtances of the nation. If *five per cent. per annum* can be had for the loan of money upon the beſt landed ſecurity, then it is evident, if the miniſter means to raiſe ſeveral millions upon *three per cent.* transferable annuities, which are not worth more than 60l. for every 100l. ſhare, that he muſt give certain douceurs for every 100l. lent him in money, to make up the deficiency, both of principal and intereſt. This is done by a profit on lottery tickets, by determinable annuities, in a ratio that will be explained hereafter.

When the parliament has voted theſe ſupplies, the ſubſcription to the loan is either open to the public, in which caſe every reſponſible perſon is at liberty to apply, by a proper letter to the right honourable the lords commiſſioners of the treaſury *, for leave to be admitted to be

* The letter ſhould be directed to one of the ſecretaries, deſiring him to lay your requeſt before the

a contributor, naming in his letter the ſum he deſires to contribute; or elſe it is private, that is to ſay, a certain number of perſons of fortune have agreed to be anſwerable for the whole ſum to be ſubſcribed; and have made the required depoſit.

In the latter caſe, the only ſtep to be taken, by thoſe who are not of the number juſt mentioned, is to apply to ſome of them, for ſuch part of the ſubſcription as you want, which, if you are a particular friend, they will, perhaps, ſpare you without any premium, or for a very ſmall one; for it is not to be preſumed, that any ſmall number of men, who have ſubſcribed for the whole ſum to be raiſed, intend, or can keep it, but that they propoſe to include in their ſubſcription, all their friends and acquaintance. Sometimes (but

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firſt lord and the reſt of the board. Mr. Roſe is the preſent ſecretary, to whom ſuch letters ſhould be addreſſed.

rarely) the ſubſcription lies open to the public at the Bank, or at the Exchequer, and then every perſon is allowed to ſubſcribe what he thinks proper; and if, upon caſting up the whole, there is a ſurplus ſubſcribed, as has generally been the caſe, the ſum each ſubſcriber has ſubſcribed, is reduced in a juſt proportion, ſo as to make, in the whole, the ſum granted by parliament.

But the ſureſt way of being included in the liſts of ſubſcribers, as matters are now managed, is, for a monied man, whether a merchant, a banker, or a private gentleman, to diſtinguiſh himſelf upon all occaſions as a friend and ſupporter of the meaſures of adminiſtration; for the ſubſcriptions turning out profitable, the miniſter will undoubtedly take this opportunity of rewarding his adherents. The application ſhould likewiſe be made early, either before, or immediately after the Chriſtmas receſs of parliament. When the ſubſcription is full, the liſt of names,

with the ſums allotted to each, is ſent to the Bank; and as ſoon as conveniently may be, after the ſubſcription is cloſed, receipts are made out, and delivered to the ſubſcribers, for the ſeveral ſums by them ſubſcribed: and for the conveniency of ſale, every ſubſcriber of a conſiderable ſum has ſundry receipts, for different proportions of his whole ſum, by which means he can the readier part with what ſum he thinks proper; and a form of aſſignment is drawn upon the back of the receipt, which being ſigned and witneſſed, transfers the property to any purchaſer.

The firſt depoſit is generally of fifteen per cent. and is made on or about the time of ſubſcribing; the ſecond is about a month after, and ſo on till the whole is paid in, which is generally in October; each monthly payment being either ten, or fifteen per cent. Thoſe, who chuſe to pay the whole ſum before the appointed days of payment, are allowed three per cent. diſcount, from the time of ſuch payment

to October. The ſubſcription receipts thus paid in full, are called in the Alley, HEAVY HORSE, becauſe the gentlemen of the Alley can make greater advantage than three per cent. by the LIGHT HORSE, and therefore they will not give near ſo good a price for the Heavy; nay, ſome of them will abſolutely have nothing to do with it, for this reaſon, that they can buy a thouſand pounds, Light-Horſe (with one payment made) for the ſame money as one hundred pounds Heavy, and by buying the Light, they have an opportunity of ſporting with, and gaining a profit on, a nominal thouſand, for the ſame money that it would coſt to buy a hundred Heavy.

LIGHT-HORSE, therefore, is a commodity to job with, and opens a moſt extenſive ſcene of it; to illuſtrate this, I ſhall ſtate the ſcheme for raiſing the ſum of 12,000,000l. by a loan, for the ſervice of the year 1781; as it was voted by the committee of ways and means in the houſe

of commons, on Wednesday, March 7th, 1781, and confirmed by the house, the next day *.

For every 100l. subscribed, the subscriber was intitled to 150l. in three per cent. annuities, transferable at the Bank; and this being valued at 58l. money, for 100l. share in the said annuities, the 150l. share was calculated to be worth at market	87	0	0
Also 25l. share in 4 per cent. annuities, which being worth 70l. money for 100l. share in the said annuities, the 25l. share was calculated to be worth at market	17	10	0
Also, every subscriber of 1000l. received four lottery tickets, paying 10l. for each ticket, calculated to sell at 12l. 10s. So that the profit on four tickets should amount to ten pounds, which on a 100l. subscription is	1	0	0
	105	10	0

* I give the loan of 1781 the preference to that of the present year 1784, because the latter was for so small a sum as 6,000,000l. and being raised in a time of peace, and brought into parliament so late in the year as the 30th of June, did not furnish such a general line of illustration of the transactions of the Alley, under this head, as those large loans, which, for several years past, have been raised by subscription, in time of war.

According to this calculation, every ſubſcriber of 100l. would gain 5l. 10s. But the ſaid annuities riſing in price afterwards, and the lottery tickets ſelling at 13l. 14s. the ſubſcribers who ſold out at the higheſt price, gained nine per cent. and it was affirmed that ſome bargains were made on the eighth of March at eleven per cent. But upon an average it may be fairly declared to be a gain of ſeven per cent. To which if we add the diſcount for prompt payment, it will be found that thoſe perſons who, having ſpare money by them, ſubſcribed with an intention to veſt their property in the funds, (not to job with their ſubſcription) gain near ten per cent. At the ſame time, an act of parliament remains in force, reſtricting legal intereſt to *five* per cent. and puniſhing as uſurers, with the forfeiture of treble the ſum lent—"all perſons who ſhall take more than five per cent. per annum, intereſt, or premium, on any ſum of money advanced by way of loan, on any real or

perſonal ſecurity whatever." Would it not have been proper to have raiſed the legal intereſt of money to *ſix per cent.* by a new act of parliament, the moment that money roſe to the value of more than five per cent. and conſequently that government itſelf was obliged to give more, and, in fact, to violate its own ſtatute law?

However, the premium, or profit, upon the whole, to the ſubſcribers, will be more or leſs, according to the value of the ſeveral articles, which varies almoſt every day; and few of the ſubſcribers keep their whole ſubſcription undivided; therefore as each article is ſaleable apart, there is always a ſufficient quantity of each in the market, as ſoon as the receipts are out (which is generally after the ſecond payment) and happens moſt commonly in April: the receipts for the three and four per cent. annuities are called by the brokers, Scrip. and Light-Horſe; that is, they are convenient troops, that do not

coſt much to maintain; and may be diſbanded with much greater eaſe than the Heavy Horſe.

The conveniency of Light-Horſe, or Scrip. is this; that in the month of April, for inſtance, juſt after the ſecond payment, a perſon may buy a receipt for 150l. three per cent. Scrip. for twelve pounds, the method of reckoning which is thus; ſuppoſe the current price fifty-eight per cent. this is forty-two per cent. below par; and as the purchaſer buys the three per cent. Scrip. by itſelf, without the other douceurs that accompanied it, he muſt be allowed the diſcount, viz. thirteen per cent. which will be the difference between the actual value at market of his receipt for 150l. three per cent. Scrip. and 100l. which muſt be paid for it finally, and the purchaſer muſt deduct this from the payments that have already been made upon it by the ſeller, having no other means of recovering it.

Therefore the method of making out a bill for a receipt for 150l. three per cent. Scrip. 1781, after the ſecond payment, would be thus:

A. ſells to B. 150l. three per cent. Scrip. at 58 per cent. on which he has made two payments of 15l. and 10l. per cent. N. B. According to the ſcheme a 150l. ſhare is given for 100l.	£ 25
B. not being poſſeſſed of the 25l. 4 per cents. nor the proportion of the lottery tickets, which are the douceurs, and yet being obliged to make the future payments up to 100l. for the 150l. 3 per cents. he muſt deduct from the payments already made by A. the difference between the ready money value of his 150l. receipt, (which we have ſeen by the ſcheme is only 87l.) and 100l. money, which will finally be paid upon it, this deduction therefore will be	£ 13 0 0
Balance	£ 12 0 0

From this ſtate of the caſe it appears that B. gets poſſeſſion of 150l. three per cent. Scrip. for twelve pounds, which he may therefore juſtly call Light-Horſe; and the great profit of Scrip. bought on theſe eaſy terms, is, that if a little riſe happens, you make the ſame advantage of one, two, or three per cent. on the nominal ſum, as if you had actually paid in the whole; and can likewiſe find more purchaſers for your receipts; for no man, who buys with a view of ſelling again, when a favourable opportunity happens, will chuſe to give 87l. (which is the value when all is paid in) for that which he can buy for twelve pounds.

It is eaſy to conceive what a vaſt field is opened by this means for jobbing, as a man poſſeſſed of 120l. in caſh might purchaſe 1500l. of Scrip. after the ſecond payment; and if he could not ſell it again to advantage before the next payment came on, he might put it out to nurſe, that is, depoſit it in the hands of ſome monied man, who, for a

proper conſideration, would pay in upon it, and keep it as his ſecurity, till the proprietor had an opportunity of ſelling it to advantage;* which he would do ſooner or later, if he had any ſkill in—private letters from Oſtend, America, or the Indies.

This part of jobbing is, however, the leaſt to be found fault with of any, becauſe every man has an undoubted right to buy and ſell as often as he thinks proper; but then it may reaſonably be ſuppoſed, that the great advantages ariſing to the brokers from the annual circulation of Scrip. and the opportunity every man has of ſporting in the Alley with ſmall ſums, has co-operated to obſtruct the carrying into execution many better ſchemes

* The loan for 1783 ſo overloaded the market, that private bankers refuſed to receive it; but at length, the Bank took compaſſion on the holders of Scrip. and made the three laſt payments for them, at the ſame time allowing them till January, 1784, to redeem it.

for raiſing the ſupplies; becauſe, from the nature of them, they would have been open to the public, and could not have paſſed through the hands of the brokers, nor their adherents. The year 1756, or 1757, I think, furniſhed us with an inſtance of this kind, when a ſcheme for raiſing the ſupplies on a new plan, admirably calculated to prevent the increaſe of the national debt, and as advantageous to the public as any that has ſince been accepted, lay at the Bank for ſeveral days unfilled; and was obliged to be laid aſide, though it was drawn up by that able financier, and truly great man, the late Mr. Legge, at that time chancellor of the Exchequer; and for no other reaſon that ever I could find, but becauſe the brokers univerſally cried it down, and adviſed all their clients to have nothing to do with it; for this obvious motive, that the whole tranſaction was to be betwixt the people and the government; and theſe

gentlemen could reap little or no profit from it.

Lottery-tickets are likewiſe divided into Light and Heavy Horſe; the former of which anſwering the ſame purpoſes as Scrip. it is needleſs to ſay any thing farther on this head.

Omnium is the whole ſubſcription undivided; and is known in the Alley by the name of *Omnium Gatherum*, a cant phraſe for all together.

Whoever conſiders with attention what amazing ſums the government of Great Britain has been enabled to raiſe in the eaſy manner juſt deſcribed, will find that, independent of the miſchiefs ariſing from ſtock-jobbing, the ſtupendous fabric of public credit, built on that ſolid foundation, the inviolable faith of parliament, has accompliſhed the greateſt events for the glory, welfare, and preſervation of theſe realms: it has ſupplied to us the want of gold and ſilver mines, and of amaſſed treaſures, which were the re-

ſources of ancient ſtates and empires in time of war: by the ſtrength of public credit, money has been raiſed for the extraordinary expences of the ſtate, at the moſt critical junctures, and under the moſt trying circumſtances, with greater expedition than it could have been coined in other countries; and all the unemployed money of Europe has been lent to this country, becauſe the intereſt, or annual annuity agreed on, has always been punctually paid, while at the ſame time the market has been kept open, by which means all proprietors of any of the funds have conſtantly an opportunity of recovering their principal whenever they are diſpoſed to withdraw it, by transferring their property to new purchaſers; ſometimes indeed with a ſmall loſs, but oftener with gain.

Poſterity will hardly believe, that ten or twelve ſubjects of Great Britain ſhould be able to engage in a loan to government

of ſeventeen millions ſterling; and that their credit was ſo entirely to be depended on, that on the bare ſubſcribing of their names, and making a ſmall depoſit, adminiſtration ſhould with confidence engage in the moſt extenſive operations of war, and ſend forth fleets and armies with the ſame alacrity and expedition, as if the whole ſeventeen millions were actually depoſited in ſpecie, in the office of the Exchequer. In a word, this extent of our national credit is a ſtanding miracle in politics, which at once aſtoniſhes, and over-awes the ſtates of Europe.

CHAPTER V.

Of India bonds.—Form of making out bills for ſelling of them.—Account of Navy and Victualling bills, and of Exchequer bills.—Directions how to avoid the loſſes that frequently happen from the deſtruction of Bank notes, India bonds, and other public ſecurities for money—by fire, and other accidents.

INDIA bonds are the moſt convenient and profitable ſecurity any perſon can be poſſeſſed of, who has a quantity of caſh unemployed, but which he knows not how ſoon he may have occaſion for; the utility and advantage of theſe bonds is ſo well known to the merchants and traders of the city of London, that it is wholly unneceſſary to enlarge upon the ſubject. There is as little trouble with an India bond, as with a Bank-note: it is not indeed current in the common courſe of buſineſs, but may always be ſold in office-hours, at any of the public offices, as well as at

the Stock-Exchange; and the method of making out the bill is this—Take a quarter of a ſheet of paper, and write,

Sold to Sir Friendly Wilſon, May 12th, 1781.

	l.	s.	d.
One India Bond (B. 207)	100	0	0
Intereſt 2 months 17 days	0	13	0
Premium	0	10	0
£.	101	3	0

Under this write a common receipt.

When you want to buy, you have no farther trouble than to agree on the price, for the ſeller is to make out the bill.

Theſe bonds are uſually for 100l. each; and the ſeller receives the intereſt of the purchaſer up to the day he ſells; they carry at preſent four per cent.

Navy and Victualling bills are delivered from the Navy and Victualling offices, to ſuch perſons as contract with them for ſundry proviſions and ſtores for the ſervice of our fleets: while they are in circulation they conſtitute part of the Navy debt. They bear no intereſt till ſix months after

date, and then the intereſt is not paid at ſtated periods, like the intereſt on the funds, but it accumulates, and is paid only when the bill itſelf is paid off. After the firſt ſix months they bear four per cent. intereſt. It was originally the practice to pay theſe bills off before any intereſt was due upon them, and as it was thought reaſonable that the contractors with the Navy and Victualling offices ſhould give ſix months credit, the annexed condition of four per cent. was only a proviſion againſt any incidental deficiency or embarraſſment in the public revenue, which might prevent their being paid off within the firſt ſix months. In proceſs of time, they were left unpaid upwards of a year; and during the late war, they remained unpaid upwards of three years after date. They are made out for various, and moſt commonly for large ſums, and the poſſeſſors of them being often in want of money, bring them to market. According to the preſent value of money, which may be reckoned

above five per cent. the diſcount ſhould be only 2½ per cent. to be allowed in the lieu of intereſt for the firſt ſix months. But ſo unwilling are the monied people to lock up large ſums of money for an uncertain time, and indeed ſo few men are to be found at this time, who have large ſums unemployed, that the diſcount on Navy and Victualling bills has been lately from fifteen to eighteen per cent. a moſt enormous profit!—eſpecially as, in the courſe of the preſent year, no leſs than 6,600,000l. of theſe bills iſſued in the years 1781 and 1782, are to be converted into a new fund transferrable at the Bank of England, and bearing five per cent. annual intereſt. After which there will ſtill remain bills in circulation for 6,600,000l. till ſome future meaſure is taken to pay them off, or fund them.

They are dangerous things to loſe, on account of the blank aſſignment; and not being a general commodity, becauſe they are moſtly for large ſums, they are con-

fined to a few hands; and to the public in general, for whoſe ſervice I write, they are, upon the whole, not the moſt eligible commodity; though to particular people, who can afford to lie out of their money ſome time, and have large ſums to ſpare for this purpoſe, they are ſo very advantageous.

There are likewiſe *non*-intereſt Victualling bills, iſſued by the Victualling office only, for balances due to purſers of ſhips. Theſe gentlemen to be ſure carry on a very profitable trade; a purſer's place of a 74 gun ſhip being worth 5 or 600l. per annum, beſides prize-money; but what they refund to the diſcounters of bills bearing no intereſt, ſeldom tranſpires.

Government labours under great diſadvantages from ſuffering Navy bills to remain unpaid till intereſt becomes due, for the contractors take care to allow themſelves the diſcount they will be likely to pay, in their charges on the articles furniſhed; ſo that when Navy and Victualling bills are at 14 per cent. diſcount,

the contractor gives only the value of 86l. in ſtores, proviſions, &c. for 100l. and thus if the bill is not paid in leſs than 18 months, government pays 18 per cent. diſcount and intereſt.

Exchequer bills are drawn by authority of parliament, and the following is the form of one, now before me, iſſued in 1780.

"This bill entitles *the bearer* to one hundred pounds, with intereſt at *three pence* by the day for the ſame, payable out of the firſt aid to be granted for the year 1781: and if no ſuch aid ſhould be granted before the 5th day of July, 1781, then out of the ſinking fund. But this bill is not to be current or paſs in any of the public revenues, aids, taxes, or ſupplies whatever, or at the receipt of the Exchequer, before the 5th day of April, 1781."

Navy bills are frequently paid off in part by Exchequer bills, and theſe generally bear a premium, ſo that the holders of Navy bills prefer this mode of payment to caſh.

The ſmall amount of Exchequer bills, formerly iſſued, occaſioned them to be confined in few hands, but of late years, two and three millions being iſſued yearly, and regularly paid off out of the aids of the enſuing year, they are become very current at market, and are more eligible than India bonds; being a parliamentary ſecurity, and as readily turned into money upon any ſudden emergency.

I ſhall here ſubjoin a few directions how to avoid the frequent loſſes that are ſuſtained by the deſtruction of Bank notes, India bonds, &c. which, however ſimple they may be, will be found not the leſs uſeful, and may not have entered into the heads of thoſe who ſtand moſt in need of them.

A great many people have iron cheſts, and a ſort of iron caves placed in brick-work, in their cellars; theſe, no doubt, are very ſecure: but there are numbers who are not ſituated in places where theſe conveniences are to be had, and if they are,

perhaps cannot afford them: yet they have often, in the courſe of buſineſs, Bank notes, India bonds, and other ſecurities, the loſs of which may be more fatal to them than to the rich, who have theſe means of ſecurity: theſe therefore I adviſe to take the numbers, and principal contents, of all public ſecurities for money, in a ſmall memorandum, or pocket-book, to be kept always about them; ſo that if they eſcape from a fire with only their cloaths, they may be able to ſwear to, and recover, their property. What makes me the more particular in giving this direction, is, that I have obſerved ſeveral tradeſmen, when they go out of town, lock up their notes, and the books in which they are entered, in the ſame compting-houſe, and ſometimes in the ſame deſk; than which nothing can be more abſurd: for, even when at home, it is much better to have ſuch a memorandum about you, as you have thereby the leſs to think of, and the leſs hazard to run, in caſe of fire. I think

this hint might in many caſes be extended to an abſtract of debts; but this I ſubmit to better judgments, as not knowing whether ſuch an abſtract would be valid in a court of equity.

But at all events, it ſhould be followed, with reſpect to every ſpecies of paper ſecurity, payable to bearer; for, independent of the accident of fire, if a note, bill, or bond is loſt, you have no means of recovering it, if you have not a memorandum by you, kept apart from the ſecurity, enabling you to trace it, and to give notice at the proper offices, that the perſon who offers it for payment may be detained, till you arrive to examine him how he came by it. For, as to ſtopping payment, that is a deception, though daily advertiſed; bills payable to the bearer muſt be honoured.

The following example may be of uſe in illuſtration of this ſubject. A highwayman robbed the mail ſome years ſince on the Weſtern road. He afterwards came to London, hired a poſt-chaiſe, travelled

in the character of a gentleman, took a freſh chaiſe at every poſt-houſe, and changed a ſmall bank note (taken out of the mail) at almoſt every inn, and in this manner returned to town by the Eaſtern road; he was apprehended, tried, convicted, and executed. In the mean time, many of the notes were tendered at the Bank for payment, and the owners having given in the numbers and value, payment was refuſed, till the point of property was tried, and it was determined in the court of King's bench, before Lord Mansfield, that the Bank muſt pay the bearer, otherwiſe the free circulation of their notes as caſh would be ſtopt. The loſs ſuſtained by the owners in this caſe was recoverable only from the General Poſt-office; and this could not be effected, without a ſeparate account having been kept of the number and value of the notes.

However, with reſpect to Bank notes ſent from the country to London by the poſt, there are other precautions uſually

taken—viz. cutting the notes in half, and ſending one part by one poſt, and the other by the next. Alſo endorſing on a whole note, theſe words—" Sent per poſt,——day of —— to Mr. ——, Merchant in London;" which endorſement would prevent any honeſt perſon giving caſh for them, if they were ſtolen out of the mail. And perſons remitting from London to the country, or travelling, ſhould make uſe of Bank Poſt bills, which are made out to the owner or order, inſtead of the bearer, and being payable only a certain number of days after ſight, (generally ſeven,) muſt be carried to the proper office in the Bank for acceptance, which gives time to the owner if he has been robbed, or has loſt a Bank Poſt bill, to ſtop acceptance and recover his property. Another advantage is, that being made to order, it cannot be circulated without the owner's endorſement, which he ſhould not put till he wants to convert it to caſh.

CHAPTER VI.

Of the Origin and Progreſs of Public Credit in England—The Origin of Banking—Eſtabliſhment of the Bank of England—Of Bankers—Of the Aggregate Fund—And of the Sinking Fund.

HAVING had occaſion to mention the great advantages ariſing to this kingdom from the flouriſhing ſtate of its public credit, in time of war, (p. 41) it has been thought neceſſary by ſome gentlemen, who have peruſed my treatiſe on the Elements of COMMERCE, POLITICS, and FINANCES,* that I ſhould borrow from that work, a more ample explanation of a ſubject ſo cloſely connected with banking and the ſinking fund; and as it has

* In one volume 4to, printed for R. Baldwin, in Pater-Noſter-Row.

been my conſtant practice, from the publication of the firſt edition of "Every Man his own Broker," to pay attention to every improvement ſuggeſted by its Readers, I ſhall make no apology for introducing into this chapter, the following extracts from my other work; nor for annexing a ſupplement, highly intereſting to every ſtockholder, from that part of my Elements of FINANCES, which treats of the ſyſtem of ſtock-jobbing.

"I ſhall be very conciſe in my defini-
"tion of Public Credit, becauſe, I ima-
"gine, the ſubject is pretty well underſtood
"in this kingdom, where ſo many perſons
"are concerned in its extenſive operations.

"PUBLIC CREDIT, as it reſpects money
"tranſactions, and particularly the ſyſtem
"of Finances, or the adminiſtration of
"the revenues of kingdoms, means no
"more, than that mutual confidence be-
"tween government and the people, which
"enables the former to obtain, by diſ-
"poſing the latter to contribute, very large

" portions of their perſonal eſtates, to ſup-
" ply the exigencies of the ſtate, on great
" emergencies; upon the ſtrength of obli-
" gations contracted and promiſed to be
" punctually performed on the part of
" government, at ſtated future periods of
" time.

" Our enquiries concerning the means
" by which Public Credit, thus defined,
" has been eſtabliſhed in this kingdom,
" leads us directly to the ſubject of
" banking, to which Public Credit in all
" countries owes its origin, and we muſt
" now conſider them as blended, or rather
" united by the following principle.

" Whatever is eſtabliſhed by the autho-
" rity, and common conſent of a nation,
" to be the medium of their mutual ex-
" changes with each other, is properly the
" money of that nation. It may, therefore,
" conſiſt of gold, ſilver, and copper coin;
" or of paper; as Bills of Exchange, pro-
" miſſory notes, bonds, and other ſecu-
" rities for ſpecie; all of them anſwering

" one and the ſame purpoſe: GENERAL
" CIRCULATION.

" On this principle, banks of circula-
" tion were formed; being an improve-
" ment on banks for mere depoſit.

" And on the good faith of banks of
" circulation, together with a political ap-
" plication of the principle, and of the
" advantages ariſing from it, was planned
" the ſyſtem of borrowing money on pub-
" lic, or national credit, in England.
" The faith of parliament having the ſame
" effect as the inviolate credit of banks;
" and being ſubſtituted in the place; that
" is to ſay, to ſupply the defect of amaſſed
" treaſures, or of the mines of the precious
" metals.

" The general definition of a bank,
" means no more than a public repoſi-
" tory for money, to be refunded on
" demand.

" But banks on this limited ſcheme not
" being generally uſeful to commerce,
" improvements were made on this idea of

" depoſiting money in banks, at firſt only
" intended for the convenience and ſecu-
" rity of private perſons: and the Italian
" banks very early opened a circulation of
" ſpecie, by diſcounting and negociating
" bills of exchange, and by purchaſing
" or lending money on bullion, plate,
" jewels, and other valuable effects. For
" the knowledge of this profitable traffic
" they were indebted to the Jews, ſettled
" in Lombardy, who, partly for their own
" convenience, and partly on the principle
" of gain, aſſiſted in the eſtabliſhment of
" banks of circulation. In proceſs of time,
" theſe banks acquired additional ſtrength
" and new profits, by means of their credit,
" which enabled them to make their notes
" the medium of their exchanges, and to
" iſſue them in payment of demands on
" them, in the room of caſh.

" In our dictionaries of commerce, you
" may find an ample detail of the conſtruc-
" tion of all the banks of Europe. My
" ſubject requires an attention only to two:
" the bank of Amſterdam, and the bank

" of England; the firſt having furniſhed
" the outlines of, and the laſt ſupported
" the ſtructure of public credit, and of
" paper-money, in this country.

" The bank of Amſterdam was founded
" at the beginning of the laſt century; the
" republic of Holland having already
" viewed, with a wiſhful eye, the national
" advantages ariſing to the ſtates of Venice
" from their bank. They, therefore,
" took the advantage of favourable cir-
" cumſtances—peace, commercial proſpe-
" rity, and a redundancy of caſh—to form
" a bank, which was at once to be a repo-
" ſitory for money, and to ſupply its place
" in commercial tranſactions: for by an
" ordinance, at the time of its eſtabliſh-
" ment, the payment of bills of exchange,
" and of merchandize purchaſed in whole-
" ſale quantities, muſt be made only in
" aſſignments on the bank, which cannot
" be refuſed; and thus millions are cir-
" culated in a day, without the interven-
" tion of the precious metals, by ſimple

" transfers, or aſſignments on the bank.
" But for the convenience of ſtrangers and
" of retailers, there are a ſet of caſhiers,
" out of the bank, who are always ready
" to iſſue caſh for bank aſſignments; and
" no ſum is taken in at the bank, from
" private perſons, under three hundred
" florins, about thirty pounds ſterling:
" by theſe means, there is always ſpecie
" enough current for the purpoſes of com-
" mon, domeſtic circulation. And though
" this famous bank does not avail itſelf of
" iſſuing notes of credit, yet its reputation,
" through the facility of its transfers, and
" the prevailing notion of its vaſt trea-
" ſures, real or imaginary, was carried to
" ſuch a height, that it ſurpaſſed all other
" banks in Europe, till that of England
" began to flouriſh; and, on account of
" its improvement of the Amſterdam plan,
" gained the preference.

" William III. eſtabliſhed the bank of
" England, upon ſome of the outlines of
" that of Amſterdam, with theſe material

" improvements. No persons are con-
" strained to pay, or to receive payment in
" bank notes; the matter is left open,
" free, and optionable, agreeable to the
" genius of the British nation.

" The original proprietors, or subscri-
" bers to the fund which formed the ca-
" pital of the bank of England, had four
" per cent. annual interest, from the time
" of making the deposit; nor was the
" whole principal sum ever called for, I
" believe only eighty-five per cent. Thus
" they have enjoyed *four* per cent. on a
" nominal 100l. share; this has likewise
" risen, by the profits of the company, to
" *five and a half* per cent. besides which,
" their original nominal 100l. share, has
" risen to be worth 160l. and sometimes
" more: whereas the contributors to the
" foundation of the bank of Amsterdam,
" have never received any other profit, but
" that of the rise and fall of the *agio*, on buy-
" ing and selling, which varies from *three* to
" *six* per cent. I speak of the public:

"what the ſtates, or the directors may "gain, is as great a ſecret as the treaſures "of this bank; eſtimated by ſome writers "at twenty-eight million ſterling, in gold "and ſilver bars, and ſpecie. But Sir "William Temple, a very diſcerning wri-"ter, obſerves, that there is no forming "an adequate notion of its real riches; "for though they ſhew a great quantity of "ingots of gold and ſilver, in a large "vault under the town-houſe, yet the "ſacks ſtanding by them, and ſaid to con-"tain coin, may, or may not, as they are "never inſpected but by the burgomaſters. "It is moſt likely, the greateſt part of "their treaſure is ideal; and that King "William was in the ſecret, ſince he ſo "readily purſued the ſame principles of "public credit in England.

"In every reputable bank, whoſe notes "on demand enter into circulation, the "ſame as ſpecie, one third of the amount "of their paper-credit will always be a

" ſufficiency of coin to keep their caſh
" payments regular; and ſo long as money
" can be inſtantly had for their notes,
" theſe will always have the preference,
" on account of the facility of tranſport,
" and to avoid the time and trouble of
" tale, in large ſums.

" But King William extended the Dutch
" plan, by conſtituting annuities determi-
" nate and perpetual, as a conſideration
" for capital ſums borrowed; and theſe
" were made transferable on the very
" principle of the transfers of the bank
" at Amſterdam.

" This is the true origin of the funding
" ſcheme; and the hiſtory of the genera-
" tion of brokers, bears the ſame date. It
" is likewiſe remarkable, that their com-
" miſſion for buying and ſelling is an *eighth*
" per cent. exactly the ſame as is taken by
" the agents of the bank aſſignments at
" Amſterdam. But the misfortune attend-
" ing the funding ſyſtem at the Revolu-
" tion, was, that want of affection, a dif-

" fidence of government, and the fear of
" another Revolution, prevented King
" William from profiting by the plenty of
" money then unemployed in the nation,
" and obliged him to tender very high
" intereſt, which opened the door to the
" exciſes that have been entailed on us,
" from the æra of his reign."

Let us now proceed to the nature of the buſineſs of private BANKERS, which has conſiderably increaſed of late years, and the profits ariſing from it, been ſo alluring, that their number is more than doubled: indeed, if a check had not been put to their amazing increaſe, by the failures in 1772, it is probable moſt of the monied men in the kingdom would have turned bankers.

The art or myſtery of private banking was brought over to England by foreigners; ſome authors aſſert, by Italians.—The common buſineſs of theſe bankers was, the exchange of bills for money, whether thoſe bills were inland, or foreign; which

exchange, in caſe the bills were inland, was then and is ſtill termed, diſcounting of bills. But when the bills are foreign, they are called bills of exchange; becauſe they are current in trade, and as good as caſh; allowing only the common courſe of exchange betwixt the value of ſpecie in the different countries, where the drawer, and the perſon drawn upon reſide; and bankers being ſuppoſed to have a general correſpondence in the commercial world, bills of exchange paſſing from one nation to another, moſt properly fall under their cognizance, as being the moſt convenient to them, who may frequently have occaſion to remit money to ſeveral foreign parts, in the place of which, they can more profitably ſubſtitute theſe bills of exchange: thus it became moſt advantageous for bankers to buy them; and this branch of trade ſtill forms a very conſiderable part of the buſineſs of ſome bankers.

Another article they formerly dealt in was, the buying and ſelling of bullion, and

of wrought gold and ſilver, which I ſuppoſe gave riſe to the uniting in one ſhop, the trade of a goldſmith and banker—for we find moſt of the eminent bankers of the laſt century were goldſmiths—By the ſtatute of the ſixth of William and Mary, the Bank of England (which is no more than a corporation of bankers) amongſt other privileges allowed them, are to deal in gold and ſilver, and may ſell goods pledged to them, if not redeemed in three months. By length of time, and the increaſe of the national debt, the Bank, as well as private bankers, have changed, or totally laid aſide many branches of their buſineſs; and the principal concerns of the Bank at preſent, are, the iſſuing of notes in exchange for ſpecie; the keeping of gentlemen and merchants caſh, which they are always ready to deliver on demand; the aiding and aſſiſting the government in receiving contributions for public ſubſcriptions; the keeping of transfer books open, as already mentioned; and the paying and

diſtributing the intereſt of the ſeveral government ſecurities. The firſt of theſe articles muſt greatly enrich the Bank as a corporation; for theſe notes are now deſervedly in the ſame repute as caſh, in moſt parts of Europe, as well as at home; and people often keep them for a long ſpace of time, ſometimes for years, without exchanging them; and even then, they often exchange them with private perſons.—Let us then ſuppoſe, that only the amount of 50,000l. of theſe notes, do not return into the Bank to be exchanged for ſpecie, in leſs than ſix months after they are iſſued, the Bank, in this interim, may make a very conſiderable advantage of the caſh originally paid in for theſe notes, and this forms a part of their profits; to which muſt be added, diſcounting of bills, by which the Bank of England renders the moſt eſſential ſervice to the merchants and reputable tradeſmen of London, and, through their means, to the commercial intereſt of the whole kingdom.

Conſiderable gains likewiſe ariſe from caſh left in their hands on open accounts; and from the ſums allowed by government for the direction and management of the public funds, and occaſional loans to the government.

It is not, however, my deſign to make any calculation of theſe profits, which they merit, were they ever ſo great; for I think I may venture to ſay (without being charged with partiality as an Engliſhman) that the Bank of England is the beſt bank in Europe; and that no words can ſufficiently expreſs the juſt applauſe, which gratitude requires us to beſtow on the prudence, diſcernment, and integrity of its directors. My reaſon for explaining the profits ariſing from the iſſuing of notes for caſh, is only to ſhew that theſe profits have induced private people to endeavour to put their notes upon the ſame footing; ſo that one part of the buſineſs of private bankers is, to deliver out their notes for caſh; and from this ariſes part of their ſubſiſtence; for

while theſe notes remain in particular hands, or can be circulated ſo as not to return home for whole months together, the bankers enjoy the ſame privilege and profit as the Bank, in proportion to the notes they iſſue.—The ſame profits ariſe from keeping people's caſh. I have often been aſked how a banker can find his account in permitting a broker to put his money into his hands, perhaps on a Saturday afternoon, and to draw it out on the Monday morning following, ſince there is a certain expence, and loſs of time without any apparent profit? In anſwer to which, let it be obſerved, that bankers do not in general conſider the profit they gain on the account of any individual, but the gain upon the whole.—So that ſuppoſing a banker receives in any one day 60,000l. and is drawn upon only for 20,000l. the balance of caſh remaining in his hands at five in the afternoon (the time they ſhut up) is 40,000l. and a broker's 1000l. contributes, as much as a gentleman's, to the

forming this balance, which a ſkilful banker will know how to employ to advantage, if he has it only one day in his hands; but if, upon an average, a banker has 200,000l. in his hands, more than is called for, for weeks together, it is eaſy to conceive, that ſuch a man will ſoon get rich.—Another, and perhaps as conſiderable, a branch of buſineſs as any, amongſt the bankers near the Alley is, the taking in various kinds of papers in pawn.—Such as Scrip. Omnium, Long annuities, &c.—But this part of their traffic will take up too much room fully to unravel in this little work; I ſhall therefore make only one remark, which is, that it is impoſſible to diſtinguiſh which are the moſt uſeful to each other; the brokers to ſome of the bankers near the Alley, or theſe bankers to the brokers.

Of the nature of the SINKING FUND, I ſhall endeavour to give as conciſe and clear an idea as poſſible.

SUBSIDIES and TAXES of various kinds conſtitute the FUNDS, on the credit of which immenſe ſums have been borrowed, on condition that the capital ſhall not be demandable, but that a certain proportional part of the ſum ſhall be annually paid, either as intereſt for the whole, or in extinction of part of the capital: when the ſum annually paid, is no more than the intereſt agreed on for the loan of the principal ſum, it is ſtyled a perpetual annuity; when it exceeds the intereſt, and is deſigned to extinguiſh by partial payments both principal and intereſt, it is called a determinate annuity, and is granted either for life, or for a term of years.

All ſums of money that have at any time been raiſed by authority of parliament for the public ſervice, are to be conſidered as national debts contracted on the credit of ſome certain tax; various intereſts for which debts are annually paying to the public; and will continue to be ſo paid, till the ſaid debts are redeemed,

or paid off, by the ſame authority by which they were contracted: and to ſecure the payment of the ſaid intereſt, the moneys ariſing from ſeveral duties, and cuſtoms payable into the king's Exchequer, have been from time to time appropriated: thus we find in the reigns of King William, Queen Anne, and George I. the duties on coffee, malt, &c. &c. appropriated to the payment of life annuities, annuities eertain, and annuities ariſing from lottery tickets.

The funding ſcheme commenced ſoon after the Revolution, and has hitherto anſwered the purpoſe for which it was commenced; the providing for the exigencies of the ſtate in time of war, without the leaſt impeachment or diminution of its credit; by ſupplying the place of amaſſed treaſures, which were the reſources of former times, for the extraordinary emergencies of great nations.

Experience has ſhewn that taxes prudently laid on ſuch articles as could well

ſupport the weight of them have produced conſiderable ſurpluſſes; that is to ſay, they have become more than the abſolute ſecurity engaged for, and have thereby induced foreigners, as well as natives, to advance their money on ſo ſafe a footing.

Theſe taxes, thus made a ſecurity to the public for the loan of money, have always been deemed equal, if not ſuperior, to mortgages on land; and may therefore, in this ſenſe, with the greateſt propriety, be called funds.

In our ſtatutes, ſince the Revolution, various funds are ſpecified; ſuch as the Eaſt-India, South-Sea, Aggregate or General Fund, and the Sinking Fund. Whenever the word Fund is applied to either the Eaſt India, or South-Sea company, it means their Stock or Capital*, or ſuch duties and articles of the public revenues as are appropriated to pay the intereſt due

* The words Fund, Stock, Capital, or Principal, are generally uſed at preſent, as ſynonymous terms.

on ſuch ſtocks till redeemed by parliament.

The AGGREGATE fund, ſo called from its being a collection of many things incorporated into one maſs or body, comprehends not only the ſeveral rates and duties reſerved to pay and ſatisfy the intereſt due on the funds at the Bank, India, and South-Sea Houſe*, but all the articles of the public revenue in general, except thoſe that compoſe the king's civil liſt, which are about ſeventeen in number, conſiſting of tonage and poundage, hereditary or temporary exciſe, letter money, fines of alienation, ſeizures, confiſcations, proffers, compoſitions, &c.—But theſe civil liſt articles are, by an act of the firſt year of the reign of his preſent majeſty, made a part of the Aggregate fund; in lieu of which his majeſty upon his acceſſion was graciouſly pleaſed to accept of the ſum of 800,000l. per annum, and parliament has ſince added 100,000l. more, payable

* Vide 1 Geo. I.

quarterly, our of the ſaid Aggregate Fund, which in fact is a more certain and a better eſtabliſhment for the civil liſt than the uſual regal revenue, ariſing out of the peculiar articles above ſpecified, which never produced the ſum aſſigned for the maintenance of the dignity of the crown; and in conſequence of their deficiency, ſeveral aids, at ſundry times, were granted by parliament to his late majeſty, of ever glorious memory, to make good arrears and deficiencies due to the civil liſt account; all which trouble and confuſion will be prevented for the future, by his majeſty's accepting a certain annual ſum, inſtead of the uncertain produce of the articles formerly appropriated to the purpoſe of paying the civil liſt appointment.

Whatever ſurplus remains upon any, or upon all the rates and duties which conſtitute the public revenue, after payment of the intereſt they ſtand charged with, are carried to a ſeparate and diſtinct account,

or fund, known by the name of the Sinking Fund.

Over and above the ſurpluſſes that have been carried to the Sinking Fund, great acceſſion was made to this fund by the reduction of intereſt*, on the capital ſum of £57,703,275 : 6 : 4½, which reduction produces annually, a ſaving to the nation of £577,032.

All the ſavings and ſurpluſſes were to be reſerved and kept moſt ſacredly, for the valuable purpoſe only of reducing, leſſening, ſinking (from whence the fund had its name), and paying off gradually the national debt. The firſt act, which relates to the application of theſe ſurpluſſes, is, George I. anno 1716, at the end of which is this remarkable clauſe, which I inſert here becauſe it is in reality the original or inſtitution of the Sinking Fund.

" All the monies to ariſe, from time to " time, as well of the exceſs or ſurplus of

* Vide 23 Geo. II.

"an act made this ſeſſion for redeeming "the funds of the Bank of England; and "of the exceſs or ſurplus by virtue of one "other act, made likewiſe this ſeſſion, for "redeeming the funds of the South-Sea "company; as alſo of the exceſs or ſur-"plus of the duties and revenues by this "act appropriated as aforeſaid, and the "overplus monies of the ſaid general "yearly fund by this act eſtabliſhed, ſhall "be appropriated to the diſcharging the "principal and intereſt of ſuch national "debts as were incurred before the 25th "of December, 1716, and are declared "to be national debts, and are provided "for by parliament in ſuch manner as ſhall "be directed by any future act or acts of "parliament, to be diſcharged therewith, "or out of the ſame, and to or for none "other uſe, intent, or purpoſe what-"ſoever."

Theſe ſurpluſſes of the general fund referred to in this act are, in all ſubſequent acts, called the Sinking Fund.

In consequence of these acts only three millions of the national debt were paid off during the long and peaceable administration of Sir Robert Walpole; and in process of time, this well-intentioned clause of the act just recited was evaded; and, in a word, made of no effect by subsequent acts, particularly 3 George II. £1,100,000 was granted out of the Sinking fund for the service of the year 1729; and again 9 George II. £1,000,000 was granted for the service of the year 1735; by which act, says the ingenious compiler of the history of our national debts, "the "Sinking Fund was not only diverted (from "the original purport of its institution) "but it was even anticipated; for it was "enacted, That before Lady-day, 1736, a "million should be issued out of the same "for the current service, and the growing "produce, after that time, mortgaged "for raising what should be wanting to "complete that sum, by loans at four per "cent." But in order to save appearances,

whenever any ſum was iſſued out of this ſacred Sinking Fund, it was to be replaced out of the next ſupplies. This iſſuing and replacing was the general practice, till the neceſſities of the ſtate growing more and more urgent, the parliament granted his late majeſty ſeveral ſums out of the ſaid fund, and ſometimes enabled him to borrow a certain ſum or ſums upon the credit of it; and in the late war, money was not only borrowed out of it, but the ſurplus was likewiſe made a collateral ſecurity to anſwer and ſupply all deficiencies of the taxes raiſed for the payment of the intereſt due on the national debt.

And this continues to be the practice in time of war, for we had an inſtance ſo late as the year 1781, of the ſum of 190,000l. (gained by the reduction of 18,986,300l. old conſolidated 4 per cent. annuities to 3 per cent. purſuant to the original agreement,) having been applied to the ſervice of that year.

Thus have I given a ſhort account of the nature, eſtabliſhment, and encroachments made on the Sinking Fund; and I hope what I have wrote on this head will ſerve to gratify curioſity, the only point I had in view; for the ſubject does not appear to me of much importance to the public in general, whoſe principal concern is, that the payment of the intereſt of the money borrowed of them is regular, and at the ſame time well ſecured; and that it is ſo, I hope no Engliſhman will doubt, who attentively conſiders the flouriſhing ſtate of our manufactures and commerce, the true ſource of wealth; and which, while it continues to flow through ſo many channels, from the moſt diſtant regions of the habitable world, will furniſh us with reſources for the payment of the intereſt of a much larger ſum; if it were neceſſary to raiſe it, than the whole of the preſent national debts; the amount of which, however, is ſo amazing, and ſo un-

exampled in the hiſtory of the finances of any nation, ancient or modern, that it ought to find a place in this treatiſe, as it will ſerve, not only as a monument of the powerful credit of the Britiſh government, but will likewiſe account for the numerous taxes impoſed on the preſent inhabitants of Great Britain, which were unknown to their progenitors.

CHAPTER VII.

State of the National Debt, Principal and annual Intereſt—with Remarks.

THE Commiſſioners appointed by the houſe of Commons to examine, take, and ſtate, the public accounts of the kingdom, have pointed out and ſtrongly recommended the neceſſity of making every ſubject in the kingdom well acquainted with the general ſtate of the public accounts: on the ſtrength of ſuch powerful authority, I have judged it ex-

pedient to introduce in this place, a new, ſeparate chapter upon this important ſubject. And that it may appear ſtill more ſatisfactory to the reader, it muſt be remarked, that for ſome years before the ſitting of the Committee, Lord North, for reaſons beſt known to himſelf, had put a ſtop to the annual publications of the ſtate of the national debt, which uſed to appear in our news-papers, by enjoining the clerks in office not to iſſue copies of any public accounts: thus none but members of parliament knew the general ſtate of the public finances. The reports of the committee are likewiſe voluminous and expenſive, which was another inducement to inſert ſuch abſtracts from them, as might enrich my little tract without any additional expence.

The Commiſſioners, in their *Eleventh Report*, obſerve, that the national debt is ſwelled to a magnitude that requires the united efforts of the ableſt heads and pureſt hearts, to ſuggeſt the proper and

effectual means of reduction. The nation, they add, " calls for the aid of all its members to co-operate with government, and to combine in carrying into execution ſuch meaſures as ſhall be adopted for the attainment of ſo indiſpenſible an end: this aid the ſubject is bound to give to the ſtate, by every other obligation, as well as by the duty he owes his country; and, with ſuch general aid, the difficulties, great as they appear, will, we truſt, be found not inſurmountable.

" A plan muſt be formed for the reduction of this debt, and that without delay; now in the favourable moments of peace. The evil does not admit of procraſtination, palliatives, or expedients; it preſſes on, and muſt be met with force and firmneſs. The right of the public creditor to his debt muſt be preſerved inviolate; his ſecurity reſts upon the ſolid foundation, never to be ſhaken, of parliamentary, national faith.—What can be

done—the ſupport of public credit, the preſervation of national honour, and the juſtice due to the public creditor, demand ſhould be done—it muſt be done, or ſerious conſequences will enſue. The ſubjects of this kingdom are opulent, generous, and public ſpirited; let the diſtreſſes of their country be fairly laid before them,—and they will contribute chearfully and liberally to her relief."

In compliance with their advice, we will now proceed to lay theſe diſtreſſes before the public; but we confeſs without any hopes that the opulent ſubjects will contribute liberally to her relief. The miniſtry continue purſuing wrong plans, by laying taxes which fall not with proportional weight on the opulent ſubjects, whoſe opulence muſt be conſiderably reduced, if we expect to make any capital reduction in the national debt, before the operations of another war interrupt any ſyſtem of reduction, and raiſe the annual intereſt (the only thing to be feared)

above the poſſibility of being regularly paid by the miſerable ſchemes of taxation now purſuing.

The principal ſums owing to the public creditors of the nation, and uſually known by the name of THE NATIONAL DEBT, are very properly divided into *three* claſſes. The redeemable, and irredeemable *funded* debt, and the *unfunded* debt.

The redeemable debt conſiſts of ſuch principal ſums, as the legiſlature, according to the conditions ſpecified in the ſeveral acts of parliament by which they were created, may redeem or cancel, without the conſent of the proprietors of them, upon payment of the ſaid principal ſums and all intereſt due thereon. The irredeemable debt conſiſts of certain annual ſums granted for a fixed number of years, which cannot be redeemed without the conſent of the proprietors.

An example of each will explain the ſubject more clearly. The whole, or any

part of the 3 per cent. consolidated annuities, may be redeemed or cancelled by paying off any given principal sum, together with the interest due thereon at the time of making such payment. But neither the Exchequer annuities granted for lives, with benefit of survivorship, nor the annuities payable at the Bank for a term of years, can be redeemed, unless it be by commutation, in paying a certain principal sum, with the consent of the owners, in lieu of the annual annuities for lives, or for a number of years.

Both these classes of debts are called *funded* debts, because they have been carried to public accounts kept in books for that purpose, are transferable, and have had funds appropriated by parliament for the payment of all the annuities annually growing due upon them, and from which they are regularly paid, in half-yearly payments.

The third claſs, being the unfunded debt, conſiſts of a variety of demands upon government remaining undiſcharged, but for which certain ſecurities have been given by adminiſtration, till proviſions ſhould be made by parliament either to pay them or to paſs them to account in ſome old, or new created *fund*. They are debts uſually contracted in time of war, for proviſions, ammunition, and ſtores furniſhed to our fleets, armies, and garriſons; and the ſecurities given to the contractors are known by the names of Navy and Victualling bills, Ordnance debentures, and Exchequer bills, which are iſſued by authority of parliament, and thrown into circulation annually, till paid off, form another branch of the unfunded debt.

The redeemable *funded* debt at preſent amounts to 226,963,254l. 15s. 4d. $\frac{3}{4}$, and the annual intereſt to 7,242,397l. 12s. 9d.

The irredeemable *funded* debt amounts to the annual ſum of 1,309,532l. 8s. 3d.

which muſt be added to the annual intereſt of the redeemable debt; as muſt alſo the charges for the management of both, amounting to 134,291l. 13s. 1d. and the fees to the auditors of the Impreſt, which are enormous, and the fees paid at the Treaſury and other offices for auditing, paſſing, and ſigning warrants relative to the ſaid debts. The whole amounting to the ſum of 8,706,792l. 9s. 1d. to be annually drawn from the labour and induſtry of the people by various taxes. But a heavy *unfunded* debt remains to be combined or united with the above *funded* debt, ſince no other means are likely to be found of adjuſting it; and Mr. Pitt, the miniſter of the day, has already begun the operation by funding 6,600,000l. of the Navy bills, ſince the ſtatement of the public accounts in the Appendix to the Eleventh Report of the Commiſſioners, dated 4th of December, 1783; which ſum the reader will find I have placed to the account of the principal of the funded

debt, and have added the intereſt to the account of annual intereſt on the whole funded debt. The unfunded debt is ſo complex, that it cannot be accurately ſtated; the members in their ſpeeches in parliament differing materially from each other, and the Commiſſioners of Accounts varying again from the ſtate of it given into parliament by Mr. Pitt, in his *budget*, or ſtatement of the public finances for 1784. Nor is it to be wondered at, if we advert only to the aukward manner of making up the annual detail of the treaſury operations, in the budget, contrary to every rule of mercantile book-keeping, and to every rational idea; witneſs one article in Mr. Pitt's budget. Under the head of Miſcellaneous Services, we find 2,000,000l. charged as paid to the Bank of England for the like ſum borrowed of the Bank in 1781, for the renewal of their charter; and under the head of Ways and Means, the ſame ſum is placed to the credit of the account, which is to

be underſtood thus,—the Treaſury have not paid the *two millions* to the Bank in caſh, but in new Exchequer bills, therefore the ſaid ſum ſtill ſubſiſts, and makes a part of the unfunded debt; a mode of ſhifting accounts, calculated to perplex the ſoundeſt judgment. After making allowances, however, for this and other articles of *mock payment*, by the renewal of paper ſecurities, which leave the debts in their old ſtate, I find, that the *unfunded* debt amounts to 12,256,541l. 11s. 4d. ½, and the annual intereſt to 312,742l, which ſums being added reſpectively; the principal to the principal of the *funded* debt; and the intereſt to the annual intereſt of the funded debt; the total of the national debt will be found to amount to 239,219,796l. 7s. 9d. principal; and the annual intereſt, together with the charges of management and fees of offices, on the total of this debt, will amount to 9,019,534l. add to this, 5,000,000 for the peace eſtabliſhment; that is to ſay,

for the ordinary annual expences of the civil and military charges of government; and the total presents the amazing sum of upwards of *fourteen* millions to be raised yearly by taxes already imposed, and others to be levied upon the people in the course of the next session of parliament.

Under these extraordinary and unprecedented circumstances of the nation, the Commissioners of Accounts inform us, "that the resources of the country are so extensive, so various, and so productive, that a spirit of frugality, universally diffused and kept alive, cannot but be attended with the most powerful effects." They advise us, "no longer to seek for shifts and subtleties to evade the payment of those duties and taxes, which the wisdom of the legislature has deemed the most eligible, and which the necessities of the state fully justify." But this advice will never be attended to, while it is founded on false principles, that is to say, so long as the taxes are unequal,

partial, and oppreſſive, which they certainly are at preſent.

But in another part of their report, they throw out a more rational hint, and indeed the only one, that, being adopted, can ſave this country from the inevitable ruin, which muſt be the conſequence of raiſing the annual intereſt too high for the abilities of the people; an event which muſt take place, if another war ſhould break out in leſs than twenty years, and the ſame ſyſtem of finances is invariably purſued, let who will be miniſter.

" Every man *may* dedicate a portion of his income, or ſome ſhare of his affluence, according to his faculties, to this great national object—let the produce of ſuch a general exertion be wiſely directed and faithfully applied, and this DEBT, enormous as it is, will begin to melt away." Very true; and may I be permitted to add, that this nation muſt look up to the great and wealthy ſubjects for ſalvation; it cannot be effected by the

ſlow operations of appropriating *one million annually* to the reduction of *two hundred and forty millions*. Who does not ſee that one year of war, ten years hence, will ſwell the account again, beyond the ſum reduced?—No: men whoſe incomes and affluence produce from 5 to 50,000l. a year, muſt contribute *groſs ſums* according to their faculties, to enable government to buy in large portions of this debt, while it is ſo much under *par*, that there will be a ſaving to the nation of upwards of 40 *per cent*. "Let public benevolence take the lead of private intereſt—example may produce much, and muſt begin ſomewhere."—Theſe are the words of the Commiſſioners—and I conclude this chapter, by foretelling, that it muſt begin with the claſs of men juſt mentioned: even if part of the eſtates of the great landholders ſhould be ſold for the purpoſe, they will be gainers in the end, by parting with a portion, to ſave the reſidue, from that

total alienation, which is the usual consequence of general revolutions in kingdoms, whether effected by foreign conquest, or domestic anarchy.

CHAPTER VIII.

On State Lotteries.—Arguments for, and against them.—Advice to adventurers.—Exposure of illegal Schemes.

A LOTTERY is a kind of public game at hazard, which had its origin in Italy, as far back as the time of the ancient Romans, and continues in practice, in that country, in France, Holland, and England, as a mode of raising money on easy terms for the service of the state. All commercial and political writers of reputation have condemned Lotteries as impolitic, and highly detrimental to trade. Conscientious Divines, Merchants, and Tradesmen of established credit in every

age, and in every country where they have been countenanced, have publicly proteſted againſt them.

In juſtice therefore to the wiſdom and integrity of theſe men, we ſhall ſtate the principles upon which they found their objections to State Lotteries. Divines and able politicians maintain, that they uphold the ſpirit of gaming in a nation, and occaſion a general depravity of morals, by corrupting and vitiating the minds of the maſs of the people, who, allured by the falſe hope of becoming ſpeedily rich, and the example exhibited of ſome, who have occaſionally become ſo, are ſeduced from honeſt labour and induſtry, to turn adventurers; to loſe a great deal of time in watching the fate of their adventures, and thereby to become poor and indigent.

Merchants and tradeſmen ſay, that they occaſion bankruptcies and ſubordinate failures, in every commercial ſtate where they are frequent. The wholeſale tradeſman, inſtead of paying his debts in due time to

the merchant, riſks conſiderable ſums in the lottery, in hopes of gaining a capital prize, which will pay all his debts at once, and raiſe him to a ſtate of independence.

The retail ſhopkeeper finds his book debts increaſe, and his ready money cuſtomers diminiſh, becauſe ſervants, and people in the middle and lower ranks of life, carry the produce of their labour and induſtry to the lottery-offices, inſtead of expending it to purchaſe the neceſſaries and conveniencies of life. The crouds that frequent our lottery-offices a ſhort time before, and during the time of drawing the *annual* State Lotteries, demonſtrate the juſtneſs of this complaint. Girls with tattered gowns and cloaks, often without a ſhift under them; boys without coats; men, women, and children, with pallid, half-famiſhed countenances, may be ſeen in many of them every evening; to uſe their own vulgar, but expreſſive language, "flinging away good money after bad."

The corporation of London, at various periods, have petitioned the king and the parliament againſt frequent State Lotteries, and ſometimes with ſucceſs. But of late years, they have been annual, in time of war, and the alterations in the ſchemes have proceeded from bad to worſe, increaſing the means of gambling, facilitating it more and more, and thereby vitiating in a greater degree the morals of the people, beſides impoveriſhing them; and all this, without anſwering one beneficial purpoſe to government, which was not obtained by Lotteries upon the old plan.

But before we enter upon a diſcuſſion of the difference between the preſent and the former Lottery ſyſtems, it will be proper to lay before the public, all that our miniſters of the finances, from Sir Robert Walpole to Lord North, could or can advance in favour of State Lotteries.

In time of war, when the value of money riſes in proportion to the neceſſities of

the State, government by means of Lotteries are enabled to keep down the rate of intereſt, and by borrowing money at lower intereſt, than they could poſſibly obtain it, without the aſſiſtance of Lotteries, do not contract ſo large a debt, to be entailed upon poſterity for the payment of the annual intereſt of the large principal ſums raiſed every year.

If by iſſuing a ticket (for which government is paid 10l.) to a ſubſcriber of 100l. to any loan, for which ticket adventurers in the Lottery will be induced to give 14 or 15l. the miniſter obtains the loan at one half per cent. leſs, perpetual intereſt; a great ſaving to the nation is effected, for which government does not pay a ſhilling.

And as to the adventurers, it being a voluntary act, which every man has it in his option to perform or not, no injuſtice or oppreſſion can be charged upon the inſtitution of State Lotteries.

In proportion as the premium gained upon tickets, by the ſubſcribers to the loans, lowers the rate of intereſt for the principal ſum raiſed, ſo does it operate to leſſen the quantum of taxes to be impoſed on the people, for the payment of annual intereſt (perhaps in perpetuity) on the ſaid principal ſum.

The money laid out in Lotteries is taken from the purſes of foreigners as well as natives; it returns into the general circulation, and, except incidentally ſome capital prizes paſs into the hands of foreigners not reſiding in the Britiſh dominions, it remains at home.

With reſpect to the morals of the people, it is well known that the ſyſtem of policy, in the beſt regulated governments, muſt occaſionally deviate from the direct line of moral rectitude.

Finally, as to the complaint of impoveriſhing ſome people, and making others bankrupts; if the ſtate is not impoveriſhed, by the loſs of any valuable

branch of its commerce, or by the emiſſion of its ſpecie to foreign countries never to return; it matters not, in the idea of a great ſtateſman—whether Peter is poor and Paul rich, or Paul poor and Peter rich, provided both reſide in Britain, and that the money that paſſes from one to the other, is not buried under ground, but thrown into the general circulation.

Admitting the political truth of theſe propoſitions, it muſt ſtill be allowed, that State Lotteries are reſources, which ought not to be made uſe of when others more eligible can be found; and that when they are abſolutely neceſſary, thoſe plans or ſchemes ſhould be preferred, which confine this public game at hazard within the narroweſt poſſible limits, and do the leaſt injury to trade. Care ſhould likewiſe be taken that collateral games, partaking of the nature, and producing all the bad effects of thoſe *private Lotteries*, which have been ſuppreſſed by acts of parliament in every reign from the Revolution to the

preſent time, ſhould not be ſet on foot by Lottery-office keepers, upon the baſis of the State Lottery.

In defiance of law, and ſound policy, this is ſtill done clandeſtinely, and was the practice publicly till the year 1782. To expoſe the fallacy and deception of thoſe illegal games, whether denominated CHANCES or POLICIES, and to adviſe adventurers to follow the regular line of adventuring, under the ſanction and ſecurity of parliament, is the deſign of this chapter.

With this view the difference between the old Lottery ſchemes and the preſent, which with little variation has been the plan for about ten or twelve years paſt, muſt be briefly ſtated.

Upon the old plans, which prevailed from Sir Robert Walpole's adminiſtration to that of the Duke of Grafton, the tickets in the State Lotteries were iſſued at ten pounds each—and occaſionally the ſubſcription was open to the public at large—

The highest prize was 10,000l. and the lowest 20l. there were from four to six blanks to one prize, and the blanks entitled the bearers to five or six pounds stock, in three, or four per cent. Bank annuities, the value of the blanks and prizes being generally funded. The office-keepers divided the Tickets into SHARES and CHANCES. Shares entitled the bearers to the proportion they had purchased of blanks and prizes, chances to prizes only, that is to say, they had no return if the ticket was drawn a blank. The office-keepers purchased the blanks and prizes drawn, according to the value of the annuities into which they were to be funded; and this caused a continuation of other legal business, some months after the drawing was over.

The tickets according to the advantage or disadvantage of the scheme, in respect to the number of blanks to a prize, and the number of high prizes, generally sold at from 11 to 12l. before the drawing.

When the ticket ſold for 11l. and the blank was intitled to 6l. in 3 per cent. annuities, as the blank might be ſold for 5l. 10s. ready money, when 3 per cents. were at 90l. the adventurer only played at *this public game* of hazard, at the riſk of 5l. 10s. And at the higheſt calculation, when tickets were worth 13l. he never ſtaked more than 7l. 10s. for a ticket before the drawing.

But when the Duke of Grafton was the miniſter of the finances, he brought into office with him, the gaming ideas of Newmarket—all or nothing was the plan, ten thouſand pounds to a man in high life would not re-eſtabliſh his affairs—but twenty thouſand was an object.

Inſtantly the old Lottery plans were exploded—Two prizes of 20,000l. each—and four of 10,000l. (inſtead of two) with an increaſe of other capital prizes, and no return for a blank, was the new ſcheme. The tickets were iſſued as uſual to ſubſcribers to the loan for the year 1767, at ten

pounds, but they rose at market to 12l. 18s. Each adventurer of a whole ticket was then first set to gaming for 12l. 18s. (the price to which tickets rose, before the drawing) instead of 6 or 7 guineas. This first Lottery in which the whole sum paid for a ticket by the adventurer was risked, was voted by parliament on the 16th of April, 1767, and on the 16th of September following, Lord North was appointed chancellor of the Exchequer: his lordship therefore is not the father of this new plan, but he has made it his adopted child. For the very next year, the same scheme was made part of the ways and means of raising the supply. All his Lordship's Lotteries since, have followed the same outline, with some variations, which favour the holders of tickets and the Lottery-office keepers, and expand the spirit of gaming: such are the making the first drawn ticket every day for seventeen days a capital prize of 1000l. or more, which enhances the price of tickets, and encourages

persons who have drawn blanks to buy in again. But in return for this, he has established wise regulations for securing adventurers who buy shares under the regulations of the act of parliament, which obliges all lottery-office keepers to deposit the tickets they divide into shares in the Bank, and to have the said shares examined and stampt, by the proper officers there. None but the usual divisions of tickets into *Halves*, *Quarters*, *Eighths*, and *Sixteenths*, (which have been in practice upwards of fifty years) are subject to the regulations of the act of parliament.

All other subdivisions, or chances, by whatever name they may be described, are neither protected nor secured by law. They depend entirely upon the honour of the office-keeper, for there is no law to oblige him to pay the prizes, according to the promises he publishes. Besides, every person who games in a Lottery, should do it upon the principles of the smallest risk, and the greatest prospect of

gain. By purchaſing the regular ſhares of a ticket, theſe principles are obſerved; but in purchaſing unſecured, illegal chances and policies, the greateſt riſk is run, for the ſmalleſt proſpect of gain.

It is needleſs to enter into arithmetical calculations to ſhew the fallacy of all thoſe ſchemes: inſtead of perplexing the reader with them, I ſhall ſubjoin abſtracts from the act of parliament conſtituting the Lottery for the preſent year, by which it will be apparent to every common capacity, that the ſale of any other ſhares, beſides thoſe authoriſed by the ſaid act, is illegal, and of courſe, that the adventurer cannot recover his money from the office-keeper, ſhould he think proper to refuſe payment of any prize, ſmall or capital.

Sect. 39. "No perſon ſhall ſell the chance, or chances of any ticket, or any ſhare for any time leſs than the whole time of drawing from the day of ſale.

"Nor ſhall receive any ſum of money whatſoever, in conſideration for the repay-

ment of any ſum, in caſe any ticket ſhall prove fortunate, or in caſe of any chance or event relating to the drawing, either as to time, or its being fortunate. Nor ſhall publiſh propoſals for the ſame, under the penalty of 500l. one half to be paid to the perſon ſuing for the ſame, the other moiety to his majeſty."

Sect. 47. Confirms the ſame, and the ſhares into which tickets may be divided are confined by the act to Halves, Quarters, Eighths, and Sixteenths; ſuch, and ſuch only will be examined to prevent the miſtakes of office-keepers or their clerks, in making them out, and being compared with the original tickets, are ſtampt, and the tickets depoſited in the Bank for the ſecurity of adventurers purchaſing ſuch ſhares.

Sect. 56. " Office-keepers ſelling chances or ſhares not ſtampt, are ſubject to a penalty of 50l. one third to be paid to the informer, another third to the poor

of the parish, and the remainder to his majesty."

Policies or chances therefore cannot be stampt, and those who purchase them game illegally, extravagantly, and under the greatest risk of not being paid the prizes they may draw.

SUPPLEMENT.

Rules for judging of the Rise and Fall of the Prices of the public Funds, founded on rational Principles; the Result of close Application to the Subject. Taken from the Elements of Finances.

"IT is too late to waste our time in speculative enquiries, concerning the good or bad policy of naturalizing the system of public credit, now arrived to such perfection in England. Established as it is, and its national utility having been so long experienced, it is become the unquestionable duty and interest of every man of property in the kingdom to support it. He therefore, who undermines it, in the smallest degree, by artifice or fraud of any kind, should be considered as an enemy to the welfare of his country.

"Let thoſe jobbers then, who contrive to ſink the value of the funded property of the kingdom, by cunning devices, be conſidered as banditti of thieves, who live upon the booty they acquire, by plundering thoſe, whoſe private occaſions oblige them to carry their funds to market, of part of their property: and that you may be enabled to form a juſt opinion of the fluctuations in the funds, and to diſcover when theſe public robbers are at work, I will ſtate the principal cauſes which alone ought to operate any real diminution of the market price at any given time whatever. If no ſuch cauſes ſubſiſt, be on your guard, and let nothing but extreme neceſſity induce you to ſell; for you may be aſſured the BEARS are lying in wait, to devour your ſubſtance.

"I ſhall divide the chief cauſes which naturally contribute to lower the price of the funds, into two claſſes; thoſe which happen in times of war; and thoſe which occur in times of peace.

"With respect to the first, it has already been noticed, that in proportion as the demands of government increase, the interest of money will rise; and individuals, from a prospect of employing their money more advantageously in new loans, will sell out of the old funds, especially those which bear the lowest interest. This will happen as early as possible, because the advantage will be the greater; therefore, speculators will croud to market as soon as they have intelligence of a rupture with any considerable foreign power, that they may sell before the fall increases. The difficulty, therefore, will be, to distinguish between rumours of war, and the actual approach of this national calamity: and there can be no surer guide in this case, than an impartial scrutiny into the political situation of our country; the state of its commerce, and of its revenues; the character of its prince, and his ministers, compared with the same circumstances in the nation with whom a war is expected,

will, in a great meaſure, determine what degree of credit we ought to give to reports of an unavoidable rupture.

" In the diſpute with Spain, about the ſeizure of Falkland's Iſland, I had the honour to be conſulted by ſeveral gentlemen of rank and fortune (ſome of them foreigners) who were not in the channel of court intelligence; and I ventured to aſſure them, that, conſidering the political circumſtances of the nation, the object of the negociation was not of conſequence ſufficient to involve us in war; and though I readily allowed, that to take off the rudder of a king's ſhip, was almoſt as great an indignity as to ſtrike the monarch, or his ambaſſador, a blow on the face, yet I demonſtrated, to their ſatisfaction, that we were not in a condition to go to war for points of honour, or ſolely to gratify national reſentment. The ſame ſentiments I repeated publicly in my lectures; and I had the ſatisfaction to diſſuade ſeveral of

my friends from ſelling out of the funds upon that occaſion.

" If the events of war are unſucceſsful, and we loſe valuable ſettlements abroad, the funds will fall, from a concurrence of ſellers, many of them merchants, who depended on remittances from the conquered places, and for want of them are obliged to part with their funded property. The apprehenſion of more misfortunes will likewiſe engage others in the ſame meaſure.

" Powerful alliances formed againſt the intereſt of the kingdom, having a tendency to endanger its political exiſtence as an independent ſtate, will affect the funds; for the public defence muſt require unuſual ſupplies; which increaſing the value of money, by the great demand for it, will lower the price of the old funds.

" But an actual invaſion of a foreign enemy is the moſt to be dreaded. For the univerſal panic that ſuch an event would

occaſion, no adequate remedy can be preſcribed; becauſe men will naturally make uſe of the liberty this free country gives them, and withdraw their perſons and property, with the utmoſt expedition, from the ſeat of war. The value of the funds, in this caſe, might ſink near fifty per cent. in a few days, owing to the vaſt concourſe of ſellers; and probably nothing would prevent a total ceſſation of the market for them, from the want of purchaſers, but the patience, fortitude, and diſcernment, of a few opulent individuals, who would take this opportunity to buy, actuated chiefly by the hopes of great gain, and, in ſome meaſure, by juſt reflections on the uncertain iſſues of war; the ſtorm may ſubſide; and public tranquillity being reſtored, the funds will recover their full value: beſides, as members of the community, we muſt ſubmit to its fatalities.—If we have patience, ſome would ſay, and do not part with our property in the funds, the ſtate of affairs may alter, and we ſhall not be loſers:

others might reflect that, at ſuch a criſis, if they had near and dear connections which prevented them from leaving the kingdom, they would be ſubject to the ſame inconveniences with caſh by them, if not more than if they remained proprietors of the funds: for in the time of the great civil war, men were obliged to bury their money and plate, and they generally paſſed to other poſſeſſors: the families which concealed them, being torn from the place by the hand of violence; or the perſon actually depoſiting them, taken off by death. The hiſtory of every country, where foreign conqueſt, or inteſtine commotions have produced temporary revolutions, furniſhes inſtances of treaſures concealed, loſt, and ſometimes not diſcovered for ages after theſe events.

"Nor would the poſſeſſors of land be in a better ſituation than the proprietors of our funds, in caſe of a revolution from either foreign or domeſtic cauſes; it being well known, that landed eſtates are al-

ways beſtowed as rewards on the victorious chiefs.

"I am, therefore, clearly of opinion that, even in times of public diſtreſs, ſhould every thing ſeem to threaten a diſſolution of government, funded property is the laſt to be parted with.

"I know of no events, in the courſe of human affairs, beſides thoſe already mentioned, which ought to affect the value of the funds in times of war, ſo as to lower the current price conſiderably. But ſeveral circumſtances may contribute to advance it; ſuch as ſignal ſucceſſes, the return of great treaſures taken from the enemy, and the approach of peace. The two firſt, however, are only to be conſidered as adventitious events; a reverſe of fortune, or an extra-demand for money, may, in a few months, reduce the enhanced value: but the laſt, is a ſufficient cauſe for a gradual riſe, in proportion as the value of money diminiſhes, from the great demand for it ceaſing.

" Let me now ſtate the principal circumſtances which ought to have any conſiderable influence on the funds in time of peace; and give me leave to premiſe, that when the nation enjoys perfect tranquillity, when there is no ſudden large demand for money, nor any conſiderable ſums in ſpecie poured into the kingdom, no variation beyond two per cent. in the price of the funds ought to take place; if it does, independent of the following cauſes, be aſſured it is artificial, and a trick of the alley.

" Orders from foreigners to veſt very conſiderable ſums in the funds, at any ſtated time.

" The return of great wealth, derived from our Aſiatic commerce and territorial juriſdiction; or of immenſe fortunes acquired by individuals, in the adminiſtration of the Company's affairs in India.

" A ſteady, judicious, uncorrupt, and œconomical adminiſtration of the revenues of the kingdom; a general good under-

ſtanding between every branch of government and the people; with a proſpect of the duration of peace, and of ſuch a miniſtry, ſo that the value of money muſt fall daily: theſe are the chief events which may make the funds riſe conſiderably from the concourſe of purchaſers, who will find no other channels open for employing their money, to equal advantage.

"The funds are equally liable to ſink conſiderably beneath the market price, if any of the following unhappy occurrences diſturb the peace and ſecurity of the kingdom

"The dangerous illneſs, or ſudden death, of the reigning prince.

"A diſunion of any of the branches of the three eſtates of the kingdom.

"The advancement, to the higheſt offices in the ſtate, of men of weak minds, corrupt hearts, and debauched manners.

"A general miſtruſt and want of mutual confidence between adminiſtration and the public at large; cauſing mutual complaints

and reproaches, and engendering parties and diviſions, which tend to tumults, popular inſurrections, and civil wars.

" A ſtagnation, or conſiderable failure of private credit; and earthquakes, inundations, or fires deſtroying any part of our commercial ſettlements, by which our merchants at home are ſo diſtreſſed for want of remittances, that they are obliged to part with their property in the funds, to ſupply the defects.

" Laſtly, a dearth of proviſions, or the plague; both of which would cauſe conſiderable migrations of independent people of property.

" If any other contingent public calamities ſhould hereafter occur to the minds of any future proprietors of the funds, let them uſe their own diſcretion in applying them: at preſent, I ſhall only lay down one general rule for the conduct of thoſe who are, and of thoſe who may be diſpoſed to become, proprietors in the funds.

" Watch attentively the real value of money; I mean, what intereſt it will bear on the beſt landed ſecurity in the kingdom: and if you find, by examining the table annexed, and comparing it with the prices of the ſeveral funds publiſhed daily, that moſt of the ſaid funds are rather under the par of the general rate of intereſt*, let thoſe who have property veſted in them, avoid ſelling out, and thoſe who wiſh to purchaſe, loſe no time.

" In a word, I cannot too ſtrongly caution my fellow citizens againſt idle rumours on the ſtate of public affairs at home or abroad, nor too often enforce this obſervation: " That the jobbing brokers,

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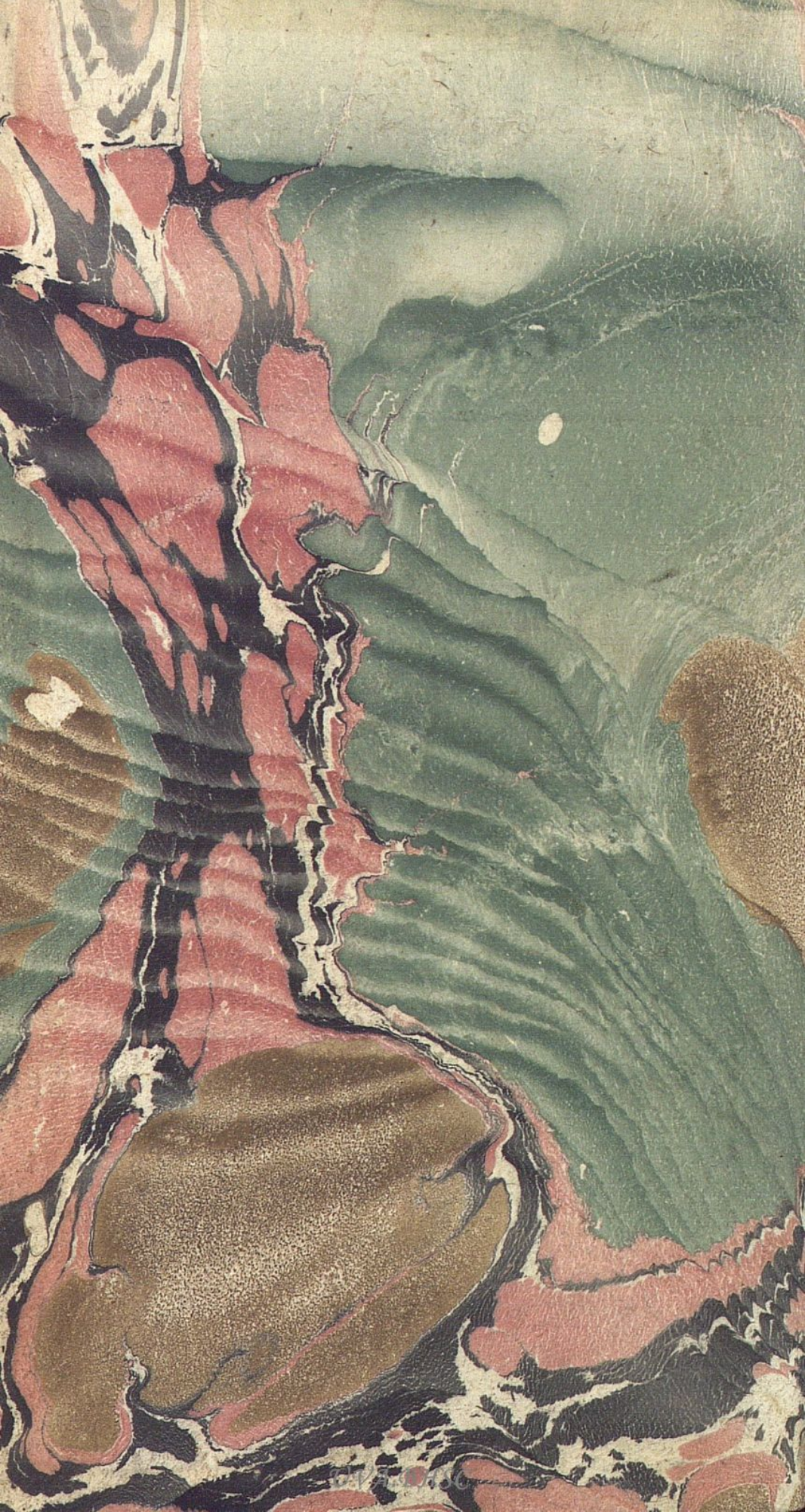
* Needy people will always offer premiums in proportion to their diſtreſs; therefore, mortgages may be had at five per cent, when money is worth only four. But we are to reaſon upon calculations of general contracts made in the open market for very large ſums.

" and their principals, the whole body
" of jobbers, muſt live; and as their ſub-
" ſiſtence depends on your falſe hopes and
" fears, they muſt form intereſted ſchemes
" to deceive you, or ſtarve; for frequent
" variations in the prices of the funds,
" are their proper aliment."

FINIS.



MORTIM

BROKE