

obtain it, by such Means, as must burthen the Country with continual heavy Expences, and, by engaging, and exhausting the Public Attention in Political Contests, obstruct the Institution of many Regulations that might be useful to the Community.

IN Affairs of private Concern, few Men tamely acquiesce under supposed Injuries. In doubtful Cases Recourse is generally had to the Advice of those, who are believed to be best acquainted with the Rules, or Principles of Adjudication, and whose Assurances are given of their Rights, most Men are prompt enough in applying Part of their Property to obtain Redress.

IT was a Question, warmly agitated some Years ago, whether his Lordship had Authority to Dissent to Acts that had before received the Concurrence of his Governor, in virtue of the Reservation in his Commission, and the Case was fully stated for the Opinions of Sir Philip Yorke, and Mr. Lutwyche, who gave such clear Reasons in Support of his Lordship's Authority, as put an End to all further Dispute on the Subject.

THIS Course is so natural, and so generally practised that I have little Difficulty in giving Credit to the Report of its having been actually pursued in the Case of the One Shilling per Hoghead, tho' the Opinions, said to have been given in Favour of his Lordship's Claim, by being concealed have not produced the good Effects that flowed from the open Communication of the Opinions given by Sir P. Yorke and Mr. Lutwyche.

IT is too well known that the Subjects of this Letter have excited great Heats, and Animosities, and a proportionate Hinderance to the Dispatch of the Public Business, and every well-meaning Man, who has no other Interest than in the Prosperity of his Country, would rejoice to see all such Obstructions removed, and the Efforts, that have been wasted in the Pursuit of unattainable Purposes, appear in an Emulation to promote salutary Institutions.

IF it were possible to abolish the Revenue now received under the Act of 1704 to support "the Honour and Dignity of the Governor" still there must be a Government to secure, and protect the People in their just Rights, and that Government cannot subsist without a proper Support. I have not observed that the One Shilling per Hoghead is complained of as oppressive, in Point of Expence, tho' many People have been made extremely uneasy on the Persuasion, that it hath been collected without a legal, constitutional Authority—The imagined Violation of Privilege, of which the People are, and ought to be jealous, is more the Cause of their Inquietude, than the Burthen of the Tax, and this is evinced by the Uneasiness of the Farmers, who don't contribute One Farthing to the Revenue. Others there may be, who, from the necessary Effect it would have upon the [93] Constitution, are solicitous for the Abolition of a Revenue established by a perpetual Act—who would make no Scruple in admitting that Government ought to be supported; but would chuse that Support to depend upon occasional Grants—Who, being desirous to bring about an Alteration of our Constitution, would wish to throw more Weight into the popular Scale. They, who entertain these Sentiments, may oppose his Lordship's Receipt of the One Shilling per Hoghead rather from an Opinion of the Expediency of a dependant Support, than a Conviction of the Illegality of the present Claim to an established Revenue.

WHETHER this Alteration would redound to the general Utility is a Problem not easily to be solved.

UPON the Alteration we might have a greater Proportion of popular Power in our Constitution than we have at present, but the Conclusion is very disputable, that the Community would have a greater Proportion of Happiness.

SUPPOSE the Act of 1704, and the consequential Revenue to be abolished, and the Governor reduced to a Dependance on the annual Supply that might be granted for his Support, this would produce an annual Question, what that Supply should be? A Fund for perpetual Contention, an Incitement to eternal political Contest, and Intrigue. This Dependence would in Effect be upon those, who should have the greatest Adroitness of Management, and Sway of Influence in the Transaction of the Business of Supplies—Much Art and Application would be employed to obtain Possession of the Power to Give—He who should succeed, on the Competition, would be the most courted—His Attachment would be the important Object, and would probably be secured by every Gratification, that his Passions should call for, and Government be able to afford—Should this Reciprocation of Benefits not be the Plan, other Means might be employed—Annual Laws might keep Pace with annual Supplies—The one might be a Security, or Pledge for the other, and a kind of Political Traffick set on Foot, not very favourable to their Inclinations who are Enemies to Cavilling, and Dissension.

ON Political Questions, in their Nature incapable of Demonstration, a real undissembled Diversity of Opinion is to be expected; but I suspect that, on these, as well as on other Questions of great Concernment, the Passions of Ambition, Avarice, and Vanity make Men profess other