

L. H. J.
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Your Committee, having enquired into the Nature, original Institution, and Establishment of the Revenues of the Crown, as well arising from the Demesne Lands, as what is here called the Casual Revenue, are of Opinion, That, from the Principles of the English Constitution, they were vested in the Royal Person, to support his Dignity, and maintain his Power, as an affluent Supply for the ordinary Expenses of his Government, and were provided for the Support of public Authority, in a Manner the least burthensome to Individuals, and considered as a Portion which each Subject contributed of his Property to secure the Remainder; and, for those Ends and Purposes, those Rights and Revenues were annexed to the Supreme Power, by the Laws & Customs of the State; and, your Committee are the more confirmed in this Opinion, by finding that in former Times the Kings of England did constantly and uniformly defray the Expenses of, and support the Honour and Dignity of the Crown, and every Branch of the Civil Government, such as the Payment of their Officers of State, their Judges and other Matters respecting the Executive Powers of Government, out of those Revenues, without calling on the People to raise Monies on themselves for those Purposes. In latter Times, when by improvident Grants, &c^a to private Persons, they were so impaired as not to remain sufficient to support the Honour and Dignity of the Crown, and the Expenses of the Civil Government, and that Demands were made on the People for a further Supply; the Parliament took Care that an Account should be rendered of all those Crown Revenues that were left, the Demesne Lands not excepted, and when they substituted other Funds, by Taxes on the People to make up that Deficiency, and to establish a sufficient Annual Sum, together with those Revenues still left, to support the Honour and Dignity of the Crown, and the Expenses of the Civil Government. They at the same Time took Care to provide, that for the future it should not be in the Power of the Kings and Queens of the Realm, to grant away any of those Revenues annexed to the Crown by the Constitution for any Time longer than their own Lives, nor Lease or let the Crown Lands longer than a certain Number of Years, and reserving Rents, by which Means and by Escheats and Forfeitures that might hereafter happen, and by the Determination of many particular Estates, whereon many Reversions and Remainders in the Crown did depend, the Revenues of the Crown might again be increased, and consequently the Burthen on the Estates of the Subject might be eased and lessened in all future Provisions to be made for the Expences of the Civil Government, and by that Means the Crown would come to the next Successor without any of those Revenues then left, being further impaired, and with all future casual Additions. This, together with the Recitals in the several Revenue Bills, and those for taking and stating the public Accounts, does clearly in the Opinion of your Com-