

Let the Reader pause here one Moment, and reflect—whether the Colony in which he lives, has not made such "certain and adequate Provision" for the People, as is by the Colony judged suitable to its Abilities, and all other Circumstances. Then let him reflect—whether, if this Act takes Place, Money is not to be raised on that Colony without its Consent, to make a Provision for these Purposes, which it does not judge to be just to its Abilities, and all other Circumstances. Lastly, let him reflect—whether the People of that Country are not in a State of the most abject Slavery, whose Property may be taken from them under the Notion of Right, when they have refused to give it. For my Part, I think I have good Reason for vindicating the Honour of the Assemblies on this Continent, by publicly asserting, that they have made as "certain and adequate Provision" for the Purposes above-mentioned, as they ought to have made; and that it should not be presumed, that they will not do it hereafter. Why then should these MOST IMPORTANT TRUTHS be wrested out of their Hands? Why should they not now be permitted to enjoy that Authority, which they have exercised from the first Settlement of these Colonies? Why should they be scandalized by this Innovation, when their respective Provinces are now, and will be for several Years, labouring under Loads of Debts, imposed on them for the very Purposes now spoken of? Why should the Inhabitants of all these Colonies, be, with the utmost Indignity, treated as a Herd of despicable Wretches, so utterly void of common Sense, that they will not even make "adequate Provision" for the "Administration of Justice" and "the Support of Civil Government" among them, or for their "own Defence"—though without such "Provision" every People must inevitably be overwhelmed with Anarchy and Destruction? Is it possible to form an Idea of SLAVERY more complete, more miserable, more disgraceful, than that of a People, where Justice is administered, Government exercised, and a standing Army maintained, at the Expence of the People, and yet without the least Dependence upon them? If we can find no Relief from this infamous Situation, let Mr. Grenville let his fertile Fancy again at Work, and, as by one Exertion of it, he has stripped us of our Property and Liberty, let him by another deprive us of our Understanding too, that, unconscious of what we have been, or are, and unguided by tormenting Reflections, we may tamely bow down our Necks with all the stupid Serenity of Servitude, to any Drudgery, which our Lords and Masters may please to command.

When the "Charges of the Administration of Justice,"—the "Support of Civil Government;"—and the "Expences of defending, protecting, and securing" us, are provided for, I should be glad to know upon what Occasion the Crown will ever call our Assemblies together. Some few of them may meet of their own Accord, by virtue of their Charters: But what will they have to do when they are met? To what Shadows will they be reduced? The Men, whose Deliberations heretofore had an Influence on every Matter relating to the Liberty and Happiness of themselves and their Constituents, and whose Authority in domestic Affairs, at least, might well be compared to that of Roman Senators, will now find their Deliberations of no more Consequence than those of Centurions.—They may, perhaps, be allowed to make Laws for yoking of Hogs, or pounding of Stray Cattle. Their Influence will hardly be permitted to extend so high as the keeping Roads in Repair, as that Business may more properly be executed by those who receive the Public Cash.

One most memorable Example in History is so applicable to the Point now insisted on, that it will form a just Conclusion of the Observations that have been made.

Spain was once free. Their Cortes resembled our Parliaments. No Money could be raised on the Subject, without their Consent. One of their Kings having received a Grant from them to maintain a War against the Moors, desired, that if the Sum which they had given, should not be sufficient, he might be allowed, for that Emergency only, to have more Money, without assembling the Cortes. The Request was violently opposed by the best and wisest Men in the Assembly. It was, however, complied with by the Votes of a Majority; and this single Concession was a Precedent for other Concessions of the like kind, until, at last, the Crown obtained a general Power of raising Money, in Cases of Necessity. From that Period the Cortes ceased to be useful, and the People ceased to be free.

Veniens occidit Morbo.

Oppose a Disease at its Beginning—

A F A R M E R.

By a Vessel arrived in Patuxent, from London, we are favoured with Public Prints to the 14th of December, from which we have extracted the following Intelligence:

WESTMINSTER, November 24.

THIS Day his Majesty came to the House of Peers, and being in his Royal Robes, seated on the Throne, with the usual Solemnity, Sir Francis Molineux, Knt. Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message, from his Majesty, to the House of Commons, commanding their Attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, his Majesty was pleased to make the following most gracious Speech:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have chosen to call you together, at this Season of the Year, that my Parliament might have full Time for their Deliberations upon all such Branches of the public Service as may require their immediate Attention, without the Necessity of continuing the Session beyond the Time most suitable to my People, for the Election of a new Parliament. And, I doubt not, but you will be careful, from the same Considerations, to avoid, in your Proceedings, all unnecessary Delay.

Nothing in the present situation of Affairs abroad, gives me Reason to apprehend, that you will be prevented, by any Interruption of the public Tranquility, from fixing your whole Attention upon such Points as concern the internal Welfare and Prosperity of my People.

Among these Objects of a domestic Nature, none can demand a more speedy or more serious Attention, than what regards the high Price of Corn, which, neither the salutary Laws, passed in the last Session of Parliament, nor the Produce of the late Harvest, have yet been able so far to reduce, as to give sufficient Relief to the Distresses of the poorer Sort of my People. Your late Residence in your several Counties, must have enabled you to judge, whether any farther Provisions can be made, conducive to the Attainment of so desirable an End.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I will order the proper Officers to lay before you the Estimates for the Service of the ensuing Year.

The Experience I have had of your constant Readiness, to grant me all such Supplies as should be found necessary, for the Security, Interest, and Honour of the Nation, (and I have no other to ask you) renders it unnecessary for me to add any Exhortations upon this Head; and, I doubt not, but the same public Considerations, will induce you to persevere, with equal Alacrity, in your Endeavours to diminish the National Debt; while, on my Part, no Care shall be wanting to contribute, as far as possible, to the Attainment of that most essential Object, by every frugal Application of such Supplies, as you shall grant.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

The Necessity of improving the present general Tranquillity, to the great Purpose of maintaining the Strength, the Reputation, and the Prosperity of this Country, ought to be ever before your Eyes. To render your Deliberations for that Purpose successful, endeavour to cultivate a Spirit of Harmony among yourselves. My Concurrence, in whatever will promote the Happiness of my People, you may always depend upon: And, in that Light, I shall ever be desirous of encouraging Union among all those who wish well to their Country.

November 25. This Day the Right Honourable the House of Peers, preceded by the Right Hon. the Lord Chancellor, waited on his Majesty with their Address of Thanks from the Throne, on opening the present Session: To which his Majesty was pleased to return the following most gracious Answer:

My Lords,

Your readiness to provide for the Public Services, with the Unanimity and Dispatch so necessary at this Juncture, as well as to avail yourselves of the present general Tranquillity, in order to promote the internal Prosperity of my People, is highly agreeable to me; and I rely upon your Assurances, that you will use your Endeavours to relieve the Distresses which the Poor labour under from the high Price of Corn.

I thank you for the Joy you express on the increase of my Royal Family; and I feel for the Part you take in my Concern for the unexpected Loss of my late Brother the Duke of York.

Nov. 27. Yesterday at two o'Clock, the Hon. House of Commons, preceded by Sir John Cust, Bart. their Speaker, went in Procession to St. James's, and presented to his Majesty their Address of Thanks for his most gracious Speech on opening the Sessions, which was graciously received.

Dec. 1. When the Hon. House of Commons waited on his Majesty, with their Address of Thanks, his Majesty was pleased to give them the following most gracious Answer:

Gentlemen,

I return you my very sincere Thanks, for your dutiful and loyal Address; the Part you take in the late happy Event in my Family, compleats the Satisfaction which I receive from it, and your Affection to me appears equally manifest, from the Share you take in the melancholy Incident, which we all regret, and serves as a Consolation to me. I see with Pleasure, the Continuance of that Zeal, and true public Spirit, which I have long experienced in my faithful Commons, by your Attention to the several Objects recommended to your Consideration, and particularly, to the Means of providing against a Scarcity of Corn, and for paying the public Debt. You may depend upon my invaluable Attention to the Happiness and Prosperity of my Kingdom.

WHITEHALL, Nov. 24. The King has been pleased to order Letters Patent to be passed under the Great Seal of the Kingdom of Ireland, containing a Grant unto James Hewitt, Esq; one of the Justices of the Court of King's Bench, in the Kingdom of Great-Britain, of the Office or Place of Chancellor and Keeper of the Great Seal, of the said Kingdom of Ireland, in the room of John Baron Bowes, deceased.

ST. JAMES'S, Nov. 28. The King has been pleased to constitute and appoint Thomas Shirley, Esq; to be Captain-General and Governor in Chief of the Bahama Islands in America, and the Garrisons there.

WHITEHALL, Dec. 5. The King has been pleased to grant unto George Cooke, and Thomas Townshend, the Younger, Esqrs. the Office of Receiver and Paymaster-General of all his Majesty's Guards, Garrisons, and Land Forces, (those employed or to be employed by his Majesty, for the Service in Ireland, the Marine Regiments, and such Regiments of Forces, as are, or shall be under the Care and Direction of the High Admiral of Great Britain, or Commissioners of the Admiralty, for the Time being, always excepted.) And also the Office of Paymaster of all the Monies appointed, or set apart, for the Maintenance of the disabled and superannuated non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers belonging to his Majesty's Royal Hospital near Chelsea.

L O N D O N.

The Dutch East-India Company have had the Misfortune to lose the last homeward-bound Ship from Batavia, which was expected this Year. The Ship was wrecked within Three Leagues of the Texel, in a Storm a few Nights ago; and, except five or six Survivors, the Whole was lost, among whom were several Passengers, whose Names are not yet known.

Nov. 30. It is said that Edward Wiles, Esq; Solicitor-General, has declined being made a Judge of the Court of King's-Bench.

The Reports so often propagated of a Rupture between Russia and the Porte, are nothing more than a Finesse of the French Papal Ministry, who endeavour to counterbalance the Influence of the former, on the Affairs of Poland, by spreading Alarms with respect to Russia, that may oblige her to preserve a watchful Eye at home, and at the same Time keep up the sinking Spirits of the Roman Catholic Party in Poland.

We hear for certain, that Wednesday last was the Day fixed on, for the Departure of his Excellency Count Chatelet Lomont, from Paris to London, in order to enter upon his important Office of Ambassador from his Most Christian Majesty, to the Court of Great-Britain; and he is expected here next Tuesday or Wednesday.

It is said, that a farther Addition to our Marine Forces will be made this Session of Parliament.

Monday last the Honourable James Hewitt, Esq; one of the Judges of the King's Bench, knid his Majesty's Hand, at St. James's, on his Appointment to be Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

It is said that a Bill against Usury and Extortion will be brought into Parliament this Session.

Letters from Naples insinuate, that the great Armament, now preparing there, of 12 large Vessels and Four Xebecs, is intended to transport the Jesuits out of that Kingdom.

Private Letters from Berlin say, that the King of Prussia is preparing to make a Journey into, through the Seven United Provinces; and that afterwards his Majesty will have an Interview with the Prince Stadtholder, at Groningen.

They write from Quebec, that a Silver-Mine has lately been discovered in the Neighbourhood of Governor Rogers's Settlement, at Michillimackinac, which it was expected would turn out very advantageous.

The Consideration of the high Price of Corn, Provisions, &c. was Yesterday entered upon, in an august Assembly.

Dec. 5. George Onslow, Esq; Son of the late Speaker, and Thomas Townshend, jun. Esq; are both sworn of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council.

Wednesday Night last, landed at Dover, John Wilkes, Esq; from Flanders.

Dec. 7. This Day his Majesty will go in State to the House of Peers, and give the Royal Assent to such Bills as are ready for that Purpose.

This Day there will be a Levée at St. James's, which is to be continued every Monday following, during the Sessions of Parliament.

It is said that the Importation of salted Provisions will be admitted, for a limited Time, Duty free.

We hear a Stop is intended to be put to the foreign Exportation of any Kind of Provisions from Ireland, except to the British Colonies in America, or to the West-Indies.

It is said that a fixed Price will be set upon all Kinds of Butchers Meat sold in the Public Markets of the Metropolis, and that all Weights and Measures will be made uniform through the Kingdom.

We hear 16000 Men will be employed for Sea-Service, for the Year 1768.

They write from Gibraltar, that a Jew of great Business had lately been arrested there, on a Charge of furnishing Counterfeit Mediterranean Passes to Foreigners.

They write from Sicily, that an Insurrection has happened at Palermo in that Island, occasioned by a Scarcity of Bread, in which the Populace massacred the Viceroy's Guards, took him Prisoner, and killed the Prince de Ventimiglia, and hung up several other Persons of Distinction. The Armament preparing at Naples, is intended to quell the Insurgents; but, in the mean Time, the People are in such a Ferment, that an Insurrection is expected also at the last mentioned Place every Day.

Letters from Florence contain the same Account with respect to the People in that City, who had assembled in such Crowds, one Day last Month, stimulated by the same powerful Motive, the Want of Bread, that one of the Gates of their Town, at which the Grand Dutches and her Husband, were expected to enter, was obliged to be shut, and their Highnesses were compelled to go a great Way round, in order to get to their Palace.

Dec. 8. Yesterday his Majesty, attended by his Grace the Duke of Ancaister, and the Earl of Coventry, went in State to the House of Peers, and gave the Royal Assent to the following Bills, viz.

The Bill to continue and amend an Act to prohibit the Exportation of Corn, Grain, Meal, Malt, Flour, Bread, Biscuit, and Starch; and also for extracting Low Wines and Spirits from Wheat, &c. for a limited Time.

The Bill to continue several Acts, to allow the free Importation of Wheat, Flour, Barley, Barley-Meal, Pulse, Oats, Oat-Meal, Rye, Rye-Meal, Rice from the Colonies in North-America, and Wheat-Flour from Africa, for a limited Time.

Dec. 14. The following Changes are consented talked of to take Place in a few Days:

Earl Gower, to be President of the Council.

Earl of Sandwich, to be Secretary of State.

Richard Rigby, Esq; Secretary at War.

And Lord Weymouth to succeed Lord Townshend, as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

We hear that the Number of Land Forces to be employed in the Service of the ensuing Year, will amount to Seventeen Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty-three, including Officers, and Two Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Invalids.

We hear also, that One Million Six Hundred Seventy-two Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty Pounds, One Shilling and Six-pence Farthing, will be allowed

for the Service of the ensuing Year, including the Expence of the Navy, and the Office of Ordnance and Land Service.

Letters from New-York, just received, advise, that the Inhabitants of that Province are going to follow the Example of the People at Boston, by exerting the utmost Endeavours to promote and encourage the Manufactures in particular, and those of the British Colonies in America, in general.

A Salt-Cloth Manufactory has lately been established in Rhode-Island, to extensive as to employ near One Hundred Workmen.

It is said the American Colonies are sparing, in a Expense, to be furnished with the best English Raw Wool Sheep, in order to promote the Breed.

P H I L A D E L P H I A, February 4.

On Friday Morning last, a Number of armed Men (but so it is said) went to the Goal of Carlisle, which they entered by Force, and carried off Frederic Camp, and John Ironcutter, who were committed on suspicion of having murdered Ten of our Friend Irons, near Fort Augusta, notwithstanding the Opposition and Perturbations of the Magistrates, and others, to the contrary.

A N N A P O L I S, February 18.

The Ship *Good Intent*, George Haddon, Master, arrived in this River. On the 3d of January, 1768, she sailed from London, for this Port, and on the 29th 3d and Long. 55° from London, he spoke the Brig *Edith*, Thomas Watts, from Liverpool, for New-York: All well.

Articles of News, and Advertisements omitted this Week, for Want of Room, will be inserted in our next.

T O T H E P R I N T E R S.

February 16, 1768.

THE QUERIST, in your last Paper, applies himself to the Sages of the Law: Who would not be thought a Sage of the Law?

A By-stander often sees more of the Game than the Player; and who knows but the By-stander is a Sage of the Law?

Let us then take a View of the State of the Case:—An Appointment or Letter of Admission is given by the Ordinary, in Favour of a Minister, to the Vestry of A.

A Letter of Admission given to the Vestry of A. A. in favour of a Minister. A LETTER of Admission given to the Vestry of A. in favour of a Minister, is given by the Ordinary, in Favour of a Minister, to the Vestry of A.

I have heard of one VESTRY affecting to be Patron, but never heard of their being PRIESTS before. But perhaps, they are Lay Readers only. Well, then, there is a Letter of Admission given to them—“in Favour of a Minister.”—that is, they are admitted to read Prayers and Preach, and the Minister to receive the Salary. The Tables are turn'd; the Ministers us'd to read Prayers and Preach, and the Vestry to claim the Salary.

Correct the Case, and say, A Letter of Admission is given by the Ordinary, in Favour of a Vestry, to the Minister of A. This would better answer the Querist's Intention.

Who, or what are Vestries? A Name much talk'd of, and as little understood. They would be Ordinaries; Patrons, and Incumbents; and yet, in Fact, they are all but Vestries. \* Side-men, otherwise Questmen, otherwise Vestry-men, (so called from their meeting in the Vestry-Room, that is, the Place where the Holy Scriptures are kept, under their Inspection) are certain Persons chosen in each Parish, as Assistants (expressly so called in all the Law-Books) to the Churchwardens, and their joint Office is thus set forth by Authority. † They shall take Care and provide, that the Churches be well and sufficiently repair'd, and so from Time to Time kept and maintain'd; that the Windows be well glazed, and the Floors be kept paved plain and even; and to prevent the Profanation of Churches, and to provide Books, &c. and to levy Assessments, and discharge the Accounts. Agreeable to this is their Office describ'd in the 15th Section of the Act of 1701-2, and other Acts of Assembly. It is directed that there shall be Six Vestrymen, at least, in each Parish. It is a Custom in some Parishes to elect Twelve, in some Twenty-four; and, it would be well if that Number or a larger, was fix'd upon by the Parishioners, for the future, in the Province.

In case of a Vacancy, a Vestry may desire, or petition the Ordinary, to appoint a Minister of a neighbouring Parish to officiate in their Church. A Petition presupposes a Want of Right (Want of Right, says Lord Coke, and Want of Remedy, is all one) in the Person who offers it, and a Right existing in the Person to whom it is offered. But a Petition cannot confer a Right, or take it away. If the Ordinary has a Right of appointing, upon a Petition, he has the same without it; since it would be hard if the granting a Favour upon being asked, should preclude the Power of doing it, without asking.—But, supposing a Plenary, who becomes of the Petition? To petition, where there is no Possibility of Redress, is an Act of Madness and Folly. By an Appointment, the Church is full against a common Person, by an Indultion against the Lord Proprietary himself.

The Incumbent has an absolute Freehold therein for his Life, from which he is not removable but by a Course of Law, according to the Practice of ecclesiastical Courts. Co. 1 Inst. 136.

Vestries are to keep Registers, under their Inspection, of Births, Marriages, and Burials, and for keeping a fair Register of all Vestry Proceedings.—Not of the Proceedings of the Ordinary, not of Presentations, Indultions, or Licences. The Clerk of the Council performs this Office. The Vestry have as much to do in this Matter as the Pope.

Vestries, in case of a Vacancy, are to receive the Salary, and—to expend it, how? In buying, (if not