Denmark is certainly one of the most Antient Kingdoms in the World; their Historians date that Monarchy long before Our Saviour's coming on the Earth; but their Antient Writers are so obscure & uncertain, that what they affirm can be but little depended upon; so that after just mentioning Frotho III. who is said to have been Master of Denmark, Sweden, & Norway, to have subdu'd the Vandals, & first taken the title of King of that People, we shall pass on to Eric I. whose Reign was famous for the introduction of Christianity by Ansgarius Bishop of Bremen about the year 846.

Sweno in 981. invaded England whose Son Canute compleated that conquest, & dying in 1017. gave England to His Son Harold, Norway to Sweno, & Denmark to His third Son Canute III.

After His death Magnus King of Norway conquer'd Denmark but on the Usurper's death Sweno II. recover'd the Kingdom.

Waldemar was crown'd in 1157. renew'd the title of King of the Vandals, & got the greatest part of Pomerania; whose Son Canute Canute VI. conquer'd Livonia, & introduc'd Christianity there.

Nothing remarkable happen'd during this interval, till Margaret succeeded Olaus VI. in 1387. She was oppos'd by Albert in Sweden, but having defeated him, forc'd the

Swedes

Swedes to acknowledge Her as their Queen.

In 1395. She at Calmar united Sweden, Norway & Denmark, when it was settl'd that the three Kingdoms should be one Elective Monarchy; that their Sovereign should be chosen by an equal number of each of the three Nations, & that each Kingdom should be govern'd by its own Laws & defended by its own Troops; that no Foreigner should have any Military or Civil employment, & that the General Diet of the three Kingdoms should be held at Helmstadt in the province of Holland.

This new Constitution in time occasion'd great dissentions & a bloody war, that lasted 200. Years, when the Danes chose Christian. Count of Oldenburgh for their King, & by the interest of the Bishop of Upsal He was elected King of Sweden; by this the Union of Calmar was renew'd; but the Swedes soon threw off the Danish Yoke, & this Prince dying His Son John could never reduce them, tho' He reign'd thirty Years.

His Son Christian II. famous for His Vices recongner'd Sweden in 1520. & on His Coronation at Stockholm, massacr'd all the Swedish Nobility; this horrid Act occasion'd His being driven out of that Country; at length His oppression & profligacy came to such a height, that the Danes oblig'd Him to yield up His right to the Crown, confin'd Him for life, & elected His Uncle Frederic in his stead in 1523. who confirm'd the

privileges of the Nobility & Clergy, & after a reign of ten Years was succeeded by His Son Christian III. when the Lutheran Religion was establish'd by Law.

His Son Frederic II. carry'd on a long War with Sweden which ended by Peace in 1570. by the Mediation of the Emperor, & the Kings of France & Poland.

Christian IV. His Son Reign'd 61. Years, join'd against the Austrians in the War in Germany, & towards the end of His life broke with Sweden, but was unfortunate in that War, & made Peace in 1645. by it He yielded up Halland for 30. Years, to them, & lessen'd the Toll the Dutch paid for passing the Sound, for the assistance they had given Him.

Frederic III. join'd with the Dutch in 1657. & broke with the Swedes, this had nearly prov'd fatal to Him; for at this time the Senate endeavouring to lay great restraint on His authority, He vigorously oppos'd them; & these Civil Broils encourag'd Charles Gustavus King of Sweden to besiege Copenhagen; but the Dutch came to the King's assistance, & He seizing this opportunity contriv'd as we shall at full length relate, to change the Constitution of Denmark from the most limited to the most absolute Sovereignty in Europe.

The whole power of the Nation had been lodg'd in the Nobility & Gentry; for at that time there was no distinction

between them; they liv'd as Princes on their Estates, & the Farmers & Peasants, were little better than their Slaves; they us'd to send Representatives to the Diet, but only confirm'd the Taxes, with which they were heavily laden.

The Nobility form'd a distinct body in the State of the Kingdom, & the King could do nothing of consequence without their advice; so that he was not better than a President of the Council in time of Peace, or General in War.

Tho' the Succession went from Father to Son yet the Consent of the Nobility was necessary; out of whom the four Great Officers of State (a sort of Petty Kings) were chosen viz: the Grand Master of the Kingdom, the Chancellor, Marshal & Admiral.

In 1660. just after the Peace with Sweden, a Diet of the State was call'd to re-establish the Affairs, & enable the People to recover their Losses; where the Speaker of the Commons lay'd the dreadful State of the Nation before the Nobility, & how impossible it would be to raise Money, unless they would bear their proportion. They answer'd that it was the greatest presumption to enquire into their privileges, for they were their Vassals, & should remain so. The Speaker reply'd that if they would not do any thing to preserve those privileges, they were unworthy to enjoy them, that their answer had been cruel & insolent, & that tho' they could not Enable themselves, yet they could bring the weight of Subjection as heavy on them,

as they themselves had hitherto felt it.

The Conduct of the Nobility at this critical juncture was unpardonable, they ought to have shown the greatest moderation, the People looking on their disputes with the King as the real foundation of all the Misfortunes that had happen'd; besides the Burghers (who on account of their brave defence had obtain'd the same rights with the Nobility) began to feel themselves of Consequence, particularly those of Copenhagen; but the Senate full of other Maxims, when a Supply was in deliberation propos'd a Tax on Consumption with an exemption to their own Estates; this out of great Modesty they at the same time consented to wave their privileges, & pay the Tax for the space of three Years, during their Residence at Copenhagen.

The Clergy & Commons highly incens'd at these proceedings mov'd that the old Fiefs of the Crown then in the hands of the Nobles, who paid a trifling Quit Rent, should be put up to sale, & let to the best bidder, this the others strongly oppos'd.

The Bishop of Zeland had great weight with the Clergy, & Mawen Bourgemaster of Copenhagen govern'd the Commons. these two greatly discontented at the Senate united, then propos'd to their different Bodies the encreasing the King's Power, & entailing the Crown on His Family; this was with Joy agreed to, for the King's Valiant Conduct during the Siege, had gain'd

the hearts of the People; upon this a declaration was drawn up with the above alterations & sent the 4th. of Oct. to the Grand Marechal as Chief of the Nobility for their concurrence; the Senate extremely surpris'd, insisted on the King's declaring He was satisfy'd with the Crown's being settl'd on His Male Heirs.

The Clergy & Commons came to the Senate the 10th. of Nov. to demand their Final resolution; but finding they sought only for delays, went in a Body to the King, & carry'd Him the above declaration; who thank'd them for their good Will, but said He could not accept their offer, unless the Senate join'd with them.

The Nobility seem'd resolv'd to leave the City, which would have dissolv'd the Diet; but were prevented by the Gates being kept shut; they then too late saw their mistake, & sent to the King to offer to entail the Crown on His Male Heirs & to encrease His Power; but this would not content Him, they were forc'd three days after to do hommage to Him, the Queen, & Royal Family, who were plac'd on a Theatre in sight of the Army; & on the 16th. gave back to the King the instrument of Government that setts bounds to His Power; & two or three months after the three Orders brought Him separately Declarations sign'd under their Hands, by which they settl'd the Crown both on His Male & Female Heirs, with absolute Power, & the right of regulating the Succession & Regency

Thus by the intestine divisions of the State, by the Pride & Tyranny of the Nobility, which rendered the Commons desperate, the Danes from the freest Nation in Europe, became subject to despotick Power; a dreadful warning to future Governments, & a strong proof of the imminent danger to which a State is reduced, when division rages in the great constituent parts of it, & when it nourishes an Army too formidable to be kept obedient to the Laws that that Army ought to protect & enforce, yet at the same time I can't help observing that the Clergy & Commons appear to have acted very weakly; for undoubtedly they might have clip'd the Wings of the Nobility, & at the same time have properly increas'd their own Power, instead of blindly throwing it all into the hands of the Crown; & conveying to their innocent Posterity chains & slavery, instead of the Freedom left them by their Ancestors, which they had no right to dispose of.

The King govern'd after this with great prudence for ten Years, & then died to the great grief of all his Subjects.

His Son Christian V. succeeded him in 1670. who attempted the recovery of what the Swedes had taken from his Ancestors.

The Duke of Holstein coming to make him a Friendly Visit, was treacherously seiz'd & confin'd by him till he agreed to surrender up the advantage he had obtain'd by the Treaty of Roskild. After this the King conquer'd Tonningen, the strongest

place in the Duke's Dominions, & also reduc'd Wismar; had some advantage in the beginning of the next Year, but was soon after defeated by the Swedes at Lunden; this forc'd Him to abandon Land operations, & continue the War at Sea, where He was more successful, & in the end made Peace on equal terms.

In 1694. On the death of the Duke of Holstein Gottorp, He rais'd new claims on that Family, which were for some time adjusted by the Emperor, & the Kings of Britain & Sweden, but they were on the point of a rupture when He dies in 1699.

Frederic IV. His Son resolv'd to force the Dukes of Holstein to remain dependant of the Crown of Denmark; He overrun that Dutchy, & open'd their trenches before Tonningen, that was the cause of the long War mention'd under the Article of Sweden.

The English & Dutch as Guarantees of the late Peace, sent a strong Fleet into the Baltick, & the King of Sweden besieg'd Copenhagen, this forc'd the Danes to conclude the Treaty of Travendahl in 1700. by which the House of Holstein was to enjoy the rights of other Sovereigns, to raise Troops, & build Forts, provided two Miles distant from any Danish Fortification, & at least one from their Frontiers; the Danes were to pay 260,000 Crowns to the Duke of Holstein; & the Chapter of Lubec was empower'd to chuse a Prince of Holstein for their Bishop.

But a new dispute arose the next Year, on some of the Chapter electing the Duke of Holstein's Brother, & others the Prince of Denmark; by the interposition of the Maratime Powers, the Prince of Holstein remain'd Bishop, & the Prince of Denmark receiv'd a pension equivalent to it from Britain.

In 1711. Frederick the Poles fell into Swedish Pomerania, & took Dongarten; & the next Year Stade & Bremen; but was beat by the Swedes near Altena, who burnt that Town. The Danes at length drove the Swedes out of Norway, & in conjunction with the Prussians in 1716. reduc'd Wismar. They made Peace with the Swedes in 1720. by the mediation of George I. of Britain; France guarantee the Dutchy of Sleswick, & Britain renew'd the one made sometime before. The King then liv'd in Peace to his death, which happen'd in 1730.

His Son Christian VI. had in His Father's Reign given great attention to the East India Company, & had been the chief support of it; this gave the People great hopes that Trade would be one of His chief Concerns.

He made material Changes at His accession, but much to the satisfaction of His Subjects.

In 1732. He acceded to the Treaty between the Courts of Vienna & Petersburgh, who guarantee His Dominions, & His Heirs, & the Pragmatick Sanction. He also consented to give 1,000,000. of

Rixdollars to the Duke of Holstein, or His yielding His claim to the Dutchy of Slesvick.

By a firm & vigorous conduct, He got the better both in His dispute with the Elector of Hanover concerning Steinhort, & with the Dutch about the Island Fishery. His excellent manner of Governing made the Swedes think of chusing His Son Successor to their late King.

In the last War He could not be persuaded to break His neutrality & join with the Austrians; & by shewing the Court of Petersburgh He was willing on reasonable terms to settle with the House of Holstein, the Peace with Prussia was prolongd, since renewd by His Son; He died much lamented by His subjects in 1746.

His Son Frederic V. the present King has steadily pursuid His Father's System of Reigning; by an unwearyd application & oeconomy, He has paid a considerable debt of the Crown, & has given considerable sums for the encouragement of Manufactures.

After this short abstract of the Danish History, it will be proper to give some account of their Constitution, Laws, Trade, Armies, Fleets, &c. by which we shall be able to form some Judgement of their Power, weight & influence, in the General System of Europe.

As to the Danish Laws, the Code which contains those now in force, was publishd by Christian V. in the Danish Language; this is of the greatest use, as it enables all persons to be conversant in what so nearly relates them. Since the

Publishing of this, few Lawsuits have been commenced that are not determined with the greatest expedition, for by that Code a Year is the term fixed for the decision. Therefore all the Causes that are to be tryed, are set down in order, & the Judges arange their sittings according to the quantity of business they have to go through.

All Criminal causes are tryed by the regular Judges, there being no extraordinary Commissions for particular Trials, as in many other absolute Monarchies.

The Person accused is allowed to chuse his Counsel, if not satisfyed with that the Magistrate has appointed for him.

As in Civil Causes the determination of Criminal Matters is not confined to a Year, appeals may be made from one Court to another, when the life or Honour of the subject is concerned; the Cause passes through the three different Tribunals, before the Sovereign gives Judgement in the last appeal.

The Rack is only used in cases of High Treason & when the Criminal is under sentence of death; but even then not without the King's consent, which has not happened above twice in the last 25. Years.

No sentence either in Criminal or Civil Cases can be put into execution till signed by the King.

When Appeals are made, the Judges of the inferior Courts are obliged to attend & give their reasons for the sentence they have pronounced; this enables the higher Judicators to punish

the lesser ones if they have been unjust or too severe.

The Kings of Denmark endeavoured long to give proper weight to their Supreme Court of Judicature; the present King at last effected it in 1750. He encreased the Salarys of the Judges, plac'd a President at the head of this Tribunal, & by his regulations in 1753. it is become famous for the integrity of the Judges & for the authority with which they proceed.

No Man can be admitted as a Judge in this Court, unless he has occupy'd that station in an inferior one, or has practis'd for some Years as a Counsellor.

Those who would enter Counsellors before this Court, must have been previously examin'd by the King's Council, & produce certificates of their studies.

This Institution cannot fail of producing proper effects, if strictly adher'd to by the President.

Amongst several regulations the following appear excellent.

The Judges are never (even amongst themselves) to talk previously of the business that is to come before them; their opinions given in Court are wrote down by the proper secretary, & the sentence recorded, which serves as a president in future & similar Cases.

The Judges suffer capitally if convicted of Corruption.

The German Provinces have also their Supreme Courts, that of the Dutchy of Holstein at Gluckstadt, & for the Countys of Oldenburgh & Dalmenhorst at Oldenburgh.

The reputation of the first of these Tribunals is so great that it is consulted in different Criminal cases, wherein formerly the Judges were in use to apply to the German Universitys.

Different districts have Governors appointed over them to execute the Laws, & the Sovereign's Commands, to inspect the King's Revenues, & protect the Peasants; but they have no Jurisdiction over the subject except in Matrimonial affairs; in all other cases they can only act as mediators; they never have extraordinary Commissions, the Source of Arbitrary decisions, nor can they prevent the Subject from carrying accusations against them to the Royal Ear.

When the King intends to make any alterations in Government, he declares it in Council; there also all Laws are propos'd discuss'd & enacted by the Royal Authority.

All business intended to be brought before the King in Council, is first carry'd to the Chancery of the Province it belongs to; these Chanceryes are Danish or German Offices for Public affairs; Petitions are from thence sent to those who by their employments, or private interest are authoris'd to contradict them.

Each of these Chanceryes have a Council at which a Secretary of State presides, compos'd of Young Noblemen who attend to learn business, & Lawyers who report what ever is lay'd before this Council; then the Facts alledg'd on both Sides are examin'd, on these are grounded a resolution, which with the reasons that led them to it are set down on Papers, & given the King as their advice.

If the affair in the least regards the general rules of the Kingdom, the Attorney General is consulted, who gives his opinion in writing, & in virtue of his Office has a place in the Danish Chancery.

That Justice may with greater certainty be administer'd, if the business has any concern with any other Board than the one it naturally comes before, that must also be consulted; the King's orders are so positive on this head, that if one Board has in such a case made their resolution without knowing the opinion of the other, redress is certain on proper application made.

This shows that tho' this Government is absolute, yet business is carry'd on in a certain course, & not according to the meer caprice of the King.

To what has been said concerning the Chancery Court, it may be necessary to add, that all Petitions, complaints, &c. to be laid instantly before the King, are sent to these Offices, except they relate to Judicial proceedings.

Next in rank to these Chancerys are the different Boards, viz of Exchequer, War, Marine, Commerce & Public Oeconomy.

The Board of Exchequer consists of three Deputys who execute the office of Treasurer, & six or seven Counsellors, these all assemble when raising Money is in deliberation; but the disposition of it is confin'd to the three Deputys; & they make all their reports to the King, laying also the opinions of the Counsellors before him.

But before we describe the method of carrying on this branch of business, it will be necessary to give a Sketch of the King's revenues.

They are compos'd of Domains & Taxes; the Domains consist in Lands reserv'd to the Crown for the support of the Cavalry, & in Lands that allways belong'd to the Crown, or were vested in it on various occasions; both these are under the care of Intendants or Receivers call'd Amts-Forwalters, & Regiments-Skrivers, the first receive the Duties paid out of the Estates of the Nobility, & the latter the things Domain which partly consist of Land-Gilde, or the annual money paid by his Tenants to him as Proprietor, & partly of Duties they give him as Sovereign; these Intendants annually bring their accounts to the Board of Finances.

The Danish Taxes are either laid on the Country, or on the Towns.

In the Country all who cultivate Lands (unless they have privileges to the Contrary) pay a certain tax call'd Hart Korn; this is the name given to a sort of Land Tax, & is estimated by a vague measure call'd a Tun, every Farmer pays in proportion to the number of Tuns they possess; a Tun of Hart Korn is therefore a measure comprehending in good arable ground about 112,000. feet Square; in poor ground 700,000. feet Square & upwards, so varying continually in every district according to the Soil.

According to the first estimate in good Soil, it contains a space of Ground sufficient to sow three Tuns of Corn in, one of Rye, one of Barley, & one of Oats; in Meadow ground a Tun of Hart Korn

signifies a certain number of Cart Loads of Hay.

The Duties payable on each of these Tuns are

4. Marks & 12d. on Corn

9 Marks for the Register of the Lands.

1. Mark & 6d. for the Cavalry

& 12d. on Beef & Bacon.

All these added together make 16. Marks for every Tun.

N.B. a Danish Mark is about 7d. English Money.

These Taxes are always the same excepting that on Corn, which sometimes is lessen'd.

Other Taxes pay'd by the Cultivators, are the tenths, which are divided between the King, the Church, & the Clergyman of the Parish; the Royal tenths in general belong to the University, Hospitals, Schools, & some to Noblemen who have obtain'd grants of them from the Crown.

The Peasants are also oblig'd to mend the Roads, & Bridges, to furnish the King, His Ministers & servants with Horses & Carriages when they travel, to assist in apprehending Delinquents, maintaining Schools, & paying the Parson of their Parishes.

These Peasants tho' highly Tax'd are affirm'd by the Writer on the Danish Government to be happier than the same class in most other arbitrary Nations, because their Taxes are fix'd & certain; indeed the greatest part

of the weight seems to fall on the owners of Estates, who cannot complain as they or their Forefathers knew the annual expence they were liable to when they bought it.
Those who either don't cultivate Lands, or possess them privileged, pay a Capitation Tax call'd Folke-og or Familie Skatten.
Bailiffs, their Clerks, the King's Stewards, Housekeepers & other servants as well as those Noblemen that have privileged Estates, pay 2. Crowns a head for themselves, their Wives & Children above 12. Years old; & a Crown for every place where they keep Horses.
The Parsons of Parishes pay a Crown & 2. Marks for their Wives, & Children above 12. Years old, & a Crown for their Horses; they themselves are excempted from this Tax, because imploy'd in keeping gratis the Register of what is contribute'd.
Noblemen's Stewards & their Clerks are tax'd a Crown
Men servants 3. Marks & Maids 2. Marks.
Peasants that work by the Day a Crown; Women of the same sort half a Crown.
All Artizans imploy'd in making necessary tools &c. for Husbandry are excepted from the Capitation; but all others pay 2. Crowns for themselves, as much for their Wives & Children.
These are all the impositions laid in the Country.
The Capitation Tax is farm'd; but that on Estates yields Quit-Rents, which are receiv'd by the Ants-Forwalter, who

transmit them to the Cashiers of the King's Revenues.

The Regiment Skrivers examine the Accounts of the Amts Forvalter & Ferte-skrivers, & if they find them confus'd, demand an explanation; all these papers are laid before one of the Council of the Exchequer, whose report the Board generally adopts, unless the affair is to be brought before the King; the accounts are not pass'd till the King on the petition of the Board signs them.

He sometimes receives part of his revenue in Grain, which is very commodious both for him & his Subjects.

The Bailifs are Officers instituted to keep a just ballance between the interest of the King & that of the Subject; therefore without his leave no Amts Forvalter can use force against any of the King's Peasants, & that he may have an exact knowledge of the Condition of each Peasant, he must once a Year at least visit every part of his Bailiwick; this last regulation only concerns the King's Peasants, for the Nobility must necessarily examine those on their Estates, as they are answerable for them.

Taxes or Towns consist of Duties lay'd on all imported goods except necessary in Manufactures, & on some exported; this Branch of the Revenue is farm'd (except at Copenhagen) by Companys either of Merchants, or Burghers for a term not exceeding 3. Years.

There can be no exact account given of the Rates of Goods, but in general about 10. per Cent is paid on importation; where goods are brought in Foreign bottoms, the Tax is higher than when navigated in home built Vessels; & all goods re-exported receive a drawback of the whole Duty.

There is an Excise on Wines & Provisions. This also is farm'd, but that on Corn Mills is administered by the King's Officers.

It consists of 15. Rixdollars on a barrel of Rhenish, Spanish or Italian Wines, containing about 155. Pots including the Tax of Consumption & Customs.

10. Rixdollars for a Cask containing 6. small barrels of French Wine, when immediately brought from France with the above Duties on Consumption &c. if from some other Country more is paid

6. Marks for a Cask of Salt.

6d. for a pound of Tobacco

3. Rixdollars for an Ox at Copenhagen, but half at any other place

3. Marks for grinding a Cask of Wheat weighing 624. pounds.

1. Rixdollar for a Cask of Malt ground for making Beer a Copenhagen.

4. Marks in other Towns.

These several Duties have been long regulated; but the King by an Edict in Feb. 1757. encreased the Duty on Aqua Vitæ ordering 15. Marks to be paid for every Cask of Wheat (in Towns) & 14. Marks for every one of Rye, Barley, or other Grain intended for distillation; when that Liquor is carry'd to any place, then from 6d. to 10d. is paid according to its strength.

By another Edict at the same time, 6d. was lay'd on every pack of Cards, the produce of this was applyd towards the New Hospital for 300. Sick.

There is also a Tax on Marriages, wherein the Commonalty are excepted; this seems to me very impolitick as it must undoubtedly lessen the number, which ought on the contrary by every method to be encrease'd.

By this Duty those who have any rank or place in the State pay. 50. Rdl.

All Noblemen who have neither rank or Place . . . . . 20.

Eclesiastiks in the Country, Farmers, Receivers of the Estates of the Nobility, & Common Burghers . . . . . 4.

Workmen 2

Servants & Journeymen in Towns . . . . . 1.

Every Town also pays a certain sum to the Garrisons for exemption from quartering, settl'd by a Committee of all the Magistrates, & some of the principal Burghers, this is levy'd according to the size of the Houses; if the people are dissatisfy'd it is refer'd to a Committee chosen from the different classes of the State.

The Towns are subject to two other Taxes, the on call'd Grund-Skatter, or a Ground Tax, the other Rye Skatter, a sort of Capitation Tax; a Committee of Burghers annually fix what each Inhabitant must give, the money is put into the Town Chest for Public uses.

There is also a Tax on Stamp'd Papers, on which all Receipts, Contracts, & Articles of agreement whatever must be written, the price of which is proportionable to the sums therein mention'd.

N. B. if the sum is under 100. Crowns the paper Costs ... 3. Marks.

From 100. to 300. ..... 1. Rixdll.

900. to 1,200. ..... 3.

4,000. to 5,000. ..... 16.

9,000. to 10,000. ..... 40.

All receipts must also be made on this Papers.

If the Sum is less than 100. Crowns it costs 4d. if 20,000. or more 12d.

It is also ord'd for registring all Acts of Judicature, as for instance

The 3. first Sheets of Sentence in the Supreme Court costs ... 1. Rixdll.

In the superior Courts ..... 3. M.

In the Inferiors ..... 1. M. 4d.

The King receives a Toll from the Sound where 3,000. Ships annually passe repass; the Britons, French, Dutch, & Swedes give one per cent, & all other Nations (the natives not excepted) a fourth.

Christian IV. in 1614. erected an East India Company, who sent three Ships under the Command of Roland Crape to the Indies, accompany'd by three men of War under that of Mr. de Gieldes.

Crape obtain'd a small district of land on which Tranquebar & Fort Dansburgh are built, from the Naicke of Tanjaor; their Capital Stock amounted to 1624. only to 149,614. Rixdll.

they added 162,600. Bank Crowns to this Capital.
Frederic. IV. also assisted them greatly; yet in 1730. they found themselves unable to carry on Trade; He justly looking on Commerce as the truest means of aggrandizing His Kingdom, with difficulty form'd a new Society for that purpose, & plac'd the Prince Royal (afterwards Christian VI) as President; they had such great success that in 1732. a new Company was form'd out of it, & obtain'd a Charter, by which for 40. Years they were to have the sole right of Trading from the Cape of Good Hope to China; all the Provisions & Stores they us'd in fitting out the Fleet were to be Duty Free; their Workmen not bound by the National Regulations; nor were they oblig'd to write their contracts on Stamp'd Paper. all persons in their Service were under their own Jurisdiction & the Decrees of their Directors were to be appeal'd, except in Capital Cases, & then only to the Supreme Court; disputes arising between the Company & Strangers, were to be settl'd by two Directors of the Company & 3. Counsellors of the Supreme Court.
The Company was to nominate all the Officers in the Indies, & the King reserv'd only the Confirmation of the Governors of Tranquebar & Dansburgh; they were also empower'd to make Treaties with the Asiatick Powers,

the King engaging to ratify them.

His Majesty receives one per Cent on all exported goods brought from the East Indies & 2½. on those consum'd in the Kingdom.

Farther to assist the Company two Funds were establish'd, one call'd Constant, to which all who enter instantly pay 250. Crowns. this was destin'd to recover the effects of the Antient Company both in Europe & Asia; the other call'd roulant or circulating, was regulated on the number of Ships annually that compos'd the Fleet, & the vollue of their cargoes; the Contributors are at liberty to take shares in this or that vessel as they please, & at the return of the Fleet, the accounts of the Expence & profit of each Ship are made out.

From these institutions the Company appears in various lights, if we examine only their constant Fund, they may be call'd a permanent Society; but their circulating Stock, turns them into an annual Body.

To augment the Constant Fund, which is the support of the Company, it was agreed that 10. per Cent of all the profits arising from each Sale of Indian Goods in Europe, was to be regularly added to it, & also 5. per Cent of all the merchandize shipp'd at Tranquebar.

This Fund in 1739. was encreas'd to 750. Crowns per Share, to which it was by a regulation in 1737. limitted, & it was decreed that the duties which had encreas'd this Capital should give a Dividend of the said Fund; at first this Stock consisted of 400. Shares of 250. Crowns each & in 1744. each of these were subdivide into 4. so that there are now 1,600. Shares.

Notwithstanding all this in 1755. the Constant Fund was doubl'd, & each antient Share worth 1,500. Crowns, which brings the present divided ones to 375. Crowns each.

No person can have a Vote in the General Court of the Company, unless Proprietor of one of these Shares, those who have 3. of them have 2. Votes, if five, 3. Votes &c so in proportion till they have 20. Shares which gives 15. Votes; but no man can have more, tho' he had a greater number of Shares.

The directors are chosen in a General Court, where all business of the greatest consequence is propos'd; the Common Direction of the Company's affairs is left to a President, who must be a Man of Quality, & 4. Directors, one of which ought to be a Lawyer or a Sea Officer, the other 3. Merchants; these are obliged to consult in important matters the Participating Principals who are 5. one of them must also be a Lawyer or Sea Officer; these as well as the Directors must have 10. Shares before they can be chosen; they have the revision of the Company's Books, Clerks Accounts, & State of

the Magazines, & only quit this office to rise Directors, these are for 9. Years.

After this Account of the Company it may not be improper to add that Ecclesiastick's have ever since 1705. been establish'd at Tranquebar to convert the Indians to Christianity; in 1756. it was deem'd that in the Town alone they had Christen'd 4571. & 5785. in the Country; these Clergy correspond with a Society appointed by the King for propagating the Gospel; who transmit the King's extensive Charity, & that of others to those Missionarys; that those regulations may have the greater efficacy, the King has set up a printing press in Asia, where the Old Testament has been publish'd in the Portuguese Language & the new in the Talmul.

The Insurance Company was form'd in 1727. for each share 10,000. Crowns must be subscrib'd, the Money not paid down, but security given for it; the subscriptions in 1746. amounted to 600,000. Crowns; they can only Insure 30,000. Crowns except on one of the Companys Ships, when it may amount to 60,000. Crowns, the Dividend is encreas'd 9. per Cent.

In 1736. the King by Charter erected a Bank at Copenhagen; by it all Bank Bills were made current, but none obliged to take them; the King promising never to borrow Money of it; the subscriptions were 1000. Shares of 500. Crowns each.

This Bank answers Merchants draughts, & lends them Money at 4. per Cent on Security; this has lessen'd the interest of Money throughout the Kingdom, which had been upto 5 & 6. per Cent.

This Bank is of great utility to Trade, as Merchants can on such easy terms borrow Money; the dividend has been from 9. to 12. per Cent; the Shares are also rais'd from 500. to 1250. Crowns.

The Bank is govern'd by 10. Directors 3. of whom must be Noblemen, 2. Lawyers, & 5. Merchants; they are alternatively chang'd; the Noblemen every 2. Years, & the other every Year.

A general Court is held annually, when an Account is given of the Sums they have met with; then also 5. Merchants are chosen to examine the Books, & 2. of them are weekly to look after the State of their Fund.

The General Company was establish'd in 1747. in hopes of making Copenhagen the Staple of the Baltick; it has the sole right of trading to Greenland, & the Whale Fishery in those parts. Its chief Commerce is in Fish, Wood, Iron, Copper, Leather &c. which is carry'd to France, Spain, & Italy; where these Commodities are bartered for Wines, Oil, Almonds, Raisins, Coffee, Silk, Marble &c. they also procure Blacks from Guinea & the American Islands.

When the Ships return, they print the list of their Cargoes, & sell them publicly.

There are 1000. Shares in this Company each worth 300. Crowns,

& the Directors are authorized to borrow or demand 200. Crowns more from every share.

At the General Court held by this Company in 1757. it was agreed that besides the above mention'd sums, 200. Crowns should be advanc'd by each Proprietor, half to enlarge the Extent branches of its Commerce, & the other half to get 200. shares in the new Levant Trade the Danes are about to open.

The business of this Company is manag'd by a President & 6. Directors, who are also to look after their concerns in this new Trade; for which 500. shares of 500. Crowns are form'd, of which as I have said before, this Company have taken 200.

The African Company took its rise in 1750. their Charter entitles them to the sole trade from the 30th. to the 22d. Deg. of Lat. in Africa; they bring from thence Copper, Leather & Wax, & carry Linnen, Cloth, Spices, & other Commodities proper for that Country; their Stock consists of 500. shares at 500. Crown each, & in 1756. they had a dividend of 10. per Cent; they have a President & 4. Directors.

We shall next take notice of the Iseland Company, this Island was first peopl'd by a Colony of Norwegians, whose form of Government was a Republic, in 1262. it was subjected by Haquin King of Norwey; His Son Magnus in 1280. gave them a body of Laws still in force.

It lies between the 63d. & 67th. Deg. of Lattitude; yet according to Mr. Horrebows observations in 1749. Mr. de Reaumeur's Thermometer

never was lower than between the 7th & 5th Deg. below frost. some Winters the Cattle are able to remain in the Fields, tho' generally it is imagin'd that Britain is the only one of the northern Powers that can boast of this.

Iseland is 100. Miles in length & 50. in breadth, yet there are scarcely 100,000. Inhabitants tho' 196. Parishes, in all probability it was formerly better peopl'd, but 'dim'd by the Black plague that ravag'd through the North in the 14th Century, & by the eruption of the Vulcanos which have made (as the appearance of the Country evidently shows) great alterations in it.

Tho' the Soil appears barren, yet the necessarys for other Countrys are found there, such as Beef, Leather, Wool, & Salt Meat; the Oils of Whales, Sea Dogs, & Calfs. Woolen Gloves, & Stockings, Sulfer, a thick sort of Cloth call'd Wodmal & Eiderdown.

There are no Towns in this Island, the Inhabitants are dispers'd along the Coast in small numbers, not living farther than about 12. Miles back in the Country; beyond that nothing appears but Wild Rocks. Iseland & the Island of Westmanoe have 23. frequented Ports, from 14. of which only Fish & Oil are ship'd; from 7. Salt Meat, & from the 2. others Fish & Salt Meat promiscuously; as yet the Inhabitants raise no Corn, but live much on dry'd Fish, & Butter.

The Company is oblig'd to find them in all the necessarys for their Food, Fishing, & Houses, which are carry'd to different Ports. That all of these may be the best of the kind, the King has directed his Officers to examine the Ships before they sail, that they may

reject those Merchandizes that are bad, or lessen the price if to a deer.
The Company are oblig'd to take the produce of the Island provided it is good, according to a Book of Rates settl'd in 1702. Flower, Iron, Biscuit, & Timber is sold so cheap that the Company often loose by it; but that is made up to them by the sale of Fish; so that Iceland is nourish'd at a fix'd price, & the Company no sufferers.
The Fishery does not every Year equally succeed, when unsuccessful, the Company are oblig'd to leave in the Magazines erected for that purpose, Flower & Fish sufficient for the use of the Inhabitants; the King's Officer keeps an Account of the quantitys taken by each Individual, that He may repay next Year in his own Provisions.
These regulations were fix'd by a Charter granted the 1st of Jan. 1743. to the 1st of Jan. 1753. & since prolong'd to the 1st of Jan. 1771. on the Company's engaging to Trade with Finmark; they are not allow'd to navigate any Ships except Danish, & their whole Cargo must consist of the Commodities & Manufactures of Denmark.
The Islanders are forbid to Trade with Strangers, & the Company pay the King 16,300. Crowns, & find him in Hawks for these exclusive Privledges.
The goods carry'd to Iceland pay no Duties; but all the produce of that Island exported from Copenhagen is charg'd with 1. per Cent. if consum'd in the City, the Excise must be pay'd.
The Company's Ships sail with their Cargoes for Iceland in May & June, they arive there generally in three Weeks, then the Principal Clerk unloads them & puts the Merchandize into the Houses for that purpose belonging to the Company; the

Inhabitants bring their Commodities which are exchang'd for the goods of the Company according to the value settl'd by the Book of Rates; yet if the Icelanders please they may receive money for their Goods, on paying the Company in specie for their, but they rather chuse to give an equivalent in Fish; after the exchanges are made the Ships sail; in Sept. those loaded with Fish & Oil return, & those with salt Provisions in Oct. & Nov. of 19. Ships that the Company commonly send, 14. are destin'd to return to Copenhagen & 5. to Gluckstadt, from the latter the Cargoes are carry'd back to Hamburgh.

The Stock of this Company consists of 100. Shares intrinsically worth 200. Crowns each, some Years they have amounted to 2600. & others to 2700. Crowns, but now they fall; this is occasion'd by the diminution of the Fishery, the Mortality of the Sheep in the Island, & the increase of the price of Corn in Denmark; as the Fishing branch of Trade lessens, of course their Stock must also suffer; & the Icelanders constantly want more Corn when their Fishery does not succeed, & then are less able to pay for it.

In 1752. the Icelanders erected a Society for teaching Agriculture, Building Ships, Fishing in the open sea, Salting Fish, Spinning, & weaving Cloth for the Inhabitants; the King out of encouragement to this laudable undertaking, has given them 50,000 Crowns.

The Trade to Finmark is carry'd on by the Iceland Company. the produce of that Country is much the same with that of Iceland, but then the Company are permitted to export it where they please.

The Islands of Ferro situated between the Orcades & Iseland consist of 25. some are 15. Danish Miles long & 10. broad; there are but 17. of them cultivated which have in all 39. Churches; they abound in Pasture, & Barley; also produce some Wool, salted Meat, Soap, Skins & Fish.

Tho' it has ever been a general opinion that Manufactures are greatly beneficial to every Country, yet Denmark seems to have been unprovided with them till towards the end of the last Century, when that of Tapestry was erected at Kioge a small Town in Zeeland.

Also in 1660. one of Cloth was establish'd in the Hospital of Invalides, & since that time much encrease'd by Frederic III. ordering his Troops to be Cloath'd with it; but did not arrive to the height it is now at, till the Peace of the North in 1720.

In Christian V. time there was a small silk Manufacture, but Christian VI. must be look'd on as the great improver if not founder of Manufactures in that Kingdom; the present King seems intent on pushing them still farther.

The Council of Commerce & Public Oeconomy was founded to examine all Schemes propos'd for enriching the Kingdom, & to make their reports of them to the King, who is ever willing to encourage those that are likely to succeed.

This Board is compos'd of 5. persons each of whom have their seperate Departments viz. Trade, Manufactures, Agriculture, & the Fishery.

As this Board would have too much business if forc'd to enter into the detail of every growing Manufacture, Christian VI. erected a Board call'd Directors of the General Magazin; this consists of 4. Directors, a Treasurer, & a Keeper of the Magazin with Clerks.

This Magazin was intended to get the necessarys for the Manufactures from the Makers, & sell them at prime cost to the Manufacturers, who were either to repay in Cloths & Stuffs, or money.
By these regulations the Magazin was in a few Years stock'd with all sorts of Cloths & Stuffs yet the Merchants continu'd buying these Commodities in Foreign Ports.
Therefore in 1759. the King enfor'd by a Law the Convention the Merchants had made with the Magazin; by it they were to import no Foreign Merchandize that the Magazin could furnish, without paying a Fine; if the Magazin could not provide them with what they wanted, they were to take out a certificate of it.
The Cloth & Silk Manufactures are now in great perfection, tho' still very dear; for 150. looms are employ'd in making Cloth & 179. in making Silks at Copenhagen.
A Cloth Manufacture has been lately establish'd in Iseland, where there are great quantitys of Coarse Wool fit for Soldiers, who have hitherto been cloath'd with Mecklenburgh & Polish Cloths.
Fire Arms, Gun Powder, Salt Peter, Vitriol, Porcelain, & refin'd Allum are also made at Copenhagen.
The Town of Randers in Jutland, & Odensee in Fünen are famous for Tanning Leather; at Tondern good Lace is made, & linnen at Sleswick & Oldenburgh.
The making Printed Cottons was a Monopoly till the King gave 12,000. Crowns to have the patent restor'd & now this branch begins also to flourish.
Madder & Woad are cultivated with great success & us'd in dying the Soldiers Cloaths.

To encourage still farther the home Manufactures the importation of things necessary for Cloathing or used in Dress, Cards, Sealing Wax, Tobacco Pipes, & many other things too tedious to mention here, have been prohibited at different times, as those made at home improv'd.

The Silk Manufacture was entirely in the King's hands but given up by him on condition that 100. Looms should be constantly kept at Work.

All Foreign Workmen are encourag'd if they come & settle at Copenhagen.

This has encreas'd the number of Inhabitants, for at the King's accession to the Crown in in 1746. there were but 1200. foreign Artists & now encreas'd to above 4000.

There is also an excellent Hospital erected for 200. Children who are to be train'd up either as Sailors or Artizans; any Tradesman on paying 50. Crowns may have one of these Boys for an Apprentice during 9. Years.

Having run over the different Branches of Government, we will now take a view of the Military Establishment.

The Danish Land Forces are compos'd of Regulars & Militia; Most of the Regulars are recruited in Germany, on account of the situation of the Danish Peasants.

Before the Revolution in 1660. Foreign Troops were only in pay during War; but at that time Frederic III. establish'd a standing Army of 24,000. Men.

When the Crown devolv'd to Frederic IV. the Horse were dispers'd about the Country; He settl'd 12. quarters for them either on Crown Lands or those he bought for that purpose, where they were forag'd; 6 of these were in Zeeland; 1. in Funen; 3. in Jutland; 1. in Lolland; & 1. in Falster. He also founded 240. Schools for the Education of the Peasants & Soldiers Children.

The Danish Horse now consists of 11. Regts. including the Horse Guards, & a Regt. of Dragoons; 3. of them are now in Zealand; 2. in Funen; 3. in Jutland; & 4. in Holstein; according to a regulation made since Frederic IV.

There are 16. Regts. of Foot of 2. Batts; each of which are subdivided into 6. Comps. of 100. Men, besides a Regt. of Invalids of 15. Comps. of 100. & 4. Comps. of them in Norway.

3. Regts. are employ'd in the Artillery, 1. in Denmark. the 2d in Norway, & the 3d in Holstein.

The Engineers are divided into 3. Corps of 20. Officers of different Classes.

Every Person that has 60. Tun of Hart Korn must find a man to serve in the Danish Militia; & half a man as a Reserve; this Militia is form'd into Regts. they have a uniform; but the reserve have none; they are never employ'd except in times of Exigency.

Denmark has 4. Regts. of them each consisting of 12. Comps. of 150. Men, besides officers & Non Commission'd Officers.

In the Dutchys of Sleswick & Holstein, the County of Rantzau, & the Lordship of Pinneberg, one Militia Man is found by every district of land call'd 3. ploughs 1/4.

By this regulation the Militia erected there in 1738. amounted to 2. Regts. of about 2,473. men; but the King in 1756. exempted so many districts so that they are now reduc'd to 1,632.

The Militia of Oldenburgh & Delmenhorst is on the same Foot; they form'd in 1756. a Regt. of 1200. Men in 1756. were diminis'd to 600.

Norway supports a greater body of Militia than any of the King's other Dominions, here all the Subjects are free; so that the manner of levying is very different than in other parts, except near the Coasts, where they are reserv'd for the sea Service, & some Districts of Nordland & Finmark, which are entirely exempted from raising Militia.

This Kingdom is divided into small portions of land call'd in the Norwegian language Lagde, each of these must furnish Either a foot Soldier or a Dragoon & a Horse, which the Inhabitants must also keep; all the peasants are from their birth register'd in the Rolls of this Militia, & as vacancys fall out, the Seniors of the different Districts replace them; after 10. or 14. Years Service, they are put into the Corps call'd Landvarn, establish'd for the Defence of the Towns, & when grown old in those Corps, discharg'd.

By this institution there are 5. Regts. of Dragoons of 6 Comps, each of 60. Men, & 2. others of Landvarn of 120. Men besides Officers & Non Commission'd Officers.

The Norwegian Militia is compos'd of 13. Regts. of Foot each of 12. Comps. of 100. Men & 4. Comps. of Landvarn of 150. Men each, besides Officers & Non Commission'd Officers; there are also 4. Comps. of Kielobere a sort of light Infantry useful in running up the Mountains

The Officers in all the Militia are pay'd much the same as those of the same rank in the Regular Forces, but the Private Men are only pay'd whilst employ'd; yet exercis'd every Sunday after Church, & once or twice a Year assemble to do their Evolutions.

In 1714 An Academy for Cadets was founded, this is the Nursery for raising a constant succession of Young Men, who in time may be of service to their Country.

All Petitions with regard to the Army, to the advancing Officers, to administring Justice, & keeping up discipline among the Troops, are carry'd to the Chancery of War; commonly a General Officer is President at that Board, on getting this employment if he has a Regt. he must resign it, that he may not be aware of partiality to any particular Corps; he reports the King's orders in cases where the King's signing is not necessary but if so, he countersigns it.

The paying & Cloathing the Troops, the keeping Magazines of Provisions, the building & repairing Fortifications, are the business of the Commissarys of War; this is now composed of 6. Persons; the King has settl'd a certain annual sum for the support of his troops; but if there are extraordinary Expences, these Commissarys acquaint the King with the necessary addition.

Frederic IV. in 1719. gave the Commissarys orders to cloath the Troops with Danish cloth; they therefore erected a Manufacture which now furnishes the whole Army; the Commissarys delivers it to the Colonel, & pays him the price of making up; as for Hats & the rest of the dress the King allows the Captains to provide them; each Regt. is entirely new cloath'd every 3. Years & has a Quarter Master, who receives they pay of the Officers & Soldiers, & distributes it Monthly; but as part of the pay is stop'd & only pay'd up every 3. Months, if Officers require it sooner, the Quarter Master advances it.

All the Officers are pay'd by the King, & are not allow'd to take any thing from the Soldiers; but both in the Horse & Foot each Captain has a certain Number of Friemand; these are men who give him their pay on his permitting them to follow the Trade they are bred to; this Money is to be put by for the Expences of Recruiting; the King also gives 2 60. Crowns to the Foot.

Lists are kept of the Effective Men, that none of the Officers may sink the pay of Soldiers.

No Officer tho' in a Civil Course can be try'd except by a Court Martial.

This Court in every Regt. consists of 13. persons viz. of the Colonel (who may preside in all cases, but must when the life or Honour of the person accus'd is concern'd) 2. Capts. as many Lieuts; Ensigns, Serjeants,

Corporals, & Private Men, if a Common Soldier is to be tryd; yet in general no inferior can give Judgement on a superior.

An Auditor a Man bred to the Law, directs the proceedings in Criminal Cases, collects the Votes, & draws up the Sentence, which is given to the Auditor General, who gives his opinion to the Minister of War, & he reports it to the King in cases of death or Infamy.

In Civil Cases the Criminal may appeal, this is examin'd by an extraordinary Court summon'd for this purpose by the King, among whom are General Officers.

There have been some Changes in the Army by the present King; in 1747. He rais'd the 2. Regts. of Falster & Moenia; also a body of Fusiliers call'd Skielobere of 16. Comps. of 100. Men; 2. Comps. of Lanvarn of 150. Men each were added to the Militia & every Regt. of Norwegian Dragoons encreas'd 240. Men, divided into 2. Comps.

The 13. Regts. of Norwegian Militia were each reinforc'd one Batt. of 4. Comps. of 150. Men besides Officers & Non Commission'd Officers.

In 1749. 2. new Regts. of Norwegian Dragoons were rais'd

In 1757. every Troop of Horse except the Horse Guards have been augmented 15. Men, & every one of Dragoons 35. Men.

The Danish Troops are at present composed of

Horse	5,547.	Men	
*Dragoons	5,357.		10,904.
Infantry	56,379.		59,747.
Artillery	1,368.		
Total of the Troops			70,651.

* N.B. the Reserve of 19. Men per Comp. is not reckon'd here.

Denmark is certainly one of the most Antient Kingdoms in the World; their Historians date that Monarchy long before our Saviour, but all their Antient History is so obscure & uncertain, that it can be little depended on; so that after just mentioning Frotho III. who is said to have been Master of Denmark, Sweden, & Norway; to have subdued the Vandals, & first took the title of King of that People, we shall pass on to Eric I. whose Reign was famous for the introduction of Christianity by Ansgarius Bishop of Bremen, about the year 846.

Swens in 901. invaded England, whose son Canute compleated that conquest, & dying in 1017. gave England to his son Harold, to Sweno Norway, & Denmark to his third son Canute III.

After his death Magnus King of Norway conquer'd Denmark, but the Usurper dead, Sweno II. recover'd

the Kingdom.

Waldemar was crown'd in 1157. renu'd the title of King of the Vandals, & got the greatest part of Pomerania, whose son Canute VI. conquer'd Livonia, & introduc'd Christianity there.

Nothing remarkable happen'd during this interval, till Margaret succeeded Olaus VI. in 1387. She was oppos'd by Albert in Sweden, but having defeated him, forc'd the Swedes to acknowledge Her as their Queen.

In 1395. She at Calmar united Sweden, Norway, & Denmark, where it was settl'd that the three Kingdoms should be one elective Monarchy; that their Sovereign should be chosen by an equal number of each of the three Nations, & that each Kingdom should be govern'd by its own Laws, defended by its own Troops, that no Foreigner should have any Civil or Military employment, & that the General Diet of the three Kingdoms should be held at Helmstadt in the Province of Halland.

This is call'd the Constitution of Calmar & in time occasion'd great dissentions & a bloody war, which

lasted 200 years. When the Danes chose Christian I. Count of Oldenburgh for their King; & by the interest of the Bishop of Upsal he was elected King of Sweden; by this the Union of Calmar was renued; but the Swedes soon threw off the Danish yoke, & this Prince dying, his Son John who succeeded him, could never reduce them tho' he reign'd 30. years.

His Son Christian II. famous for his Vices reconquer'd Sweden in 1520. & when Crown'd at Stockholm, had all the Swedish Nobility massacr'd; this cruel action made the Swedes drive him out of their Country; at length his oppression & profligacy was so great, that the Danes forc'd him to give up his right to the Crown, confin'd him for life, & elected his Uncle Frederick in his room in 1523.

He confirm'd the privileddges of the Nobility & Clergy, & after a Reign of 10. years was succeeded by his Son Christian III. when the Lutheran Religion

was establish'd by Law.

His Son Frederick II. carried on a long war with Sweden which ended by a peace in 1570. by the Mediation of the Emperor, & the Kings of France & Poland.

Christian IV. his Son reign'd 61. years, join'd against the Austrians in the wars in Germany, & towards the end of his life broke with Sweden, but was unfortunate in that war, & made Peace in 1645. by which he gave up Halland for 30. years to them, & lessen'd the Toll the Dutch paid for passing the Sound, for the assistance they had given him.

Frederick III. join'd with the Dutch in 1657. & broke with the Swedes, this would have prov'd fatal to him, ~~if the Dutch had not come to his assistance~~ ~~for Charles Gustavus besieg'd~~ At this time the Senate endeavouring to lay great restra[illegible] on his authority, the Nobility generally opposed them; & the Civil broils encou[illegible] Gustavus to besiege Copenhagen but the Dutch come to the Relief of Sweden ~~Copenhagen. At that juncture Frederick contrived~~ & the King seeing this opportunity contrived as well shall relate at full length,

to change the Constitution of Denmark from the most limitted, to the most absolute Sovereignty in Europe.

The whole power of the Nation had been lodg'd in the Nobility & Gentry, for at that time there was no distinction between them; they liv'd as Princes on their Estates, & the Farmers, & Countrymen were little better than their Slaves; they us'd to send Representatives to the Diet, but only confirm'd the Taxes with which they were heavily laden.

The Nobility form'd a distinct body in the States of the King dom, & the King could do nothing of consequence without their advice; so that he was not better than a President of the Council in time of Peace, or a General in war.

Tho' the succession went from Father to Son, yet the consent of the Nobility was necessary.

~~In the~~ just after this Peace a Diet of the

States was call'd to reestablish the Affairs, & enable the People to recover their losses. Where the Speaker of the Commons laid the dreadful State of the Nation before the Nobility, & how impossible it would be to raise money unless they would bear their proportion. They answer'd that it was the greatest presumption to enquire into their privileges, for they were their Vassals, & should remain so. The Speaker reply'd that if they would not do any thing to preserve those privileges, they were unworthy to enjoy them, that their answer had been cruel & insolent, & that tho' they could not enoble themselves, yet they could bring the weight of subjection as heavy on them, as they themselves had hitherto felt it. ~~Then the Speaker with all the Commons~~ & Clergy

~~ric'd to a Hall in the City & came to the resolution of yielding their authority to the King.~~

They then went to Court, when a Bishop & the Speaker acquainted the King, that they were resolv'd to make the Crown Hereditary, & to put the administration solely into his hands. He thank'd them, but said that the consent of the Nobility ~~was necessary~~; then in order to secure the City from disorders, the Gates were shut, & having the Army in his power, plac'd Guards in such a manner, that nobody ~~cout~~ quit Copenhagen without ~~his leave~~.[1] ~~The Nobility~~ They then too late saw their mistake, & sent to the King to offer to entail the Crown on his Male Heirs, & to encrease his power; but this would not content him, & they were forc'd three days after to do hommage to the King, Queen & Royal family, who were plac'd on a

theatre in sight of the Army. (2) * The King governd after this with great prudence for 10. years, & then died to the great grief of all his subjects.

Thus by the intestine divisions of the State, by the pride & Tyranny of the Nobility which render'd the Common People desperate, the Danes from the freest Nation in Europe, became subject to despotic Power; a dreadful warning to future Governments, & a strong proof of the eminent danger to which a State is reduc'd, when division rages in the great constituent parts of it, & when it nourishes too formidable an Army, to be kept obedient to the laws that that Army ought to protect, & enforce. (3)

His Son Christian V. succeeded him in 1670. who attempted the recovery of what the Swedes

had taken from his Ance

The Duke of Holste[illegible] coming to make him friendly visit, was treacherously seiz'd & confin'd by him till he agreed to surrender up the advantage he had got by the Treaty of Roschild. After this the King conquer'd Tonningen, the strongest place in the Duke's Dominions, & also reduc'd Wismar; had some advantage in the beginning of the next year, but was soon after defeated by the Swedes at Lunden; this forc'd him to abandon land operations, & continue the War at Sea, where he was more succesful, & in the end he made Peace on equal terms.

In 1694. On the death of the Duke of Holstein Gottorp, he raiz'd new claims on that family, which were for some time adjusted by

the Emperor, & the [illegible]s of Britain & Sweden, but they were on the point of a rupture when he died in 1699.

Frederick IV. his Son resolv'd to force the Dukes of Holstein to remain dependent of the Kings of Denmark; He overrun that Dutchy, & open'd the trenches before Tonningen, that was the cause of the long war mention'd under the article of Sweden.

The English & Dutch as Guarantees of the late Peace, sent a Strong Fleet into the Baltick, & the King of Sweden besieg'd Copenhagen, this forc'd the Danes to conclude the Treaty of Travendahl in 1700. by which the House of Holstein was to enjoy the rights of other Sovereigns, to raise Troops, & build Forts, provided two miles distant from any Danish Fortification, & at least one from their

Frontiers; the Danes were to pay 260,000. Crowns to the Duke of Holstein, & the Chapter of Lubeck was empower'd to chuse a Prince of Holstein for their Bishop.

But a new dispute arose the next year, upon some of the Chapter electing the Duke of Holstein's Brother, & others the Prince of Denmark; by the interposition of the Maritime Powers, the Prince of Holstein remain'd Bishop, & the Prince of Denmark receiv'd a pension equivalent to it from Britain.

In 1711. Frederick & the Poles fell into Swedish Pomerania, & took Domgarten. In 1712. Stade & Bremen, but was beat by the Swedes near Altena, who burnt that Town. The Danes at length drove the Swedes out of Norway, & in conjunction with the Prussians in 1715 reduc'd Wismar. They made Peace with the Swedes in 1720. by the mediation of George I. King of Britain; France Guarantee'd the Dutchy of Sleswick, & Britain renew'd

the one made some time before. The King then liv'd in peace to his death, which happen'd in 1730.

His Son Christian VI. had in his Father's Reign given great attention to the East India Company, & had been the Chief Support of it, this gave the People great hopes that Trade would be o. of his chief concerns.

He made material changes at his accession, but much to the Satisfaction of his People; what pleas'd them most, was the abolishing a Farm that had the sole vending of wine, & other liquors, & Salt & Tobacco, tho' it was greatly to his advantage, but burthensome to his Subjects; this was worthy the King of a Free People, & during his whole Reign, he continued this wise manner of acting.

In 1732. He acceded to the Treaty between the Courts of Vienna & Petersburgh, who guaranteed his dominions, & he their, & the Pragmatick

Sanction. He also consented to give 1,000,000. Rixdollars to the Duke of Holstein, on his yielding his claim to the Dutchy of Sleswick.

He then establish'd the Council of Trade, & at his own expence brought Artizans from foreign Countries to erect Manufactures, & gave them great encouragement. Form'd a Royal Bank that is very advantageous to his Subjects; & always kept his Navy & Army in good order, & that they might not be burthensome to his Subjects, often receiv'd Subsidies from Foreign Powers, without ever entering into their Disputes.

By a firm & vigourous conduct, he got the better both in his dispute with the Elector of Hanover concerning Steinhorst, & with the Dutch about the Island Fishery. His excellent manner of Governing was the reason the Swedes thought of chusing his Son as Successor to their late King.

In the last war he could not be persuaded to break his Neutrality, & join with the Austrians, & by

Shewing the Court of Petersburgh he was willing to settle affairs on reasonable terms with the House of Holstein, he got the Peace prolong'd with Russia, since renew'd by his Son, & Died in 1746. much lamented by his Subjects.

His Son Frederick V. the Present King has steadily pursued his Father's maxims; by his application & oeconomy he has paid a great debt owed by the Crown, & has given considerable sums for the encouragement of Manufactures.

When the Creditors knew he intended to pay the above debt, they offered to take but 4. per Cent; but he said his money was of no use to the Public, whilst in his Coffers, & therefore paid them; but if they would lend it to his Subjects at a low interest, to enable them to extend their Commerce & improve their Manufactures, He would look upon it as a favour done to himself.

His, & his Father's peaceful Reigns have greatly

encrea'd the Trade of the Country & the Revenues of the Crown.

ye Danish Troops are well paid & discipline'd; & their Sailors are reckon'd the best in the North.

The Revenues of the Crown amount to between 2 & 3,000,000 of Rixdollars.

This King has yearly sav'd enough to pay the Expences of Government, without extraordinary taxes.

The Clergy are much esteem'd tho' they have but small livings, having much influence over the People & exerting it in favour of the Crown.

The laws are excellent being all contain'd in a Quarto Volume, & Justice is so well administer'd that there are but few law Suits in this Country, & those quickly determin'd.

The King has the Sole Power of making & repealing Laws.

By what has been said it plainly appears that this Kingdom has greatly suffer'd by the Warlike temper of many of their Princes, & by the too great Power of

after this short abstract of ~~their~~ the Danish
it will be proper to give some account
of their Constitution, Laws, trade, fleets
Armys &c by which we shall be able not
only to form a judgement of their power
~~also to their~~ weight & influence in the general
system of Europe.

First of the Danish Laws.

the Nobility in former times.

There are now but 40. families that have the Titles of Counts or Barons.

The Trade of Norway has been much increas'd, & the Inhabitants more indulg'd in the late & present Reigns, as well as those of Iseland & the other Islands subject to this Crown.

Extracts from a
French Treatise
entitl'd
Lettres sur le Danemore
Octvo Geneve 1757.
With some necessary Annotations

1758.

we have before observed that.

Denmark was till 1660. a limitted Elective Monarchy; the Government compos'd of the King, Senate or Nobility, & the States of the Kingdom.

The King's Province ~~royal not~~ appears wholly confin'd to presiding in the Senate, & commanding the Army.

The Senate carry'd on conjointly with him Public affairs during the cessation of the Diet.

The States or Diet consisting of the Nobility, Clergy & Commons, decided all important Matters of the State.

This Form of Government may perhaps seem at first sight equally divided between these three Powers; but on a nearer View, the Nobility by their great Priviledges & assuming a superiority over the other Bodies, had the constant Direction of Affairs, which brought this mix'd Government very near an Aristocracy.

Out of ~~all~~ whom ~~of~~ the four Great Officers of State (a sort of Petty Kings) were chosen, viz. the

Grand

Grand Master of the Kingdom, the Chancellor, Marshal, & Admiral.

The Power of Frederic III. Predecessors besides this, was extremly limited by having bound themselves in diverse solemn Engagements to take a very small share in Public Affairs; but the Senate not yet satisfy'd, were for laying greater restraints on the Regal Power; & Frederic III. firm opposition to their demands proved the Source of Civil Discord, & encourag'd Charles Gustavus King of Sweden to invade Zealand, who in his Manifesto pretended amongst other things, to assist the King against the Senate.

These Domestick broils had so exerverated the Kingdom that the Swedes advanced to Copenhagen, but were repulsed by the bravery of the Burghers, & the assistance of a Dutch Fleet, & forc'd to a Treaty there the 27th. of May 1660.

The

The States were summon'd to meet the following Sept. to remedy the evils that menac'd the whole Kingdom.

The conduct of the nobility was unpardonable they at this critical juncture ~~the Gentlemen ought to have~~ shown the greatest moderation, the People looking on their Disputes with the King as the the real foundation of all the Misfortunes that had happen'd. besides the Burghers (who on account of their brave defence had obtain'd the same rights with the Nobility,) began to feel themselves of Consequence, particularly those of Copenhagen; but the Senate full of other Maxims, when a supply was in deliberation propos'd a Tax on Consumption with an exemption to their own Estates, this out of great Modesty they at the same time consented to wave their Priviledges, & pay the Tax for the space of 3. Years during their residence at Copenhagen.

The

The Clergy & Commons highly incens'd at these proceedings mov'd that the Old Fiefs of the Crown then in the hands of the Nobles, who pay'd a trifling Quit Rent, should be put up to Sale, & let to the best bidder, this the others strongly oppos'd.

The Bishops of Zeeland had great weight with the Clergy, & Hansen Bourgemaster of Copenhagen govern'd the Commons; these two greatly discontented at the Senate, united, then propos'd to their different Bodies the encreasing the King's Power, & entailing the Crown on his Family; this was with joy agreed to, for the King's Valiant Conduct during the Siege, had gain'd him the Hearts of the People; upon this a declaration was drawn up with the above alterations, & sent the 6th of Oct. to the Grandmaster as Chief of the Nobility for their Concurrence; the Senate extremely surpriz'd, insisted on the King's declaring he was satisfy'd with the Crown's being

elect'd

settled on His Male Heirs.

The Clergy & Commons came to the Senate the 10th of Nov. to demand their final resolution; but finding they sought only for delays, went in a Body to the King, & carry'd Him the above Declaration; who thank'd them for their good will, but said He could not accept their offer, unless the Senate join'd with them.

The Nobility seem'd resolv'd to leave the City, which would have dissolv'd the Diet; but were prevented by the Gates being kept shut;[1] ~~& found themselves oblig'd the 13th to agree to the proposals of the Clergy~~.[2] & ~~they all~~ on the 10th gave back to the King the instrument of Government that sate bounds to His Power, & two or three months after the three Orders brought Him seperately Declarations sign'd under their hands, by which they settled the Crown both on His Male & Female Heirs, with absolute Power & the right of regulating the Succession & Regency.

Thus

Thus the whole ~~form of Government was changed~~ without the least bloodshed.

~~Before I enter upon the present State of the Laws, the execution of them, the Finances, Commerce, Military & Naval Regulations, I can't help making one observation.~~ Yet at the same time I can't help observing that the Clergy & Commons appear ~~to the~~ to have acted very weakly, for undoubtedly they might have clipp'd the Wings of the Nobility, & at the same time have properly increas'd their own power, instead of only throwing it all into the hands of the Crown; & conveying to their innocent Posterity, Chains & Slavery, instead of the Freedom left them by their Ancestors, which they had no right to dispose of.

* Of the Laws of Denmark

~~As to the Laws~~ The Code which contains the Body of the Laws now in force, was publish'd by Christian V. in the Danish Language; this is of great use as it enables all persons to be conversant in what so nearly concerns them. Since the Publishing of this, few

Lawsuits

Lawsuits have been commenc'd that are not determin'd with the greatest expedition, for by that Code a Year is the term fix'd for the Decision. Therefore all the Causes that are to be tried, are set down in order, & the Judges arange their sittings according to the quantity of business they have to go through.

All criminal Causes are tried by the Regular Judges there being no extraordinary Commission for particular Trials, as in many other Absolute Monarchies.

The Person accus'd is allow'd to chuse his Counsel, if not satisfy'd with that the Magistrate has appointed for him.

As in Civil Causes, the determination of Criminal Matters is not confin'd to a Year, appeals may be made from one Court to another, when the life or Honour of the Subject is concern'd; the Cause passes through three different Tribunals, before the Sovereign gives Judgement in the last Appeal.

The Rack is only us'd in cases of High Treason

& when the Criminal is under sentence of death, but even then not without the King's consent, which has not happen'd above twice in the last 25. Years.

No sentence either in Criminal or Civil Cases can be put into execution till sign'd by the King.

When Appeals are made, the Judges of the inferior Courts are oblig'd to attend & give their reasons for the sentence they have pronounc'd; this enables the higher Judicators to punish the lesser one's if they have been unjust or too severe.

The Kings of Denmark endeavour'd long to give proper weight to their Supreme Court of Judicature; the Present King at last affected it in 1700. He encreas'd the Salaries of the Judges, plac'd a President at the Head of this Tribunal; & by His regulations in 1705. it is become famous for the integrity of the Judges, & for the Authority with which they proceed.

No Man can be admitted as a Judge in this Court, unless he has occupy'd that Station in an inferior one, or has practis'd for some Years as a Counsellor.

Those

Those who would enter Counsellors before this Court, must have been previously examin'd by the King's Council, & produce certificates of their studies.

This Institution cannot fail of producing proper effects, if strictly adher'd to by the President.

Amongst several regulations the following appear excellent.

The Judges are never (even amongst themselves) to talk previously of the business that is to come before them; their opinions given in Court is writ down by the proper secretary, & the sentence recorded, which serves as a President in future & similar Cases; the Judges suffer Capitally if convicted of Corruption.

The German Provinces have also their supreme Courts; that of the Dutchy of Holstein is at Gluckstadt, & for the Counties of Oldenburgh & Dalmenhorst at Oldenburgh.

The reputation of the first of these Tribunals is so great that it is consulted in Different Criminal Cases; wherein

formerly

formerly the Judges were in use to apply to the German Universities.

Different Districts have Governors appointed over them to execute the Laws & the Sovereigns Commands, to inspect the King's Revenues, & protect the Peasants; but they have no Jurisdiction over the Subject except in Matrimonial affairs; in all other cases they can only act as Mediators; they never have extraordinary Commissions, which are the Source of Arbitrary Decisions, nor can they prevent the Subject from carrying accusations against them to the Royal Ear.

When the King intends to make any alteration in Government, he declares it in Council, where also all Laws are propos'd & discuss'd, & enacted by the Royal Authority.

All business intended to be brought before the King in Council, is first carry'd to the Chancery of the Province it belongs to; these Chanceries are Danish or German Offices for Public Affairs; Petitions

are

are from thence sent to those who by their employments or private interest are authorized to contradict them.

Each of these Chancerys have a Council at which a Secretary of State Presides, composed of Young Noblemen who attend to learn business, & Lawyers who report what ever is lay'd before this Council; then the Facts alledg'd on both sides are examin'd, on these are grounded a resolution which with the reasons that led them to it are set down on Paper, & given the King as their advice.

If the Affair in the least regards the general Rules of the Kingdom, the Attorney General is consulted, who gives his opinion in writing, & in virtue of his Office has a place in the Danish Chancery.

That justice may with greater certainty be administer'd, if the business has any concern with any other Board than the one it naturally

comes

comes before, that must also be consulted; the King's Orders are so positive on this head, that if one Board has in such a case made their resolution without knowing the opinion of the other, redress is certain upon proper application made.

This shows that tho' this Government is Absolute, yet business is carry'd on in a certain Course, & not according to the mere Caprice of the King.

To what has been said concerning the Chancery Court, it may be necessary to add, that all Petitions Complaints &c. to be laid instantly before the King, are sent to these Offices, except they relate to Judicial Proceedings.

Next in Rank to these Chanceries are the different Boards, viz of Exchequer, War, Marine, Commerce & Public Oeconomy.

The Board of Exchequer consists of three Deputies who execute the Office of Treasurer, & six or seven Counsellors; these all assemble when raising Money is

assist in apprehending delinquents, maintaining schools, & paying the Parson of their Parishes.

These Peasants tho' highly Tax'd are affirm'd by the Writer on the Danish Government to be happier than the same class in most other Arbitrary Nations, because their Taxes are fix'd & certain; indeed the greatest part of the weight seems to fall on the owners of Estates who cannot complain as they or their Forefathers knew the annual expence they were liable to when they bought it.

Those who either don't cultivate Lands, or possess them privileddg'd, pay a Capitation Tax call'd Folke-og or Familie Skatten.

Bailifs, their Secretarys, the King's Stewards House keepers, & other Servants, as well as those Noblemen that have privileddg'd Estates, pay 2 Crowns Head for themselves, their Wives & Children above twelve years old; & a Crown for every place they keep stoves

the

is in deliberation; but the disposition of it, is confin'd to the three Deputies; & they make all their reports to the King, laying also the opinions of the Counsellors before Him.

But before we describe the method of carrying on this Branch of business, it will be necessary to give a sketch of the King's Revenues.

They are compos'd of Domains & Taxes. the Domains consist in Lands reserv'd to the Crown for the support of the Cavalry, & in Lands that always belong'd to the Crown, or were vested in it upon various occasions. Both these are under the care of Intendants or Receivers call'd Amts-Forvalter, & Regiments-Skriver; the first receive the Duties paid out of the Estates of the Nobility, & the latter the King's Domain which partly consist of Land-Gilde, or the Annual Money paid by his Tenants to Him as Propriator, & partly of Duties they give him as Sovereign; these Intendants annually bring their

Accounts

Accounts to the Board of Finances.

The Danish Taxes are either laid on the Country, or on the Towns.

In the Country all who cultivate lands (unless they have priviledges to the Contrary) pay a certain Tax call'd Hart Korn; this is the name given to a sort of Land Tax; it is estimated by a vague measure call'd a Tun, every Farmer pays in proportion to the number of Tuns they possess; a Tun of Hart Korn is therefore a measure comprehending in good arable ground about 112,000. feet square, in poor Ground 700,000. feet square & upwards, so varying continually in every district according to the soil.

According to the first estimate in good soil, it contains a space of Ground sufficient to sow three Tuns of Corn in, one of Rye, one of Barley & one of Oats; in Meadow Ground a Tun of Hart Korn signifies a certain number of Cart Loads of Hay.

The

The Duties payable on each of these Tuns are
4. Marks & 12. pence on Corn
9. Marks for the Register of the Lands.
1. Mark & 4. pence for the Cavalry.
& 12. pence on Beef & Bacon.
All these added together make 16. Marks for every Tun.

N.B. a Danish Mark is about 7. pence English Money.

These Taxes are always the same excepting that on Corn, which sometimes is lessen'd.

Other Taxes pay'd by the Cultivator are the tenths which are divided between the King, the Church, & the Clergyman of the Parish; the Royal tenths in general belong to the University, Hospitals, Schools, & some to Noblemen who have obtain'd grants of them from the Crown.

The Peasants are also oblig'd to mend the Roads, & Bridges, to furnish the King, His Ministers & Servants with Horses & Carriages when they travel, to

a fist

The Parson of Parishes pay a Crown & 2. Marks for their Wives & Children above 12. Years old, & a Crown for their Horses; they themselves are exempted from this Tax because employ'd in keeping gratis the Register of what is contributed.

Noblemens Stewards & their Clerks are tax'd a Crown.

Men servants 3. marks & Maids 2. Marks.

Peasants that work by the day a Crown.

Women of the same sort half a Crown.

All Artizans employ'd in making necessary Tools &c. for Husbandry are excepted from the Capitation; but all others pay 2. Crowns for themselves as much for their Wives & Children.

These are all the impositions lay'd in the Country.

The Capitation Tax is farm'd; but that on Estates yields Fruit-Rents, which are receiv'd by the Admts-Forwalters, who transmit them to the Cashier of the King's Revenues.

The

The Regiments-Skrivers examine the Accounts of the Amts-Forwalters & Rente-Skrivers; & if they find them confus'd, demand an explanation; all these Papers are lay'd before one of the Council of the Exchequer whose report the Board generally adopts unless the affair is to be brought before the King. the accounts are not pass'd till the King on the Petition of the Board signs them.

He sometimes receives part of his Rents in grain, which is very commodious both for him & his Subjects.

The Bailliffs are officers intended to keep a just ballance between the interest of the King & that of the Subject; therefore without their leave no Amts-Forwalter can use force against any of the King's Peasants, & that he may have an exact knowledge of the Condition of each Peasant, he must once a Year & oftner visit every part of his Bailliwick. this last regulation only concerns the King's Peasants

for

for the Nobility must necessarily examine those on their Estates, as they are answerable for them.

Taxes on Towns consist of Duties lay'd on all imported Goods except necessary Manufactures, & on some exported; this Branch of the Revenue is farm'd (except at Copenhagen) by Companys either of Merchants, or of Burghers for a term not exceeding 3. Years.

There can be no exact account given of the Rates of goods, but in general about 10. per Cent is paid on importation where goods are imported in Foreign bottoms, the Tax is higher than when Navigated in home built Vessels; & all Goods re-exported receive a drawback of the whole Duty.

There is an Excise on Wines & Provisions, this also is farm'd, but that on Corn Mills is administer'd by the Kings Officers.

It consists of 15. Rixdollars on a barrel of Rhenish, Spanish, or Italian Wines, containing about 100. Pots including the Taxes on Consumption & Customs.

10. Rixdollars for a Cask containing 6. small barrels of French Wine, when immediately brought from France with the above Duties on Consumption &c. if come from some other Country more as sayd.

6. Marks for a Cask of Salt.

6. pence for a Pound of Tobacco.

3. Rixdollars for an Ox at Copenhagen, but half at any other place

5. Marks for grinding a Cask of Whee tweighing 824. Pound.

1. Rixdollar for a cask of Malt ground for making Beer at Copenhagen;

1. Marks in other Towns.

These several Duties have been long regulated; but the King by an Edict in Feb. 1757. encreased the Duty on Aqua Vita ordering 15. Marks

to

to be paid for every Cask of Wheat (in Towns) & 1/4. Marks for every one of Rye, Barley, or other Grain intended for distillation; & when that Liquor is carry'd to any place, then from 6.d to 10.d is pay'd according to its Strength.

By another Edict at the same time, 6.d was lay'd on every Pack of Cards, the produce of this is apply'd towards the New Hospital for 300. Sick.

There is also a Tax on Marriages wherein the Commonalty are excepted; this Towne seems to Me very impolitick as it meet undoubtedly lessen the Num ber, which ought on the contrary by various Methods to be encrease'd.

By this Duty those who have any Rank or place in the State pay . . . . . 50. Rd. dle.

All Nobles who have neither Rank nor Places . . 20.

Ecclesiastics in the Country, Farmers, Receivers of the Estates of the Nobility, & Common Burghers } 4.

Workmen . . . . . 2.

Servants & Journeymen in the Towns . . . . . 1.

Every

Every Town also pays a certain sum to the Garrisons for exemption from quartering settl'd by a Committee of all the Magistrates & some of the Principal Burghers; this is levy'd according to the size of the Houses; if the People are dissatisfy'd it is referr'd to a Committee chosen from the different classes of the State.

The Towns are subject to two other Taxes the one call'd Grand-Skatten, or a Ground Tax; the other Brye-Skatten, a sort of Capitation Tax; a Committee of Burghers annually fix what each Inhabitant must give, the Money is put into the Town Chest for Public uses.

There is also a Tax on Stamp'd Paper, on which all Receipts, Contracts, & Articles of agreement whatever must be written, the price of which is proportionable to the sums therein mention'd.

N.B.

N.B. if the Sum is under 100. Crowns
the Paper costs . . . . . 3. Mark.
From 100. to 300 . . . . . 1. Rd. Dl.
900. to 1,200 . . . . . 3.
4,000. to 5,000 . . . . . 16.
9,000. to 10,000 . . . . . 40.
All Receipts must also be made on this Paper
If the Sum is less than 100. Crowns it costs 4d.
If 20,000. or more 12d.
It is also usd for registring all Acts of Judicature
as for instance
The 3. first Sheets of a Sentence in the
Supreme Court Costs . . . . . 1. Rd. Dl.
In the Superior Courts . . . . . 3. M.
In the Inferiors . . . . . 1. M. 6d.
The King receives a Toll from the Sound
where 3,000. Ships annually pass & repass; the Britons,
French, Dutch, & Swedes give 1. per Cent, & all other
Nations (the Natives not excepted) a fourth.
Christian IV. in 1618. erected an East India
Company who sent three Ships under the Command
of Roland Crape to the Indies, accompany'd by three

Men

Men of War under that of Mr. de Gieolde.

Crape obtain'd a Small district of Landon which Tranquebark Fort Dansburgh are built, from the Naicke of Tanjaor; their Capital Stock amounted in 1624. only to 149,614. Rd. dll. which oblig'd them to give up this Trade to the King in lieu of the Money He had advanc'd them.

In the beginning of Christian V. Reign a new East India Company had to rise; He gave them Ships & Goods to the amount of 79,073. Rd. dll. they added 162,800. Bank Crowns to this Capital.

Frederic IV. also assisted them greatly; yet in 1730. they found themselves unable to carry on Trade. He Justly looking on Commerce as the truest means of aggrandizing his Kingdom, with difficulty form'd a new Society for that purpose, & plac'd the Prince Royal (afterwards Christian VI.) as President; they had such great success, that in 1732. a new was form'd out of it & obtain'd a Charter, by which for 40. Years

they

they were to have the sole right of Trading from the Cape of Good Hope to China; all the Provisions & Stores they usd in fitting out the Fleets were to be Duty free; their Workmen were not to be bound by the National Regulations; nor were they obligd to write their Contracts on stampd Paper. All Persons in their Service were under their own Jurisdiction, & the Decrees of their Directors were not to be appeal'd, except in Capital Cases, & then only to the Supreme Court; Disputes arising between the Company & Strangers were to be settl'd by two Directors of the Company & three Councellors of the Supreme Court.

The Company was to nominate all the Officers in the Indies, & the King reserv'd only the Confirmation of the Governors of Tranquebar & Tansburgh; they were also empower'd to make Treaties with Asiatick Powers, the King engaging to ratify them.

His Majesty receives 1. per Cent on all exported goods

brought

brought from the East Indies & 2½. on those consum'd in the Kingdom.
Farther to assist the Company two Funds were establish'd, one call'd Constant, to which all who enter instantly pay 250. Crowns, this was destin'd to recover the effects of the Antient Company both in Europe & Asia; the other Call'd Roulant or Circulating, which being regulated on the number of Ships annually that compose the Fleet; & the Vallue of their Cargoes; the Contributors are at liberty to take Shares in this or that Vessel as they please, & at the return of the Fleet, the accounts of the Expence & profit of each Ship, are made out.
From these institutions the Company appears in various lights; if we examine only their Constant Fund, they may be call'd a permanent Society; but their Circulating Stock, turns them into an Annual Body.
To augment the Constant Fund, which is the support of the Company it was agreed that 10. per Cent of all

the

the profits arising from each sale of Indian Goods in Europe, was to be regularly added to it, & also 5. per Cent of all the Merchandize Ship'd at Franquebar.

This Fund in 1739. was encreas'd to 750. Crowns per share, to which it was by a regulation in 1737. limitted, & it was decreed that the Duties which had encreas'd this Capital should give a Dividend of the said Fund; at first this Stock consisted of 400. Shares of 250. Crowns each & in 1744. each of these were subdivided into 4. so that there are now 1,600. Shares.

Notwithstanding all this in 1750. the Constant Fund was doubl'd, & each antient share was worth 1500. Crowns, which brings the present dividend over to 375. Crowns each.

No. Person can have a Vote in the General Court of the Company, unless Proprietor of one of these Shares, those who have 3. of them have 2. Votes if five 3. Votes & so in proportion till they have 20. Shares

which

which gives 12. Votes, but no man can have more tho' he had a greater number of Shares.

The Directors are chosen in a General Court, where all business of the greatest consequence is propos'd; the Common direction of the Company's affairs is left to a President, who must be a Man of Quality & 4. Directors, one of which ought to be a Lawyer or a Sea Officer, the other 3. Merchants; these are oblig'd to consult in important Matters the Participating Principals who are 5. in number, one of them must also be a Lawyer or Sea officer, these as well as the Directors must have 6 Shares before they can be chosen; they have the revision of the Company's Books, Clerks Accounts, & State of the Magazines, & only quit this Office to rise Directors, these last are for 9. Years.

After this Account of the Company it may not be improper to add that Ecclesiasticks have ever since 1705. been establish'd at Tranquebar to convert the Indians to Christianity. In 1756

it

it was reckon'd that in the Town alone they had Christened 4571. & in the Country 5745. these Clergy correspond with a Society appointed by the King for propagating the Gospel, who transmit the King's extensive Charitys, & that of others to those Missionaries; that those regulations may have the greater efficacy, the King has set up a Printing Press in Asia, where the Old Testament has been publish'd in the Portuguese Language, & the New, in the Talmul.

The Insurance Company was form'd in 1727. for each Share 10,000. Crowns must be subscrib'd, the Money not pay'd down but Security given for it. the Subscriptions in 1746. amounted to 600,000 Crowns, they can only Insure 30,000. Crowns except on one of the Company's Ships, when it may advance to 60,000. Crowns; the Dividend is encrease'd to 9. per Cent.

In 1736. the King by Charter erected a Bank at Copenhagen; by it all Bank Bills were made Current but no body oblig'd to take them, the King promising

never

never to borrow Money of it; the Subscriptions were 1000. Shares of 500 Crowns each.

This Bank answers Merchants Draughts, & lends them Money at 4. per Cent on Security; this has lessen'd the interest of Money throughout the Kingdom which had been up to 5 & 6. per Cent.

This Bank is of great utility to Trade, as Merchants can on such easy terms borrow money; the Dividend has been from 9. to 12. per Cent; the Shares are also raised from 500. to 1250. Crowns.

The Bank is govern'd by 10. Directors 3. of whom must be Noblemen, 2. Lawyers, & 5. Merchants; they are alternitively chang'd; the Noblemen every 2. Years & the others every 1 year.

A General Court is held annually, when an Acount is given of the Success they have met with; then also five Merchants are chosen to examine the Books, & 2. of them are weekly to look after the State of their Fund.

The

The General Company was establish'd in 1747. in hopes of making Copenhagen the Staple of the Baltick; it has the Sole right of trading to Greenland, & the Whale Fishery in those parts.

Its Chief Commerce is in Fish, Wood, Iron, Copper, Leather &c. which is carry'd to France, Spain & Italy; where these Commodities are barter'd for Wines, Oil, Almonds, Raisins, Coffee, Silk, Marble &c. they also procure Blacks from Guinea & the American Islands.

When the Ships return they print the list of their Cargoes, & sell them publickly.

There are 1000. Shares in this Company each worth 300. Crowns, & the Directors are authorized to borrow or demand 200. Crowns More from every Share.

At the General Courts held by this Company in 1757. it was agreed that besides the above mention'd sums, 200. Crowns should be advanc'd by each Proprietor, half to enlarge the Antient branches

of

of its Commerce; & the other half to get 200. Shares in the new Levant Trade the Dane are about to open.

The business of this Company is manag'd by a President & 6. Directors, who are also to look after their concerns in this new Trade; for which 500. Shares of 500. Crowns are form'd; of which as I have said before, this Company have taken 200.

The African Company took Stock in 1705. their Charter entitles them to the sole Trade from the 30th. to the 22d. Deg. of Latitude in Africa; they bring from thence Copper, Leather, Wax, & carry Linnen, Cloth, Spices, & the other Commodities proper for that Country; their Stock consists of 500. Shares at 500. Crowns each, & in 1706. they had a Dividend of 10. per Cent; they have a President & 4. Directors.

We shall next take notice of the Iceland Company; this Island was first Peopl'd by a Colony of Norwegians, whose form of Government was a Republick; in 1262. it was subjected by Haquin King of Norway; his Son Magnus in 1280. gave them a

body

body of laws still in force.
It lies between the 63d & 67th Deg. of latitude; yet according to Mr. Horrebows observations in 1749. Mr. de Reaumur's Thermometer never was lower than between the 7th & 8th Deg. below frost. Some Winters the Cattle are able to remain in the Fields, tho' generally it is imagin'd that Britain is the only one of the Northern Powers that can boast of this.

Iseland is 100. Miles in length & 50. in breadth, yet there are scarcely 100,000. Inhabitants tho' 196. Parishes, in all probability it was formerly better peopl'd, but thin'd by the Black Plague that rag'd through the North in the 14th Century, & by the irruption of the Vulcanos which have made (as the appearance of the Country evidently shows) great alterations in it.
Tho' the Soil appears barren, yet here are productions necessary to other Countries, such as Beef, Leather, Wool, & Salt Meat, the Oils of Whales, Sea Dogs & Calfs, Woolen Gloves & Stockings, Sulfes, a thick sort of Cloth call'd Wadmel, & Eder down.

There

There are no Towns in this Island, the Inhabitants are dispersed along the Coast in small numbers, not living farther than about 12. Miles back in the Country; beyond that nothing appears but Wild Rocks; Island & the Island of Westmanoe have 23. frequented Ports; from 14. of which only Fish & Oil are ship'd; from 7. Salt Meat; & from the 2. others Fish & Salt meat promiscuously; as yet the Inhabitants raise no Corn, but live very much on Dry'd Fish, & Butter.

The Company is oblig'd to find them in all the necessarys for their Food, fishing, & Houses, which are carry'd to different Ports. That all of these may be the best of the kind, the King has directed His Officers to examine the Ships before they sail, that they may reject those Merchandizes that are bad, or lessen the price if too dear.

The Company are oblig'd to take the produce of the Island provided it is good, according to a Book of Rates settl'd in 1702. flower, Iron, Biscuit, & Timber is sold so cheap that the Company often loose by it; but that is

made

made up to them by the Sale of Fish; so that Iseland is nourish'd at a fix'd price, & the Company no Sufferers.

The Fishery does not every Year equally succeed, when unsuccessful, the Company are oblig'd to leave in the Magazines erected for that purpose, flour & fish sufficient for the use of the Inhabitants; the King's Officers keep an Account of the quantitys taken by each Individual, that He may repay next Year in his own Provisions.

These regulations were fix'd by a Charter granted the 1st of Jan. 1743. to the 1st of Jan 1753. & since prolong'd to the 1st of Jan. 1771. on the Company's engaging to Trade with Finmark; they are not allow'd to navigate any Ships except Danish, & their whole Cargo must consist of the Commodities & Manufactures of Denmark.

The Islanders are forbid to Trade with Strangers; & the Company pay the King 16,300. Crowns & find Him in Hawks for these Exclusive Priviledges.

The

The Goods carry'd to Iseland pay no Duties, but all the produce of that Island exported from Copenhagen is charg'd with 1. per Cent, & if Consum'd in the City, the Excise must be pay'd.

The Company's Ships Sail with their Cargoes for Iseland in May & June, they arive there generally in three Weeks, then the Principal Clerk unload's them & puts the Merchandize into the Houses for that purpose belonging to the Company; the Inhabitants bring their Commodities which are exchang'd for the Goods of the Company according to the value settl'd by the Book of Rates; yet if the Islanders please they may receive money for their Goods, or paying the Company in Specie for their; but they rather chuse to give an equivalent in Fish; after the Exchanges are made, the Ships Sail; in Sept: those loaded with Fish & Oil return, & those with Salt Provisions in Oct. & Nov. of 19. Ships that the Company Commonly send, 14. are destin'd to return to Copenhagen

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& 5. to Gluckstadt; from the latter the Cargoes are carry'd to Hamburgh.

The Stock of this Company consists of 100. Shares intrinsically worth 2000. Crowns each, some Years they have amounted to 2600. & others to 2700. Crowns, but now they fall; this is occasion'd by the diminution of the Fishery, the Mortality of the Sheep in the Island, & the Encrease of the price of Corn in Denmark; as the Fishing branch of Trade lessens, of course their Stock must also suffer; & the Islanders constantly want more Corn when their Fishery does not succeed, & then are less able to pay for it.

In 1752. the Islanders erected a Society for teaching Agriculture, Building Ships, Fishing in the open Sea, Salting Fish, Spinning & weaving Cloth for the Inhabitants; the King as an encouragement to this laudable undertaking, has given them 50,000. Crowns.

The Trade to Finmark is carry'd on by the Island Company; the produce of that Country is much the

same

same with that of Iceland; but then the Company are permitted to export it where they please.

The Islands of Ferro, situated between the Orcades & Iceland consist of 25. some are 15. Danish Miles long & 10. broad; there are but 17. of them Cultivated which have in all 39. Churches; they abound in Pasture, & Barley; also produce some Wool, Salted Meat, Soap, Skins, & Fish.

Tho' it has ever been a general opinion that Manufactures are greatly beneficial to every Country, yet Denmark seems to have been unprovided with them till towards the end of the last Century, then that of Tapestry was erected at Hioge a Small Town in Zealand.

Also in 1664. one of Cloth was establish'd in the Hospital of Invalides, & since that time much encreas'd by Frederic III. ordering his Troops to be Cloath'd with it, but did not arrive to the height it is now at till the Peace of the North in 1720.

In

In Christian V. time there was a small Silk Manufacture; but Christian VI. must be look'd on as the great improver if not founder of Manufactures in that Kingdom; the Present King seems intent on pushing them still farther.

The Council of Commerce & Public Oeconomy was founded to examine all schemes propos'd for enriching the Kingdom, & to make their reports of them to the King, who is ever willing to encourage those that are likely to succeed.

This Board is compos'd of 5. persons each of whom have their seperate Department viz. Trade, Manufactures, Agriculture & the Fishery.

As this Board would have too much business if forc'd to enter into the detail of every growing Manufacture, Christian VI. erected a Board call'd Directors of the General Magazin; this consists of 4. Directors, a Treasurer, & a Keeper of the Magazin with Clerks.

This

This Magazin was intended to get the necessaries for the Manufactures from the Makers, & sell them at prime Cost to the Manufacturers, who were either to repay in Cloths & Stuffs, or money.

By these Regulations the Magazin was in a few Years stock'd with all sorts of Cloths & Stuffs, yet the Merchants continu'd buying these Commodities in Foreign Ports.

Therefore in 1739. the King enforc'd by a Law the Convention which the Merchants had made with the Magazin; by it they were to import no Foreign Merchandize that the Magazin could furnish, without paying a Fine; if the Magazin could not provide them with what they wanted, they were to take out a Certificate of it.

The Cloth & Silk Manufactures are now in great perfection, tho still very dear; for 150. looms are employ'd in making Cloth & 179. in making Silks at Copenhagen.

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A Cloth Manufacture has been lately establish'd in Iseland, where there are great quantitys of Coarse Wool fit for Soldiers, who have hitherto been cloath'd with Mecklenburgh & Polish Cloths.

Fire Arms, Gun Powder, Salt Peter, Vitriol, Porcelain, & refin'd Allum are also made at Copenhagen.

The Town of Randers in Jutland, & Odensee in Finland are famous for Tanning Leather; at Fordern good Lace is made, & Linnen at Sleswick & Oldenburgh.

The Making Printed Cottons was a Monopoly till the King gave 12,000. Crowns to have the Patent restor'd, & now this branch also begins to flourish;

Madder & Woad are cultivated with great success & usd in Dieying the Soldiers Cloaths.

To encourage still farther the home Manufactures the importation of things necessary for Cloathing or usd in Dress, Cards, Sealing Wax,

Tobacco

Tobacco Pipes, & many other things too tedious to mention here, have been prohibited at different times, as those made at home improv'd.

The Silk Manufacture was entirely in the King's hands but given up by him on condition that 100. Looms should be constantly kept at Work.

All Foreign Workmen are encourag'd if they come & settle at Copenhagen.

This has encreas'd the number of People, for at the King's comming to the Throne in 1746. there were but 1200. foreign Artists & now encreas'd to above 4000.

There is also an excellent Hospital erected for 200. Children who are to be train'd up either as Sailors or Artizans, Any Tradesman on paying 50. Crowns may have one of these Boys for an Apprentice during 9. Years.

Having run over the different Branches of the Civil Government; we will now take a view of the Military Establishment.

The

The Danish Land Forces are compos'd of Regulars & Militia; most of the Regulars are recruited in Germany, on account of the Situation of the Danish Peasants.

Before the Revolution in 1660. Foreign Troops were only in pay during War; but at that time Frederic III. establish'd a Standing Army of 24,000. Men.

When the Crown devolv'd to Frederic IV. the Horse were dispers'd about the Country; He settl'd twelve quarters for them either on Crown Lands, or those He bought for that purpose, where they were Forrag'd. 6. of these are in Zeeland; 1. in Finland; 3. in Jutland; 1. in Lolland; & 1. in Falster; He also founded 240. Schools for the Education of the Peasants & Soldiers Children.

The Danish Horse now consists of 11. Regiments including the Horse Guards & a Regt. of Dragoons; 3. of them are now in Zeeland; 2. in Finland, 3. in Jutland & 4. in Holstein, according to a Regulation made since Frederic IV.

There are 16. Regts. of Foot of 2. Battalions, each of which are subdivided into 6. Companies of 100. Men

besides

besides a Regt. of invalids of 15. Companys of 100: & 4. Companys of them in Norway.

3. Regts. are employ'd in the Artillery, one in Denmark, the 2d. in Norway & the 3d. in Holstein.

The Engineers are divided into 3. Corps of 20. Officers of different Classes.

Every Person that has 60. Tun of Hart Korn must find a man to serve in the Danish Militia; & half a Man as a Reserve; this Militia is form'd into Regt; they have a uniform, but the Reserve have none; they are never employ'd except in times of Exigency.

Denmark has 4. Regts. of them each consisting of 12. Companys of 150. Men, besides Officers & Non Commission'd Officers.

In the Dutchys of Sleswick & Holstein, the County of Rantzau, & the Lordships of Pinneberg, one Militia Man is found by every District of land call'd 3. ploughs $\frac{3}{4}$.

By this Regulation the Militia erected there in 1738. amounted to 2. Regts. of about 2,473. men; but the King in 1756. exempted so many Districts so that they are now reduc'd to 1,632.

The

The Militia of Oldenburgh & Delmenhorst is on the same Foot; they furnish'd in 1756. a Regt. of 1200. men & in 1756. were diminish'd to 600.

Norway supports a greater body of Militia than any of the King's other Dominions; here all the Subjects are free so that the manner of levying is very different than in other parts, except near the Coasts, where they are reserv'd for the Sea Service, & some Districts of Nordland & Finmark which are entirely exempted from raising Militia.

This Kingdom is divided into small portions of land call'd in the Norwegian Language Lagde, each of these must furnish either a foot Soldier or a Dragoon & a Horse, which the Inhabitants must also keep. All the Peasants are from their birth register'd in the Rolls of this Militia, & as vacancies fall out the hands of the different Districts replace them. after 10. or 14. Years service, they are put into the Corps call'd Landwarn, establish'd for the defence of the Towns, & when grown Old in those Corps, discharg'd.

By

By this Regulation there are 5. Regts. of Dragoons of 4. Company, each of 40. Men, & 2. others of Landwarn at 120. men, besides Officers & Non Commission'd Officers.

The Norwegian Militia is compos'd of 13. Regts of Foot each of 12. Company of 100. Men, & 4. Companys of Landwarn of 150. Men each, besides Officers & Non Commission'd Officers; there are also 4. Companys of Skielobere a sort of Light Infantery useful in running up the Mountains.

The Officers in all the Militia are pay'd much the same as those of the same rank in the Regular Forces; but the Private men are only pay'd whilst employ'd; yet exercis'd every Sunday after Church, & once or twice a Year assemble to do their Evolutions.

In 1714. An Accademy for Cadets was founded, this is the Nursery for raising a constant succession of Young Men, who in time may be of service to their Country.

All Petitions with regard to the Army, to the advancing Officers, to administring Justice, & keeping up Discipline among the Troops, are carry'd to the Chancery of War; commonly a General Officer is President of that Board, on getting this employment if he has a

Regt.

Regt. it must be resign'd, that he may not be accus'd of partiality to any particular Corps; he reports the King's orders in cases where the King's signing is not necessary, but if so, he countersigns it.

The Paying & Cloathing the Troops; the keeping Magazeins of Provisions, the building & repairing Fortifications, are the business of the Commissarys General of War; this is now compos'd of 6. Persons; the King has settl'd a certain annual sum for the support of His Troops; but if there are extraordinary Expences, these Commissarys acquaint the King with the necessary addition.

Frederick IV. in 1719. gave the Commissarys orders to cloath the Troops with Danish Cloth; they therefore erected a Manufacture which now furnishes the whole Army; the Commissarys deliver it to the Colonel, & pays him the price of making up; as for Hats & the rest of the Dress, the King allows the Captains to provide them; each Regt. is entirely new Cloath'd every 3. Years & has a Quarter Master, who receives the pay of the Officers & Soldiers, & distributes it Monthly; but as part of the pay is stop'd & only pay'd up every 3. Months, if Officers require it

sooner

sooner, the Quater Master advances it.

All the Officers are pay'd by the King, & are not allow'd to take anything from the Soldiers, but both in the Horse & Foot each Captain has a certain Number of Friemen; these are men who give him their pay on his permitting them to follow the Trade they are bred to; this money is to be put by for the Expences of Recruiting; the King also gives 260. Crowns annually for this Service to the Horse, & but 250. Crowns to the Foot.

Lists are kept of the Effective Men, that none of the Officers may Cheat the pay of Soldiers.

No Officer tho' in a Civil Cause can be Tried except by a Court Martial.

This Court in every Regt. consists of 13. persons viz. of the Colonel (who may Preside in all cases, but must when the Life or Honour of the Person accus'd is concern'd) 2. Captains, as many Lieutenants, Ensigns, Serjeants, Corporals, & Private Men if a Common Soldier is to be tried; yet in general no inferior can try a superior.

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An Auditor, a man bred to the Law, directs the Proceedings in Criminal Cases, collects the Votes, & drawsup the Sentence, which is given to the Auditor General, who gives his opinion to the Minister of War, & he reports it to the King in cases of Death or Infamy.

In Civil Cases the Criminal may appeal, this is examin'd by an extraordinary Court summon'd for this purpose by the King, among whom are General Officers.

There have been some Changes made in the Army by the present King. In 1747. He raiss'd the 2. Regts. of Falster & Moenia; also a body of Fusiliers Call'd Skielobere of 16. Companys of 100. Men; 2. Companys of Landwarns of 150. Men each were added to the Militia; & every Regt. of Norwegian Dragoons encreas'd 240. Men, divided into 2. Companys.

The 13. Regts. of Norwegian Militia were each reinforc'd one Battallion of 4. Companys of 150. Men besides Officers & Non Commission'd Officers.

In

In 1749. two new Regts. of Norwegian Dragoons were raisd.

In 1757. every Troop of Horse except the Horse Guards have been augmented 15. Men, & every one of Dragoons 35. Men.

The Danish Troops are at present compos'd of

Horse	5,547. } Men	
*Dragoons	5,357. }	10,904.
Infantry	56,379. }	
Artillery	1,368. }	59,747.
Total of the Troops		70,651.

* N.B. the Reserve of 19. Men per Company is not reckon'd here.