Anno 1mo. Will & Mary

Part 1. Sess. 2.

Towards the end of the last session, the extreme hatred, & jealousy, of one another, between the Whigs & Torys, began to appear strongly; great pains was taken, to instill suspicions into the King's mind, of the Whigs; they were represented as a Faction, wanting to destroy the Prerogative, & while they asserted liberty, & made the strongest resolutions, against those illegal Acts, that had brought on the Revolution; it was secretly whisper'd, that they intended to destroy the powers of the Crown, & enslave the King they had made; on the other side no pains was wanting, to infuse the same diffidence into the Whigs, of the King; that he grew tir'd of their ascendancy, & desir'd to balance it, by making Friends with the opposite party, who were the fittest to augment the

powers of the Crown; Whatever truth might have been in this, it is certain the Whigs grew immeasurably lower & reserv'd, & the Torys made through Lord Nottingham, several offers of their service, & ~~some~~ incidents happen'd ~~to~~ rendering ~~made~~ things worse; The War in Ireland seem'd to have been neglected, the request of both Houses to see the Minutes relative thereto, had not been comply'd with, great complaints were made of the backwardness of the Dutch Fleet, & at last in the beginning of August, the Commons in a general Committee on the State of the Nation came to the three following Votes.

1. That there had been delays in the Succour of Ireland.
2. That there had been want of preparation for transporting forces thither.
3. That many ships had been taken for want of Convoy.

* To this we may add, the uneasiness shown by the King, at the Commons protracting the settlement of the Civil-List, in which however they certainly acted a wise, & Constitutional part.

At the beginning of this Session, the King seem'd manifestly to incline to the Tory party that appear'd the strongest, on which the others taking the alarm began to show their discontent, by opposing the Indemnity Bill, by way of softening them, Lord Halifax was prevail'd upon to resign the Office of Speaker to the House of Lords, which was given to Baron Atkins.

His Majesty begun the Session by a speech that as He declar'd to His Privy Council He made Himself, without the assistance of any Ministers, which tho' it carry'd an appearance against them, yet they certainly had previous knowledge of it, & did not dislike the novelty for two reasons, the one that it would facilitate the business of the Session; the other (meaning that it would promote this security, as the King would be answerable for his own)

A motion was also made for addressing His Majesty to remove Lord Halifax from His Confidence, but it pass'd in the Negative.

* In this disposition therefore, the Parliament assembl'd the 10th. of Oct.r

The Supply granted during this Sess amounted to - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

This was provided for in the following Manner

C.1. 1. By a Land tax.

C.5. 2. By a 1st. Land tax.

C.6 3. By an Act charging & collecting the Duties on Coffee tea & Chocolate.

C.7. 4. By a review of the late Coll, with an additional one

1. By the 1st. We find in the Committee of Supply, that it was proposed to raise £1,400,000. by this 2d. Land tax; there was also a further Charge of 2s. per pound on all Non Jurors; & by a particular Clause, all persons who had lent, or were to lend any part of the £300,000. borrow'd on the Land tax Act of the last Session, were permitted to transfer their debt to the present one; there was also a

borrowing clause without limitation.

By the 3d the Duties on Coffee &c. was taken from the Excise, & put under the management of the Customs, & an additional Duty, over & above what was then payable at the Custom House imposed; viz £5. 12. per hundred on Coffee, £6. 6. per hundred on Cocoa Nuts, & 5s. per pound on Tea.

By the 4th besides a review of the late Poll Bill, there was Tax laid of 12s. on every Shopkeeper, Tradesman, & Artificer, worth £300. clear personal Estate; & £100,000. on the Jews residing in the Nation

19.

Abstract of the Supplys Voted this Sess.

Anno 2do. Will & Mary

Parl. 2. Sess. 1.

The last Parliament being dissolv'd the 6th of Feb. & a new one was summon'd to meet the 20th of March following 1690.

The Majority of the returns for this Parliament, seem'd to be in the Tory Interest, to which side, the Court leant strongly, the Whigs however tho' a Minority did not loose Courage, on the contrary the plan they resolv'd upon, was to make their Court to the King, at the expence of the Torys, & by this means, either to force them, to act upon Whig principles, & so render them obnoxious to their own people, or if they refus'd, to paint them as Jacobites, & thus to destroy their Court favour in its infancy. The King however to soften matters, took the Privy Seal from Lord Halifax, & put it into Commission; but on the other side

He dismiss'd Lord Monmouth, Warrington, Sir Henry Capel, & Lord Godolphin from the Treasury; plac'd Sir John Lowther over Hambden at the Head of that Board, whom he however made Chancellor of the Exchequer; to these two he added Sir Stephen Fox, & Mr. Thomas Pelham; Lord Pembroke was put at the Head of the Admiralty instead of Herbert Lord Torrington, upon which Sir Miles Wharton, & Mr. Sacheverel resign'd, & Sir John Chichley was put in their place; other lesser Changes were made, but in such a manner, that the two parties were pretty equal, & both ready to out bid one another in Voting the Supply.

Thus affected the Parliament met the 20th. of March, when Sir John Trevor Master of the Rolls to K. James was chosen Speaker who had been turn'd out of that Office by K. William, to make room for the late Speaker Powel, whom Sir John

now supplanted in his turn

the Total of the Supply Voted this Session amounted to . . . . . £ 1,200,000.0.0

This was to be provided for

C.2. 1. By a Poll tax

C.3. 2. By an Act granting to their Majestys for their lives & the life of the survivor, certain Impositions upon Beer, Ale &c.

C.4. 3. By an Act granting Tunnage & Poundage for four Years

By the 1st. A poll Tax was to be levy'd by the 20th of Aug. 1690. to make good the Sum of £200,000. to this a Clause was added obliging all Papists to pay double.

By the 2d. the Excise granted to Ch. II. for life (the Article of Tea excepted) was continued to their Majestys, & a power given to borrow thereon £500,000. three fourths of the said Excise being Mortgaged for the Security of the Capital & Interest, which was 6. per Cent before the 10th. of June, & 7. per Cent afterwards, & this to the 24th. of Dec. 1692.

when it was supposd, the whole would be paid off. ~~[illegible]~~ This appears the first instance of the Public Revenue being Mortgagd for a term of Years.

By the 3d the Tunnage & Poundage granted Ch. II. for life was settld upon their Majestys for four Years, from the 24th of Dec 1690. & they were impowerd to borrow upon £500,000. at the same interest as before, & three fourths of it was mortgagd in like manner ~~[illegible]~~ for repayment of principle & interest.

This session ended ~~[illegible]~~

Abstract of the Supplys

Anno 2.do Will. & Mary
Parl. 2.d Sess. 2.d

With regard to Party, things remain'd pretty nearly the same as in the former Session; Whigs & Torys were equaly ready to forward the business of the supply; some few Changes happen'd in Offices, Lord Godolphin was put at the head of the Treasury, with Lowther, Hampden, Fox, & Pelham; Lord Viscount Sidney was made Secretary of State tead of Lord Shrewsbury.

This pass'd without any ferment, & great dispatch was made in the supplys, some complaints however were made about the mismanagement of the Public Money, but the Ministry to silence that, mov'd for & carry'd a Bill appointing Commissioners to examine the Public Accounts

The total of the Supplys voted this Session amounted to . . . . . .

This was to be provided for in the following Manner

C. 1. 1. By an Act granting an Aid of £1,651,702.16.0

C. 3. 2. By an Act doubling the Excise Duty on Beer.

C. 4. 3. By an Act granting additional impositions upon E. India, & other Goods imported after the 25th. of Decr. 1690.

C. 5 4. By an Act for continuing former one's laying several Duties on Wines, Vinegar, & Tobacco.

C. 9. 5. By an Act laying several Duties upon Low Wines, & Spirits of the first extraction.

C. 10. 6. By an Act granting additional Duties of Excise on Beer for four Years.

By the 1st Act a monthly assessment upon Land was granted of £137,641.16.2. for 12. Months from the 25th. of Dec. 1690. to be paid quarterly.

This Act contain'd a clause of Loan for any sum at 7. per Ct. interest, & another of

+ By the 3d Various Impositions were
lay'd upon all E. India Goods &
Manufactures, & all wrought Silks &
several other Goods imported from
the 25th of Dec. 1690. to the 10th of Nov. 1695.
with a borrowing Clause for any sum
at 6. per Ct. & the Duties arising from
the Act, appropriated towards paying
the principal & interest.

appropriation for Seamens Wages.

By the 2d. the Duty of Excise on Beer, Ale & other Liquors was doubled for one Year.

By the 4th two Acts of the 1st. of J. II. the one granting duties on Wine & Vinegar, the other upon Tobacco & Sugar from June 1685. to June 1693. were now continued to the 20th. of June 1696. By this Act the Crown was enabled to borrow without limitation at 6d. per Ct. & the Duties arising therefrom were appropriated to the payment of the principal & interest.

By the 5th. Which was intended for encouraging distilling of brandy & Spirits from Corn, several Duties were lay'd on low Wines or Spirits of the first extraction, Cyder & Perry, this Act was to take place from the 24th. of Dec. 1690. & to end the 25th. of Dec. 1693.

~~By this also had a power given to the Farmers~~

By the 6th. Several additional Duties of Excise were laid upon Beer, Ale, & Other Liquors to commence at the expiration of the 2d. Money Act of this Sess.

By a Clause in this Act the Moneys arising from this, & the Second Money Bill are appropriated, after the payment of the £600,000. due to the States in the following Manner viz.

1st. £570,000. to the Building 27. Ships of War

One third part of the produce of these two Funds, being for the above purposes paid the Treasurer of the Navy.

The other two thirds to be a Fund for borrowing £1,000,000. upon.

Likewise out of the Residue of the Money paid into the Exchequer arising from this Act £700,000. appropriated for Seamen for the Year 1691. & for the building three Ships of War.

Also there is appropriated out of the Money paid into the Exchequer, whether by Loan or otherwise, by this Act, or any other

act of supply of this Session (excepting what hath already appropriated) the sum of £15,000,000 is to be apply'd for the payment of the Land Forces, & all other sums arising in like Manner, appropriated for the prosecution of the War.

& by a particular clause, their Mts. are permitted to make use of any sum not exceeding £500,000. granted this present Session, provided the same be repaid out of the Money arising from the King's Revenue before the 24th. of March 1691.

Having thus run through the Money Bills of this Session, the Great sums Voted will sufficiently justify the observation made at the beginning of it, that however parties were exasperated at one another, they all join'd in giving large supplys to the King; We may perceive in General, the great ~~tenderness~~ averseness in the House of Commons

to tax the Land, which brought on a great increase of Customs & Excise by heavy burthens on Trade & Manufactures. Our Forefathers had it at this time in their power to raise the Money within the Year; but to put off the evil day, they took the method of borrowing at great interest, mortgaging the Funds they had establish'd, within the payment of principal & interest within a short term of Years, the consequence of which was, as we shall have occasion often to observe hereafter, the Funds so mortgag'd became extremly inadequate to the purposes they were form'd for, the Debt increas'd by accumulated interest unpaid, & the Public Credit sunk.

Anno 3.tio Will & Mary
Parl. 2.d Sess. 3.d

This Sess. met the 22.d of Oct. 1691.

~~[illegible]~~

Before We enter upon the business of the Supply, we shall as usual give the best Account we can of the Situation & temper of the different Parties at this time; there appear'd great discontents with the present objects of the War, Burnet seems to place this to the account of a Tory Faction; but certainly without foundation; it was the language of some of the honestest Whiggs in the Nation, thus L.d. Warrington a Republican Whigg, affirms that the Idea of destroying France by meeting her on the Continent, was fatal to this Nation, that the true method of distressing France was by a Naval War, blocking up her ports, distroying her trade; on the other side Sir Jam. Montgomery, holds the

very same Language; therefore we may affirm, that far from being the Voice of Faction, it was dictated by real love to the Country; Burnet also observes, that the King was unjustly suspected, of too great fondness for the prerogative, chusing to employ men, who were Enemys to the Constitution, because they went greater lengths than others in that favourite Article; but we find the King from the Tory quarter, represented, as forced to change hands, by being treated in an unworthy Manner by the Whiggs, with great insolence, seeing all places sold to the best bidder, & the Government brought to the verge of destruction;

Amidst these jarring descriptions, the best method, will be to admit a little of both to be true, certain it is at this time, the administration was for the most part in the hands of the Torys, & the highest Prerogative then courted & employ'd; as to the other false suggestions, as Burnet calls them, of the discontented party, Viz: the King's partiality to the Dutch, we rather wish to cast a veil over it, than to enter into any examination

of the facts, that gave rise to it, we are affraid that weakness, tho the prejudice of Education, & habituated Youth prevail'd too much during his whole Reign.

But however let this account of the reciprocating divisions be just, or not, Burnet affirms, that to this was owing, the Affairs going on heavily, in this as far as we can judge of men by their outward conduct, He seems to be mistaken, for tho' the Commons were slow in their proceedings upon the Supply, it appears owing solely to the strict examination made into the business before them a practice worthy of honest Men, for where great Sums are to be given, every point ought to be weigh'd, & every caution made use of.

The House began with making several salutary Orders concerning the lists of Pensions fees, Salarys, &c. that the Commissioners stating the public accounts, were to lay before them.

They next came to a Resolution Nem. Con. that all the profits arising on every place in the gift of the Crown, by Salary, fee, or Pension over & above £500. per annum, should be apply'd to the charge of the War, with some few exceptions; but in spight of all the endeavours of disinterested Men, the intreaques of Courtiers, &c. prevented this Noble Resolution from getting the length of a Bill; some Bills indeed of a delicate nature pass'd the Commons, & were lost in the House of Lords, such were,

A Bill for continuing the Commissioners of accounts, which the Lords amended, & was for that reason rejected by the Commons, who tack'd it however to the Poll Bill, which force'd the Lords under a protest to pass it.

Another Bill pass'd the Commons, to lessen the interest of Money,

Another for applying the forfeited Estates to the use of the War,

Likewise one to prevent false Musters, by proportioning the pay to the real complement of Men.

We have mention'd the administration leaning to the Tory side, one of two examples to prove this, may be necessary, such are the advancement of the Earls of Rochester & Clarendon to be Privy Councellors, the first had parts, wit better than he spoke, Violent & severe, but incorrupt, he was Commissioner of the Treasury, President of the Council, & Ld. Lieutenant of Ireland in K. Ch. II. time, at K. Jam. accession Ld. Treasurer, but retir'd on a a pension of £4000. for two lives, on refusing to turn Catholick, he had high notions of prerogative, & a declar'd Enemy to the Dissenters, Lord Rochester had great parts, but led a very abandon'd, dissolute life, well versd in Revenue Matters & an able Courtier, continuing above 30. Years

in great offices, K. J. made him Paymaster, which Office he kept all his Reign.

Besides these, Ld. Pembroke was made Privy Seal, Ld. Cornwallis put in the Admiralty in his Room; Ld. Sidney Ld. Lieutenant of Ireland, Sommers Attorney Gen. ~~in the Room~~ instead of Treby, made Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, & Trevor Solic. Gen.; Sir Edw. Seymour, & Ch. Montague were put in the Treasury in the Room of Sir John Lowther, & Tho. Pelham, who resigned; Ld. Fawkland & Lexington were made Privy Councellors, & lastly Gen. Talmuck was made Lt. Gen. of the Infantry in the room of Ld. Marlborough, who was dismiss'd from all his employments.

Having thus given a sketch of the various situations of parties at this time, we shall now come to the supplys Voted this Sess. that amounted to

These were to be raised in the following Manner

C.1. ~~The 2d Act of last Session was an Act~~

C.1. 1. By ~~the 4th Act~~ an Act continuing the Excise Act of the last Session ~~was continued~~ for another Year.

C.5 2. By ~~the Act~~ granting an Aid of £1,651,702.18.

C.6. 3. By a Poll Act for a Year to be paid quarterly.

The 2d Act was a quarterly assessment upon Land in every respect like that of the last Year. There was also a clause of Credit upon this Act at 7 per Cent for £1000,000. of the Money appropriated to the Navy.

The 3d Act was grounded upon the following Resolutions of the Committee of Ways & Means

1. A 1s. Poll on all persons, except Poor receiving Alms, & their Children under 16. also the Children under 16. of day Labourers & of such as had 4. Children or more, not worth £50.

2. Every private gentleman under the degree of a Peer, to pay 20s. quarterly.

3. That all tradespeople, Workmen &c. should pay 10s. per quarter, & all persons chargeable with a Horse to the Militia to pay 20s. quarterly for every Horse, & that every person exempt from

furnishing the Militia with a Horse, that keep Coach & Horses, 20s. quarterly.

6. All Hackney & Stage Coachmen, 25s. quarterly for every Coach

7. Every Lord of Parliament £10. quarterly

8. that all Non-Jurors pay double; that all

9. that all Officers of Courts, Civil or Ecclesiastical, that all Clergymen, Preachers &c. who have £60. a Year by benefice, or Contribution, be charg'd as Gentlemen.

By this Bill also it was provided, that if the Poll Tax by the duplicater of assessment fell short of £1,341,700. the deficiency might be borrow'd, & charg'd upon the Credit of the Exchequer in general at 7. per cent.

By a clause in this Bill also the additional Duty of Excise, granted in the last Session for 4. Years, was continued till the 10th. of May 1697.

This Session there arose a great dispute about the E. Ind. Comp. but as it hung on till the next, we shall wave mentioning it for the present

 79.

This was all relating to supply that passd this Session, we shall therefore state the abstract of the supplys & Provisions.

+ & even that by no means allay'd the heat, for they voted an Address of which the following are the heads;

1. that the Gen. in Chief of the English forces, should be an Englishman.

2. the second Article related to the rank of the English Officers abroad,

3. that the 20,000. left in England should be all English.

4. the fourth Article related the abuses committed in pressing seamen.

The last Article was against Foreigners being in the Board of Ordnance.

This was aim'd at two Dutch Colnels there, Gower & Meester.

Notwithstanding this resolute remonstrance, we find the Majority of the House of Lords in their further Enquiry, were contrary to the Commons for pressing Admiral Russel, & screening L.d. Nottingham.

Anno. 4.to Will & Mary
Parl. 2.d Sess. 4th

This Session met under disagreable auspices the 4th of Nov. 1692. this notorly proceeded, from the great discontent that reign'd generaly at the great expence of the Continent War, but also at the too precipitate measures taken in committing Ld. Marlborough & some other Lords to the Tower, on suspicion of High Treason, founded only on the evidence of some infamous Men, this rais'd such a heat in the House of Lords, that besides passing some strong Votes to assert their priviledges, but also adjourn'd, would enter into no business till they understood, these Members of the House were set at liberty, by the King's order; to this we may add that the displeasure of the Court, show'd itself most strongly at this time against the Prince of Denmark,

every method being taken to mortify Her, which produc'd great discontents, & encreas'd the unhappy divisions of the Country.

The proceedings of the House of Commons appear to carry full as rough an aspect as that of the Lords, for as soon as they had Voted their Address of thanks, they order'd the Report of the Commissioners of Accounts to be laid before them, Voted as an Article of advice to the that He would please to fill up all Vacant Commissions in the Army, with English only, then pass'd two strong questions upon the Miscarriages made in the different on the French Coast the last Summer, one of which was manifestly aim'd at Ld. Nottingham; but by secret management as Bishop Burnet tells us, Matters subsided here, so that they at last came to Vote the Supply, which amounted, Closing this Session to

This was to be provided for in the following Manner

C.1 1. By a 4s. Land tax.

C.3. 2. By an Act granting certain Excise duties upon Beer

C.5. 3. By an Act granting additional Impositions upon several Goods & Merchandizes.

C.14. 4. By a Review of the late quarterly Poll.

C.15. 5. By an Act continuing several Acts herein mentioned, & for charging several joint Stocks

By the 1st. ~~[illegible]~~ a common Land tax of 4s. in the pound for one Year was appropriated for the War.

By the 2d. an Additional Excise was granted for 99. Years from Jan. 1692. viz. over & above all other Duties

9d. per Barrel on Beer above 6s. per Barrel

3d per Barrel on Beer & Ale at 6s. & under

1s. 6d. per Barrel on English Vinegar ~~per Barrel 1s. 6d~~

4s. per Barrel on Vinegar made with Foreign Materials

3s. per Barrel on Beer, Ale, & Rum imported

4s. per Tun on Cyder & Perry imported

6d. per Gallon on single Brandy & Spirits imported

1s. per Barrel on double Brandy & spirits imported.
1s. 3d. per Hogshead on Cyder & Perry sold by retail.
3d. per Gallon on Metheglin or Mead made for sale.

These Duties were made a Fund for borrowing £1,000,000. viz £100,000. Yearly to the 24th. of June 1700. to be kept apart out of the money arising by this Act to be divided amongst the ~~Contributor~~ Contributors of the £1,000,000. Loan, being 10. per Cent, & from the said day of June 1700. £70,000. to be kept apart out of the produce to be divided as follows viz: Any person becoming a Contributor of £100, at least shall be entitl'd to a share of the said £70,000. during his life, or the life of his Nominee, & for every £100. any Person or Persons shall subscribe, they become entitled to so many shares of the said £70,000. during the life of every Person, whom the Subscriber has chose to give in for each subscription

& in case the whole £1,000,000. be thus subscribed in the two terms, the subscribers to the first to have their share of the £100,000. proportionaly, & those of the last subscription, to have theirs of the £70,000. proportionaly, & upon the death of every Promisee, the share or shares payable to him to be equaly divided amongst the remaining Contributors, till only 7. be left, at which time the dead Man's share accrues to the King; but in case the whole £1,000,000. be not advanced by the 1st. of May 1693. the Contributors ~~to the 100,000 £~~ shall receive 10. per Cent, ~~the Contributors to the 70,000 £~~. for the first 7. Years to commence from the 24th. of June 1693. & after the expiration of those 7. Years, 7. per Cent, with the benefits of survivorship as was mentioned before.

But in case the £1,000,000. be not advanced before the said day of June 1693. the deficiency

to be borrow'd by H. M. at 7. per Cent untill the principal be repaid, & that upon any sum of Money in the Exchequer not appropriated.

& in case the whole £1,000,000. be not paid into the Exchequer before the 1st of May 1693. the Contributors to the sum wanting, before the 29th of Sept. following, to receive an Annuity of £14 for every £100. advanced; & any person who contributed upon survivorship, to be permitted to change it into the 14. per Cent Annuity.

Lastly by a Clause in this Act the surplus arising from this Fund, to go to the use of their M. & successors.

M. 62. by 8 & 9. b. these surplusses make part of the aggregate fund