Anno 2 Will & Mary

Parl. 1. Sess. 2.

The extreme hatred & jealousy that began to appear towards the end of the last Session between the Whigs & Torys, broke out with more violence during the recess of Parliament; great pains were taken, to impress the King's mind with suspicions of the Whigs, they were represented as a Faction endeavouring to destroy the Prerogative that while they asserted Liberty & made the strongest resolutions against those illegal Acts that had brought on the Revolution, they intended to destroy the power of the Crown & enslave him they had placed upon it.

~~Great care was taken~~ or illegal methods were used on the other side to

* The Whigs ~~on their side~~ they affirm'd ~~complained of~~ that the Bat had ~~being~~ neglected in Ireland; that the Request of both Houses to See the Minutes relative thereto, were not complyd with; ~~We also meet with great~~ they also complain of the backwardness of the Dutch Fleet, & the Commons accordingly towards the end of the last ~~sitting~~ meeting in a general Committee on the State of the Nation came to the three following Resolutions

1st That there had been delays in the Succour of Ireland

2d That there had been Want of preparation for transporting forces thither.

3d. That Many Ships had been taken forward of Convoys

infuse into the Whigs a distrust of the King, it was insinuated that He grew jealous of their ascendancy & wish'd to ballance their power by making Friends with the opposite party, whose principles were ~~better adapted~~ more caculated to augment the Prerogative.

However these things were magnify'd on all sides, some truth perhaps gave rise to both assertions, the Whigs had certainly disgusted the King, familiar with Him as P. of Orange, they scarce knew how to treat Him as their Sovereign, in the Closet, they had instead of advising, ~~that~~ prescrib'd to Him, & He frequently met with strong repulses from them in delicate points, that He had most at heart; * with regard to the Tory, ~~on the other side~~, their leaders ~~of the Tory~~, had turn'd their backs upon their old Master, & shew'd great disposition to

* 'tis remarkable that the King declared to His Privy Council this speech to be his own composition unassisted by any Minister, which declaration seems at first sight to bear hard upon His Cabinet, but they certainly had previous knowledge of it, & did not dislike the Novelty, since it ~~was likely to~~ promised to facilitate the business of the Session as the King made Himself answerable for his own measures.

serve their new one with most unbounded compliance & we are told they actually made several offers of their services through Ld. Rockingham. If such was the real state of things (& so it appears to be) the King's conduct may be easily accounted for, to prefer the merit of present compliance to that of past obligations is not peculiar to a Monarch, tis an ungrateful truth too, often met with in ordinary life.

On the 19th of Octr. the King open'd the session with a speech from the Throne, wherein, he recommends seasonable & effectual supplys, with a Bill of Indemnity; & to make things go better down with the Whigs Baron Atkins was round Speaker of the House of Lords in the Room of Lord Halifax who had been prevail'd upon to resign.*

A unanimous Vote of thanks passed & an Address was order'd to be presented, this had a favourable appearance

notwithstanding, the King came to the House again the 21st & prorogu'd the Parliament to the 23d; By this piece of Ministerial craft, all proceedings on the Bills left in Suspence at the last sitting were stop'd, among which was the very important one for restoring Corporations weakenes & destroy'd by the Quo warranto, a Bill that ought to have gone hand in hand with the Revolution, but times were chang'd & the measure, that threw inevitably the weight of the Representative into the Scale of the Whigs could not at present suit the intentions of the Court.

The House had bound themselves by resolution of July the 6th to proceed upon the Bills depending, among which were two relating to the Revenue, one a Review of the Poll Bill, & the other an additional Tax on Coffee, Tea & Chocolate

+ Ch

these therefore were lost for the sake of dismissing the Corporation Bill so dreaded by the Tories.

The Prorogation Measure was certainly a strong one, but it does not appear whether the Whigs had been consulted in it, nor do we know of any opposition made ~~to it~~ by their Leaders; the Measure itself was complained of by some as irregular & unprecedented, especially after a speech from the Throne wherein the King demanded the assistance of his People & urg'd them to proceed accordingly; (but however the Whigs may be of opinion, censure or degrade) ~~Upon the Whole~~ we shall see, by the proceedings of the Session, that neither they nor any other ~~temperament~~ made use of had the desired Success.

Both Whigs & Tories united in renewing a former Vote to support His Majesty in the Reduction of Ireland, & in the prosecution of the French War, but then the former proviso'd the same day a Committee to inspect

+ Oct 24th.

the Bills left depending in the last Session.

& tho' they did not directly oppose the
Oct 26. Bill of Indemnity they promoted a Counter Bill
for inflicting pains & penalties upon those
who had occasion'd the Violating the Laws
during the two last Reigns, which defeated
His Majesty's intentions in the first Bill.

In the next place they insisted upon
Nov. 1st. appointing a Committee to examine into the
Means the Enemy had taken to come at the
knowledge of our Councils; to enquire into
all the miscarriages of the War, this was aim'd
at the Torys, but they eluded the blow by joining
in the Vote, which produc'd the punishment
of some inferior persons, while those chiefly
aim'd at, could never be reach'd; however according
to the Common practice upon such occasions, every
trifling fault detected was greatly magnify'd

The Estimates for the year were lay'd the same day before the House, which consisted of the following lines

For the English Forces in England
For the Dutch Forces in England
For the English Forces in Holland
For the Forces in Ireland.

This was accepted by the House as a State of the War, tho' no number of Men, or Sum of Money is given in any of our Books, & notwithstanding the King had just taken a body of Danes into English pay, of which there is not the least Mention made.

It will not be easy to discover the reason of this extreme secrecy, unless we impute it to an order of the House that had been lately obtain'd for printing the Votes.

They condescended however to appoint a Committee of Wednesday to inspect & report the expenses of the War for the preceding year, but it does not appear that that report was

ever brought to perfection, tho' recommended from the Throne.

Nov. 2d. The next day they Voted Hem. Con. £2,000,000. for the Current Service, over & above the Standing Revenue.

A Bill of Rights had been order'd to be brought in

Oct. 24th ~~the same day that~~ of the time they carry'd the Committee for inspecting the Bills of the former Session, to which they gave great attention, & seem'd by their proceedings determin'd to make that keep an equal pace with the business of the supply.

It will not be improper to mention here some of the first resolutions of the House in their general Committee, for tho' they were afterwards made no use of, nothing can be more descriptive of the party temper reigning at this Period.

It was resolv'd that all Officers Civil & Ecclesiastical should pay half a Year's profit of their Salarys & perquisites towards the

supply.

That the Penalty incurred by those executing Office in breach of the Recusant Act, should be applyed to the same purpose.

That Proposals should be received for advancing Money upon the Forfeited Estates in Ireland.

The 9th. of Nov. they Voted a 2s. Land tax estimated at £1,400,000. which Bill however was not sent up to the House of Lords, till the 11th. of Dec. when the Sums appropriated for the Navy amounted only to £400,000. but a proviso being offerd that the same Sum should not be diverted to any other use, it was rejected, by which means there in reality remain'd no appropriation at all.

From the 6th. of Nov. to the 21st. of Dec. there were frequent General Committees on the State of the Nation, when they came to the following Resolutions

That a Committee be appointed to examin

& State the condition of the Revenue from the Revolution to Michaelmas last; to state the Loans that had been made thereupon, & how the said Revenue had been employ'd.

That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty to lay before Him the ill conduct of the Irish War, the Armys, & Fleet, & to desire His Majesty in His Wisdom to find out the Authors of these Miscarriages, & to put the Management of Affairs, into the hands of unsuspected Persons, & more to the Safety of His Majesty, & the Satisfaction of His Subjects.

~~[illegible]~~

The Address itself when reported to the House by Mr. Hamboden contain'd many things levell'd against the Tory part of the Administration; want of ability or integrity was in express terms laid to the Charge of His Majestys Advisers

but whether it fell short of ~~the~~ expectation, or appeared too Violent, it was recommitted without a Division, & never heard of more.

These Party quarrels hurt us both at home & abroad, & it must be own'd that the Whigs through the whole Session, from extreme sourness & discontent were governed more by their passions, than by the interest of the Nation; they were confident in their Numbers, & look'd upon the Corporation Bill as the point upon which their ascendancy turn'd; but it was no less true that ~~with~~ a proper consideration for the King's Wishes was both their Duty & interest; thus confiding in their Strength, they continu'd pushing matters to extremity till they provoked the King to take the Reigns ~~of Government~~ out of their hands.

Tho' the Revenue expir'd at Christmas His Majesty seem'd to decline ordering it upon the terms He had it before, & the House seem'd resolv'd to grant it upon no other; however upon the 2d. of Dec. a Bill was brought in by Sommers, for continuing it a year longer; it was read immediately a first & second time & referr'd to a Committee of the whole House, which did not however meet till the 13th. & the report was not made till the 16th. in which interval the King went to the House, & pass'd the Bill of Rights & the Land tax.

The protracting of this business was owing no doubt to the time necessary for reconciling different interests, tho' no temperament could be found to satisfy the contending Parties.

The Princess of Denmark wanted a settlement of 70,000 £. a year independant of the

King, in which the Torys supported Her, notwithstanding the Court they paid Him, by endeavouring to procure Him the Revenue for Life.

The Whigs also were determin'd to keep that Revenue dependant upon themselves, & when it pass'd in the Committee for one Year (as we mention'd before) Mr. Hambden Chairman; the Words & **No Longer** were added by way of amendment; they indeed in some measure departed from their own instruction, in appointing a Committee to address His Majesty to make provision for the D. & P. of Denmark, tho' they added a sort of saving clause in the General Committee to the end of the Bill for continuing the collecting the Revenue, which runs thus, that nothing in the said Act shall affect a Grant of £30,000. per Annum made

by K. James to the Earls of Clarendon & Rochester in trust for the D. & Ds. of Denmark, but that they are to have £40000. more per Annum out of the Excise.

The King did not at all approve of an Appeal that was made to Parliament by the Presumptive Heir, nor did He like to have payments assign'd out of the Civil List, which ought to have come as a free gift from himself.

The Princess upon the other hand thought, She had an equal right to an independent provision of £100,000. with the late K. James when D. of York, & therefore determined to exert Her whole strength before She accepted of any compromise; Hereupon ~~it became~~ a division became necessary ~~to come to a division in the House~~, but to render this as little personal as possible, both sides agreed to put it upon

a recommitment of the Bill which was carry'd by the Court 190. to 127. which brought the Princesses Party to accept of a Parliamentary security for the old Grant of £30,000. & the House address'd the King to make it £50,000. per Annum, to which He comply'd.

After this business was over, three other Bills engross'd the attention of the different parties, the Bill of Pains & Penalties, the Corporation Bill, & that for Indemnity; these were to have been the joint labour of the Attorney & Solliciter & General, but the former ~~Lawyer~~ contriv'd to take the management of the Indemnity Bill, & to leave the other two to ~~Freely~~ Lawyers; ——

While these depended, the King to soften the angry spirit that had hitherto shown itself, sent a Message + to the House

+ Nov.r 30.

declaring His resolution of prosecuting the War vigorously in Ireland, & that in order to do it the more satisfactory, & effectualy, He was pleas'd that the House should recommend a number of persons not exceeding seven, to be Commission'd by His Majesty to take care of the Provisions &c. + as also certain persons to keep an Account of the Number, State, & Condition of the Army there.

+ this latter part of the Message appears to have been verbal

To this the House unanimously pass'd a Vote of thanks, but not before a long debate whether any of their own Members should be recommended for the Service mentioned in the Message; the Question upon a division was carry'd by 201. against 126. for leaving out the Word Member, which was either owing to the confusion apprehended the diversity & number of claims would produce, or from a fallen Rumour, that did not care to be oblig'd.

This great complisance from the King does not seem to have produced great effect for neither the Indemnity, nor that of papists & penalties were heard of till the 11th of Jan. both partys were concerned in bringing the Corporation Bill to an Issue first, & dreaded equaly the making their effort, till they had taken all the precautions possible.

We have formerly mentioned ~~how~~ an appeal in which the Enquiry on the State of the Nation terminated, the advances made with regard to the standing Revenue to compleat the £2,000,000. Grant will appear by the Bills of supply brought in successively in addition to the 2s. Land tax, there were

+Dec. 31st.

The two unfinished Bills of last Session viz. the Poll Bill & the Duties upon Coffee Tea & Chocolate.

Dec

The Bill for laying an Imposition of a quarter of a years value upon every new foundation within the Lines of Communication, & Bills of Mortality.

The Duty upon Licences.

Jan. 5th A third shilling Landtax.

These Bills all passd into Laws, except the Licence & new foundation Bill.

While things were going on thus briskly with regard to the Supply, the Corporation Bill that had been committed

1690. the 19th of Dec. was reported the 2d. of Jan. on the 4th. the Bill was engrossd, & would have been read the third time, if by some management the prevailing party, had not been induced to give their Adversarys time to rally, in which tho' for a few days they managd matters so well that [illegible], which they [illegible] [illegible] well [illegible]

upon five different Divisions the highest 191. to 161. they got to be a Majority, tho this in all probability could not have been owing to their own Strength, for tho they flung out the supplemental clauses that were the most pinching, they yielded to the Bill's being sent up to the Lords.

After this both partys went upon the Bills of Indemnity, & pains & penalty, ~~when~~ the first was committed, & the latter ordered to be read a second time, when a motion however was made soon afterwards to resolve the House into a Committee to proceed upon the Indemnity Bill, the Whigs carry'd it in the Negative by 193. against 156. & then proceeding in their victory they push'd on for the recommitment of the Bill of Pains & Penalty, & operated

the 21st for the examination of both Bills, which by the instructions of the Committee were to be incorporated into one; ~~upon the Bill~~

The Whigs supposing themselves now Masters, were for punishing all the Instruments of harsh proceedings in the two former Reigns; they expell'd Sir Rbt. Sayles, formerly Attorney General, by a Majority 131. to 71.

Jan. 20th.

The next day they brought in a Motion that it be an instruction to a Committee of the whole House that they proceed on the same Bills by nominating particular persons, but here Success deserted them, for they were beat by 190. against 173.

This was a sudden reverse, but when we consider how allarming it is to punish past offences by the construction of a new Law, & how odious Bills of Pains & penalties are at any rate

our surprise must be a good deal lessen'd.
Perhaps Court influence might also have
had its effect, the King found himself in a
very critical situation, in so much that
according to Burnet, he once thought of
quitting the Government; To proscribe the
Tories & restore the Corporations was surrendering
himself to the Mercy of the Whigs, but on
the other side to leave the Elections in the
state, in which the infamous Quo-
Warrantos had placed them, & trusting
the Management of this affair to those
Men whom in the first Convention of
the Estates he had not deign'd to summon
carry'd the appearance of great inconsistency
to give it no harsher term, in this situation
the King took refuge in the Irish Campain

& after giving His assent to the additional Poll Bill &c. Prorogu'd the Parl. to Jan.y 27.th & upon the 6.th of Feb. Iss'd a Proclamation to dissolve it, & to summon another upon the 20.th of March following.

Thus ended the first Parliament of K. William call'd by some shamefuly parcimonious, by others as profuse; to it we owe the unhappy practice of standing without which it had been impossible to have contracted the innormous Load of Debt this Nation now labours under.

The Unhappy Party divisions must ever give an honest man a most unfavourable opinion of those times, when the Honour & Dignity, the safety & tranquility of the Nation were continualy neglected for the little interested

views of party; but however this Convention with all its blemishes saved the Nation from the Iron Rod of Arbitrary Power; let that palliate all defects, & tho the Constitution was not so well establish'd as it might have been at this time, tho' sufficient care was not taken to keep the advantages of our Insular Situation, nor effectual bars put to continental influence, let us still remember we stand indebted for our Liberty & Religion, to the Success of 1688.

The Supply granted during this Session amounted to . . . . . .
This was to be provided for in the following Manner.

C. 4. 1. By a Land tax.

C. 5. 2. By a Land tax.

C. 6. 3. By an Act for charging & Collecting the Duties upon Coffee, Tea, & Chocolate.

C. 7. 4. By a Review of the late Poll, with an additional one.

By the 1st & Land tax of 2s. in the pound was lay'd, with the further charge of 2d. per pound upon all Non Jurors. We find in the Committee of Supply £1,400,000. was proposed to be raised by this Tax, & by a particular clause in the Act all persons who had lent any part of the £300,000. borrow'd upon the Land tax of last Session, were permitted to

transmit their Debt to the present one, to which their was a borrowing clause without Limitation.

By the 2d 1s more in the pound was layd upon Land.

By the 3d the Duties upon Coffee &c. were 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 upon Coffee, 6£ 6. per Hundred upon Cocoa Nuts, & 5s. per pound upon Tea.

By the fourth besides a review of the late Poll Bill there was a Tax layd of 10s. upon every Shopkeeper, Tradesman, & Artificer, & 100,000£ upon the Jews residing in England.

Whether it has been owing to the inaccuracy of the People employ'd in the Revenue, or to the confusion that must naturally arise at a total change of Government in the public Accounts, we meet with no ~~[illegible]~~ particular State of the Supplys for the first two Years after the Revolution they being all Lump'd together from the 5th of Nov. 1688. to the 31st of Dec. 1690. We must therefore in the same Manner give the Abstract of them here.

Abstract of the Supplys from the 5th of Nov. 1688. to the 31st of Dec 1690.

	£
For the Navy	2,828,528.0.0
For the Army including Subsidys &c -----	4,657,993.19.10.
For Wages to Ch. M. servants --	60,000.0.0.
For y. payments of the States General	... 600,000.0.0.
In addition to the Civil List ---	---897,971.3.4.
Total	9,044,493.3.2.

Abstract of Provisions made in that time

By ~~Loans~~ the present Aid, Jan. 1st Sept 1.	412,925.14.6.
~~By Loans on the 1st Lundtax Jan. 1st Sept 1.~~	
By the 1st Lundtax Jan. 1st Sept. 1st	500,000.
Total	912,925.14.6

Brought Over £ 3,162,925 14 6

By a 2d Land tax ann 1st Sess. 2d .. 1,000,000.

By ~~Loans~~ the Add. 1st Land tax ann. 1st Sess 2d } 500,000.

By Loans on the Poll tax ann. 1st Sess. 1st } ... 300,000.

By Estimation on the 2d Poll tax ann. 2d Sess. 2d .. 200,000.

By Loans on the Credits of the Excise Act ann. 2d Sess 1st } 250,000.

By Loans on the Credits of Tonnage & Poundage ann. 2d Sess. 1st } 500,000.

Total 3,662,925 14 6

Anno 2. Will. & Mary

Parl. 2. Sess. 1.

The King having declar'd at parting with his Parliament his intention of going to Ireland as well as the necessity of putting an end to the session in order to make the necessary preparations for taking the Field, without intimating any thing farther, the dissolution which immediately follow'd, & the summons of a new Parliament to meet at a short warning was no doubt a thunderbolt to the Whigs.

As to the Torys they not only were apprizd of it, but had the measure long in contemplation as appears by a letter* of Sir Humphry Winches to Sir William Colt Envoy at Hanover. He there mentions "the Parliaments being adjourn'd & hints at its being prorogu'd (never dissolv'd) by Proclamation, things had tollerable success, with this reason "that a new Parliament will give Supplys

* dated Sept 6th 1689.

„with more harmony than this self created
„one can continue to do.

The Whigs were not asleep at this Critical Minute, for in all the papers publish'd by them, they make no scruple of calling it an abrupt & unexpected dissolution, with a View to brand their Adversarys, secure Popularity & hang out terrors to the Court, in case Matters came to an absolute breach.

A great ferment always attends General Elections, & every party takes such liberty at this Crisis with the Press, that it is no easy matter to pronounce which of them has most abuse to answer for, & yet according to Burnet there was something extremly singular in the present situation, for he affirms the King thought He could not trust the Torys, & would not trust the Whigs, the former were brought from a state of despair to the most flattering prospect that favour could

display; the latter had taken possession of Government as their right & depended with some reason upon the continuance of the King's confidence whose Accession to the Crown had been effectuated at the risk of their Lives & fortunes, thus hope & resentment agitated the two partys, both were equaly exasperated against each other, & disposd alike to avail themselves of all advantages.

One Mr. Bramston a Cotemporary gives us in a letter dated Feb. 1st the picture of these times

„ The Parliament being dispolv'd all heads „ are at work to secure another, the publicans, „ & friends to Monarchy, each for their own „ purposes; we are resolv'd into our old state „ of Whig & Tory with great party Violence, „ tho' in my opinion heat & Violence appear „ most in their resolutions, who are studying „ the subversion of Government; it is not now

„whether James or William Reigns, but whether
„we are to have a Monarchy or Common Wealth,
„& one party seem unwilling to bear the Regal
„Authority even in a Prince established by
„their own Choice".

Thus far a Tory Writer who no doubt
has Made use of an harsh & angry Pen,
but which ever side We go to impartiality
is not to be expected, party Merit generaly
speaking absorbs all other Merit; in such
unfortunate times a Man may dispence
with every other sort of duty that is stanch
& steady to his side, & if he carrys his
point despises all accusation & hardens
his heart against every sort of reproach.

As it began now to appear plainly
that henceforward their would be no way
to the King but by & through Parliament,
& that consequently no party could find the

road to Ministerial Office without a Majority here, every single Election became an object of great importance, & was carry'd on with an ardour & vehemence not known in this Country before.

Burnet in his History says the Majority of the Members elected in this Parliament would probably have declar'd for K. James, if they had known how to have manag'd Matters for him, yet in a private Letter to Sir Wm. Colt

+Mar. 14th 1690.

He states this in a very different Manner.

For He says „ By the Elections that are „ made it appears that the number of those „ who are believ'd to be secret favourers of „ K. James is very inconsiderable, & by all „ that yet appears the Act contrary of what „ was done in the last Parliament, will „ pass without opposition; the ferment is

„indeed very high between Whig & Tory, & it is „thought the Torys will be by a fifth part „the stronger in the House of Commons.„

The King seem'd unwilling to take his final determination with regard to the Torys till the Elections were over & the returns manifestly in their favour; ~~for it was but two days before the meeting of Parliament that~~ Sir John Lowther ~~was put~~ at the head of the Treasury in the room of Ld. Monmouth, as substitute ~~[illegible]~~ of Ld. Carmarthen afterwards D. of Leeds, to whom was join'd Sir Stephen Fox & Mr. Thomas Pelham, who took the places of Ld. Delamere & Ld. Godolphin;

Some preparations had indeed been already made ~~before~~, for upon Ld. Torrington's resigning, with Sir Rich. Wharton & Mr. Sacheverel, Ld. Pembroke was put at the head of the Admiralty, & Sir John Lowther & Sir John Chickley, Masters of the

Ordnance, were appointed Commissioners.

Here therefore was a defection on the side of the Whigs to ballance which, Ld. Halifax resign'd the Privy Seal, & it was immediately put into Commission. In this state of suspence both parties remain'd till two days before the Meeting of Parliament, when His Majesty decided openly in favour of the Torys by placing Sir James &c. &c.

Great care was however taken to prevent the Whigs from growing desperate, for all conformists among them were kept in the present Ministry in the same Manner that the Conformable Torys had been suffer'd to remain in the Whig administration; Thus Ld. Shrewsbury was rather more caress'd than ever, & Hamden was not only continu'd in the Treasury, but Made Chancellor of the

Exchequer, to palliate Sir John Lowther's being put above him in the Board.

We cannot be surprizd if we meet with the utmost acrimony in the Writings of the discontented party at this period, the King himself has not escapd censure particularly with regard to his manner of dismissing the last session, the principle reason for which as given by His Majesty was want of leizure, & in truth however justifiable the expedient might be of humbling one party by raising the other, yet certainly the speech of a King in Parliament that is to be rigorously examined not only in this Country, but in every Court of Europe, ought to be form'd with the strictest regard to the dignity of the speaker & proper to excite the warmest affection to His person, & Reverence to His Government, but as go further, let us venture

to affirm that a King ought not to speak from the Throne what He would not repeat at the Altar, & wherever managements are necessary, they should be such as may bid defiance to the bitterest tooth of Malice & Calumny.

Another thing that revolted many People, was the Choice of Sir John Trevor to be speaker at the recommendation of Sir John Lowther, He had served in the same Capacity in K. James's Parliament.

Upon the Whole this observation was made that the appearance of things in this House was nearly the same as in that Assembly, the same Leaders in both, & that the only change that had happen'd was in the person of the Sovereign.

His Majesty open'd the Session on the with a Speech from the Throne, where

amongst other things the proper for the settlement of a Revenue & as an inducement to the Grant proposes making it a Fund of Credit for the Current Service; however this might have been necessary to enforce the measure at that time it certainly has been very hurtful to K. William's Successors, as it has afforded the great precident of postponing the evil day by the pernicious expedient of Funding, which bids fair in the long run to double the public expence through pernicious premiums in present, & the unavoidable load of interest in perpetuity; the King also hinted in his speech his intentions to pass an Act of Grace, he signify'd his intention of leaving the Administration in the hands of the Queen, insisted upon dispatch as his journey to Ireland would not admit of a

long Session, & declar'd that without an immediate Aid of ready Money, the Services could not be perform'd.

Upon the report of the King's Speech to the House of Commons, all opposition vanish'd, both parties run the same way, & the only contention remaining seem to consist in who should go fastest; two Unanimous Votes pass'd, one of thanks, another to stand by & support Government under their present Majesties both by their Counsels & with their Assistance to the utmost of their power, & these Votes were order'd to be presented by the Whole House;

+ y. 27th They were also unanimous in Voting a Supply for the prosecution of the French War & the reduction of Ireland

Mr. Hambden

The Committee of the whole House went upon the business of the Ways & Means; they established a distinction that part of the Revenue was hereditary (which was true with regard to the Excise granted to Charles II in lieu of the Court of Wards) & they voted that the hereditary Revenue the late King was entitled to Dec. the 10th 1648. became vested in their present Majestys except Hearth Money, & ordered a Bill to be prepared for declaring the said Revenue to be so vested with a special proviso, that they should not be alienated from the Crown, nor chargeable with any gift or Grant to be made for the future.

+ Jd. 28th.

In renewing the Grants of the Customs & the other moiety of the Excise, they limited the term to 4 Years & mortgaged them to the

Loan that they intended making for the public Service.

4th Apr. They next ~~agreed~~ fixed the Supply to £1,200,000.

The following day they gave us an instruction to the Committee that the supply be not laid upon Land without leave from the House, this was perhaps owing to the following words in the King's Speech, wherein he proposed submitting the Revenue to the mortgage added <u>if no quicker or more convenient way can be found</u>, at the same time they resolved that <u>ten hundred thousand pound</u> should be raised upon the Credit of the Revenue.

3d & 4th Apr. They resolved that the remaining £200,000. should be raised by a Bill which was ordered to be brought in by the Solicitor & Chancellor of the Exchequer which was accordingly

#5th Apr. read the first time*, both parties agreeing

that nothing should intervene to interrupt these national measures.

The progress of this last Bill is remarkable, for in going through the Lords they added a clause appointing Commissioners for the Loan for assessing themselves, & a Lord Receiver, which amendment to a Money Bill was agreed to by the Commons without any Division.

+ 7th Apr.

Thus for the complaisance of the Whigs appeared, the Torys were not behind hand with them, for in settling the Hereditary Excise Bill they contented themselves with securing the additional 20,000 £ per Annum granted in the last Parliament to the Princess of Denmark for the Lives of their Majestys free from all Loans, but never attempted encreasing the Princesses Establishment to 70,000 £ all which they had been

such zealous advocates for before; they also repeal'd their own Act by which they Revenue had been settl'd upon the late King for life, & with regard to a late Act of Parliament for solving all doubts concerning the Revenue the acquiesc'd in its continuing in force for the time prescrib'd, any thing in the present act of settlement notwithstanding.

These Bills with the Tunnage & Poundage Act, recieu'd the Royal Assent, but in this interval other Matters were agitated which tho' foreign to the Revenue are yet descriptive of the temper & disposition of parties; such were

1. The recognition Bill consisting of two Clauses, one recognizing their Majesty's title, the other to declare that all the Acts passed in the Late Parliament

+23d. Apr.

were to be reputed as Statutes of the Kingdom, this last clause met with great opposition in the House of Lords, & warm protests were entered against it, yet when sent down to the Commons, it passed without a Division.

The next bone of Contention was the Bill for restoring the City to its antient ~~Rights~~ & Privileges, which was order'd in at the end of the last Parliament, but not prosecuted.

The Torys who were now the Majority within the House were determined by every Art to keep out their adversarys, in order to do this the more effectually, they endeavour'd to beat them at their own Weapons & accordingly prepar'd a Bill not worded like the former that was simply to <u>restore the City to its antient rights & privileges</u>, but to reverse the Judgement in a quo Warranto against

the City & thereby to restore it to its antient privileges; as soon as leave for the Bill was ask'd for the strength of the party was try'd the House dividing upon a motion of the Whigs, to substitute the word declare instead of reverse, in which the Torys carry'd it by 194. against 139.

Sir Tho. Clarges brought in the Bill upon the 14th. it was read a first time, & order'd to be read a second, before which the City took the allarm, & rouzed such a spirit of opposition that the Sheriffs were sent up with a Petition in the City's Name to be heard by their Council against it; the House being inform'd that the Sheriffs were at the Door & the question put for their admission it was carry'd in the negative 215. against 166. too strong proof of the Violence of party that could even overrule

a most fundamental Maxim that petitioning even to the King himself is the undoubted right of the subject.

On the 22d it was read a second time & committed to the Whole House & leave at last obtain'd for Counsel to be heard upon it tho' that restrain'd to such points as the House should direct, & after the first pleading of the Counsel which happen'd in the Committee on the 24th the Question was put for a further hearing & another for a present adjournment, both which were overrul'd by 214. against 144, upon the 4th of May following after two divisions in the former of which the Majority was but 4. Sir Edw. Seymour carry'd it up to the Lords where there was a violent tho' ineffectual opposition notwithstanding the slender Majority.

Thus far the Tories triumph'd, the Whigs not strong enough to carry things by numbers, were not idle in finding matters to expose their adversarys; of this nature was the Abjuration Bill brought in by them which they however could not get the length of a Committment, being beat upon that question 192. against 163. the next measure of that party, was a Bill they brought in for the better securing the Peace against Papists and other disaffected persons, this came to a Committee, but then dropp'd.

Many more things occur'd during the rest of the session sufficient to demonstrate the violence & height of party; but they are foreign to our purpose; upon the 19th. the Bill for settling the Regency upon the Queen, a Bill to invalidate the Claim of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports; another for confirming to the Hudsons Bay Company their

priviledges & Trade, for the term of 14 Years, which last was ineffectualy opposed by a petitioning of the New York & New England Members. On the last day but one of the Session the act of Grace was passed, which had been for particular reasons with held till then.

A remarkable dispute happen'd towards the close of this Session with relation to the Coin, it will be proper to give some Account of it before We finish our observations upon the Year.

Upon the Success of the Hudson-Bay Merchants, the African & East India Companys finding their patents from the Crown granting exclusive priviledges in Trade insufficient to preserve them from interlopers, came with petitions for Parliamentary confirmation; but neither of them could as yet establish a sufficient interest to resist the opposition met with

both within & without doors, Petitions from all quarters expressing the bad effects of Monopolys in Trade were sent up against them, amongst these one from several Working Goldsmiths in relation to the scarcity of Silver, contain'd matter of such importance that special Committee was appointed to take it into consideration.

It was set forth in this petition that 286,112. ounces of Silver, & 69,949. Dollars had been enter'd in the Custom House Books by private persons for exportation since the 1st. of Oct; it was also suggested that the East India Company & divers Jews & Merchants had bought up great quantitys of Silver for exportation at three half pence per ounce above the value, which had encourag'd the melting down plate & Mill'd Money, & thus prevented the Mint from Coining; the Committe sate the 9th. of Apr. the report was not made till the 25th. of May

By the report of the Committee the allegations in the Petition appear to have been well founded, the Complaints just & worthy the Consideration of the House, who thereupon after Debate, recommitted the report; but the Session was now too far advanc'd to admit of any further advance in this business. The King put an end to this Session upon the 23d. The language of the King appears to have been of the Tory complection, being now in the hands of these Gentlemen upon the defection of Ld. Shrewsbury who would upon no account serve any longer.

An Act of Grace had been pass'd in favour of the Tory implicants in the two last Reigns with exceptions, amongst whom appear'd Ld. Sunderland by name; to keep an equal ballance the King evad'd the £500. penalty Act levell'd at the

Dispertors; His Majesty was obliged to this sort of ballaneing, as neither of the Factions was strong enough singly to support him; thus the prerogative kept in effect these inveterate Partys from destroying one another, notwithstanding which each in their turn complain'd greatly of it; this is the common practice of selfish Men whose opinions & Characters are not given according to truth & Justice, but as it will suit best their own interests, passions & prejudices.

The King put an end to the session by a Adjournment as he had done the former, which left the Bills still depending, but this after the Victory of the Spaln ended in a prorogation that superseded them all.

Anno 3d. W. & M.

Parl. 2d. Sess. 2d. 1690.

The Victory of the Boyne that decided the fate of Ireland open'd this session with great lustre, not but what those that had oppos'd this last Expedition of his Majesty found many pretences to complain of the administration in His absence, while the advisers of the measure triumph'd in the success attending it; both parties were equally indefatigable in blackening each other by means of the press, as the French had been Victorious at Sea, one party

attempted to lay all the miscarriages of the Summer to Ld. Nottingham, the other to Ld. Torrington, these two were ill together, & had differ'd in opinion; the first had in great measure atton'd for his former conduct by the services he perform'd in gaining over the Clergy to the Queen, whose weight at this time was considerable with the People; He had also accommodated the King with his House at Kensington, but what recommended him most at this particular crisis, was his complying with the Queen's desire in sending Mr. Herbert one of the Paymasters to the Hague to make amazing concessions to the States on their great loss in the Sea

sight; for they were permitted to have access to all our Stores & National Hospitals, as freely as our own Subjects.

Ld. Torrington had ever been a favourite with the King, but His Majesty expected obedience, & Torrington was accused of affecting to prescribe.

Ld. Shrewsbury from strong principles & strong connections, regarded his friends & party in a much stronger light than any Duty that He could give the Crown, & therefore industriously kept from business, notwithstanding which he had so much deference paid him that he Office of Secretary of State - which he

had enjoy'd was still left open; it is indeed remarkable that when he resign'd he left his friends at liberty to remain in Office; but on the other hand Ld. Rockingham tho' in actual power made no push to bring his friends into Employments, the truth was faction had not as yet attain'd its greatest height, appearances were still preserv'd & the King's pleasure & convenience upon every change had some show of being consider'd as well as the private interest of parties; this did not hinder the restless spirit of all those who did not find the immoluments they thought

suited their respective merits to augment their own significancy by troubling the Waters as often as ~~[illegible]~~ any opportunity occurred wherein they could molest each other without attacking the King immediately, hence it was easy to foresee that the Court system could not long support itself in its present incoherent disjointed state.

The ascendancy of Lord Carmarthen in the Cabinet had thoroughly got the better of his great antagonist Lord Shelburne's weight in the House, but this could be of long duration, as he neither durst take the Treasury himself, nor was his substitute Lowther of consideration enough to act the part of first Commissioner, &

Minister in the House of Commons; his declining however was of no use to Sir Robert, & still left to Hamden Chancellor of the **Exchequer**, who either excus'd himself or was dismiss'd from the direction of the ways & means, Sommers being made Chairman of the Committee who added that immense load to all his other business.

The King arriv'd in Sept. & open'd the Session on the 2d. of Oct. by a speech, wherein he declar'd that Ireland must have been subdu'd if he had been enabl'd to take the field soon enough.

That the Army had done much with little Pay

That He asked for no Revenue that had not been applyd to the War.

That by the State of the Accounts ready to be laid before them, it would appear that the great Arrears of the Army, the Want of necessary Stores &c. were entirely owing to the Insufficiency of the Grants, & therefore hopd a bare State of what was necessary for Fleet & Army, which could be spend, would be thought sufficient.

He recommended the clearing of His Revenue to enable him to Subsist it being after the 1st of Nov. mortgagd entirely to the National Debt.

He laid the miscarriages of the Summer to the Fleet alone, & declard his resolution of seeing an example made.

This speech being considerd in the House things appeard in the most favourable light for the Government, it had hitherto been the custom to present the simple Votes, but now they were attended with formal Addresses drawn up by a special Committee.

Upon this occasion Sommers's great ascendency in business became evident for the first time, the Addresses were drawn up & reported by him, & were without amendment presented by the whole

House.

As for Lowther the last time we hear of him as a leading Character, was his signifying to the House that he King had order'd States of the Navy Estimates & Public Accounts to be laid before them which was accordingly done.

+ Oct. 9th.

& by these the Arrears due to the Forces amounted to £600,000. the Estimate given in was £1,910,560 7s 2. for 69,636. Men, in these were included both Dans & Dutch.

The Navy Estimate including the Ordnance was £1,791,695 1s 6. instead of an Estimate from the Board of Ordnance, Sir Tho. Lyttelton presented

a paper from them setting forth that the State of the War not being yet adjusted, no Estimate could be made, but that in general an eighth part of the whole charge of the Navy, & a fifth part of that of the Army was the computed sum necessary for the Ordnance.

These several papers were referr'd to the consideration of the whole House before whom also an Abstract of the Public Accounts was laid.

Nothing can show more the complesance of all parties at this period than that

no one person should attempt to justify the Conduct of the House so severely charg'd in the King's Speech, & that no observation should be made on the Danes being taken into English pay, & on the Dutch being kept here, while so many English Corps were sent abroad.

The same day a resolution taken in a Committee of the whole House for a Supply to their Majesty's for the Reduction of Ireland & the vigorous prosecution of the War against France, was upon the Report unanimously agreed to

The following day in a Committee of the whole House they came to a resolution to grant the Specific sum demanded for the Navy

11th. The next thing remarkable were the different Accounts laid before the House, the first of these concern'd the Ordnance, which it will be worth while to examine for some time back to see the immense increase of it from the small sum it formerly cost.

In 1666. the Ordinary & Extraordinary of that Board was settl'd at £30,000. per Annum.

In the Brook House Committee at £60,000

In 1672. at £40,000.

In 1675. at £60,000.

Also in 1673. during the Dutch War it amounted to £159,204 " 2 " 3.

On the whole during the Reign of Ch. II. it never exceeded £60,000.

By the Accounts in the Convention Parliament it was at a Medium in J. II. Reign £63,493 " 9 " 3 ¼.

The Irish service in 1688-9 the Ordnance was £61,935 " 17 " 3.

But in the Settlement of the Annual charge of Government that Year, the sum allowed for the Ordnance was £22,600. & for the Ordnary Charge of Office £18,250. in all £40,850.

There was also two different States of the Debt, the first contain'd only the Debts contracted to & including the 25th quarter 1690.

amounting to £ 154,751.. 4.. 3 3/4.

The other to 196,645.. 3.. 11. besides sums due upon present Contracts &c. which made the whole come to £ 290,090.. 9 3/4. in this last was included a debt due in K. Ch. II. time of £ 99,722.. 19.. 6 1/2. the rest contain'd the same quarters as the former one, but the sums considerably different.

A State of the Loans & repaiments of the Public Revenue between Nov. 1688. & June 1690. by this the sums borrow'd were £ 3,579,062.. 2.. 9 1/2.

the money repaid	1,996,685.. 11.. 4 1/2.
the Debt remaining	1,563,096.. 11.. 5.

This is the period we may fix for the importance of Money in Government affairs, money lending, Contracting, &c

remitting were found more advantageous
that Merchandizing which gave origin
to these combinations since call'd the
Money'd interest; the truth was the
Government never appear'd more naked
than at present the who order of things
seem'd reverted; the King courting his
Ministers, the Ministers courting the
Mayor, Common Council, & rich Citizens,
& these again every man that had £100.
to lend; all the branches of the Revenue
went to Market, on one hand solicitation,
usury on the other, & a certainty of
making twelve per Cent; as the Majority
of these Lenders happen'd at this time
to be Whigs, it enabl'd them by degrees

to get the ascendancy with the great Trading Companys, as yet in the hands of the Torys.

The last Abstract presented to the House this day was that of the Victualing Office, the Receipts amounted to £224,074.13.10. between Nov. 1689. & Sept. 1690. the payments to £222,297.4.06 3/4. the Debt owing was stated at £151,456.17.2.

On the 13th the House came to a resolution of voting a Supply for raising the Army which the following day they voted at £2,294,560. including the Ordnance to which they added the Fleet making in all £4,066,255. which was £34,529. short of the Estimate.

The 16th they came to a resolution for the raising this Money, to grant an assessment of £137,641.16.2. per month for twelve Months charg'd upon Land from the 25. of Dec. insuing.

+17th Oct. The next day £1,000,000. was resolv'd to raise by the sale of Forfeited Estates in Ireland.

10th An Additional Duty on wrought Silk with other Duties.

On the 21st they laid additional Duties upon boards, India Goods &c.

On the 23d. they doubl'd the Excise upon Beer & Ale.

The 25th an Additional Duty on Foreign Iron &c.

From this time to Nov. 22d.

there appears a calm in the Votes, we find in all business of Elections the Violent animosities between the parties continued as high as ever notwithstanding their joint concessions to the Court; The Whigs tryd all their force against the M. of Carmarthen in which tho' they did not succeed in the House of Lords, they however ren-dered him very unpopular without Doors, & prevail'd upon the King to put Ld. Godolphin at the head of the Treasury on the 14th of Nov. ~~October~~ the Committee of Ways & Means resumed soon after its functions.

So that on the 22d & 24th they laid several new impositions, & on the 19th

of Dec. they resolv'd that the additional Excise granted last Year should be doubled.

About this time a Bill pass'd both Houses for the Trial of Ld. Forrington to whom the House of Lords had refus'd his priviledge as a Peer; He was accordingly try'd the 10th of Dec. Sir Ralph Delaval presiding & acquitted of treachery & cowardice that were both laid to his charge.

The Bill of Assessment pass'd the House, tho' not without a great deal of party caviling, that for doubling the Excise met with no opposition;

The King gave his Assent the 25th

when in a short speech he pressd their speedy consideration on a proper provision for the Expences of Civil Government.

Upon the House taking it into consideration the next day a face of opposition appeard & so many objections were raisd that the affair was put off till the morrow when it met with the same success for Sir Charles Sedley made a speech very opposite to the Court Views that was thought of such consequence that it was hard about in print every where so that the business was deferrd to that day sevenight & then permitted

to lay dormant till some Method could be found to procure it a more favourable reception.

When the resolution of the Irish forfeitures came into the House it was found necessary to bring in a Bill to attaint the Rebels, & to confiscate their Estates that the produce might be apply'd to the charges of the War.

Hambden was of the Committee to whom the Bill was refer'd, Sommers was not, by which means it is very hard to pronounce whether the majority was Whigs or Torys.

It was order'd to be brought in Oct 27th

but did not make its appearance till the 2d of Dec. ~~[illegible]~~ before which an instruction to the Committee had been mov'd for & carry'd that the Bill should not extend to the Protestants Inhabitants & Proprietors in Ireland within a time to be limited by the House except such as had Acted under the late K. James's Commission since the 10th of July 1690

This Bill was Committed on the 4th & taken into consideration for the first time on the 6th which Hesitating proceeding show'd plainly that no man of any consideration cared to

take the lead in it. two clauses were then brought in, the one for more effectually applying the said forfeitures to their intended appropriation, the other for reserving a proportion of them to H. M. disposal, & the Monday following was appointed for the resuming the consideration of it & in the mean while the two Bills for granting the new imposition upon E. India Goods &c. & for continuing the imposition upon Wine, Vinegar & Tobacco were passed & sent up to the Lords in which on comparing the Acts with the Resolutions they

were founded upon, we find several Articles added, & several alter'd.

It is worth observing that a clause being offer'd to the first of these Bills for appropriating the sum of for the use of the Navy three successive Motions were made for filling up the blank with 25, 50, & 100,000 £. they were all vehemently oppos'd from their known insufficiency, & tho' the last was carry'd on a Division by 46. against 44. the Debate was resum'd, & at last ended in postponing the appropriating Clause to the last Money Act of the Session.

On the 17th the Consideration of the Irish Bill was resum'd, a special Committee had been appointed to prepare the Clauses before specify'd, in which leading Members of the Tory's were Seymour, Musgrave, & Williamson, Trenchard, Bowrauer & Col. Birch of the Whigs.

Upon the 18th. no less than 24. Clauses pass'd in the Committee were rejected.

On the 19th the Bill was order'd to be engross'd with some amendments, notwithstanding which, the House seem'd so satisfy'd that it would at last miscarry that they Voted that very

day the doubling the additional Excise to raise the remainder of the Supply.

20th Nov: When the King came to the House to pass the two last mention'd money Bills, He concluded His Speech with a hint for an Annual Provision to be made for building of Ships.

On the Tuesday following after sending the Irish Bill to the House of Lords, they took the King's Speech into consideration. ‡

‡ 23.

On the next day in a Committee of the whole House a resolution pass'd for granting a Supply not exceeding £70,000. for building 17. Ships of 60. Guns.

£10. of 60. to be added to the estimate already Voted, which seem'd to infer this was to be a new Supply, & yet when the additional Excise was Voted it was declar'd to be for raising the remainder of the Supplys stated at the precise sum already granted, & this last addition for the Ships was to be rais'd out of the additional Excise, & the duplication of the said Duty.

The same day the Commissioners of Excise were directed to lay before the House the net produce of these additional Duties.

By these accounts it appeared that the additional Excise produced from July 1689. to July 1690. £202,621.0.4½. Gross, it was said that the produce of the next half year could not be stated the accounts being not all yet come in, but that out of the ~~[illegible]~~ whole £215,563.16.1¼. had been paid into the Exchequer for the use of the Dutch.

By the Custom House Account it appeared that the produce of the Duty on Silk, Wine, & Tobacco from Michaelmas 1689. to Michaelmas 1690. amounted to £163,369.9. & to Christmas following £41,347.11.3.

The Ships Bill was read the 3d of Jan. in which there was a clause appropriating all other Sums not already appropriated granted by any of the Acts of this Session to the prosecution of the War, which put a tacit negative to the demand of an addition to the Civil List; the question being put whether this clause should stand, it was carry'd on a division by 99. against 66.

A Great Debate arising touching an addition to be made to the said clause, that Their Ms. might take a sum of money out of that arising by

the said Bill, a Committee was accordingly appointed to prepare it, & the House agreed that this M. might make use of any sum of money not exceeding —— granted in this present Parliament, not particularly appropriated, the same being repaid out of the produce of the King's Revenues before the —— day of —— £300,000. was nam'd as the sum, but that being represented as insufficient they granted £500,000. & made the 24th. of March 1691. the time of repayment, which distressed the King as much

on one side, as it assisted him on the other.

During this session, another Act passed which we shall mention here having a great affinity to a Money Bill.

On the 27th of Oct. a Bill was order'd in for the encouragement of distilling Brandy from Corn; Another was brought in the 12th of Dec. for laying Duty upon Low Wines & Spirits of the first Extraction, these were consolidated tho' strongly oppos'd in their progress through the House; the W. India Merchants urg'd that the distilling Brandy from Corn would totally destroy the use of molasses, & by that means

hurt the Revenue, & France prove the only gainers; the Distillers affirm'd that both the Revenue & consumption of Corn by the Still would be lessen'd instead of encreas'd if this Act took place, but no body appears to have had the smallest apprehension of the pernicious effects of Spirits both on the bodys & Morals of the lower People that has since appear'd with such allarming circumstances. These Petitions were however attended to, & so alterations made in consequence of them.

Having done with Matters of Supply, we shall now take notice of some other things which the appearing of a different Nature will assist us in explaining one of our principal Views, the temper & situation of parties during this Session.

Sir Rob. Howard had in the beginning of the Session brought in a Bill for a speedy manning of the Navy which had been neglected till after Lord Torrington's business had been over, when the Whigs all of a sudden took it up as a Matter of the most serious concern, & carry'd a Motion

for an address to H. M. upon it, but the Report being made it was suffer'd to lye dormant, & instead of it another address Voted that H. M. would please to give orders for laying an Embargo upon all Ships except those carrying provisions & ammunitions to the Plantations; the Merchants on the other hand were in the utmost distress for want of hands to navigate their Ships, had petition'd Parliament for leave to bring in a Bill suspending so much of the Act of Navigation as should enable them to employ Foreign Seamen; this oblig'd the House to

present another Address beseeching
H. M. to do therein what He should
think most proper.

But the Affair in which the two
parts were most interested, & which
from the situation of the times was
most likely to bring the Court even
under difficultys, was a petition laid
before the House of the Members
of the Common Council complaining
of the Deficiency of the late Act
for reversing the Judgement ~~against~~
in the quo Warranto against the said City,
several Aldermen still acting as
such by the Commissions of the
late K. James.

Before this came to the House, the Controversy had been long agitated in the Town, a Majority of the Common Council had declar'd for the measure, but the Lord Mayor had attempted to stifle it by dissolving the Court; it was evident from the complection of the House that the Majority were not favourably exclin'd to the Petitioners, however instead of shutting the Door, as had been formerly done, they were thrown wide open, a Copy of the Petition was allow'd to the Mayor & those concern'd with him, & both parties were order'd to be heard by their Council at the Bar

which to give them time was put off for a Week, the hearing lasted four days running, at the end of which most people being thoroughly convinc'd that more mischief would arise from proceeding in this business than letting it drop, the more moderate of all sides join'd in a Motion for adjourning the Debate for a Week & carry'd it on a Division 197. against 194. which had such an effect upon the Petitioners that they were prevail'd upon to make the attempt no more.

From all these things the King saw very plainly that it was neither in his power to extinguish parties or to satisfy them, He therefore took the resolution of tampering with all sides so as to make each subservient to his own purposes; this produc'd frequent changes of Government, which however it might appear to the World was in reality the steady prosecution of the Measures he thought to be most conducive to his own interest, except where temper & passion got the better

We observ'd before that the Whigs had the money, & the Torys the Landed interest, both were necessary for his service, for which reason wherever He saw the one or the other likely to abandon him in a body, He instantly endeavour'd to fling out a lure to some of the Leading Men among them & so temporiz'd for a while till time should put him upon an advantage Ground again; Ld. Shrewsbury's Office was still vacant nor could he possibly be replac'd there without a total breach with the Whigs, which did not at all suit his policy; He therefore took

a middle Way & recall'd Ld. Sidney from Ireland as a Man on whom He confidently depend, for tho' he went under the denomination of a Whig, He had no other purpose than to serve his own interest & His Master.

While the Supplys were under consideration the Accounts ~~from~~ the several Offices were laid before the House; the Army Accounts came first to be consider'd where without going into minute particulars it will be sufficient to observe that there appear'd

abundant ~~sufficient~~ proof of irregularity & uncertainty in this great branch, if not of abuse, misrepresentation, & misapplication, notwithstanding which a manifest timidity appear'd in the House upon it.

The Bill for stating the public Accounts mov'd for on Wedn.day & that had been prepar'd in the former Session was upon this controversy about the Army Accounts coming on permitted to take its course & got the Royal Assent with the last Money Bill & some others on the 5th of Jan. which put an end to the Session.

The King's upon this Occasion was stronger expressions of acknowledgement than usual; but still more for the following passage, which words became the subject of much animated controversy & severe invective.

„And I do likewise think it „proper to assure You I shall not „make any part of the Forfeited „Lands in England or Ireland, till there „be another Opportunity of settling „that Matter in Parliament in such „Manner as shall be thought most „expedient.„