

Ld. North

Observations
on the Election acct.

Apr. 9. 1782

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Ld North has the honour of sending
to his Majesty, The state of the Election account.
Shall inventurly accounts, together with
the List of Pensioners & payments by Sir
Grey Cooper, & Mr Robinson. Upon which,
He takes the liberty to make some ob-
servations.

The Election account contains the
expences not only of the General Election
but of the preceding & subsequent Years.

although the whole expence is £103:76s:15¹/₂d
yet as the contributions from several individuals

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amounted to £ 31,010: 17. 0. the expense that falls upon his Majesty, is only £ 72: 75¹/₂: 18. 9. a sum larger, but not very considerably larger than has been paid upon other occasions of a similar nature.

The causes were, the strength of the opposition to Government, which, comprehending many powerful & rich families, & being very eager & zealous in their cause, were enabled to stir up & maintain many & those formidable contests in several of the Counties & Boroughs in England & Scotland. add to this, that the difficulties of the times, obliged several of the friends of Government to apply for assistance from Administration, who could have help'd them - solves better if the times had been more

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favourable for obtaining pecuniary assistance or credit from private persons.

The sums which were paid to the Government candidates were to enable them to defray the necessary, legal, & concomitant expenses which arose from the different canvasses, Papers, & Tracts before the Committees, & were not given as bribes. No part of these expenses are, in that sense of the word, corruption.

Perhaps, it may be answer'd, that the sums paid to the Gentlemen, who have the command of Boroughs, for their interest, are to be consider'd as Bribes. But those Beneficence are not usually call'd by that

name, & the money disbursed in that
manner does not much exceed what has
been disbursed on all former occasions.

Some causes of the expence should likewise
be added.

Westminster Election cost above £8000.
The expence of both candidates put on the
Crown.

Bristol; there were two Elections, both
contested, which brought on an expence
of £6000.

Salisbury. L^d Townshend's distempers obli-
ged him to sell his seat there for £4000.
Mr Courtney, the member, returned this year
in favour to Government by supporting the
always with great abilities & zeal.

Surry £4000 was paid to Lord Anslow,
to enable him to maintain the Contest
for that County.

Gloucestershire; upon Mr Chester's Death
there was a debt remaining in the
County in consequence of the great
contest, which was very embarrassing
to ^{the} our friends, ^{of Government} at the last vacancy: £3000
was paid in part of that Debt, the
Expence of the Government Party there
at the two Elections had been immense
Country. In the course of a year & a
half, there were three contested Elections,
& two trials before Committees at the

end of all these expenses, Lord Sheffield
for you applied for £2000.

Hampshire. Lucas was joined to sup-
port the S. of Chandos & ^{the} Princes Nor-
ley in 1779.

The expenses at Windsor, & in Scotland
were new, but appeared unavoidable. They
amount to about £5000. in all.

Lord North did not apply for secret surre-
warrants to defray these expenses, as he
knew that the remainder would by degree
be defray'd by the £1000 a month out
of the Privy Purse, & as these expenses
would be very small during ^{rest of the} the Parliament,