

Reasons  
why Rents  
do fall.

reason (though others may be added) that the Rents of Land must fall: As for example, suppose the price of Wheat be 5 s. or 60 pence the Bushel; now if the Rent of the Land whereon it grows, be the third Sheal; then of the 60 d. 20 d. is for the Land, and 40 d. for the Husbandman; But if the Husbandmans Wages, should rise one eighth part, or from 8 d. to 9 d. per Diem, then the Husbandmans share in the Bushel of Wheat, rises from 40 d. to 45 d. And consequently the Rent of the Land must fall from 20 d. to 15 d. for we suppose the price of the Wheat still remains the same: Especially since we cannot raise it, for if we did attempt it, Corn would be brought in to us, (as into *Holland*) from Foreign Parts; where the State of Husbandry was not changed.

And thus I have done with the first principal Conclusion, that, *A small Territory, and even a few People, may by Situation, Trade, and Policy, be made equivalent to a greater; and that convenience for Shipping, and Water-carriage, do most eminently and fundamentally conduce thereunto.*

Chap.

CHAP. II.

*That some kind of Taxes and Publick Levies, may rather increase than diminish the Wealth of the Kingdom.*

IF the Money or other Effects, levyed from the People by way of *Tax*, were destroyed and annihilated; then 'tis clear, that such *Levies* would diminish the Commonwealth: Or if the same were exported out of the Kingdom without any return at all, then the case would be also the same or worse: But if what is levyed as aforesaid, be only transferred from one hand to another, then we are only to consider whether the said Money or Commodities, are taken from an improving hand, and given to an ill Husband, or *vice versa*: As for example, suppose that Money by way of *Tax*, be taken from one who spendeth the same in superfluous eating and drinking; and delivered to another

What shifting of Money from hand is profitable or not.

D 2

who

who employeth the same, in improving of *Land*, in *Fishing*, in working of *Mines*, in *Manufacture*, &c. It is manifest, that such Tax is an advantage to the State whereof the said different Persons are Members: Nay, if Money be taken from him, who spendeth the same as aforesaid upon *eating* and *drinking*, or any other perishing Commodity; and the same transferr'd to one that bestoweth it on *Cloaths*; I say, that even in this case, the Commonwealth hath some little advantage; because *Cloaths* do not altogether perish so soon as *Meats* and *Drinks*: But if the same be spent in *Furniture of Houses*, the advantage is yet a little more; if in *Building of Houses*, yet more; if in improving of *Lands*; working of *Mines*, *Fishing*, &c. yet more; but most of all, in bringing *Gold* and *Silver* into the Country: Because those things are not only not perishable, but are esteemed for Wealth at all times, and every where: Whereas other Commodities which are perishable, or whose value depends upon the Fashion; or which are contingently scarce and plentiful, are wealth, but *pro hic & nunc*, as shall be elsewhere said.

In

In the next place if the People of any Country, who have not already a full employment, should be enjoyned or Taxed to work upon such Commodities as are Imported from abroad; I say, that such a Tax, also doth improve the Commonwealth.

Taxing of new works a benefit to the Commonwealth.

Moreover, if Persons who live by begging, cheating, stealing, gaming, borrowing without intention of restoring; who by those ways do get from the credulous and careless, more than is sufficient for the subsistence of such Persons; I say, that although the State should have no present employment for such Persons, and consequently should be forced to bear the whole charge of their livelyhood; yet it were more for the publick profit to give all such Persons, a regular and competent allowance by Publick Tax; than to suffer them to spend extravagantly, at the only charge of careless, credulous, and good natured People: And to expose the Commonwealth to the loss of so many able Men, whose lives are taken away, for the crimes which ill Discipline doth occasion.

The taxing of Idlers.

On the contrary, If the Stocks of laborious and ingenious Men, who are not only beautifying the Country where they live by elegant *Dyet, Apparel, Furniture, Housing, pleasant Gardens, Orchards, and Publick Edifices, &c.* But are also increasing the *Gold, Silver, and Jewels* of the Country by *Trade and Arms*; I say, if the Stock of these Men should be diminished by a Tax, and transferred to such as do nothing at all, but *eat and drink, sing, play, and dance*; nay to such as study the *Metaphysicks*, or other needless *Speculation*; or else employ themselves in any other way, which produce no material thing, or things of real use and value in the Commonwealth: In this case, the Wealth of the Publick will be diminished: Otherwise than as such exercises, are recreations and refreshments of the mind; and which being moderately used, do qualifie and dispose Men to what in it self is more considerable.

Wherefore upon the whole matter, to know whether a Tax will do good or harm: The State of the People and their employments, must be well known; (that is to say,) what part of the People

ple are unfit for Labour by their Infancy or Impotency; and also what part are exempt from the same, by reason of their *Wealth, Function, or Dignities*; or by reason of their charge and employments; otherwise than in governing, directing and preserving those, who are appointed to Labour and Arts.

2. In the next place computation must be made, what part of those who are fit for Labour and Arts as aforesaid, are able to perform the work of the Nation in its present State and Measure.

3. It is to be considered, whether the remainder can make all or any part of those Commodities, which are Imported from abroad; which of them, and how much in particular: The remainder of which sort of People (if any be) may safely and without possible prejudice to the Commonwealth, be employed in Arts and Exercises of pleasure and ornament; the greatest whereof is the Improvement of natural knowledge.

Having thus in general illustrated this point, which I think needs no other proof but illustration; I come next to intimate that no part of *Europe* hath

A judgment of what taxes are advantageous.

paid so much by way of Tax, and publick contribution, as *Holland* and *Zeland* for this last 100 Years; and yet no Country hath in the same time, increased their Wealth comparably to them: And it is manifest, they have followed the general considerations above-mentioned; for they Tax *Meats* and *Drinks* most heavily of all; to restrain the excessive expence of those things, which 24 hours doth (as to the use of Man,) wholly annihilate; and they are more favourable to Commodities of greater duration.

Nor do they Tax according to what Men gain, but in extraordinary cases; but always according to what Men spend: And most of all, according to what they spend needlessly, and without prospect of return. Upon which grounds, their Customs upon Goods Imported and Exported, are generally low; as if they intended by them, only to keep an account of their Foreign Trade; and to retaliate upon their Neighbour States, the prejudices done them, by their Prohibitions and Impositions.

It is probable that *Holland* and *England* are grown richer under taxes.

It is further to be observed, that since the Year 1636, the Taxes and Publick Levies

Levies made in *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, have been prodigiously greater than at any time heretofore; and yet the said Kingdoms have increased in their Wealth and Strength, for these last Forty Years, as shall hereafter be shewn.

It is said that the King of *France*, at present doth Levy the Fifth Part of his Peoples Wealth; and yet great Ostentation is made of the Present Riches and Strength of that Kingdom. Now great care must be had in distinguishing between the Wealth of the People, and that of an absolute Monarch; who taketh from the People, where, when, and in what proportion he pleaseth. Moreover, the Subjects of two Monarchs may be equally Rich, and yet one Monarch may be double as Rich as the other; *viz.* If one take the tenth part of the Peoples Substance to his own dispose, and the other but the 20th. nay the Monarch of a poorer People, may appear more splendid and glorious, than that of a Richer; which perhaps may be somewhat the case of *France*, as hereafter shall be examined. As an instance and application of what hath been said,

The difference of Princes Revenues.

That *Ireland* may be more advantageously taxed by a Pole in Flax.

said, I conceive that in *Ireland* wherein are about 1200 Thousand People, and near 300 Thousand Smokes or Hearths; It were more tolerable for the People, and more profitable for the King; that each Head paid 2 s. worth of Flax, than that each smoke should pay 2 s. in Silver; And that for the following reasons.

I. *Ireland* being under peopled, and Land, and Cattle being very cheap; there being every where store of Fish and Fowl; the ground yielding excellent Roots (and particularly that bread-like root *Potatoes*) and withal they being able to perform their Husbandry, with such harness and tackling, as each Man can make with his own hands; and living in such Houses as almost every Man can build; and every House-wife being a Spinner and Dyer of Wool and Yarn, they can live and subsist after their present fashion, without the use of Gold or Silver Money; and can supply themselves with the necessaries above-named, without labouring 2 Hours *per diem*: Now it hath been found, that by reason of Insolvencies arising, rather from the uselessness than want of Money

ney among these poor People; that from 300 Thousand Hearths, which should have yielded 30 Thousand Pound *per annum*; not 15 Thousand Pound of Money could be Levyed: Whereas it is easily imagined, that four or five People dwelling in that Cottage, which hath but one smoke; could easily have planted a ground-plot of about 40 foot square with Flax; or the 50 part of an Acre; for so much ground will bear eight or ten Shillings worth of that Commodity; and the Rent of so much ground, in few places amounts to a penny *per annum*. Nor is there any skill requisite to this practice, wherewith the Country is not already familiar. Now as for a Market for the Flax; there is Imported into *Holland* it self, over and above what that Country produces; as much Flax, as is there sold for between Eightscore and Two Hundred Thousand Pound; and into *England* and *Ireland* is Imported as much Linnen Cloth made of Flax, and there spent, as is worth above ½ a Million of Money. As shall hereafter be shewn.

Wherefore having shewn, that Silver Money is useless to the poor People of *Ireland*,

*Ireland*; that half the Hearth Money could not be raised by reason thereof; that the People are not a fifth part employed; that the People and Land of *Ireland*, are competently qualified for Flax; That one Penny-worth of Land, will produce Ten Shillings worth of the same; and that there is Market enough and enough, for above an Hundred Thousand Pounds worth; I conceive my Proposition sufficiently proved; at least to set forwards and promote a practice, which both the present Law and Interest of the Country doth require: Especially, since if all the Flax so produced should yield nothing, yet there is nothing lost; the same time having been worse spent before. Upon the same grounds, the like Tax of 2 s. per Head, may be raised with the like advantage upon the People of *England*; which will amount to Six Hundred Thousand Pound per annum; to be paid in Flax, Manufactured, into all the sorts of *Linnens, Threds, Tapes, and Laces*; which we now receive from *France, Flanders, Holland, and Germany*; the value whereof doth far exceed the sum last mentioned, as hath appeared by the examination of particulars. It

It is observed by Clothiers, and others, who employ great numbers of poor people, that when Corn is extremely plentiful, that the Labour of the poor is proportionably dear: And scarce to be had at all (so licentious are they who labour only to eat, or rather to drink.) Wherefore when so many Acres sown with Corn, as do usually produce a sufficient store for the Nation, shall produce perhaps double to what is expected or necessary; it seems not unreasonable that this common blessing of God, should be applied, to the common good of all people, represented by their Sovereign; much rather than the same should be abused, by the vile and brutish part of mankind, to the prejudice of the Common-Wealth: And consequently, that such surplusage of Corn, should be sent to publick Store-houses; from thence to be disposed of, to the best advantage of the Publick.

Now if the Corn spent in *England*, at five shillings per Bushel *Wheat*, and two shillings six pence *Barley*, be worth ten Millions *Communibus annis*; it follows that in years of great plenty, when the said Grains are one third part cheaper;

Duties put upon redundant Commodities may be a harmless Tax.

cheaper; that a vast advantage might accrue to the Common-Wealth, which now is spent in over-feeding of the People, in quantity or quality; and so indisposing them to their usual Labour.

The like may be said of *Sugar, Tobacco, and Pepper*; which custom hath now made necessary to all sorts of people; and which the over planting of them, hath made unreasonably cheap: I say it is not absurd, that the Publick should be advantaged by this extraordinary plenty.

That an *Excise* should be laid upon *Corrants* also, is not unreasonable; not only for this, but for other reasons also.

Of a Tax by a grand Militia, and by two other sorts of Armies. The way of the present Militia or Trained-Bands, is a gentle Tax upon the Country; because it is only a few days Labour in the year, of a few Men in respect of the whole; using their own goods, that is their own Arms. Now if there be three Millions of Males in *England*, there be above two hundred thousand of them, who are between the age of sixteen and thirty, unmarried persons; and who live by their Labour

Labour and Service; for of so many or thereabouts, the present Militia consists.

Now if an hundred and five thousand of these, were Armed, and Trayned, as Foot; and fifty thousand as Horse; (Horse being of special advantage in Islands) the said Forces at Land, with thirty thousand Men at Sea; would by Gods ordinary blessing, defend this Nation, being an Island, against any Force in view: But the charge of Arming, Disciplining, and Rendezvousing all these Men, twice, or thrice a year; would be a very gentle Tax, Levyed by the people themselves, and paid to themselves. Moreover if out of the said number  $\frac{1}{3}$  part were selected, of such as are more than ordinarily fit and disposed for War, and to be Exercised, and Rendezvoused fourteen or fifteen times *per annum*; the charge thereof being but a fortnights Pay in the year, would be also a very gentle Tax.

Lastly, If out of this last mentioned number,  $\frac{1}{3}$  again should be selected, making about twelve thousand Foot, and near six thousand Horse, to be Exercised, and

and Rendezvoused forty days in the year; I say that the charge of all these three Militias, allowing the latter six weeks Pay *per annum*; would not cost above one hundred and twenty thousand pound *per annum*; which I take to be an easie burthen, for so great a benefit.

For supplying the Navy, and Merchants with Seamen.

Forasmuch as the present Navy of *England* requires thirty six thousand Men to Man it; and for that the *English* Trade of Shipping, requires about forty eight thousand Men, to manage it also; it follows, that to perform both well, there ought to be about seventy two thousand Men, (and not eighty four thousand) competently qualified for these Services: For want whereof we see, that it is a long while, before a Royal Navy can be manned; which till it be, is of no effectual use, but lies at charge. And we see likewise upon these occasions, that Merchants are put to great straights, and inconveniences; and do pay excessive rates for the carrying on their Trade. Now if twenty four thousand able bodied Tradesmen, were by six thousand of them *per annum*, brought up and fitted for Sea-Service; and for their

their incouragement allowed 20 *s. per annum* for every year they had been at Sea, even when they stay at home, not exceeding 6 *l.* for those, who have served six years or upward; it follows, that about 72000 *l.* at the *medium* of 3 *l. per* Man, would Salariate the whole number of twenty four thousand; and so, forasmuch as half the Seamen, which mannage the Merchants Trade, are supposed to be always in Harbour, and are about twenty four thousand Men, together with the said half of the Auxiliaries last mentioned, would upon all emergencies, Man out the whole *Royal Navy* with thirty six thousand, and leaving to the Merchants twelve thousand of the abler Auxilliarities, to perform their business in Harbour, till others come home from Sea; and thus thirty six thousand, twenty four thousand, and twelve thousand, make the seventy two thousand above mentioned: I say that more than this sum of 72000 *l.* is fruitlessly spent, and over paid by the Merchants, whensoever a great Fleet is to be fitted out. Now these whom I call Auxilliary Seamen, are such as have another Trade besides, wherewith

E to



to maintain themselves, when they are not employed at Sea; and the charge of maintaining them, though 72000 *l. per annum*, I take to be little or nothing, for the reasons above mentioned, and consequently an easie Tax to the people, because Leavyed by, and paid to themselves.

A Herring  
Tax upon  
Scotland.

As we propounded that *Ireland* should be Taxed with Flax, and *England* by *Linne*, and other *Manufecture* of the same; I conceive that *Scotland* also might be Taxed as much, to be paid in *Herrings*, as *Ireland* in *Flax*: Now the three Taxes (*viz.*) of *Flax*, *Linne*, and *Herrings*, and the maintainance of the triple *Militia*, and of the *Auxilliary Seamen* above-mentioned, do all five of them together, amount to one Million of mony, the raising whereof is not a Million spent, but gain unto the Common-Wealth, unless it can be made appear, that by reason of all, or any of them, the Exportation of *Woollen Manufactures*, *Lead*, and *Tin*, are lessened; or of such Commodities, as our own *East* and *West India* Trade do produce, forasmuch as I conceive, that the Exportation

tion of these last mentioned Commodities, is the *Touch-stone* whereby the Wealth of *England* is tryed, and the *Pulse* wherby the Health of the Kingdom may be discerned.

### CHAP. III.

*That France cannot by reason of natural, and perpetual Impediments, be more powerful at Sea, than the English, or Hollanders now are, or may be.*

Power at Sea consists chiefly of *Men, able to fight at Sea*, and that in such Shipping, as is most proper for the Seas wherein they serve; and those are in these Northern Seas, Ships from between three hundred to one thousand three hundred Tuns; and of those such as draw much Water, and have a deep Latch in the Sea, in order to keep a good Wind, and not to fall to Leeward, a matter of vast advantage in Sea Service: Wherefore it is to be examined, 1. Whether the King of *France*, hath Ports in the Northern Seas (where

The qualities of  
Ships fit  
for the defence of  
*England*.