

# Minutes taken from the Speech of Sir S. E. upon his Election.

**A**FTER having paid his Thanks to his Fellow-Citizens for the great Trust they had committed to him, he took notice of a new Practice in some Places where the Electors of Members for the ensuing Parliament gave to their Deputies Instructions for their Behaviour in the ensuing Session; which was a thing he liked so well, that he hoped it would become customary for Members of Parliament both to receive and follow such good Instructions, whereby they would speak in the House the Sense of their Country only; which was the end for which they were elected: And for the same end was the Post-Office left free for the Use of every Member during the Session of Parliament, that every Elector might by Letter communicate his Thoughts to his Representer without charge. For my part (continued he) I should be very well pleas'd from time to time, upon all occasions and emergencies during this ensuing, or any other Session, to receive your Instructions. But (methinks) the present Circumstances of our Affairs seem in a more particular manner to require 'em at your Hands. For

At present I do suppose that you do all agree with me, that it is of *absolute necessity* to put a stop to the aspiring Genius of *France*: particularly by endeavouring to reduce *Spain* to the Obedience of her rightful Sovereign the Emperor of *Germany*. Now to this end one of these two things will be needful: Either we must raise Money and Men our selves to be sent as Auxiliaries to the Emperour, or else we must only raise Money and transmit it to the Emperour to enable him to raise Men in his own Dominions. Now both these things are attended with Difficulties.

For if we raise Money in order to raise an Army of our own Men, 'twill be difficult to lodg it in such a manner as it shall be wholly issued out to the Uses for which it was intended. The House has not (as yet) Authority to swear every Receiver of the Nation's Money that he will not issue forth any of it in Obedience to Privy Seals: And 'tis a great Difficulty to prevent those who are intrusted to expend the Nation's Money from converting some part of it to their own Use, or to punish them when detected. 'Tis visible that very great Estates have been gain'd during the late War, which could not fairly be attained in so short a time. And if I were worthy to settle the Preliminaries of a Trial at Law for publick Officers, I would require my Lord \_\_\_\_\_ to prove by sufficient Witness what Estate he was possessed of when he was first admitted into his Publick Trust: And then, whatsoever I could find him now possessed of more than he had at first, and also what he might be supposed to have honestly acquired since his Admission into Office, should be restored to the Publick Treasure of the Nation; but as yet

there is no such Procefs as this warranted by Law. But

Supposing we should resolve to raise Men for the Emperor's Service, the Charge of it would be great, and it may be the Difficulty of disbanding them would be greater; and if an Army should be kept upon us in time of Peace, we are from that instant in *French* Shoos.

On the other hand, had the Emperor our Money, it would be more effectual to him than our Men; because he can raise Men cheaper than we, and because the Expence we must be at for transporting them over Sea will be saved to him. 'Tis certain his Imperial Majesty fights in earnest against *France* in order to reduce *Spain* under his Obedience, so that our Money (were it in his Hands) would not be misapply'd. But then I doubt whether we can pay it into his Hands by either Effects or Remittances, and it may be a Loss to our own Trade if we send our Species out of the Land.

I do openly own to you that I am an irreconcilable Enemy to the *Exorbitant Power of France*; and I would dispense with the Diminution of our Species to attain so glorious an End as is that of giving a considerable Check to the false Grandure of that insolent Monarch: tho I must also own to you that heretofore I have paid a greater respect to Crown'd Heads than what I now think to be their due; as having formerly been carried away by some Loyal Doctrines (at that time in publick vogue) thro a Faith of Complaisance to the Church then in fashion: But I hope that my speedy and vigorous Concurrence with his present Majesty's most glorious Undertaking for our Deliverance, will convince you that during the time in which I was misled by fallacious Principles and false Reasonings, I never intended to concur with, or consent to the Loss of *English Liberty*.

At present I think my self obliged (as much as in me lies) to promote the just Rights and Liberties of all Mankind; and were I to pen a Declaration of War in behalf of the five Crown'd Heads and the States General now confederated against the *French King*, I would lay the Foundation of the present War in the general Preservation of the Liberties of *Europe*; but more particularly in the Preservation of *Spain* from being enslaved by *French Policy*, and likewise in a just and necessary Deliverance of the *French Nation* from the Tyranny of *Lewis the 14th*. I would insist upon restoring the Parliaments of *France* to their antient Power and Dignity, so that it may not be in the power of their Kings to raise a Penny upon their Subjects without the Consent of a Parliament freely chosen by the People. As this Cause of a War with *France* is truly honourable, so will it also be as truly serviceable to the Interest of *Europe*.

For



For what is it that has enabled the *French* King to be so troublesome to the World as he has been, and now is, but only his Arbitrary Power of raising Money from his Subjects Purfes? If I could see the War settled upon this foot, I could not but assure my self of the Blessing of God upon so Virtuous and Honourable an Undertaking. 'T would be well too if we had a good Squadron of Men of War before *Naples* to assist that Kingdom in the Recovery of themselves from the Yoke which the *French* have hang'd upon their Necks, whereby also the *Milanois* and *Mantuan* may be encouraged and assisted to relieve themselves. For tho the late King of *Spain's* Will were not forged by *Porto-Carero*, yet I cannot think that whole Nations may be demised by Will, as a Flock of Geese may be bequeathed by their Owner.

To let pass foreign Affairs, there are many things at home which deserve Consideration. As whether in this time of Difficulty the House should not resume its antient Right of bestowing the Publick Trusts of the Nation? Whether the Officers of the Treasury ought not to be brought under a narrow Inspection of the House during the Session, and also of a Committee of the House during the Interval of Sessions? Whether the Multitude of Prisoners lying in Durance for Debt may not be released after their Effects are sold (if they have any) to pay their Debts; to the end that their Country as well as themselves may reap the Benefit of their Labours? And what if for the future Mens Effects may be made more liable to pay Debts than at present they are, whilst the Persons of Men may be excused from Imprisonment? Whether all Protestants without Distinction may not be permitted to bear publick Offices in the Realm; by which impartial Procedure the whole Protestant Interest of *England* would be equally engaged in her Assistance, and all Distinctions on any religious Score would be taken away, but only that of Papist and Protestant? Whether all profitable Places of Trust ought not to be sold publickly for the Increase of the Publick Revenue, and also to oblige the Purchasers to an extraordinary Care in the Discharge of their Trusts, since any wilful Misbehaviour or gross Negligence in the Buyer will make a Vacancy for a new Purchaser? But if any Person of sufficient Ability shall offer himself for the Discharge of a publick Trust *gratis*, he may be admitted thereunto, and some publick Mark of Honour may be allotted to him and his Family for the faithful Discharge of the same.

Last night I was told that Mr. ——— an eminent Citizen of this Corporation, said that he would not have polled for me but only for fear of gaining my Displeasure, if he should have done

otherwise. Now tho I am conscious to my self that I should never do him any Diskindness had he voted against Me, yet I know that if only imaginary Fears shall prevail over Men in the Disposal of their Votes, a publick Election falling under so ill an Influence, cannot be altogether so free as it ought to be. And therefore I take this occasion to refer it to you, whether a Balloting Box, into which every Member of the Corporation may put a small Scroll of Paper roll'd up, with the Names of those two Persons he votes for inserted, be not more convenient than that open way of Voting which is now in use. If you think it fit to petition the House that your future Elections may be carried on after this manner, I will move the Honourable House of Commons in it. For 'tis clear to me that if Elections are carried on by Ballot, they must needs be free, since no Body can tell how any one disposes of his Vote: And in such a case neither Bribes nor Awe can be sure to prevail for so much as one Vote. And indeed, if all the Freeholders of a County were suffer'd to poll in their respective Parish Churches by a Ballot, and if the Ballot of every Parish were return'd to the High Sheriff in open Court by the respective Parishes, and were received by the High Sheriff, together with the Candidates for every County; who does not see that the true Sense of a County, as to their Choice of Members to sit in Parliament, will be found out with Certainty without any Trouble or Charge?

Whether (during the Factions which yet remain among us) we are fit to trust our selves with a general Excise for Payment of the National Debt, which will otherwise eat us up with Interest if it continue long, and which at present must obstruct the Power of the Realm from exerting it self upon any Emergency, I leave to your Consideration. Such a Tax as this being the equallest, is the easiest to be born. It may also be appropriated to the Uses for which 'tis given by some extraordinary manner, that not a Penny of it may be misapply'd. And Care may be taken that the Collectors of it may be few, as are the Collectors of the Excise upon Beer and Ale in *Holland*, where a very few Clerks collect the Excise of *Amsterdam*.

These things I have hinted to you, that you may ripen them in your Thoughts; and if any other things of this nature occur to your Minds, the Post-Office is open to you, and I shall always be ready to promote any good Design which you have formed in order to common Benefit, as having nothing more in the Bottom of my Heart, than a sincere Desire to promote the Publick Wealth, with relation both to King and People.

FINIS.