

THE Gun-Smiths QUERIES.

WHETHER our Representatives are sent up to Dispatch the Nation's Business: Or, at any Rate, to make their own Fortunes? And whether they were Designed for *Concealers* of Mis-management, or *Redressers* of Publick Grievances?

Whether by taking so small a Sum as Five Thousand Pounds *Hush-Money*, Mr. B—— C—— H—— and S—— may be said to Break with their Country? And whether their Electors can be Deceiv'd a Second Time, by the like Assurances of Attending *Gratis*?

Whether the Debts of the Navy will ever be Paid, if the Money be told over a Grid-Iron? And whether the late Elections could be free, if the *Flood-Gates* of the Treasury were Open'd?

Whether if the following Facts (which were printed and laid before the Commons) be True, the Case of the Company of *Gun-Makers* was not a hard Case? *viz.*

' The said Company (tho' but Poor) have always cheerfully and Readily Served Her Majesty to the utmost of their Power; and there is now due to the said Company from the Office of Ordinance, about *Thirty Thousand Pounds*.

' The said Company not being able to give further Credit, did humbly Represent to the Office of Ordinance, That in Case they could be paid, or have but Money to go on with their Work, they would be able to supply the Government with *Thirty Thousand Arms*, every Six Months, if requir'd.

' Tho' the said Company could not Obtain this their just and reasonable Request, yet *Ten Thousand Arms* were bought in *Holland*, for the Expedition under the Earl Rivers, and Money remitted for them, which would have Enabled the said Company to have supply'd Her Majesty, whom they have always so readily Served. And there are now bespoke in *Holland Ten Thousand Arms* more for the Stores in *Ireland*. Besides, divers Officers buy Arms there for their Regiments, tho' contrary to a Clause in an Act of Parliament, (*Anno Tertio & Quarto Annæ Reginae*) *viz. Provided always, and be it further Enacted, That all Cloaths, Arms, and Accoutrements of War, belonging to the Horse, Foot, and Dragoons in Her Majesty's Pay and Service, who receive English Pay, shall be bought in the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick upon Tweed, and not elsewhere; and every Officer or Person who shall Offend here in (upon Proof made in that Behalf) shall be Cashier'd.*

' By this Encouragement to Foreigners, the Trade of Gun-making will be Improv'd abroad, and intirely lost here; and great Sums must be Exported to pay for the same, which otherwise would Circulate at Home; And the said Company, and Thousands Employ'd by them, must be utterly ruin'd for want of Work; and many are so already. That in case there should be (which God forbid) any sudden Occasion for Arms at Home, it will be too late to get Work-men, when they have gotten into some other Employment for the maintaining themselves and Families (as many have done already) or set up their Trade in Foreign Countries, where they meet with Encouragement.

' All which is humbly Submitted to your Honours, and it is Pray'd by the said Company, That their hard Case may be consider'd, and that so useful a Manufacture may not be lost in *England*.

Whether upon a Petition of the said Company, the Petitioners, or the Violaters of the Law were most Protected? And whether from a Committee appointed of *Two Fourth Officers*, and *One Fourth Courtiers*, a more favourable Report was to be expected?

Whether Sir G—— Heath——te could be perswaded, either to Deliver the Petition, or come to the said Com-

mittee? And whether to screen his Patron, or do Justice to the Petitioners, was his greatest Care?

Whether Sir W—— Sc——n did not show the like Slippery and Crafty Trick in the Case of the *Tents*? And whether if Mr. Wil——ks, and others had been call'd in, they could not have prov'd, That *Sixty Thousand Pounds* worth were bought in *Holland*, for *English Service*, in One Year?

Whether it was not Ingratitude of the rankest Nature, in those Gentlemen, to deny Assistance, in a just Cause, to those, who had so constantly Voted for them? And whether in using such hideous Cant (*as—it is not a Proper Time—it reflects on the Ministry*) they did not equally betray their Fears of Offending, and how well they will serve, if Chosen again?

Whether the *Tent* and *Gun-makers* of *England* (if duly Incurag'd) would not have deliver'd as good a Commodity as the *Dutch*, and cheap as was charg'd there by the *English Officer*? But notwithstanding hereof, Whether a positive Law was not made, and then of Force, in the *Gun-makers Favour*?

Whether the Employment of the Poor, the Trade of the Merchant, and the General Interest of the Kingdom, in those Bargains, were not Scandalously Neglected, to Aggrandize a Family? And whether the T——r had not his Share in the Spoil, tho' the Poet's Complement is

" Such Conduct, such Integrity are shown
" There are no Coffers empty but your own.

Whether a Party, who stood themselves so fair a Mark, and had so little Reason to start Queries, and begin the Paper War, ought to have fill'd the Kingdom with the Cry of 'em? And whether it is not Obvious to every Judicious Eye, That their Design is rather to Divert our Inquiries, and Cover their Oppressions, than to heal Divisions, and put us Right in the next Elections?

Whether a Deer-Stealer has not often made a good Keeper, and Justify'd the Choice of his Donor? And, if a Bill should be Ordered to prevent Splitting of Freeholds, and giving and taking Bribes, and other Scandalous Practices at Elections, whether a Whig Committee, from their own Experience, would not be the properest Persons to prepare and bring in the same?

Whether the long Parliament had more Pensioners in it than the last; and which of 'em offer'd most Sacrifices in Devotion to the Ministry, and made the fewest Strands for the Liberties of the Subject? And whether the Names of the One, as well as the other, ought not to be distinguish'd in Print?

Whether in Voting Sir Simon Harcourt, Sir Charles Blois, and Twenty more, not duly Elected, the Charters of Corporations were not sweetly Preserved? And whether the Gentlemen, who Counted Nine to be a greater Number than Thirteen, and Three more than Twenty Seven, ought not to study the Rules of Arithmetick and Honesty, before they come again to Parliament?

Whether it would not be a wiser Course for the Electors to prevent all Controverted Elections, by agreeing among themselves, than so hastily to run to a Party-Committee, for a Determination, their Shortest Way?

Whether it was not a bold Stroke, and worthy of the Party, in Favour of Sir R——d Al——n, to Dispense with a known and useful Law, for Preventing Officers of the Customs from being Members? And whether the following Resolution (*That this House will Receive no Petitions for any Sum of Money relating to Publick Service, but what is recommended from the Crown*) is not a new Step to secure the Rights of the People, and to maintain the Dignity and Power of Parliaments?

Whether it was not a notable Return of Service to the Publick from Sir R——d Al——n, That in a few Days after he was brought in, he Mov'd for a Bill to Enable the Treasurer to Compound with him his Debt, as Secur-

Suffolk Receiver? And whether the Thanks of the House might not as well have been given to him for that Service, as to the *Managers* for theirs, if the Speech had been ready?

Whether it would not make a diverting Droll to hear the Whigs Banter their own Conduct, and how industriously they shift the *Over-sight*, from Post to Pillar? And whether they will ever again have so much Time to waste, and pay so dear for it, in roasting a P—st, and Catching a Butterfly?

Whether ever before, a Prince (in full Power and Liberty) was by the *Ministry* brought to hear his Title and Sovereignty, in such Pompous Form, and for so many Days together, Debated and Canvass'd by his Subjects? And whether it was not an odd sort of Entertainment to the tender Nature of a Queen, of such Gracious and Merciful Inclinations, for a Bishop to relate the Story of a Roman *Senate* Condemning their Emperor to be whipt to Death; and that to prevent the Torment and Infamy, which was Design'd him, he killed himself?

Whether *D—r Bur—t* was not Born too far North ever to Return to his Country again, and of Temper too soft to bear a *Horning*? And whether he that could *Occasionally* Conform in *Switzerland*, and so well Instruct his Nephew as to *Scotland*, would Boggle to Veer again to *Passive Obedience*, if it should come up to be the fashionable Doctrine at Court?

Whether the Dissenters ever can lose their Toleration, out by open Rebellion? And whether the way to prevent their Rebellion, is not to keep 'em out of Power, by an *Occasional Bill*?

Whether, if the Quakers do read my Lord *Clarendon*, and other Historians, they can ever forget their former Friends in *New-England*, and their present Case in *Scotland*? And whether it is not high Time for them to think of Renewing their *Lease*; and who 'twas gave them their *Affirmation Liberty* at first?

Whether the Bank was not Erected to bring down Interest of Money, and for the better Carrying on the War, by Supporting of Credit? And whether by their late Conduct, in a certain Place, they have any more shown their Wisdom, than answer'd the end of their Institution?

Whether the Members of the Bank in a General Court, ought not to Vote a Loyal Address to the Queen, in order to clear themselves from the Aspersions and *Misrepresentations* of their Directors, and thereby prevent the just Resentments of the Nation? And whether if they shall proceed otherwise, the World will not be Tempted to think, and with Justice too, That those Directors, who could appear so intermeddling above, have not fail'd secretly to have shed their Influences, without Measure, in all the Corporations?

Whether the Members and Directors of the Bank do, in Proportion to their respective Rights therein, make the same *Profits per Annum*? And whether we shall ever be let into that *Secret*: Or which (for One Resolved to Rise, at all Adventure) is the best Purchase, and will bring in most, a *Corporation*, or a *Directorship*?

Whether the *Goldsmiths* and *Scriveners* are the only known Promoters of Extortion, Procuracion, and Continuation? And whether Sir *W— Sc—* upon the Offer of a Deposit of 150 *l.* in Tallies, for 100 *l.* in Money, for Six Months, did not Demand of his Friend, after the Rate of 16 *l.* per Cent. per Annum?

Whether our Fathers were much in the Wrong, who thought a great Estate could hardly be gotten honestly? And if Friendship had such an unkind Return made to it, what Usage and Treatment may the more needy Stranger Expect?

Who can tell what the Country-man Thought, when he ask'd, if they *Scrambl'd* for his Taxes in *London*? And whether if the Great Fish do swallow the small, it is not adviseable to steer clear of wide Mouths, and Voracious Stomachs?

Whether the fair Trader, Merchant, Clothier, Factor, and the particular Creditors of *Collonel Boddington*, *Mr. Dent* and *Mr. Soame*, can ever enough Contemplate the *Bankrupt Acts*? And whether a wise Physician has always hit the Cause of his Patient's Illness, or that the Remedy to some has not prov'd worse than the Disease?

Whether if our Applications had indeed been as great as our Talk of the *Consequences* of *Spain*, *King Charles* might not have been, with less Charge of Money and Blood, at *Almanza*, two Years ago? And whether if our *Compliment* Soldiers had been there, the Battle of *Almanza* might have proved to us as Successful and Glorious, as that of

Whether it is not wondrous strange, the Sages of the Law, in one Breath, *Harrangue* into Rebellion; and in another, plead for the Doctrine of Resistance? And whether it would not as much surprize them to see the Clause—*Quam diu se bene gesserint*, Repealed?

Whether if *Wh—n* should lose his present Heir, the next Child he shall beget (between you and I) will be a Boy or a Girl? And whether to Imitate the Honour of the Father, or the Chastity of the Mother, would be its surest Road to Preferment?

Whether those, who have put such constant Sights upon the *Illustrious House* of Hanover, will either be pleased with our *Loyal Addresses*, or the *Instructions* to *Earl Rivers*? And whether those, who were for the *Treaty of Partition*, are not now *Chagrin* at our Progress in *Spain*, towards the Restitution of the *Whole Monarchy* to the *Austrian Family*?

Whether it was not a *Whig*, that advised the shutting up of the *Exchequer* in the Reign of *King Charles the Second*? And whether by talking so much of a *Spunge*, the Party don't intimate the want of one, to wipe out their own, and their Forefather's Sins, against the *Crown*, the *Church*, and the *Nation*?

Whether the Strength and Defence of the Kingdom do not chiefly consist in our *Shipping*? And whether the Discouragements our Seamen lye under be the way to increas our Navigation?

Whether to buy Arms and Cloaths for our Soldiers Abroad is to enrich our People at Home, to secure the Ballance, and bring down the Exorbitant Power of our Neighbours? And whether those who shew'd so much Eagerness and Zeal, and were at so great Expence to bring in *Foreigners*, ever gave themselves the least trouble to think of *Employing the Poor*, or Preserving our *Manufactures*?

Whether, if Hands were really wanting, *Mrs. Cullen's Tutor* would not advise *Poligamy*? And whether it is not a sign, we want Employment more than Hands, that so many Persons, Old and Young, Men and Women, hunt after *Lotteries*?

Whether the Proclamation for *Dissolving* the *Parliament*, and speedy Calling a *new One*, put in *Gold Letters*, and a *Frame*, will not be as acceptable and useful a Gift to Posterity as *King William's* last Speech? And whether it would not become an ingenious Head to think of a Way to keep up the *Personal Memory* of those Loyal Addressers, who so bravely dar'd to Preserve our Constitution?

Whether the like Causes do not produce the like Effects? And if we will be so foolish to be mistaken in our next Choices, whether we sha'n't bring our Hogs to a fair Market? But can we be mistaken in Men, when their *Characters* are so well known?

Whether the *Mystery* of the *Palatines*; the *Iniquities* of the *Kit-Cat Club*; the *Usefulness* of the *Baker's-Bill*; and the *Designs* of the *Junto*; will not all come to Light in one and the same Day? And

Whether ever such Princely Edifices were built, and Fortunes rais'd by the Servants of a Crown in so short a Time, and in the Midst of War; Such sumptuous Furniture put therein; So little Money and less Credit stirring; Prodigious Debts contracted; Taxes paid; Customs and Excises rated; Perpetuities granted; Divisions fomented; Heresies and Schisms abetted; False Doctrines preach'd; Zeal for Religion extinguish'd; That banter'd, and Atheism spreading; Strangers encourag'd; The Poor neglected; Shipping and the Discontents of Seamen unregarded; Trade less flourishing; Bankrupts increasing; The Pride, Insolence and Profuseness of Upstarts intolerable; One Family rais'd above all the Rest with as many Places (not long ago) as would honourably maintain Twenty others of as much Modesty and more Gratitude; Smooth Countenances, with broken Hearts; Ancient Seats sold, and generous Families ruin'd; Large Fortunes pickt up by private Men, out of the Spoils of the People; Young Nobility and Gentry without Portions; The Lady from the Coach to the Patten; The Patten to the Coach; Directors of a Bank attempting to be Directors of National Affairs; The Power of the People exalted; Foreigners intruding upon our Councils; The Prerogatives of a Crown depressed; Servants impeaching the Titles of their Superiors; And the Reputation of Parliaments sunk; And thus ye Whigs, and my good Doctor —

"Our Isle enjoys by your successful Care;
"The Pomp of Peace amidst the Woes of War."