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A

LETTER

TO THE

MAYOR of -----.

WHEREIN THE

DISCOURAGEMENTS of the SEAMEN
Employed in his MAJESTY'S NAVY,

AND THE

MERITS of the BILL brought into PARLIAMENT
in the last Session, for their RELIEF, are im-
partially Examined,

BY A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

*Truths would you teach, or save a sinking Land,
All fear, none aid you, and few understand.*

ESSAY ON MAN.

L O N D O N,

Printed for R. BALDWIN, at the Rose in Pater-noster Row.

MDCCLVIII.

A

L E T T E R, &c.

I Sincerely lament, as all honest Men must do, the Sufferings of the *British* Seamen employed in his Majesty's Navy;—The Impositions of all Kinds to which they are subject, and the Distresses they groan under, beyond what are necessarily connected with their Service, cry aloud for Compassion and Relief.---Your Petition to Parliament, for establishing a Method of enabling these gallant Men, when employ'd abroad, to allot a Share of their Pay for the Sustenance of their Wives and Children, was presented in the last Session; and the Disposition of the House to approve any proper Means for this just and humane Purpose eminently appeared.---But the Difficulty was, as it hath always been, to form such Regulations, as should clearly remove the Hardships complained of, and yet not lie open to greater Abuses.--A Plan of this Sort hath been constantly demanded, since the first Establishment of our Naval Force, and often meditated.---But the various important Objects, which, upon a nearer Inspection, are found liable to interfere with each other, and are yet requisite to be comprehended, and duely adjusted therein, render the Work extremely arduous; and have baffled the Attempts of Gentlemen of great

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Abilities

Abilities for reforming the Cruelty of our Marine System.

However, your Petition, and the Petition of other respectable Corporations on this Subject, had the Effect of pointing out, to fuller View, the Severity of our present Naval Regulations.---In Consequence of which, a Zeal for forming them on a more compassionate Model began to be generally diffused.---But official Embarrassments, which are ever difficult to be combated, and a Variety of Interests thwarting each other, stood averse to any Alteration;---However, happily as it seemed for the *British* Marine, an Attempt for reforming this System was resolved to be made by a Right Honourable Gentleman, in whose Department the Payment of the Navy lay; The Oppression, and Distresses incident to the *British* Sailors in the Royal Navy, were by him clearly stated to the House, and all the official Objections dissipated.---On this Occasion, the Propriety of his Conduct, and the public Spirit it breathed, gave me infinite Pleasure; As I saw, that He, who had the best Opportunity of penetrating into these Evils, was the most zealous to correct them; An Example extremely laudable! ---For official Abuses may then be expected to be well reformed, when there is Virtue in those, who preside in the respective Offices, to attempt the Reformation.---Upon his Motion in the last Session, a Bill *For the Encouragement of the Seamen employed in the Royal Navy*, was ordered to be brought in, which, though attempted to be opposed, passed our House with due Applause, and was carried by a great Majority.---This gave Hopes that the Time was come, when our Naval System would be new modelled upon a generous enlarged Basis; but the Bill was rejected in the House of Lords by a Majority, as was generally reported, of

two Voices ;---An Event, which it was supposed, was in some Measure owing to its having been brought into that House so late in the Session :— However, as you have frequently demanded from me, what Topics have been urged in Objection to so humane and salutary a Law, I shall endeavour to lay before you, as far as I am able, the present Defects of our Naval Regulations, the Purport of the Bill proposed for their Amendment, and the Arguments on which any Opposition thereto, without Doors, appeared to be founded.

The principal Defect in our Naval Regulations, and the constant Source of Distress to our Seamen, hath been the *slow and uncertain Payment* of their *Wages* : After toiling abroad in unwholesome Climates for several Years in the Service of their Country, how grievous must it be to these faithful harrassed Men, to find, upon their return home, no Part of their Wages so dearly earned, allotted to them, nor any Time fixed for their Payment ! In this Situation, their Necessities forcing them to procure Money at any Rate, they are exposed a Prey to the most usurious Extortion.—But the Defects in our Naval System, and the Distresses from thence consequential to our brave Seamen, will be best stated, by laying before you an Abstract of the Bill brought in by the Right Honourable Gentleman, ---wherein most of these Evils are pointed out by the Provisions there offered for their Remedy.--- To which I shall subjoin some Remarks on the Extent of these Evils, and on the *Propriety*, or *Impropriety*, as either shall appear to me, of the several Remedies proposed.

Preparatory to this Abstract, it is proper to observe, that although vast Sums are annually granted by the Legislature for the Service of the Navy, according to the Estimates delivered, yet

extraordinary Expences are liable to arise in some Articles beyond these Estimates, whereby a Failure of Payment must somewhere be lodged; on which Occasion, the Ministerial Policy hath been, to supply the Demands of the other Branches of this Department, and to let the Weight of the Deficiency chiefly fall on the *Head of Seamen's Wages*, as the Branch the most *popular*, and certain to be provided for, without Objection in future Grants; --- This Policy hath been the rather indulged, as several Articles in this Department, for which *Navy Bills* are issued, bear Interest, and are liable, by Delays of Payment, to be raised in their Prices; Whereas, *Seamen's Wages* bear no Interest, and continue fixed, notwithstanding any Delays of Payment; So that this Branch of the Department of the Navy, hath, by an unusual Reverse of Effects, continually been the most *oppressed*, because the most *favoured*, by the Legislature and the Public.

This Scheme of allotting the Supplies granted for the Department of the Navy, hath brought every Distress upon our brave Seamen; whose Necessities, and the Title they have from their Sufferings, and Services, to public Favour, strongly plead for their immediate Payment, preferably to other Claimants; At least, Humanity and Justice require, that the Sums, which are expressly granted by the Legislature for their Support, should not be withdrawn from them, and allotted to other Creditors; --- His present most gracious Majesty, compassionating the Sufferings of this brave meritorious Band of his Subjects, recommended from the Throne in his first Speech, on the 31st of *January* 1727, to the Parliament elected on his Accession, the Consideration of proper Means for their Relief.-----His royal Words are worthy to be remembered:

“ I think myself obliged to recommend to you
 “ a Consideration of the greatest Importance ; and I
 “ should look upon it as a great Happiness, if at the
 “ Beginning of my Reign I could see the Foundation
 “ laid of so great and necessary a Work, as the In-
 “ crease and Encouragement of our Seamen in
 “ general, that they may be invited, rather than
 “ compelled by Force and Violence to enter into
 “ the Service of their Country, as often as Occasion
 “ shall require it ; a Consideration worthy of the Re-
 “ presentatives of a People great and flourishing in
 “ Trade and Navigation.”

In consequence of this gracious Recommendation from the Throne, two Acts were passed in the first Year of his Majesty's Reign ; the one intitled, *An Act for granting an Aid to his Majesty of 500,000 l. towards discharging Wages due to Seamen, and for the constant, regular, and punctual Payment of Seamen's Wages for the future*:---The other intitled, *An Act for encouraging Seamen to enter into his Majesty's Service*.

The Object of the first of these Acts was, agreeably to the Title, to secure the regular and punctual Payment of Seamen's Wages, and to prevent the Allotment of the Money granted for that Service, to any other Branch of the Naval Department ; it is therefore enacted thereby, that out of all Sums granted, or to be granted, by Parliament for the Service of the Navy, such Parts thereof, as are on the Head of Seamen's Wages, shall be constantly issued, and applied for the Payment of such Wages, in the Manner following ; that is to say, when any of his Majesty's Ships shall have been in Sea-pay *six Months*, and be in *any Port of Great Britain*, or on *the Coast thereof*, the Commissioners of the Navy shall thereupon cause *two Months Wages* to be paid to such Officers and Seamen, or their Attornies ;
 and

and in case such Ships shall be then in any Part of *Ireland*, or *abroad* in foreign Parts, if such inferior Officers and Seamen shall desire to have their *two Months Wages* paid at *home*, the Commissioners of the Navy are to cause Payment of the same to be made, within one Month after the Receipt of the Pay-list for each Ship, to the Attornies of such Officers and Seamen; and so on, at the End of every six Months, two Months Wages are to be paid as aforesaid; and when such Ships shall have been *eighteen Months* in Sea-pay, the Wages of the first *twelve Months* shall be paid, deducting what shall have been advanced as aforesaid, within two Months after, or so soon as any such Ship shall put into any Port of this Realm, where his Majesty's Ships are usually paid: And as to the Residue of their Wages, the same shall be paid within two Months after the Arrival of any such Ship in the Port where she is to be laid up.

This Act was plann'd under the Direction of the two Boards of Treasury and Admiralty, both concurring in all the Provisions therein; and, as appears by our Journals, was brought in by the Members belonging to the Treasury, and passed the House, *Nemine contradicente*. Upon which a new Set of Instructions were given by the Admiralty to the Navy Board, and to the Captains of his Majesty's Ships, for carrying this Act, and the other Act before mentioned of the same Year, into Execution; In pursuance whereof, the *two Months Wages* in *six* were actually paid, where it could be done; And this Act was really executed, in great part, for about *six Years*. But since then, although never repealed, and although the Instructions for executing it still continue, hath been utterly disregarded; the Non-execution of it appearing to have taken Place soon after the Death of the Lord *Torrington*, one
of

of the ablest Seamen ever bred by this Nation, who supported the principal Parts of this Act, whilst he lived: Although it must be owned, that in some Instances there are very inaccurate Provisions in it; and that it lies open to many Frauds and Inconveniences.

One eminent Instance of Inaccuracy is, in ordering Ships, which shall be in *any Port of Great Britain*, or *upon the Coast thereof*, to be paid; Whereas such Payment being requisite to be made, under the Direction of a Commissioner of the Navy, by Clerks possessed of the proper Navy-Books, can only be performed, when the Ships arrive at Ports where such Commissioners and Pay-Clerks reside; Who can never be proposed to be stationed in all the Ports of *Britain*, and round the Coasts of this Island.

Another Provision in this Act is, that Seamen belonging to such Ships as shall be in any Port of *Ireland*, or *abroad* in foreign Parts, shall be allowed to allot by Pay-Lists to be transmitted home by the Captain, *two Months* Pay, at the End of every *six Months*, to be paid to their Attornies.---Hence a Door to innumerable Frauds and impositions on these poor Men, was widely opened; It immediately becoming a Practice for the Money Lenders to advance Money to the Purfers, and Captains Clerks, for buying Letters of Attorney for the *two Months* Pay; Which Pay amounting, after the fixed Deductions upon it, to *forty-five Shillings* was frequently sold in the *West-Indies* and other foreign Parts, for *eighteen* or *twenty Shillings*; whereby the Seamen suffered a Deduction of about *60 per Cent.* from their Wages.---In this Practice Officers of the Ships were also sometimes suspected, upon too manifest Grounds, to be concerned.

These Impositions begining to spread through the whole Navy, notwithstanding a Provision in the
other

other Act, of the same Year, for rendering all Seamen's Letters of Attorney void, unless *revocable*, in order to prevent Money from being lent upon such Letters, raised Objections against this Method of Payment; which co-operating with the short Sums, voted for the Naval Service, and with the Desire to pay those Branches first, which bore Interest, gradually relaxed, after Lord *Torrington's* Death, the Execution of this Act, till towards the Year 1739, when it was totally laid aside; But though the Impositions upon the Seamen, from their granting Letters of Attorney, during the Payment of the two Months Wages out of six, began to be enormous, yet Means might have been used for checking those Impositions; and by what Authority this regular and speedy Payment of Wages, solemnly directed to be made by the Act before mentioned, is discontinued, does not appear by the same Journals, nor by the Public Statutes.

The other Act *For encouraging Seamen to enter into his Majesty's Service*, has been executed, and continues to be so still, in most Instances;---It contains many Provisions, under various detached Heads, for the Encouragement of Seamen, for the regular issuing of their Tickets, and for preventing Impositions upon them in the Receipt of their Wages.

This Act was brought into the House by the Members thereof belonging to the Board of Admiralty; but many Clauses therein being very inaccurately expressed, are found, by Experience, to be inadequate to the Purposes for which they were designed; Instances of which will be found in the Course of the subsequent Remarks.

Great Alterations and Amendments being therefore necessary to be made in both these Acts; It appeared to be the Plan of the Right Honourable

Gentleman to procure their Repeal, and to establish a Method for the punctual and speedy Payment of Seamen's Wages, in a new Act; comprehending also such Clauses of these repealed Acts, as being duly rectified and improved, seemed proper to be retained, together with many new and essential Provisions for the Relief and Encouragement of *British* Seamen.

Having thus endeavoured to lay before you some Information relative to our Naval Regulations, which seem not improper to be delivered previously to the Abstract, I shall detain you no longer from its Perusal, except to remark,—That I had particular Pleasure in observing this Scheme pursued of *repealing* the former Acts, and enacting *de novo*, any Clauses therein, which were intended to be retained, instead of *continuing* these Laws, and adding *Explanations* of them by a subsequent Act; which last Method has been generally followed, and hath brought into our Statutes endless Perplexities on every Subject.

This Abstract, which is included in the Bill itself, as Part thereof, for the Information of the Seamen, stands as follows; ——— An Abstract of a Bill brought into Parliament in the 30th Year of the Reign of King George II. intitled, *An Act for the Encouragement of Seamen employed in the Royal Navy; and for establishing a regular Method for the punctual, frequent, and certain Payment of their Wages; and for enabling them more easily and readily to remit the same, for Support of their Wives and Families, and for preventing Frauds and Abuses attending such Payments.*

CLAUSE I.

Every Volunteer, entering his Name with a Commission-Officer appointed for entering Volunteers, in

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order

order to serve on board any Ship in the Royal Navy, shall receive a Certificate thereof, gratis, and be intitled to Wages from the Date of such Certificate, including the Day of the Date thereof; in case he makes his Appearance on board within the Times following; that is to say, within fourteen Days, if the Place where he enters is not above one hundred Miles from the Ship; within twenty Days, if above one hundred Miles; or within thirty Days, if above two hundred Miles: And such Volunteers are to be allowed the usual Conduct-Money, and also two Months Wages advance, at the first fitting out of the Ship, and before she proceeds to Sea.

REMARK.

This Clause is exactly in the same Terms with the first Clause of the Act of 1 Geo. II. *for encouraging Seamen*, except in the additional Words, *at the first fitting out of the Ship*; the Non-insertion of which Words, was an evident Omission in that Act.—By their Addition here, the Payment of the two Months Advance of Wages is duly restrained to the Volunteers on board of the Ship at such *first fitting out*;—For Want of which Restriction in the said Act, the Direction therein for the Payment of this Advance, now stands general for *every Port*, and for *every Time* any such Ship shall be fitted out. Whereas, according to the present Practice of the Navy, the Commissioner at the Port, attended by the Pay-clerks, repairs on board each Ship at her *first fitting out*, just before she proceeds to Sea, and there pays such Advance of Wages—So that such Payment can only be made at a Port *where a Naval Commissioner resides*, which is at each Port of first fitting out. And is also found by Experience, proper to be made at such *Time* only, without being repeated; so that by the
Insertion

Insertion of these Words in the proposed Act, the *Law* and the *Practice* will be made coincident.

CLAUSE II.

Every supernumerary Man serving ten Days in any Ship, shall be born for, and entitled to, his Wages upon the Books of such Ship, and to all other Benefits, as if he was Part of the Complement of such Ship.

REMARK.

This Clause is intirely new, and introduced for preventing the oppressive Practice of bearing Men upon the Books of his Majesty's Ships for a considerable Time as *Supernumeraries*; under which Denomination they are intituled to *Viſtuals* only on such Ships, and not to *Wages*.---This Practice, as I am informed, is carried on in the following Manner. Suppose a Ship to be put in Commission, and that the Complement of her Crew consists of *Five Hundred Men*;---the Officers of this Ship hereupon set themselves to enter such Men, either good, or indifferent, as they can first procure, to the Amount of this Complement; which is the whole Number allowed to be born for Wages: After which, they still continue to receive Volunteers, and to press Men themselves, and to receive such from Regulating-Captains, to the Amount of perhaps *Four Hundred Men* more; all which, exceeding their Complement, they enter on their Books as *Supernumeraries*.---At length, when the Ship is ordered to proceed to Sea, the Officers cull their Crew out of the whole *Nine Hundred*, taking perhaps *One Hundred* of these Supernumeraries into it, and relinquishing the rest; which are generally turned over to other Ships, and liable to be entered there also as Supernumeraries; in which Case, it hath

frequently happened, that many poor Men, who have been torn from their Wives and Families, and deprived of their usual Means of Livelihood, have been tossed from one Ship to another for the Space of *two Years* before they were fixed on any Ship, as Part of her Complement, and thereby born for Wages.

In this Case also the Surgeons, Purfers, and Slop-fellers, by whom such Seamen have been supplied with Medicines and necessary Cloathing, are put to great Trouble in following them through the several Ships to their last Ship, (on which their Wages from their first Entrance into the Service are charged) in order to obtain their just Demands.

But it will probably be urged in Defence of this Practice, that it enables the Officers of his Majesty's Ships to procure abler Crews than they would otherwise obtain, and renders the Fleet in general better manned.—In answer to which, it is to be observed, that this Scheme of culling the Crew, and allowing the Officers a proper Time for examining the Health, and Fitness for Service, of the several Men, is greatly indulged in this Clause ; it being permitted to them herein, to keep any Man *nine Days* before he is received into the Ship's Complement, and born for Wages ; after which also, upon their finding a better Man, they are empowered at any Time to receive him into their Crew, and to dismiss any one in his Stead, whom they have already admitted ;—so that the Officers have a competent Time allowed them by this Clause for examining the Men they procure, and culling their Compliment ; and are only prevented from keeping such poor Men an unreasonable Time undetermined, without bearing them for Wages.

CLAUSE III.

Every inferior Officer or Seaman who shall be turned over from one Ship to another, by Order from the Admiralty, or a Commander of a Squadron on the Coast, or in a Port of Great-Britain (in case the Ship into which he is turned over, is then, or shall come into a Port where there is a Commissioner of the Navy) shall be paid by proper Pay-lists, all the Wages due to him in the Ship from which he was so turned over, before the Ship into which he shall be turned over proceeds to Sea.

REMARK.

This Clause is nearly the same with the tenth Clause of the Act of the 4th of Anne, cap. 19. intituled, *An Act for the Encouragement and Increase of Seamen*, except in the Words printed in *Roman Characters* which are inserted in the proposed Act, in order to prescribe the particular Method of Payment by *Pay-lists*, and to restrain the Direction to *those Ports*, where only it is capable of being carried into Execution.

CLAUSE IV.

Every Officer or Seaman who shall be turned over from one Ship to another, shall not serve, or be rated in a worse Quality or lower Degree, than he served in, or was rated for, in the former Ship. And shall have an Advance of two Months Wages, before the Ship into which he is turned over, proceeds to Sea, in case he shall not have received such Advance before.

REMARK.

This Clause coincides with the third Clause of the Act of the first of Geo. II. *for encouraging Seamen*, except in the Words printed in *Roman Characters*
here

here added; without which, Volunteer-seamen, continued in the Service, would be liable to obtain two Months Advance of Wages in every Ship to which they were transferred, which Indulgence is not intended to be repeated, nor necessary to them, under the proposed speedy and punctual Payment of their Wages.

CLAUSE V.

Such Sums of Money shall, in the first Place, from Time to Time, be issued and applied out of the Supplies granted, or to be granted, for any Naval Services, as shall be necessary for the regular and punctual Payment of all Tickets made out in the Manner directed by the Act, and for the regular and punctual Discharge of all Pay and Wages due, or to grow due, in Manner following; that is to say, as soon as any Ship shall have been in Sea-pay twelve Months, or more, five compleat Pay books shall be immediately made out for all the Officers and Seamen, for all the Time such Ship shall have been in Pay, except the last six Months, and shall be forthwith transmitted by the first safe Opportunity, with three Alphabets, and a Slop-book, to the Commissioners of the Navy at London; and, as soon as such Ship shall be, or arrive in a Port of Great Britain, where there is a Commissioner of the Navy; the Commissioners of the Navy at London are to cause Payment to be made of the Wages due, deducting the Advance-money and all Defalcations, leaving always six Months Wages unpaid, and no more; and all the Wages due upon any Ship, shall be paid within two Months after the Arrival of such Ship in Port to be laid up.

REMARK.

This Clause is intirely new, and is the great Basis of the Bill.---It directs. First, That out of such

such Monies as are granted, or shall be granted, for any Naval Services, such Sums, as shall be *necessary*, shall *in the first Place* be issued and applied for the regular and punctual Discharge of all Seamen's Wages; either such, for which Tickets shall have been duly made out, or any other Wages.

Secondly, It appoints the Payment of *six Months* Wages, whenever *twelve Months* are due; Whereby the Seamen, instead of being payed, as directed by the Act before mentioned, *two Months* Wages in *six*, which they generally deemed not worthy to be saved, would, by receiving *six Months* Wages together, obtain an useful Sum, fit to be preserved intire, for the Benefit of themselves and Families.

Thirdly, It restrains this Payment to such Ships as shall arrive, or be at any Port of *Great Britain*, where a Naval Commissioner resides; whereby no Wages being allowed to be payed upon Letters of Attorney from such Seamen, during their Absence abroad, all Impositions of that Sort will be avoided: At the same Time, by a subsequent Clause, these Seamen are allowed, under proper Regulations, to remit Money home to their Wives, during such Absence.

Fourthly, It fixes such an Interval between the Payments, as is convenient in Practice, and detains a proper limited Arrear unpaid; Which Arrear, when such Ships are in *Great Britain*, is not to be less than six Months, nor to exceed twelve Months Wages, and cannot be deemed an Hardship, as such Seamen, who are the Servants of the Public, will hereby suffer no greater Detention of their Wages, than happens in general to Servants in private Families; besides, some Arrear is always requisite to be detained, for satisfying the legal Demands

Demands of the Purfers, Slop-fellers, and other Persons, by whom such Seamen are furnished with Cloaths and other Necessaries on Ship-board, at fixed Prices.

Thus the securing, out of all Monies granted for Naval Services, the Preference of Payment to Seamen's Wages before any other Branch of the Naval Department; The Payment of six Months Wages together, to such Ships as shall be at proper Ports in *Great-Britain*, when twelve Months are due; and the keeping of six Months Wages in Arrear, whilst the Ships continue in Service, are the principal Pillars of the Bill proposed, and are formed with a Simplicity and Strength adequate to the Superstructure they are to support.

CLAUSE VI.

The Month to consist of twenty-eight Days.

REMARK.

This Clause is the same as the seventh Clause in the Act of the first of *Geo. II. cap. 19.* and is agreeable to the ancient Practice of the Navy.

CLAUSE VII.

Upon Application to the Commissioners of the Navy at London, by any inferior Officer or Seaman who shall then be in the Service, and who was absent at the Payment of the Ship whereunto he did belong, or from the Commander of any Ship, on board of which any such Officer or Seaman shall then serve, in case such Ship shall be in a Port where there is a Commissioner of the Navy, the Commissioners of the Navy at London shall immediately send the Pay-Books or Pay-Lists to such Commissioner, who shall forthwith cause the Wages to be paid to such Officer or Seaman.

REMARK.

REMARK.

This Clause is intirely new, and calculated to prevent the Hardships liable to happen to such inferior Officers and Seamen as have been absent, with the Leave of their commanding Officer, or by Sickness, or from any other allowable Cause, at the Time their Ships have been paid off;—According to the present Practice, when Ships are paid off at the Out-ports, the Pay-Books are generally kept there for a considerable Time afterwards, and Recalls of the Ship, that is repeated Days of Payment, in favour of the Absentees, are appointed; —After which, the Pay-Books are sent to *London*, where Recalls of the same Ships are sometimes made; but not so frequently, from the great Multiplicity of Business, as might be convenient to the poor Seamen; Under which Delays, these suffering Men, unable to bear the Expence and Tedioufness of waiting at *London*, are forced to sell the Pay due to them at a great Loss; Or perhaps being hurried on board other Ships, they have no Opportunity of recovering it afterwards to themselves or Families.

In Remedy of this Evil, the Payment of such Absentees is proposed by this Bill to be made by *Pay-Books* and *Pay-Lists* to be transmitted from the Navy-Office, to the Ports prescribed: This Method is liable to no other Difficulty than the Conveyance of these Books and Lists between *London* and such Ports.—In respect to which, when the Number of Absentees, at one Time, upon any Ship is small, as will generally be the Case, the Payments may be made by *Pay-Lists*, which may be transmitted by the common Post to the Commissioners at *London*, with great Ease and Dispatch.—But if the Number of such Absentees

applying for their Wages at the same Time be large, which will very rarely happen, the Pay-books in such Case may be sent, with sufficient Dispatch, by the Carriers; In which Method, those, who are acquainted with the Multitude of Books and Papers now sent by the same Conveyance, three or four Times in a Week, to the Dock-yards, will see no Inconvenience or Difficulty.----And it may be further observed, that this Method of paying the Wages of the Absentees, instead of the present Recalls, would be strictly secured from Imposition or Fraud, being proposed to be wholly executed under the same Check, as the other Payments of Seamen's Wages; And would relieve the Commissioners of the Navy at *London* from their present Attendances on Recalls, as well as secure to the distressed Absentees the immediate Payment of their Wages.

CLAUSE VIII.

The Captain or Commander shall make out a Ticket upon the Death of every inferior Officer and Seaman, and shall transmit the same, by the first safe Opportunity, to the Commissioners of the Navy at London, who are to cause the Day of the Receipt thereof to be endorsed thereon, and to assign the same for Payment within one Month from the Day of making such Endorsement; And the same shall be delivered, and Payment thereon made, without any Fee or Reward, to the Executors or Administrators of such Officer or Seaman, or to the Attorney of such Executors or Administrators.

REMARK.

This is the first Clause relative to *Tickets*;--- It contains Directions for making out, and paying, the Tickets of *dead Seamen*. At present, though the Tickets for dead Seamen are ordered to be forthwith paid, yet such Payment, not being
fixed

fixed to be made in any prescribed Time, is frequently delayed, and the Families of the Deceased are long oppressed by tedious, fruitless Attendances.---Whereas, under the Directions here given for *endorsing* the Tickets, immediately after they are received, and delivering them without Fee or Reward to the Representatives of the deceased Seamen, assigned upon the Pay-office for Payment within *one Month* from the Date of such *Endorsement*, these assigned Tickets would be equal to *Money-draughts* upon any responsible Banker; Whereby the speedy and punctual Payment of this Species of Tickets, which accrue to the distressed Families of the deceased Men, would be greatly promoted.

CLAUSE IX.

The Captain or Commander shall make out a Ticket for every inferior Officer or Seaman who shall be discharged, as unserviceable, pursuant to the Directions of the Act, and shall send such Ticket, by the first safe Opportunity, to the Commissioners of the Navy at London. The Captain or Commander shall not deliver such Ticket, to such Officer or Seaman, but shall give him a Certificate of such Discharge, containing the Number and Date of such Ticket, and an Account of the neat Money due thereupon to such Officer or Seaman. The Commissioners of the Navy shall assign such Ticket for Payment within one Month after the Receipt thereof; And the same shall be delivered, and Payment immediately made at the Pay-office of the Navy, to such Officer or Seaman, or to his Executors or Administrators, or to the Attorney of such Executors or Administrators, and to no other Person, without any Fee or Reward; Or such Officer or Seaman may produce his Certificate to a Commissioner of the Navy at any Port in Great Britain, who, being satisfied that such Certificate was made out for such Person, shall sign and transmit the same to the Commis-

tioners of the Navy at London, who, within four Days after the Receipt of such Certificate, are directed to send the Ticket for such Officer or Seaman; Or if such Ticket shall not have been transmitted to them, proper Pay-lists instead thereof to the Commissioners of such Port, who, upon Receipt of such Ticket or Pay-lists, shall cause immediate Payment thereof to be made, without Fee or Reward.

REMARK.

This Clause is new, and calculated for preventing Frauds and Impositions, and also Delays of Payment, in another Species of Tickets; That is, in the Tickets of *discharged Seamen*, who are disabled from further Service, and are not in his Majesty's Hospitals.---At present, such disabled Men, upon being examined by the Commander in Chief of the Squadron to which they belong, and allowed by him to be unserviceable, are discharged; And Tickets for their Wages are delivered to themselves, and ordered to be paid forthwith: Notwithstanding which, when these Tickets are produced, by any such discharged Men to the Comptroller of the Navy, the *Authenticity* of the Tickets, as well as the *Identity* of the Persons producing them, become requisite to be examined: The Difficulties of ascertaining which Points, and the Cautions proper to be held therein for avoiding Impositions, together with pressing Demands for other Articles of Service liable to no Doubts, continually postpone the Payment of these Tickets; Whereby the disabled Men, after painfully exerting themselves to arrive at *London*, in order to receive their Wages, are still further worn out by Delays and Attendances. To avoid which Inconveniences, they are generally forced to *sell* their Tickets at an enormous Loss to usurious Purchasers; Who, upon proving the *Payment* of the *Purchase-money*, are not required to ascertain any
Identity

Identity of Person; By which Circumstance the poor Seaman, upon offering his own Ticket for Payment, not knowing how to prove himself the *same* Person it was made out for, is greatly embarrassed.

The Provisions proposed by this Clause for remedying these Evils will appear, upon a Scrutiny into them, to be formed with great Contrivance and Judgment; For, First, By the Transmission of these Tickets directly to the Commissioners of the Navy, without their being delivered, upon any Pretence to the Seamen themselves, their *Authenticity* is perfectly established.

Secondly, These Tickets, being directed to be paid to such Seamen themselves, are not liable to be sold by them; Whereby *usurious Extortion* is prevented from intermeddling in their Tickets, as it would do, if they were delivered into their own Custody, and made payable, as at present, to themselves or their Attornies.

Thirdly, The *Certificates of Discharge*, which may be cut off indentwise from the several Tickets, and thereby not be liable to be forged, upon being produced by these Seamen to the Commissioners of the Navy, and found correspondent to their Appearances, will at once verify, in the clearest Manner, their Identity and Right to their respective Tickets; Whereupon the said Tickets *endorsed*, and *assigned for Payment* within *one Month* from the Time they were received, are directed to be delivered to such Seamen, or to their Representatives; Whereby all unnecessary Attendance will be avoided, and their speedy Payment effectually secured.

It is also provided by the later Part of this Clause, that these discharged Seamen, upon repairing to any Port, where a Naval Commissioner resides, shall, if they desire it, be there paid their Wages; Whereby such, as live remote from *London*,

don, will be saved from the Fatigue and Expence of going thither, and the Payment of their Wages will, in general, be brought near to their own Habitations.---And to prevent casual Interruptions to the Payment of these discharged Men, it is further provided by the latter Part of this Clause, that any such Seaman arriving at home before his Ticket shall be received at the Navy-office, and producing his Certificate of Discharge to a Naval Commissioner at any Port, shall be payed his Wages by a *Pay-list* with the same Dispatch, as if his Ticket had been received.

But it hath been objected, that such discharged Seamen may happen to *lose* their *Certificates*.— This is true; And at present they are also liable to lose their *Tickets*; In either Case, the requisite Title to the Wages not being produced, the Merits of the Claim, upon a just Representation thereof, are to be inquired into by the proper Board for examining the same, and granting Relief in such Instances; But it is evident, that such Seamen would be subject to no greater Mischances on this Head from these *Certificates of Discharge*, than they are now from the *Tickets* delivered into their own Custody.

But the strongest Objection to this Clause turns upon the Case of Seamen discharged at a great Distance from *London*, or from any Port where a Naval Commissioner resides;----Such Seamen at present, by receiving their Tickets themselves, are enabled to sell them, though at considerable Loss, whenever they please, and to receive their Wages at their own Homes; Whereas under this Clause, they will not be able to obtain their Wages, but by repairing to *London*, or to one of the Ports prescribed, for this Purpose; Which, in the Case of Seamen discharged in *Ireland*, or in the *British American Plantations*, whose Families may happen to reside there,

there, would be so great a Trouble and Expence, as in Effect to prove an Exclusion from such Wages.

This Objection is not destitute of Force ; But it may be observed, that Seamen belonging to any of his Majesty's Ships, who become disabled abroad by Wounds, Sickness, or long Service, are generally brought home in such Ships, or in other Ships provided for them, to a Port where a Naval Commissioner resides, and there discharged ; Whereby they are delivered into proper Hospitals for their Recovery, if curable ; or, if otherwise, are intitled, on proper Vacancies, to be admitted into *Greenwich* Hospital.

However, as Cases may arise, wherein it may be convenient for discharged Men to receive their Wages at their own Homes, without repairing to *London*, or to a Port where a Naval Commissioner resides, it may perhaps be right to consider of a proper Method for granting Relief in such Instances ; Which, I am persuaded, if really necessary, will be easily fixed by the Sagacity of the Author of this Bill.---In other Instances, the Provisions in this Clause appear to be formed with great Judgment and Circumspection.--By avoiding to deliver the Tickets to the Seamen themselves, Impositions upon them, and on the Public, by the Purchase or Forgery of such Tickets are prevented.---At the same Time, by delivering to such Seamen Certificates of their Discharge, not liable to be forged, and descriptive of their Persons and Infirmities, their Rights to their respective Tickets are ascertained, and the present Doubts retarding their Payment, duly removed.

CLAUSE X.

Any inferior Officer or Seaman, who shall be regularly discharged from an Hospital or sick Quarters

as unserviceable, may in like Manner present the Certificate of his Discharge to a Commissioner at any Port, who, upon being satisfied that such Officer or Seaman is unserviceable, shall sign the same on the Certificate, and transmit such Certificate to the Commissioners of the Navy at London, who, within four Days after the Receipt of such Certificate, are directed to send proper Pay-lists for the Wages due to such Officer or Seaman, to the Commissioners at such Port, who, upon Receipt of such Pay-lists from such Commissioners, shall cause immediate Payment of the Wages to be made, without Fee or Reward, to such Officer or Seaman, who, notwithstanding such Discharge, shall be maintained in such Hospital or sick Quarters, from the Time he shall present the Certificate, until the Payment is made.

REMARK.

This Clause is new, and calculated to provide for the regular and speedy Payment of Seamen discharged, as incurable, from Hospitals or sick Quarters. At present, in pursuance of a late Order of the Admiralty, a sick Ticket is granted to such discharged Seamen, directed to be subject to the Order of the Commissioner of the Navy at the Dock-yard where it shall be presented for Payment; But many Objections and Difficulties which arise on this Occasion, obstruct such Payment. The Commissioners of the Navy at the Dock-yards are not possessed of the Books of any Ship, or of other Vouchers, whereby they can examine and check these Tickets; And if the same are paid, upon their Orders, by the Pay-clerks of the Treasurer of the Navy, and any Error shall be made therein, as will be frequently liable to happen, the Loss must fall upon this Treasurer; To whom the Order of the Admiralty for such Payment will not be allowed as a sufficient Voucher in passing his Accounts.

counts. Whereas by the Method proposed in this Clause, of paying such discharged Men by *Pay-Lists*, which are established regular Vouchers for Payment, no Objection, or Delay, is liable to be made by the Treasurer of the Navy ;---In further Compassion to these poor Men, they are also, by the Direction of this Clause, to be maintained in such Hospitals, or sick Quarters, from the Time of presenting their Certificates of Discharge to the Naval Commissioner, until they shall have received full Payment of their Wages.

CLAUSE XI.

The Payment of Tickets or Pay-Lists shall not be delayed, though the Muster and Pay-Books be not regularly sent by the Captains or Commanders of Ships ; But if any Error shall be made in the Tickets or Pay-Lists, the Loss shall be made good out of the Wages due; or to grow due to, the Captain or Commander, by whom such Ticket or Pay-Lists were made out.

REMARK.

This Clause, which is new, is designed for preventing an Objection often made to the Payment of Tickets, and Pay-Lists, on Pretence that the Muster-Books and Pay-Books of the Ship on which they are made out, have not been transmitted to the Navy-Office. Under which Pretence, Gratuities have been sometimes taken for searching for such Muster-Books and Pay-Books, and for ascertaining their regular Transmission ; The Removal therefore of this Objection, will be of great Benefit to Seamen in general, and to their Representatives.

The latter Part of this Clause, directing that every Detriment to the public Treasure, arising from Errors in Tickets, or Pay-Lists, made out by any Captain, be rectified at his Expence, is per-

fectly reasonable, and agreeable to the present Instructions given to such Captains ; Otherwise the Loss by such Errors would fall upon the Treasurer of the Navy, who would find it impracticable to recover from dispersed, indigent Persons, the Over-payments.

CLAUSE XII.

When the Pay Books of any Ship, which shall not be in a Port of Great Britain, or on the Coast thereof, shall be prepared, the Captain or Commander shall cause the Names of all the inferior Officers and Seamen to be called for, and each to answer to his Name ; and if any such Officer or Seaman shall then declare or deliver in Writing, the Name and Place of Abode of his Wife, and desire that the Whole or any Part of his Wages, or Pay, then payable upon such Books, should be paid to her by the Receiver-General of the Land-Tax for any County, or the Collector of the Customs or Excise in any Port or District in Great Britain, or the Clerk of the Cheque at any Dock-yard, the Captain or Commander is strictly required to cause the same to be distinguished in the Pay-Books, and signed by such Officer or Seaman ; The Commissioners of the Navy at London, on Receipt of the Books, shall immediately make out two Bills, pursuant to the Directions of the Act, for the Payment of the Wages so allotted ; One of which Bills shall be sent to the Wife, and the other to the Receiver, Collector, or Clerk of the Cheque, who is immediately to pay the Wages therein-mentioned, without any Fee or Reward, to the Wife, in case she produces her Bill, and a proper Certificate of her Marriage, within six Calendar Months after the Date of such Bill, and gives a Receipt ; or otherwise such Bill is to be returned and cancelled, and the Sum contained therein shall become payable to such inferior Officer or Seaman, when the Ship shall be paid.

REMARK.

REMARK.

This Clause is intirely new, and calculated for enabling such Seamen, as shall be *abroad* in his Majesty's Service, to remit any Part of their *Wages* due, and payable, to their *Wives* at *home*.---It seems to have arisen from a just Deference shewn by the Right Hon. Gentleman to your Petition, and the Petition of other principal trading Ports ; And grants an Indulgence perfectly agreeable thereto, for the Relief of the distressed Families of such Seamen :---In the *French* Marine, as it is averred by those who are conversant in it, their Seamen are all allowed to remit home Part of their Wages ; And a Privilege of this Sort is also constantly granted by our own *East-India* Company, and by some Merchants of this Kingdom, to their Seamen ; The Want whereof in his Majesty's Service hath principally occasioned the general Disgust in Seamen to this Service.

However, on the other hand, it appears to have been justly considered in this Clause, that the allowing of Seamen, during their Service *abroad*, to *assign* their Wages to be paid at *home*, on Pretence of relieving their Families, would be liable to great Evils ;--Oppressions, and Temptations of all Sorts, would in such Case be ready to be spread, to induce them hastily to sell what they have so dearly earned ; So that an Indulgence of this Kind, unless planned with the greatest Caution, would tend only to rob these ignorant Men of their Pay, instead of supporting their Families ;--This seems to have been attentively weighed by the Author of this Bill ;—And from thence, though such Seamen are allowed to remit their Wages *home*, yet these *Remittances* are restrained to be made to their *Wives* only ; each of whom, previous to her receiving such Wages, is to authenticate her Marriage by a Cer-

tificate thereof, signed by the Minister and Church-Wardens of the Parish where they were married.—Which Certificates, upon any Suspicion of Fraud, are easily verified, or detected, by a Reference to the proper parochial Registers.

But it hath been objected to this Clause, that it is a frequent Practice for one of these Seamen to pass through the Ceremony of Marriage with two or three different Women, all living at the same Time; each of whom will be able to produce a regular Certificate of her Marriage, and thereby be intitled to claim his Wages.—In Answer to which, it is to be observed, that by the Method prescribed in this Clause, every Perplexity and Doubt concerning the Person duly intitled to receive such Wages, is clearly avoided; For, according to this Method, the Wages of every such Seaman remitted home, will not be liable to be claimed by different Persons producing Certificates of their Marriage, but by such one Person, whose Name and Place of Abode shall be inserted by him, as his *Wife*, in the Pay Books of such Ship; To whom only a Bill for such Wages will be transmitted, and upon her producing a Certificate of her Marriage, become payable.

This Payment is also contrived to be made in the most convenient Manner, without Expence, by Bills transmitted from the Navy-Office, to the Wives of these Seamen at their own Homes, and made payable, without Fee or Reward, by a neighbouring public Officer, upon only producing their Certificates of Marriage; Whereby the Sale of such Bills, and every Intervention of usurious Brokers therein, is absolutely prevented.—At the same Time, as a Duplicate of every such Bill is made out, and cut from it indentwise, through oblique Lines, and Flourishes, and transmitted also from the Navy-Office to the public Officer, by whom

whom such Bill is to be paid. These Gentlemen, who are conversant in Business, will easily detect any counterfeit Bill ; And upon the least Suspicion of Fraud, -can immediately apply to the Commissioners of the Navy, for full Satisfaction, before they make the Payment.

It hath also been objected to this Clause, that there are various *Degrees* of *Kindred*, besides *Wives*, such as aged *Parents*, *young Children*, and other *distressed Kinsfolks*, who may be proper Objects of Compassion ; And yet, that no Seaman is allowed by the Bill proposed, to remit any Part of his Wages for their Relief. — This Objection might be yielded to, if the Parents, or other Kinsfolks of such Seamen could be duly ascertained, in the same Manner as their Wives, by proper Certificates ; ---But such an Extension of this Indulgence, it is much to be feared, would be liable to continual Mistakes and Frauds ; And as the Relief of the Wives of these Seamen may be supposed to comprehend the Relief of their Children, and in many Cases of their Parents likewise, it seems to include the principal helpless Branches of their Kindred, who are most entitled to their Compassion and Support.

It is true, that *unmarried Seamen*, who may be liable to compassionate Demands from distressed Parents, or other Kinsfolks, during their Service abroad, are hereby excluded from remitting home Part of their Wages for their Relief ; An Indulgence of this Sort to these Seamen, might undoubtedly, in many Instances, be applied to worthy and humane Purposes. ---But still it is perhaps right to grant peculiar Encouragements to *Martiny* ; Upon entering into which, Seamen will be enabled to make Remittances for all Purposes to their *Wives* ; Who will be found, upon the Whole, to be their *best* and
 most

most *frugal Agents*; On whom they can also rely, that a comfortable and grateful Reception will be provided for them upon their Return home; Whereby much of the expensive Diffipation such Seamen are liable to in their unmarried State, may be prevented, and their *Attachment* to their *own Country* be better secured; So that, if this Clause, by restraining the Remittances to be made from abroad by such Seamen to their Wives only, should induce any of them to enter into Matrimony, it will be likely thereby to have an Effect advantageous both to *themselves* and the *Public*.

As to the Direction in this Clause, injoining the public Officers therein mentioned to pay these Bills, it is agreeable to Directions given by the Legislature in several Instances.—The Money allotted by the Prefs Act of last Year to the Constables, is ordered to be payed, upon Warrants from the Commissioners named in the Act, by the Receiver-General of the Land-Tax.---The Rewards granted by his Majesty's Proclamation for discovering Seamen concealing themselves, are ordered to be payed by the Collectors of the Customs at the several Ports.---And there are various other Instances of Sums directed by the Legislature to be payed by some of these public Officers, who are afterwards to be repaid at the proper Offices in *London*; Besides, as all the public Officers described in this Clause, except the Clerks of the Checque, collect Money in the Country, which they are to remit to *London*, it must be of Use to them to obtain, without Expence, authentic Bills for this Purpose, payable at the Navy-Office;---And as to Clerks of the Checque, they are to be allowed, by this Clause any of these Bills, in passing their Accounts.

It is also provided in this Clause, that if any such Seaman's Wife, to whom one of these Bills shall

shall be made payable, shall be *dead*, or *absent* from her Place of Abode therein specified, so as not to be found; Or if any *Failure* shall happen in the *Transmission* of any such Bills, so that their Payment shall not be duly demanded within six Months from their Date, such Payment shall then cease to be due; And the Sum contained in every such Bill shall revert to the Seaman, by whom it was intended to be remitted; So that, upon the Whole, the Excellence of this Clause discovers itself in happily fixing upon the Case, the most *compassionate*, and *extensive*, as well as the *easiest* to be *ascertained*, which is the Case of these *Seamen's Wives*, and by allowing *Remittances* of their Wages to be made from *abroad* to these *Wives* only, under a Method free from Fraud, Delay, and Expence; Keeping fast shut at the same Time all the other Doors of *Egress* of their *Wages*, in order to prevent *Fraud* and *Extortion*.

CLAUSE XIII.

In like Manner, when Wages or Pay shall be paid at the Pay-Office, or at any of the Dock-yards, if any inferior Officer or Seaman shall be desirous to remit the Whole or Part of his Wages to his Wife or Family, and to have a Bill for the Whole or Part of his Wages, or Pay, to be drawn upon any such Receiver, Collector, or Clerk of the Cheque, two Bills are to be made out, one of which is to be delivered to such Officer or Seaman, and the other to be sent to such Receiver, Collector, or Clerk, who is to pay immediately the Sum therein-mentioned, without any Fee, or Reward, and to take a Receipt, in case such Bill shall be produced within six Calendar Months from the Date thereof; Or otherwise the Bill is to be returned and cancelled, and the Sum contained therein, to be immediately paid to such inferior Officer or Seaman.

REMARK.

The preceding Clause establishes a Method for allowing Seamen *abroad* to remit home in the quickest Manner, and without Expence, any Part of their Wages, provided such Remittance be made to their *Wives* only. This Clause enables them; upon receiving their Wages at *home*, to remit, in the same Manner, such Part thereof, as they chuse, to any Person in *Britain*.---At present, these Seamen, upon their receiving their Wages at the Pay-office in *London*, or at any Port where a Naval Commissioner resides, if they are disposed to allot any Part of such Wages to their Wives, or other Persons, are at a Loss for the proper Means of making such Remittance; For Want of which; and not knowing where to deposit their Money safely, it is generally soon wasted; Whereas by this Clause any such Seaman, upon receiving his Money, will be enabled, without paying any Fee or Reward, to execute at once any honest Intention he may have for relieving his Family or Friend, or discharging any other just Obligation.

It is proposed in the Method for making this Remittance, that one of the duplicate Bills for such Pay may be delivered to the Seaman by whom it is desired to be remitted;--And this indeed may frequently be satisfactory to such Seamen; Yet I must beg Leave to observe, that in many Instances they may rather chuse that both of the Bills should be transmitted by the Navy-Office, according to the Method in the Clause preceding; Whereby the Mistakes, which may be liable to be made by such Seamen in transmitting these Bills, will be all avoided; And at the same Time they may, if they please, send Information in their own
Manner;

Manner, of such Remittance;----In which Case, whether such Information be received or not, both the Bills will be regularly transmitted, and the honest Intentions of such Seamen duly executed. ---It seems therefore, in my humble Opinion, that instead of the Delivery of one of these Bills, in every Case to the Seaman himself, as is directed by this Clause, it may be more eligible, that such Bill be directed, either to be so delivered, or to be transmitted by the Navy-Office, at the Option of such Seaman.

However it is to be remarked, that these Bills, after they are delivered to such Seamen themselves, as proposed by this Clause, are not liable to be *sold*, or diverted to other Purposes, being payable only to the respective Persons, and by the respective Public-Officers, therein specified; And if such Bills are not presented for Payment within six Months from their Dates, by the Persons to whom they are made payable, they become cancelled, and the Sums contained therein, agreeably to the Directions in the preceding Clause, revert to the respective Seamen, by whom they were intended to be remitted.

It is further to be observed, that by this Clause, Seamen are impowered to remit such Wages to any Person they please in *Britain*, and not restrained, as in the last Clause, to make the Remittance to their Wives only; Which Latitude is here reasonable, as they are supposed to be actually possessed of these Wages, and therefore at full Liberty to dispose of them, without Restriction; And though the *Relief* of the *Wives* of these Seamen is the *first Object*, and is therefore particularly provided for in the antecedent Clause, yet *other Debts*, and *just Obligations*, are liable to arise to married as well as to unmarried Seamen,

which it may be very useful, in this Manner, to enable them to discharge.

CLAUSE XIV.

The Wages, Pay, and Allowance, earned by indentured Apprentices, shall be paid to their Masters, as hath been usual, unless any such Apprentice was above eighteen Years of Age when his Indentures were executed, or shall be rated as a Servant to an Officer to whom such Apprenticeship is not known; In which Case such Officer shall be intitled to the Pay and Wages of such Servant, according to the usual Practice of the Navy, until such Officer shall be informed of such Apprenticeship.

REMARK.

This Clause coincides with the 9th Clause of the Act of the 1st of his present Majesty, Cap. 14th, saving only in the last Exception, which is here added, in order to secure the Officers of such Ship from being deprived, by any Apprentice unknown to them, and hired as their Servant, of their usual Privileges, allowed to them by the Custom of the Navy.

CLAUSE XV.

Every Captain and Commander of any of his Majesty's Ships is to transmit, from Time to Time, to the Commissioners of the Navy, complete Pay-Books and Tickets, as before directed; And also once in every two Months, one complete Muster-Book, under the Penalty of the Forfeiture of all his Wages to the Chest at Chatham, and such further Punishment as a Court-Martial shall inflict, except in Cases of Necessity, to be made appear to the Lord High Admiral, or Commissioners of the Admiralty,

This Clause is new, and proper to enforce the just and regular *Transmission* of the *Pay-Books, Tickets,* and *Muster-Books*, directed to be made by the Captains of his Majesty's Ships to the Commissioners of the Navy ;---But it is to be observed, that nothing more is hereby required from such Captains, than their *Instructions* now enjoin them to perform ; ---In respect to their *Muster-Books*, it is evident that *one* only is directed by this Act to be transmitted at the End of every two Months, whereas *two* are now required by their Instructions ; So that any extraordinary Trouble in preparing and transmitting Books and Tickets, will be far from being hereby given to these Gentlemen, beyond the present *just Performance* of their Duty, though perhaps there may, beyond their present *Neglect*.

However, it may be proper to hint to these Gentlemen, that it will tend greatly to their own *private Advantage*, regularly to transmit these Books and Tickets ;---For Want of which, *dead* and *discharged* Tickets, liable to many Errors, are paid at the Navy-Office, without being chequed ; And such Errors fall to be made good to the Public, out of the Pay of the respective Captains by whom the Tickets were issued.---Whereas if the *Muster-Books* were duly transmitted, these Tickets would be chequed thereby, and the Errors prevented.

On this Occasion, it may be also proper to state the *general Importance* of the due *Transmission* of these Books and Tickets ;---In case any of his Majesty's Ships shall be *lost, destroyed,* or *taken* by the Enemy, the *Pay* of the *surviving Crew*, or, if none shall survive, the *Pay* becoming due to their *Representatives*, must be regulated by the successive *Muster Books* transmitted to the Navy-Office ; Or for Want of such Books, cannot at all be regulated, but must be

lost to the Claimants.---An Instance of this happened upon the *Loss* of his Majesty's Ship the *VICTORY*, for which no *Muster-Books* having been *transmitted*, it was impossible to settle the Demands of the Persons claiming to be the *Representatives* of the deceased Officers and Seamen.

Again, under any Neglect of *transmitting* the *Pay-Books*, the *Remittances* intended to be made according to this Bill, by *Seamen* abroad for the Relief of their *Wives* and Families at home, would be all defeated ;---For Want also of regularly transmitting the *Tickets* of *dead Seamen*, their *Representatives* would be withheld from receiving what shall devolve to them by their Decease.—So that upon the *regular Transmission* of these Books and Tickets, the *whole Pay* of the *Navy*, and the Rights and Happiness of a Multitude of Persons interested therein, entirely depends.—The *Penalties* therefore hereby inflicted upon any Captains, who shall be guilty of Neglect herein, are, with great Propriety, *severe* ; But they are not *severer*, than such Captains may now be brought to suffer, upon this Neglect, for *Disobedience* to their Instructions.

CLAUSE XVI.

The Tickets and Pay-Lists shall be sufficient Vouchers to the Treasurer of the Navy, for the Payments thereon.

REMARK.

This Clause is new, and evidently necessary for empowering the Treasurer of the Navy, to make the Payments by this Bill directed.

CLAUSE XVII.

Captains or Commanders issuing any Tickets, other than such as are directed by this Act, to be subject to

a Penalty of Fifty Pounds for every Ticket, and to forfeit all their Wages to the Chest of Chatham.

REMARK.

This Clause is new, and obviously requisite to prevent the issuing of any other Tickets, than what are allowed by this Bill.---It is a Provision indeed the more necessary, as there have been many *Instances* of the fraudulent issuing of *Tickets*, to the great Imposition of the Public.---But I chuse at present to avoid entering further into these Practices, which would not reflect any Honour upon the Service.

CLAUSE XVIII.

No Captain or Commander shall be liable to any Penalty upon Account of any Offence committed against the Act, before the first of June, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty-eight, unless before the committing of such Offence, he shall have received this Abstract.

REMARK.

This Restriction of the Penalty is plainly reasonable.

CLAUSE XIX.

No Letter of Attorney made by any inferior Officer or Seaman, or by the Executors or Administrators of any such Officer or Seaman, for receiving Wages, or Allowances of Money, shall be valid, unless declared therein to be revocable; and unless the Letter of Attorney, from such Officer or Seaman be signed before, and attested by, the Commander, and one other of the signing Officers of the Ship, or by a Clerk of the Checque; Or, unless the Letter of Attorney made by such Executors or Administrators, be signed before, and attested by, the Minister and Church-Wardens of the Parish where such Executors or Administrators reside.

RE-

REMARK.

This Clause coincides, for the most Part, with the 10th Clause of the Act of the first of *Geo. II.* cap. 14.——The Provision herein, empowering Seamen to *revoke* at Pleasure, any Letters of Attorney by them granted, hath been found by Experience the best *Barrier* hitherto contrived against usurious Bargains for their Wages under such Letters.---- This *Barrier* is therefore here continued.

It is further to be observed, that by this Clause *Letters of Attorney* granted by such *Seamen*, are restrained to be signed before the *Captain* of the *Ship*, or a *Clerk* of the *Checque*, who are Persons known to the *Navy-Office*, and knowing such Seamen;---- *Letters of Attorney* also granted by their *Representatives*, being hereby required to be signed by their *Parochial Minister*, and *Church-wardens*, the Reality of such Persons, according to their general Descriptions in such Letters, will be thereby ascertained, and Frauds in both Cases be more effectually prevented.

However, it is much to be wished, that *Seamen's Letters of Attorney* for their *Wages* could be totally *suppressed*. The Provisions in this Bill for the Payment of such Wages to Seamen themselves only, in some Cases, would indeed greatly diminish the Number of such Letters.---And in general, by the proposed regular and speedy Payment, such Seamen would, by avoiding the present exorbitant Discounts they are forced to allow, actually receive more Money than formerly; whereby they would be under less Necessity, than they have been, of taking up Money upon such Letters.---However, Obstacles may be thought to subsist against the *total Abolition* of these *Letters of Attorney*;---It may therefore be observed, that Wages seem only liable

to be due to Seamen, in the following Circumstances.

First, Seamen in his Majesty's Service abroad.

Secondly, Seamen in his Majesty's Service at home.

Thirdly, Seamen absent at the Pay of their Ship.

Fourthly, Seamen turned over from one Ship to another.

Fifthly, Seamen discharged.

The Facility of excluding Letters of Attorney from each of which Cases is to be considered.

First, *Seamen in his Majesty's Service abroad*, are empowered, by this Bill, to remit their Wages to their Wives at Home; But no Part of the Wages of such Seamen is allowed to be paid on their Letters of Attorney, whilst the Ship, in which they serve, is *Abroad*; And when such Ship *returns* into a Port of *Britain*, where a Naval Commissioner resides, every such Seaman upon appearing at the Pay-Table, is to be paid his Wages himself, preferably to the Bearer of his own Letter of Attorney; And may then pay, or remit such Wages, if he pleases, to his Creditors, who cannot obtain them without his Consent by his Letter of Attorney. These Letters will therefore answer no Purpose, on Behalf of such Seamen, for expediting the Receipt of their Wages, which are thus to come into their own Hands, as soon as they are paid; and in a much speedier Course than formerly;---Nor will they answer the Purpose of other Persons, as a Security for Money lent, so firmly as a Note, or Bond from such Seamen, being liable to be superseded by their own personal Appearance, and to be revoked at Pleasure; So that Letters of Attorney seem not to be of any Use in this Case to such Seamen or their Creditors.

Secondly, *Seamen in his Majesty's Service at Home*, cannot expedite the Payment of their Wages, as
it

is before observed, by granting Letters of Attorney for the same to other Persons;---As soon as such Wages are due, they will be paid to themselves, preferably to the Bearers of their own Letters of Attorney; And therefore the issuing of these Letters can be of no Use, in this Case, to such Seamen, nor any Security to their Creditors.

Thirdly, *Seamen absent at the Pay of their Ship*, and still continuing in his Majesty's Service, are by this Bill, upon applying to a Naval Commissioner at any of the Dock-Ports, to be payed their Wages there, without Delay, by *Pay-Lists*; And other Seamen, who have been absent also at the Pay of their Ships, and have left his Majesty's Service, may apply for their Pay at the Recalls of their Ship at the Navy-Office in *London*;---If these last Seamen had likewise the same Indulgence allotted to them, which is granted to Seamen continuing in the Service, of being paid at a Dock-Port upon Application to a Naval Commissioner there, it might be convenient to them in many Instances; And seems reasonable to be allowed, as their *Absence* at the Pay of their Ship must be supposed to have been *involuntary*;---The Payment of these *Absentees*, who are not likely to be numerous, is thus easily managed, without allowing them to issue, for this Purpose, Letters of Attorney.

Fourthly, *Seamen turned over from one Ship to another*, are first to be paid all their Wages due on the Ship in which they have served; Which Payment being to be made to such Seamen *themselves* at one of the Ports, where a Naval Commissioner resides, Letters of *Attorney*, in this Case, are not necessary.

Fifthly, *Seamen discharged as unserviceable*, upon repairing to a Port, where a Naval Commissioner resides, and producing their Certificates of Discharge

charge to such Commissioner, are there, according to the Provisions in this Bill, to receive their Wages, which are to be paid to *themselves only*, by the *Tickets* transmitted to the Navy-Office upon their Discharge, or by *Pay-Lists*; ---So that no Wages for such discharged Men, are allowed, by this Bill, to be payed by Letters of Attorney. --- In the few Instances which may happen of *discharging* such Seamen *abroad*, which is a Practice not to be allowed to Captains of his Majesty's Ships, except in particular Emergencies, Provision is made by the 24th Clause of this Bill for bringing such Men home, if they chuse it, without Expence to themselves; where they will be paid, according to the Method prescribed; -- But in Case the *Residence* of any such Men shall be *abroad* in his Majesty's Plantations, it may be proper to form a Method of remitting their Wages to themselves *there*, from the Navy-Office at *London*, ---In such Manner, that the Officers of the Ship, or other Persons on Behalf of such Officers, may be excluded from having any Interest therein, which is always to be guarded against, in such *Discharges* and *Remittances*. --- However, Letters of Attorney appear to be disallowed by this Bill, for the Wages of such discharged Seamen.

There are also *other Causes* for which Seamen are *discharged* from his Majesty's Ships, besides for being *unserviceable*. --- Thus foreign Seamen, such as *Danes*, *Swedes*, &c. are sometimes discharged by Order of the *Admiralty*, upon Application from the *Ministers* of their respective *Courts*; --- But such Seamen, or any *English* Seamen, obtaining their Discharge by such Order, or for any other allowable Cause, as *Preferment*, or being *turned over*, may receive *extraordinary Certificates* of *Discharge*, specifying the Order of the *Admiralty*, or such other Cause; --- And Tickets for
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their Wages may be made out and transmitted by the Captains of their respective Ships to the Commissioners of the Navy; Whereupon their Wages may be paid at the Navy-Office at *London*, or at any Dock-Port, to *Themselves*, in the same Manner, as is directed by this Bill, in Respect to other *discharged Seamen*.---Whereby, in this Case also, Letters of Attorney may easily be excluded.

These Reasons against the Necessity, which is generally supposed, of allowing Seamen to grant Letters of Attorney for their Wages, are thus submitted.---But it may be imagined, that Seamen will still be able to obtain, under this Bill, some *Credit* upon such Letters;---And that they may therefore procure Money upon them, which may be a *necessary Resource*, in particular *Emergencies*.--If this be so, it must be at very *enormous Discounts*; Especially if it be considered, that any Seaman *Abroad*, is allowed to remit his Wages to his Wife at *Home*, as they shall become Due and Payable; And upon his Arrival at *Home*, he *may* receive the small Remainder of such Wages himself; Or if he be discharged, *must* himself receive that Remainder; Whereby it will appear, that little or no Credit can be obtained upon such Letters.-- So that the Continuance of them seems likely to have no other Effect, than to retain a Foundation for *Forgery* upon the *Decease* of such Seamen;---On which Event, it may perhaps be proper to be enacted, that their Wages shall constantly devolve, and become due to their *Wives*, or nearest *Kinsfolks*.

The Right Honorable Gentleman will, I hope, permit me to congratulate him upon the *Suppression*, by the Bill proposed, of the *Purchase* of Tickets from *Seamen*;---All Tickets being prevented from coming into their Hands, until they are *assigned* for *Payment*, and thereby rendered, in effect, *ready Money*.---It is also no small Merit in this Bill, that the

the Number of *Letters of Attorney* liable to be issued by *Seamen* for their *Wages*, would thereby be greatly diminished; And it is an Happiness, I hope, reserved for *Him*, to accomplish their *total Abolition*; Whereby a Fund of continual Trouble and Perplexity to the Navy-Office would be cancelled, and the *two old and great Sources of Fraud and Imposition* upon these ignorant Men be suppressed.

As to *deceased Seamen*, Tickets for their Wages are at present directed, and also proposed by this Bill, to be made out, payable to their Representatives, or the Attornies of such Representatives.---In which Case, as there may be several Persons jointly intitled to such Wages, their uniting in assigning their common Interest to one Person by a *Letter of Attorney*, may perhaps be as convenient and safe a Method as can be proposed; So that *Letters of Attorney*, attested by the Ministers and Church-Wardens of the Parishes of such *Representatives*, seem proper to be allowed; Especially, as it ceases to be a Case in which *Seamen* themselves are concerned, devolving upon their *Representatives*, who are not liable to be under the Influence of any Officers of such Ships, or to yield themselves a Prey to usurious Brokers.

CLAUSE XX.

All Letters of Attorney, other than such as are made in Manner aforesaid; And all Bargains, Sales, Bills of Sale, Contracts, Agreements, and Assignments, concerning Wages or Money to inferior Officers or Seamen, shall be null and void; And the Treasurer of the Navy is to pay to every such inferior Officer or Seaman, appearing in Person at the Pay-Table, his Wages, or in his Absence, to his lawful Attorney, impowered as before directed, or to the Executors or Administrators of such Seamen, or their Attornies duly authorized.

REMARK.

This Clause comprehends the 7th Clause of the Act of the 1st of *Geo. II.* Cap. 14. and not only makes void all Letters of Attorney, except such as shall be in the Terms directed, and all Bargains and Sales whatsoever relative to Seamen's Wages, but particularly discourages any Person from lending Money to such Seamen upon their Letters of Attorney, by impowering them to receive their own Wages, notwithstanding any such Letters by them granted.

CLAUSE XXI.

No more shall be taken by any ecclesiastical Court, or other Person, than one Shilling, for the Probate of any Will, or for suing forth Letters of Administration, granted to the Widows, Children, or Relations of inferior Officers, Seamen and Marines, dying in the Service, unless the Goods and Chattles amount to twenty Pounds; Nor more than two Shillings, unless such Goods and Chattles amount to forty Pounds; Nor more than three Shillings, unless such Goods and Chattles amount to sixty Pounds; Nor for issuing Commissions to swear Widows, Children, or Relations, being Executors or Administrators to inferior Officers, Seamen, and Marines, more than one Shilling, unless the Goods and Chattles amount to twenty Pounds; Nor more than two Shillings, unless the Goods and Chattles amount to forty Pounds; Nor more than three Shillings, unless the Goods and Chattles amount to sixty Pounds; Under the Penalty of fifty Pounds to be paid by the Offender to the Party aggrieved.

REMARK.

This Clause is new, and calculated for mitigating the Expences at present exacted in *ecclesiastical Courts* for Probates of the Wills of any deceased Seamen or Marines, or for Letters of Administration to their Effects--These Expences at present absorb

many

many Months Wages of such Seamen and Marines ; Which frequently happens to be all that is due to them, and must consequently be relinquished by their distressed Widows and Families ;---In this compassionate Case, it is therefore proposed by this Clause, to reduce the *religious Fees* for taking out such Probates of Wills and Letters of Administration, to the moderate Rates here prescribed; Provided such Probates and Letters of Administration be taken out by the Widows, Children, or next of Kin of such deceased Seamen, or Marines.

CLAUSE XXII.

Whoever shall personate, or procure to be personated, any Officer, Seaman, or other Person, intitled to Wages for Service done on Board the Royal Navy, or the Executor, Administrator, Wife, Relation, or Creditor of any such Officer, Seaman, or other Person, in order to receive his Wages ; Or forge or counterfeit, or procure to be forged or counterfeited, any Letter of Attorney, or other Power or Authority whatsoever, in order to receive any Wages, Pay, or Allowance, due, or supposed to be due, to any such Officer, Seaman, or other Person ; Or knowingly take a false Oath, or procure a false Oath to be taken, to obtain the Probate of a Will, or Letter of Administration, in order to receive such Pay, Wages, or Allowances, shall be guilty of Felony, and suffer Death.

REMARK.

The Penalty inflicted by the Act of the 9th and 10th of *Will. III. Cap. 41.* upon any Person committing the Crimes herein mentioned, was the Forfeiture of *two hundred Pounds*, together with the *Costs of Prosecution*; But by a subsequent Act, the *Forgery of the Hand-writing* of any Person for a fraudulent Purpose, hath allready been made *capital*; And the *personating* of any Seaman, or pro-
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curing him to be *personated*, in order fraudulently to obtain his Wages, is certainly not *less* criminal; being in Reality a *Forgery* of his *Person*, and is therefore by this Clause declared to be *Felony*;— The Frequency of this last Practice, whereby the Widows and Representatives of deceased Seamen are robbed of their Due, particularly calls aloud for the severest Punishment.

CLAUSE XXIII.

When the Pay-Books are closed, Tickets shall be made out at the Navy-Office to the Seamen who shall not have received their Wages, and such Tickets shall be paid, in Course, once a Month.

REMARK.

This Clause is the same with the 11th Clause of the Act of the 1st of George II. Cap. 14. and is intended for the Payment of such Seamen, as have neither been present, when the Ship they belonged to was paid off, nor at any of the subsequent Recalls.

CLAUSE XXIV.

British Governors, Ministers, and Consuls, residing at foreign Parts, or, where no such are present, any two British Merchants, are required to provide for seafaring Men and Boys, Subjects of Great Britain, who by Shipwreck, Captures, or other unavoidable Accident, shall be in foreign Parts, or who shall be discharged there as unserviceable from the Royal Navy, and subsist them at Six pence per Diem each, and send them home as soon as conveniently may be, in Ships belonging to the Royal Navy, or any other Ships.

REMARK.

This Clause comprehends the 12th Clause of the

the Act of the first of *George II.* Cap. 14. enacted for relieving and bringing home *British* Seamen, who by Shipwreck, Capture, or other unavoidable Accident, shall be in foreign Parts, and extends the same Benefits to such Seamen, as shall be discharged *as unserviceable from the Royal Navy*; Which last Cause of Discharge, though not slightly to be allowed, may be sometimes necessary to be yielded to, as in the Case of Seamen seized by the *yellow Fever* in the *West Indies*, or labouring under any severe *Illness*, or *Maim* at *Lisbon*, which may require Quiet, and fresh Provisions *on Shore* for their Recovery, at the Time when the Ships, to which such Seamen belong, are ready to sail;---This Provision is therefore compassionately and properly made for conveying such Men home, after they shall be recovered.

CLAUSE XXV.

Masters of Ships shall be allowed Six-pence per Diem for all such Men and Boys as shall exceed their Complement.

REMARK.

This Clause is the same with the 13th Clause of the Act of the 1st of *Geo. II.* and contains a just Compensation to Masters of Ships, who shall bring home from abroad, by the Direction of *British* Governors, Consuls, or Merchants, any Men or Boys, exceeding their Complement.

CLAUSE XXVI.

Seamen shall not be taken out of the Service for any Debt under twenty Pounds.

REMARK.

This Clause comprehends the 15th Clause of the Act of the 1st of *Geo. II.* Cap. 14. and very
rightly

rightly *extends* the Provision made, in that Clause, against the Arrests of Seamen for Debts under twenty Pounds, to *all Parts* of his Majesty's Dominions.

CLAUSE XXVII.

But Creditors may file a common Appearance, so as to intitle them to proceed to Judgment and Outlawry, and to have an Execution thereupon, except against the Bodies of such Seaman.

REMARK.

This Clause coincides with the 16th Clause of the Act of the 1st of Geo. II. Cap. 14; Whereby such Creditors, as are mentioned in the Clause preceding, though excluded from arresting the *Persons* of Seamen employed in the Royal Navy, are impowered to take out Execution, in the speediest Manner, against their *Effects*.

CLAUSE XXVIII.

Receivers of Seamen's Wages or Prize-Money taking more than Six pence in the Pound, shall, for every Offence, forfeit fifty Pounds; And if any such Offender be a Clerk, Officer, or Servant, in an Office belonging to the Navy, he shall also lose his Place, and be incapable of holding any Place of Profit in any such Office.

REMARK.

This Clause is new, and calculated to deter any Person, more especially such as belong to any *Office* in the Navy, from taking more; than the reasonable Allowance herein limited, from any Seaman, on Account of *receiving* his *Wages* or *Prize-Money*.

CLAUSE XXIX.

Clerks, Officers, and Servants in Offices, belonging
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to the Navy, taking Fees (not allowed by the Act) for doing any Thing directed by the Act, shall be subject to the same Forfeitures,

REMARK.

This Clause is new, and renders all Persons belonging to the Navy, upon their demanding or receiving for the Execution of any Part of this Act, any Gratuity, or Fee, not authorized therein, subject to the Penalty in the former Clause.

CLAUSE XXX.

Part of an Act made in the fourth Year of Queen Anne, and also Part of an Act made in the first Year of his present Majesty, and also an Act made in the same Year, relating to Seamen, repealed.

REMARK.

This Clause repeals the 10th Clause of the Act of the 4th of *Anne*, Cap. 14. relating to the Payment of Seamen turned over from one Ship to another, and also the 6th and 7th Clauses of the Act of the 1st of *Geo. II.* St. 2. Cap. 9. relating to the Payment of Seamen's Wages, together with the intire Act of the 1st of *Geo. II.* Stat. 2. Cap. 14. intituled, *An Act for encouraging Seamen to enter into his Majesty's Service.* By the Cancelling of which last Act, and of the said intire Clauses in the preceding Acts, all Reference thereto, which would create abundant Trouble, is intirely avoided.—It seems proper also, that the 3d Clause of the 9th and 10th of *William III.* Cap. 41. and some Clauses of other Acts superseded by this Bill, be here repealed.

CLAUSE XXXI.

This Abstract, together with the Articles of War, shall be printed, and kept hung up in the most public Place of every Ship of the Royal Navy, that it may

be accessible to all inferior Officers and Seamen; And shall be read over once in every Month, after the Articles of War are read, to the End that every Seaman in the Royal Navy may know the Punishments he is liable to for any Neglect, or Disobedience, and the Encouragement he is intitled to by the Performance of his Duty; And that upon suffering any Injury, he may be enabled to lay his Complaint before the Lord High-Admiral of Great Britain, or the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High-Admiral of Great Britain, who are, by the Act, directed to enquire into the same, and to grant Redress, if such Complaint be justly founded, and to take especial Care that this Act be punctually carried into Execution.

REMARK.

The Direction in this Clause to the Captains of his Majesty's Ships for keeping printed Copies of this Abstract, and of the Articles of War, hung up in the most public Place of every such Ship, so as to be accessible to all inferior Officers and Seamen, and to cause the said Abstract to be audibly and distinctly read over once in every Month, in the Presence of the Officers and Seamen of such Ship, immediately after the Articles of War are read, is calculated for continually reminding the Officers of the Ship of the Privileges solemnly allotted to British Seamen, and of the particular Attention of the LEGISLATURE to provide for their Relief and Comfort; It is also properly adapted, at the same Time, for the Instruction of every Seaman, both in the Obedience he owes, and in the Encouragement to which he is intitled.

The Remarks, which have occurred to me on the several Clauses of this Bill, both from the Information of others, and my own Scrutiny, are thus laid before you, without Reserve;--They have arisen from
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from a Zeal for promoting so important a national Service;—Under the Influence of which, I have not hesitated to *object, approve, or propose* any *Addition, or Alteration*.---If *Approbation* in general shall be found predominant in what I have offered, it hath proceeded from the real Merit, as it hath appeared to me, of the Bill itself;—The *superior Skill* in the *Construction* of which, and the *Humanity* and *Relief* extended to the *British* Seamen through the whole, have indeed been allowed by those who have entered into it;---But here, Sir, you are to *prepare* yourself, for the Arguments against it; Especially as they are *such*, as, notwithstanding all your Discernment, and Foresight, you would never expect.—It was solemnly urged against the Bill, *that it abounded too much with Humanity to our Seamen, and would thereby prove detrimental to the Service.*

This was really the *general Purport* of the Objections against it; But as they were expatiated upon, and divided into different Branches, it will be proper to lay them separately before you, for your Satisfaction.

The first Objection was, *That our Seamen in general are turbulent, and unruly under their present Restrictions; and therefore the Allotment of new Privileges to them, and the solemn reading of an Abstract of these before each Ship's Crew, once in every Month, would tend much to increase this Turbulence, and render it difficult for the Officers to support their necessary Authority.*

The Force of this Objection you will easily perceive, consists in raising an Alarm, which upon calm Enquiry will be found destitute of Foundation;—For no *Relaxation* is proposed by this Bill of any *Punishment* at present inflicted upon Seamen for *Disobedience*; Nor is the least *Alteration* offered to be made in the present *Order* and *Disci-*

pline of the Navy; The Abstract directed to be read monthly, relating only to the Payment of the *Wages*, and *Tickets* of the Seamen, their Security from *Arrests* for *small Debts*, and a few other Provisions, which interfere not with the reciprocal Duties of *Protection* and *Subordination* between the Officers and Men; Which Duties are to stand regulated, as they are at present, by the *Articles of War*;—So that no *Foundation* is laid by this Bill for any new *Turbulence* of the *Seamen*;—On the contrary, their Perseverance in their Duty, and their quiet Submission to all the Hardships they suffer, would be much promoted by the new Assurance they will hereby obtain of the *punctual* and *speedy* Payment of their *Wages*; The Certainty of which will sweeten their present Toils, and remove those bitter Anxieties, which now deprive them of all Comfort, and indeed may be expected sometimes to render their Conduct desperate.

The second Objection was, *That a speedier Payment of Seamen's Wages, will furnish new Fuel for their Riot and Debauchery, and render them less disposed, and fit for the Service.* This Argument, if allowed to be fair and reasonable, would be a Plea for depriving *Seamen* in the Royal-Navy, of all *Wages*, and *Prize-Money*;---It might also, perhaps, with equal Propriety, be extended to many Persons in *other Stations* of Life, who are continually led by their *ample Fortunes* into mischievous *Excesses*.----Especially such, as are *totally idle*, may certainly be stripped of their luxurious Substance, with greater Reason, than *laborious* Seamen of their dear-earned *Wages*.----An Argument therefore, which, I fear, will not be allowed in the most *considerable* and *flagrant* Instances, must not be insisted upon in the Case only of *poor Mariners*;---At the same Time, it must be observed, that this Kind of
Decision

Decision upon the *Properties* and *Appetites* fit to be possessed by others, and what Portion of each ought to be allowed to them, and what to be withheld, without their having committed any legal Offence, is so ridiculous, and so palpably contrary to all Principles of Equity and Justice, that it deserves not to be seriously confuted.

But before the Objection is dismissed, it may deserve to be considered, whether this Charge of *Riot* and *Debauchery*, is not rather too severely urged against *Seamen*; Especially; as it is founded wholly upon their passing perhaps a *few Days* in Joy, and DANCING, upon their return *Home*, after unintermitted Toils for many Years in *foreign* unwholesome *Climates*. Some Excesses of this Sort, which soon destroy their own Foundation, may surely be winked at in these Men, who being confined the greatest Part of their Lives, may be allowed to *live*, as much as they can, in the *short Time* of Liberty they obtain;---This is the principal *Sweet* they enjoy; And the present Method of debarring them from it, by *detaining* their Pay, is the greatest Cruelty and Discouragement to the Service.

However, as it is certain, that Seamen, as well as other Persons, are too much addicted at present to unnecessarily wasting of their Incomes; This Bill will be so far from furnishing *new Fuel* to these Excesses in the former, that one great Operation of it will be, in fairly withdrawing such Fuel from them, by their own Consent.-----This will evidently be effected by its enabling *Seamen abroad* to *remit* their Wages to their *Wives* at Home; And by affording *Seamen at Home*, upon receiving their Pay, an immediate Method of *remitting* such Part thereof, as they please, to *any Person* in *Britain*; Whereby the Principles of Duty, Compassion, and Gratitude, to their Families and Friends, are encouraged

encouraged to arise in their Breasts, by the easiest Means constantly furnished for their Gratification. ——— So that this Bill, instead of *increasing* the Riot and Debauchery of Seamen, as alledged against it, will evidently produce the *contrary Effect*, and upon the most just and worthy Foundation.

There was a further Objection urged, which is, that *the keeping the Wages of Seamen in Arrear*, is a necessary Tye, *for retaining them in the Service*; and therefore, that *the relinquishing this Tye, by the speedier Payment of their Wages*, will expose the Service to a general Desertion.

This Argument denies not the *Cruelty* of *withholding* their Wages from them, but avers it to be a *necessary Cruelty*; Which Usage must evidently raise the greatest *Abhorrence* to *entering* into the Service, whatever Effect it may be supposed to have for *retaining* Men in it, after they are entered; — Nor can this Effect of *retaining* them in it, be supposed to operate, untill they have been some time in the Service, and liable to forfeit a considerable Sum by Desertion; For at first, whilst they have little to forfeit, the Sense of the ill Usage they are to undergo by the Detention of their Wages, violently exerts itself in a contrary Manner, and incites them, at any *Hazard*, to Desertion. This was confirmed last Year, by authentic Accounts, of the enormous *Desertion*, out of the *Ships at Home* only, taken for the Satisfaction of an Honorable Gentleman, who was particularly desirous of being informed upon this Subject.

What indeed can be more evident, than that the *regular and punctual Payment* of Seamen's Wages, at known, fixed Periods, and the enabling them, whilst they are serving *Abroad*, to make *Remittances* to their *Wives at Home*, or upon being paid at Home, to make such Remittances to any Person they

they please in *Britain*, are new and gracious Privileges ; Which must render the serving on board his Majesty's Ships far more eligible, than at present, to such Seamen, as possess any Humanity, or Concern for their Wives or Families.---The Establishment of such Privileges must also be far more desirable to the Families and Friends of all Seamen whatever. And if it be considered how much such Men are under the Influence of other Persons with whom they are connected, it will evidently appear, that the Bill proposed, would remove the principal *Obstructions* and *Aversions*, which now operate against their entering into his Majesty's *Service*.

In Confirmation of this, it was experienced last Year, whilst this Bill was depending, that a great Number of good Seamen refused to enter on considerable Ships of his Majesty's Navy, because, as they alledged, they were uncertain when they should be paid their Wages ; Whereby their Families would be exposed to Beggary and Famine.--It likewise appeared in several Instances, that *five* or *six* Prizes having been taken by the Crews of particular Ships, and several Payments of Prize-Money having been distributed to them in the Course of a Year, they were all allowed by their Commanders to go on Shore, by Companies of *forty* or *fifty* at a Time ; And that scarce any Men were lost by Desertion out of such Ships ; From whence it was concluded, with Reason, that the keeping *Seamen's Wages* in *Arrear* prevents a great Number of the soberest, and most serviceable Men from entering into the *Royal Navy* ; And that the *speedy Payment* of their *Wages*, and other *Allowances*, instead of *weakening* any Ties, by which they are now held, would create a *general Fondness* amongst
amongst

amongst them for the *Service*, and be the most effectual Means of preventing Desertion.

It hath however been since thought proper to determine the Question, Whether *Desertion* prevails most under *quick* or *slow* Payment, by *authentic Accounts* for the *whole Navy*; Accordingly the *Desertion* from his Majesty's Ships for *two Years* under *quick Payment* of Seamen's Wages hath been compared with the same *Desertion* for *two similar Years* under *slow Payment*; The first *Duennium* consists of the Years 1731 and 1732, when the Act of the 1st of his present Majesty for the *quick Payment* of such Wages was duly executed, which were Years of *Peace*, preceding, by a short Interval, the late *Spanish War*.----The second *Duennium* contains the Years 1751 and 1752, which were Years of *Peace* likewise, and at nearly the same Interval antecedent to the present *French War*.---In order to this Comparison the *total Debt* of the *Navy*, the *Portion* of such Debt on the *Head of Seamen's Wages*, and the *Rate of Desertion* for each of these Years respectively, is here delivered.

	Years.	Total Navy Debt.		Seamen's Wages.		Rate of Desertion per Month on a Medium.
		l.	s. d.	l.	s. d.	
Quick Payment.	1731	1,588,293	18 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	189,272	12—	$\frac{1}{111}$
	1732	1,682,295	6 3	158,076	9 2	$\frac{1}{25}$
Slow Payment.	1751	1,827,898	7 4	899,838	14 2	$\frac{1}{33}$
	1752	1,883,022	0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	704,098	10 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{104}$

Whereby it is evident, that, upon an aggregate, in the *Duennium* of *quick Payment*, when the *Debt* for Seamen's Wages was *small*, *Desertion* was at the *Rate* of *two* out of *two hundred and thirty-six Men* per Month; Whereas in the *Duennium* of *slow Payment* it was at the *Rate* of *two* out of *one hundred and eighty-seven Men*.---That is, as many deserted out of a *small* Number under *slow Payment*, as did

did out of a *greater* Number under *quick* Payment, ---Whence the *Rate of Desertion* appears to have been *greatest* under *slow* Payment ; This *Rate* having been, during the Years 1731 and 1732, when this *Debt* on Seamen's *Wages* was very *low*, to the same *Rate*, during the Years 1751 and 1752, when this *Debt* was almost *quintupled*, as 23 to 29 nearly. ---So that the keeping a *large Arrear* of such *Wages* unpaid, is far from being found the *proper Means* for *retaining Seamen* in the *Service*.

Another *Insinuation*, which hath *crept* in the *Dark*, hath been, *that the Consequences of the Bill proposed, if carried into a Law, would be profitable to the Treasurer of the Navy, by causing more Money to pass through his Hands, under the speedier Payment of Seamen's Wages.*-----

It must be very *ungrateful* to noble *Minds*, to see their *worthiest Acts* ascribed to *ungenerous Motives* ; But if the *Consequences* of this *Bill* should prove such as are here suggested, it may still have been formed by the *Author* of it, from great and enlarged *Views* of public *Benefit*.---However the *Grounds* of the *Insinuation* shall be particularly examined.--Suppose then the *Sum* of 3,000,000 *l.* to be annually granted by the *Legislature* for the current *Service* of the *Navy*, during the present *Year*, and several succeeding *Years*, and to be annually received, and distributed by the *Treasurer* of the *Navy* ; And that there is now a *large Arrear* on the *Head* of *Seamen's Wages* ;---If the proposed *Bill* was to take *Place*, let it be seen what *Alteration* will thereby happen to the *Treasurer* of the *Navy*.-----In this *Case*, the same *Sum* of 3,000,000 *l.* will annually come into his *Hands*, and be paid by him to the future current *naval Branches*, whose *Amount* will not be altered by the *Bill* proposed.--- But the following new *Regu-*
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lations will be established. First, Future Deficiencies in the Money granted for the Naval Service must not be lodged, as an Arrear on the Head of Seamen's Wages, but on other Branches;— However, the Naval Arrear being the same on the Whole, though placed on different Branches, the Amount of the Receipts and Payments of the Treasurer of the Navy will not be hereby altered.

Secondly, No Seamen's Wages must be detained for the future, beyond the Time prescribed;— And any Arrear on this Head, which may now be lodged with him must be immediately payed.

Thirdly, As the whole *present Arrear* of Seamen's Wages is proposed to be forthwith paid, such Part of this Arrear, as is not already in his Hands, must necessarily pass through the same;— Which last Sum will be the the whole *extraordinary* Money he will receive for *once* only, by this Bill, in order for *immediate* Payment.

But it is to be observed, that, according to the established Course of Naval Business, this Arrear will not fall to be brought altogether into the Hands of the Treasurer of the Navy, there to be lodged till Demands for it shall arise; But is to be received, and paid by him in such Portions, and at such Times, as shall be appointed by the Commissioners of the Navy; Which Appointment, according to the Rule established, will not be made until equal Sums are ordered by the Admiralty to be paid, and are immediately put in a Course of Payment.---Nay even when the Wages on any Ship are ordered to be paid off, the whole Amount of such Wages is not appointed by the Commissioners of the Navy to be applied for by the Treasurer, but only such Part thereof, as they judge necessary for carrying on the general Course of the Payment; --So that it must be left to the Equity
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of every Gentleman to judge, what Advantage can be proposed to be made by the Right Honorable Gentleman on this Arrear, where the Wages having been long due, upon public Notice of Payment being ordered, must be expected to be immediately demanded.

On this Occasion it is to be observed, that by the express Provision in the 5th Clause of this Bill, such *Sums of Money only*, as shall be *necessary*, are to be issued, and applied from Time to Time, for paying any Wages of Seamen, either due, or to grow due. Other new, and express Provisions inserted by the Right Hon. Gentleman in different Clauses of the Bill, are intirely calculated for suppressing *Fees, Gratuities*, and unreasonable *Deductions* from Seamen's Wages.---Nor is it to be forgotten, that his *official Oeconomy* eminently appeared in a *late Instance*, by his suppressing, for the *Benefit* of the *Public*, a *lucrative Post* in his own Disposal. So that his disinterested Disposition, in the Management of public Business, is amply proved by the most indubitable Testimonies ; And he might as well be charged with Views of Gain to himself, upon voting for any Naval Service, whereby Money must necessarily pass through his Hands, as with endeavouring to procure, under the Bill proposed, any Advantage. How free from all selfish Interest his Conduct herein hath been, evidently appears from the great Principle, and uniform Tendency of this Bill ; Which aims not to *detain* Money in the Hands of the Treasurer of the Navy, but to facilitate, by various *new Provisions*, and by the Removal of many *present Doubts and Obstructions*, its *speedier Issue* ;---So that a Treasurer of the Navy would undoubtedly be able to keep much larger Sums in his Hands, if such was his View, under the Regulations now subsist-

ing, than he could possibly retain; under those which are here proposed.

The remaining Objection was, *that great Difficulties will arise in continually furnishing the Sums requisite for the proposed speedy Payment of Seamen's Wages.*

This Objection, if really valid, might be expected to be made by the Treasury;--- Instead of which, the Act of the first of *Geo. II.* Stat. 2d. Sec. 9th. wherein the Payment of *two Months* Wages in every *six* is appointed, being rather a *speedier Payment* than what is proposed by the Right Honorable Gentleman, was brought into the House by the Members thereof belonging to the Board of Treasury; which sufficiently shews the Sense which that Board had of the *Facility* of making such Payments.---Amongst which Gentlemen, was *Sir Robert Walpole*, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose Ability, and superior Knowledge in the Extent and Power of the *British* Finances are well known, and would not have suffered him to enter into Measures, which might cause their *Embarrassment*.

The proposed Bill, as was seen with Pleasure, was also brought into the House, in the last Session, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, jointly with the Right Honorable Gentleman; and you will see by our Votes, the same Junction in bringing in the Bill, in Pursuance of the general Demand of the House for it, in the present Session;---It may be proper likewise to be known, that in Regard to the issuing of the Money for these Payments, the Treasury, as I am well informed, were last Year consulted upon it, before the Bill was prepared; In Consequence of which, the Sums requisite for carrying it into Execution, were all destined; Of which, 100,000 *l.* was to be taken out of the *Vote*
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of *Credit*, and the Remainder out of the Money given for the *Debt* of the *Navy*.---It is indeed ridiculous to suppose, according to this Objection, that the *British* Government hath not Power sufficient to allot, without being distressed, the Sums requisite for the speedy Payment of these Wages; Whereas such Payment could easily be accomplished, if it was thought proper, and the Nature of the Service would admit, even *once* in *every Week*, in the same Manner, as Payments are made to the Land-Soldiers.

These Objections having thus been stated, and freely examined, will, I hope, afford you some Lights towards forming your Judgment on the *Merits*, or *Demerits* of the Bill;—It frequently happens, that Regulations, which seem right in *Theory*, are not accommodated to *Practice*; which last, it is always requisite to consult on the Provisions to be made in *Business*, in order that they may be duly executed. But in this Bill, as it appears to me, *Theory* and *Practice* are both united; So that it is difficult to determine, which owes most to the Aid of the other.—The *Humanity* destin'd to our brave Seamen, from their first *Entrance* on the Royal Navy, to their *Discharge*, being every where supported by excellent *Contrivance* for carrying it into *Execution*.

Your *Candour* I must now apply to, for accepting kindly this free Offer of my Sentiments; Especially as it is made to so much *abler* a *Judge* of many Parts of the Subject; For I am duly sensible, how conversant you are, from your extensive *Commerce*, and daily *Support* of *Multitudes* of *Seamen*, and their distressed *Families*, at your Port, in the *Propriety*, and *Force* of *Marine Regulations*.--Yet, however you may differ from me upon the *Means contrived*, we shall unite in approving the *Ends proposed*; And your *public Spirit*, I am sure,

sure, will applaud my *sincere Attention* to so *important* a Subject. — But on this Occasion you will feel, as I do, how much we are indebted to the Author * of the Bill, for his Zeal and Labour in this *public Work*; On which the Honour, Strength, and Safety of the State eminently depend, and wherein every *Gentleman of Property* in *Britain* is, and *must* be, *essentially* concerned.

* George Grenville, Esq; Treasurer of the Navy,

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February, 1758.

P. S. You will perceive by our last Votes, that the Bill brought into the House in this Session, is ordered to be *printed*; In which, there are very few Variations from the Bill offered last Year, upon which I have submitted to you the foregoing Remarks;—However, you will permit me to add, in order to your further Satisfaction on this Subject, that after Provision is made for the Payment of the *present Arrear* of Seamen's Wages, no Difficulties on this Head can arise to the *Treasury*; For the *future Sums* which shall annually be granted for the Naval Department, will either *totally satisfy* the *Demands* of this Department; Or, if any *Deficiency* shall

shall necessarily happen, it will be lodged on such *naval Branches*, in which the Treasury cannot be hurried for Payment; And consequently, after this Arrear is payed, no *greater*, nor *speedier Issue* of *Money* will be liable to be made by the *Treasury* for the *Naval Department*, than would, if this Bill had not been proposed; All the *Difference* will be, that no *future Deficiency* in this *Department*, must be lodged on *Seamen's Wages*.

Nor will the *public Revenues* be liable to be withdrawn, by the Payment of such *Bills* for *remitting Seamen's Wages*, out of their present established Course;—For the *Receivers-General*, and *other Officers* of the Revenue, hereby directed to accept and discharge such *Bills*, are not exempted from paying the *whole Sums*, due from their respective Collections, in the same Manner as at present, in *Money* into the *Exchequer*.---On the contrary, they will from hence be better enabled to make such complete *Money* Payments; As they may, for this Purpose, remit any Part of these *Sums* to *London* by such *Bills* drawn upon the *Navy-Office*, as well as by *Bills* drawn upon *Merchants*, or other responsible Persons, according to their present Practice; Whereby it is evident, that these *Seamen's Bills* will not *alter*, in any Manner, the *present Course* of *Business*; nor will their proposed Payment by these Officers, *intercept* any Part of the *full and intire Returns*, now made, of the *public Revenues* into the *Exchequer*.

F I N I S.

