

SHORT CONSIDERATIONS VPON
SOME LATE EXTRAORDINARY
GRANTS. AND OTHER
PARTICVLARS OF A LATE
PATRIOT's CONDVCT.

By Lord Jenkinson

JAM PRIDEM EQVIDEM NOS VERA RERVM
VOCABVLA AMISIMVS; QVIA BONA
ALIENA LARGIRI, LIBERALITAS MA-
LARVM RERVM AVDACIA, FORTI-
TVDO VOCATVR; EO RES PVBLICA
IN EXTREMO SITA.

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I observe, that the advocates for the new created Earl of Chatham, endeavour to palliate his conduct by imploring the publick confidence, now expiring, to wait for some future proofs of his supereminent virtue, of his devotion to his country, and exertion of his unparallel'd talents. Alas! is there a fifth of the inhabitants of this kingdom, so uninform'd, so undiscerning, as not to see at once, that this celebrated character, now translated to another region, can no longer render his country the same important services, she hath received from him, in his former station? Can we expect to

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see him, in this new sphere, the scourge of corrupt ministers; the terror of rapacious courtiers? Shall we here find him with a senate at his heels? Can he now support our petitions, enforce our grievances, and protect our rights, in that body which he hath so emphatically described, *but as a drop in the ocean?* Alas, Sir! I speak from the heart of an honest citizen. We have, indeed, lost the Great Commoner, the patron and protector of our rights, our leading star, our superintending planet; and yet, methinks, I could have wish'd to have seen his glory set in a more placid hemisphere: what tempests may we not expect, in this infatuated, but much abused country, when we shall see every act of our much-beloved Commoner mark'd with some indecent jobb, some mercenary contract, in favour of his
pliant

pliant subalterns? This free country, which hath, for some years, from his professions, been taught to look up to him as a detester of jobbs, the firm opponent of court practices, and one who was singularly intent upon applying the national powers to national ends. What are we to say, if it shall appear that the illustrious, modest, benign, elegant, consistent Lord N—h—n, holds the president of the council with an additional 1000 l. annexed to the usual salary of his post; and that the said amiable Earl of N---h-----n hath moreover a conditional pension of 4000 l. for life, if he be removed, besides a reversion of the Hanaper for two lives? *His Lordship was undoubtedly right to provide against the events of a future day ---no one can have better grounds to distrust the good faith of a court.*

Still more will every admirer of the late *Lord Chief Justice Pratt* grieve, and every friend to permanent liberty shudder, when he shall find it register'd in office, *however delay'd in the Gazette*, that this much-honour'd patriot could not undertake his Majesty's and his Country's service, without grasping the revenue of a Tellership in the Exchequer, and at the same time stipulating for an annual floating pension of 1500 l. should he be remov'd before the Tellership falls.

But here, my countrymen, prepare to weep, and learn how cruelly the honest feelings of you all, and the publick confidence, is ever doom'd to be the instrument of ambitious individuals! Know you then, that the late Mr. P--tt, he who gain'd so much reputation, by refusing the Sardinian present,

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present, and whom you have all been told, annually left his salary at the Treasury, and meant some new example of commiseration to the publick, if he should ever return to office. This very man, *being once pension'd and earl-created*, does, in this hour of national distress, embrace *a lucrative and sine-cure office*, to which no responsibility is annexed, and which, in fact, is therefore *a second pension*.

Let me now ask the few remaining advocates, or rather idolaters, of this Great Man, was there ever a set of men, whether really call'd upon by their Sovereign, by motives of choice, or a factious combination, forcing themselves into the cabinet, that have presumed to make demands so injurious to the honour of the crown, and so cruel to the distress'd state of their

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country?

country? I say, injurious to the honour of the crown, because no men, who placed an honest confidence in the rectitude of their own intentions, and in the amiable disposition of their Prince to reward their services, would have so daringly anticipated what their predecessors have alone hop'd for from long services: they have sat out with what the labours of a *Burleigh*, and the uniform integrity of a *Godolphin*, would have been thankful for.—The real constitutional statesmen of a former age, God knows, had a more happy moderation. Even the days of Sir *Robert Walpole*, which have been so hostily contrasted with these periods, by the *youthful eloquence of our late admired patriot*, presented nothing of this anticipating rapaciousness, driven as he was to the wall, by the captivating harangues of this man, and urg'd to a
mode

mode of defence, which, however far from his choice, he never had recourse, in all his shifts, to such unprecedented misapplications of the civil list: such outrageous mortgages of the royal revenue stood totally without precedent, until the present reign of the Great Commoner, unless they please to draw one from the impertinent demand of a Mr. Secretary C---p---r; which was, indeed, the offspring of the distress, *not the triumph* of the late infantine administration.---This gentleman maturely comparing the instability of all administrations with his prospects in his own profession, himself drew the balance between his two situations, and demanded 800l. a year for life e'er he would venture to be made a secretary: one would have imagined, by such a provision, this gentleman intended

intended handsomely to have abided by his friends; it seems, however, he hath found out some fashionable distinctions of the day, and still holds his place, together with his provisional pension; an example which many more doubtless will follow with the same facility, as they have his eventual provision. The rank of the person may, in some degree, excuse such indecent encroachments upon the crown, and the nation; but what apology can be made for Lord C---d---n? Nay, for the credit of human nature, when we see a person of his illustrious, and establish'd character, seeking the same security as a Mr. C---p---r?---Can his Lordship suppose, in case he should be dismiss'd for any noble resistance in favour of the liberties or interests of his country, that he would want a provision for himself

himself and his family, as well as a Mr. C---p---r? That he should sink into oblivion, by being consistent? I will call therefore this pension *mere avarice, a want of confidence in the crown, and as great a diffidence of the sentiments of the people* he has no cause to suspect.

The late Great Commoner is said to be building an administration, by selecting the men of the first abilities in this country.---His brother-in-law (*whom he hath in full senate publicly vowed to live and die with*) hath certainly neither capacity nor subordination to intitle him to a share of it: his other brother is too incompatible and odious to be tolerated by him. The tory Duke of the Russell family (it is somewhat paradoxical surely) is not considered, nor yet *perhaps fully proscribed*: and,

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therefore, this production, from which both practicability and stability are expected, equally by prince and people (*for they both pant for repose*) must be something of the late Great Commoner's own absolute creation: would to God it were a system! I fear it may be no more than his former professions, *a mere Arrangement of men*. For instance, the northern seals continue in the hands of a remnant of the last administration, declared by the modest and faithful Lord N-----n, to be *the most childish* that ever existed. The others are consign'd, *with a vast extended dominion*, to a young nobleman, celebrated for his attempts to convince others, when he never held an opinion of his own; equally renown'd for his intuitive military knowledge, so happily display'd on the coast of France.

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Had any man, possess'd with the gift of second sight, assur'd me, in the year 1758, that those expeditions on the coast of France were in reality the schools for ministers of state, I had not believed him; and yet I imagine I can now discover some publick benefit from those ill-fated croisades. *Youth is the season made for credulity; by comparing events with each other, reasoning from effects to causes, methinks I plainly discover the tracts of an over-ruling influence.*

How are we to account for the mechanism of this wonderful new-invented state-machine? If it be true, that the late Great Commoner, convinced that his declining health disabled him from taking any active part, (and therefore not a responsible one) that for this reason he could no longer

bear the fatigue and heat of the House of Commons, but was obliged to recline on the more soft, and lulling wool-sack; henceforth his views extended only to the possession of those seals which he hath wrenched out of the hands of the poor old, unsteady Duke, merely that he might do no more harm with them; yet, when the impatient, and disappointed people cry out, Forfake us not and our cause! Art thou false, or art thou fascinated! straight this great man's advocates assure you---Be patient, gentlemen, he doth not mean to retire; *he is not captivated with a title! or bent upon aggrandizing his family!* but totally intent upon great and impenetrable matters of state: nay, he will appear presently more vigorous and irresistible than ever.—My gentle masters, you all have heard him promise to come out of a
quart

quart bottle—be patient---he is now considering how he shall go into a pint. There is nothing he will not do for your sakes, and that of his country; but you must give him a little time, and a little confidence, no man can do without them, and you know this man can do with as little of either as any body.

You all must have observed, how ably he hath chosen his cabinet: it is impossible there can be a difference in opinion, where no one has any but himself: those who were likely to hold any, have very prudentially left it. And, you may be assured, he will admit none who bring any with them. Indeed it will be a little unlucky for such a cabinet, if the sole mover should be detain'd by any violent distemper; for instance,
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a severe fit of the gout.—In this case, they must be somewhat puzzled; but this seldom happens, whilst affairs go prosperously: and Great Britain will ever have the gratitude to think so, while such a man sits at the helm.

I cannot but allow there is great weight to these arguments, in favour of your lately-admired Great Commoner. The construction and order of this administration, as far as we yet know it, is certainly very singular, but yet extremely judicious; for what can be less liable to intrigue and cabal, than a cabinet composed of gentlemen who meet upon the most important measures, totally uninform'd and unprepar'd—all in responsible offices, pledged to the publick in life, estate, and honour; when suddenly an irresponsible, invisible, and over-ruling influence,

influence, shall, as it were, inspire, guide, and direct the heads, hearts, and hands, of this able, spirited, and unexampled council of men, to the true interest and glory of this great country?

I fear that the proposals to Earl G---r, and the overtures made to that party, might possibly have interrupted that blessed harmony and subordination, which must be the basis of our great man's success; "for what can war, but endless war still breed?" But be there a negative, or a correction in that plan, we have the satisfaction to see the very man, who disdain'd three days before to sit as a Lord of that Board, for reasons best known to himself, now suddenly become, in the round of the political wheel, the First Lord of the Admiralty.

For

For the same incomprehensible, but accommodating faculties, we must admire the Earl of H-----gh, who presided at the Board of Trade when the measures and administration of Mr. Grenville were executed---He is now a subaltern in office, devoted to another man's principles, and, for his honour, I will suppose regenerated.

No less, consequently, is Lord N---th transform'd. He hath certainly ably defended the measures of his late friends; and, should his new patrons not change their system, I marvel how his Lordship will be able to overturn his own. I always lament to see men of ability hurt by inconsistencies, betray'd into variations, and narrowing the noble ground, upon which they should manifest themselves to the public; but it is whisper'd that

his Lordship had private motives, and so had his colleague. It is melancholy to see the young and the old descend into the same grave of oblivion.

What tho' twenty more seductions should follow the allurements of a court, yet, Heaven be prais'd, there is in the spirit, freedom, and constitution of this country, both principle and energy left, to develop occasional characters, and to pursue its permanent interests, in spite of all disappointments.

The British constitution is the object of every man of a liberal education; it is as dear to him as his honour, and he is equally the natural guardian of both. It is neither a lawyer, nor an orator, that a free-born man will consult, upon these occasions,

sions, nor will he even invoke the protection of any political deity: Nor is it in the power of any party, or coalition of parties, to oppress the publick, and long to defile the constitution with impunity; and, however the sense of the people may, for a time, be deceived by factious professors of publick virtue out of office, into a temporary confidence, the same men in power will never prevail upon us to support measures which contradict the whole tenor of their former conduct.

The city of London hath often taken the lead, upon many very important occasions, and conveyed to the nation in general, its earliest sentiments upon interesting events. There are, doubtless, very able, honest, and dispassionate men, in that body corporate

porate---It is not to be found, in the history of this country, that either the premiums of a court, or the menaces of power, could, at any period, subjugate that body of men to the purposes of a court. None ever possessed their confidence more than the late Mr. P--tt, and his friend the Lord Chief Justice. But these gentlemen have, at least for some time, suspended their confidence; penetrated, undoubtedly, with the striking facts, which at this instant stare every man of common sense in the face. He must have but a faint idea of a patriot, who does not at once see how little these gentlemen now support that character: nay, how impossible it is, for either the crown, or the people, to subsist long, under their unlimited gratifications. Is not the Civil List already 285,000l. in debt? Is it just

then, or decent to their S-ver--gn, thus to beggar him for their own purposes? If, after this exploit, becoming all powerful at his expence, they are to gratify their poor distress'd master, by some lumping vote upon the publick, are they not then rioting in the vitals of that country, at a time when all orders of men, from the highest to the lowest, are distress'd? When the wages of the manufacturer, oppress'd by taxes, defeats with success the manufacture, and the pinch'd day-labourer, thro' necessity, raises the price of his own subsistence? Yet it seems, that in all this national distraction, the harvest of patriotism is alone to make a tenfold return! Every hourly variation of this unsettled, tottering country, produces only some fresh apostacy, some new state subterfuge, to increase
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the national burthen; and hasten the general calamity.

Prostitutes in politicks, like those of another profession, have the same miserable itch to extend to others the vice they groan withal; and, therefore, we must not wonder, when we hear that the present all-ruling statesman sought earnestly, in his uncertain state, to engage Earl G-w-r, however opposite that noble Lord was in every publick sentiment, during the two last sessions of parliament.---He would have left it to the chance of a future day, to have reconciled their jarring principles; for at this hour there is nothing the good man cannot forgive, but the transgressions of his own blood. But as facts will ever speak stronger to the sense of mankind, than any colouring that eloquence

quence or artifice can convey: it is therefore to the advocates of the present omnipotent statesman, that the following estimate is more particularly addressed.---Every impartial man will be able to judge, how far it corresponds with the hopes he had entertained of the late Mr. P--t's accession to power.

Mr. Pitt's

	£.	£.
Mr. Pitt's first pension of 3000 <i>l.</i> <i>per annum</i> , for his own, Lady Chatham's, and his son's lives, at 20 years purchase	60,000	
Place of Privy-Seal, 3000 <i>l.</i> at 8 years	24,000	
Lord N-----'s salary of 5000 <i>l.</i> <i>per annum</i> , at 8 years purchase	40,000	84,000
The reversion of the Hanaper, for two young lives, after the demise of the D. of Chandos, computed at 12 years purchase, upon 1350 <i>l.</i> a year		
	16,200	56,200
		140,200
	Carried over - -	140,200

	£.	£.	£.
Brought over	-	-	140,200
Lord Camden's pension, for his own, and his son's life, 1500l. a year, if in possession, } 30,000	-		
would be worth 20 years purchase -			
Deduct for the probability of his continuing } 1,500	-		
Chancellor one year - - -	-		

(28)

	28,500	
His Lordship having also obtained the reversion of a Teller in the Exchequer for his son, estimated at 4500l. <i>per annum</i> , out of which the above pension } 24,000	-	
is to be deducted when the vacancy happens, the remaining 3000l. at 8 years purchase, is - - -	-	52,500

Carried over - - 192,700

	£.
Brought over - - -	192,700
Col. Ligonier's pension, for his own life, at 1500l. a year, or 15 years purchase } -----	22,500
Total of the expence of the present ministerial fa- brick, as far as the ground-floor * - - }	215,200

* Among the number of *rewards* which have been lately held out, for past and *future* services, ought not to be forgot those which have been so liberally bestowed on the C—— family. I will, therefore, mention a *part* of them; not for the *enormity* of the sums (which are indeed *enormous*) but for the *honour* of the *distinguished merit* which has obtain'd them.

For the time he was L——t of a neighbouring kingdom - - - }	£. 20,000
His son, S——y, same time - - -	6,500
Constable of D— C—, for life, under- valued at - - - }	12,000
A reversion for another son, under-va- lued at - - - }	5,000
The b—— of O——, as given up, } would sell for - - - }	30,000

	73,500

and he himself continues in high employment; as does also his brother.

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Great Commoner, illustrious Peer, incomprehensible Patriot, forgive me if I cannot, at this moment, add to the enormous load you have already laid upon your country; the further great expence attending your appointments to embassies and vice-royalties hereafter to be thought of; the presents of plate; the salaries and appointments which serve only to amuse the publick, and to remove respectable men, to make room for your own creatures.---Still more difficult would it be, to describe the confusion which your sudden changes create in all offices, by new patents, new charges, which must all fall ultimately upon the publick. It seems a maxim of yours, that no man should remain long enough in office to acquire the least knowledge of it. Upon a plan of absolute usurpation, you are certainly
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in the right: upon a principle of justice to the service of your Royal Master and your Country, you are certainly in the wrong. But I will reserve the description of your fluctuating opinions of men, and time-serving courtship of individuals, for another occasion; my intent being, at present, only to lay impartially before the publick, the dawnings of your new accession to office, that from your *æconomy, moderation, and disinterestedness*, they may judge what the crown and the people are to expect from you, when you shall open the session of parliament in the plenitude of your power.

Broad-Street,
O^r. 28, 1766.

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