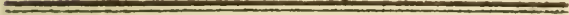


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THE late Administration came into employment on the 7th of February 1806, and was removed on the 24th of March 1807; having lasted just one year and forty-five days.

In that space of time,

The system of the army has received the most important improvement of which it was susceptible, by *limiting the period of*

*service.* The character and station of the soldiery are raised, by delivering them from a tenure of servitude for life: and the inducements to enter into the service are both increased, and addressed to a better class of population, by the grant of a provision for life, at the end of the soldier's engagement.

THE SLAVE TRADE HAS BEEN ABOLISHED.

An effort was made, in the *negotiation with France*, to restore to this country and to the rest of Europe, the blessings of peace. That sincere wish was disappointed by the ambition and duplicity of the enemy; but the negotiation afforded His Majesty the opportunity of manifesting to the Court of Russia his faithful adherence to the spirit and principles of their alliance, and of strengthening that connexion, so important

to the liberties of Europe, by the strictest union of councils and measures. The fidelity which was preserved towards all His Majesty's allies throughout that discussion, and in the subsequent communication to Parliament, restored the confidence of foreign courts, which had been recently shaken by a mischievous and dishonourable publication of state papers.

All projects have been discountenanced, of exciting to premature and unavailing struggles the wasted force of the continent, that, under a wise reserve, it might collect itself for an effectual exertion. At the same time, no opportunity has been passed over of aiding, from the resources of England, such of the foreign powers as were brought into conflict with France, by the progress of her unbounded encroachments. Our rights of maritime warfare, contested only by ignorant declamations, have been main-

tained in unimpaired possession ; while the true interests of the nation have been saved, and its high character confirmed, by forbearance towards the neutrals in their distress. The misunderstandings which threatened a rupture with America, have been removed by the moderation of both parties ; and the foundations have been laid of a permanent relation between the two states of the world most naturally allied to each other, by origin, by a common language and liberty, and by the mutual interests of an immense commerce.

A system has been framed, and already completed, in almost all its details, for controlling the collection and issue of the *public money*, in such a manner as effectually to prevent in future abuses and embezzlements similar to those which were brought to light by the Commissioners of Naval and Military Inquiry. Acts have passed for re-



gulating the receipt of all the great branches of the public revenue, the Customs, the Excise, the Post-office, and the Stamps; by which all remittances and payments are carried immediately to the public account at the Bank of England; and checks are established which render it impossible, without complete detection, to apply monies drawn from the Bank to any other than the public service.

The Board of Commissioners for *auditing the public Accounts* has been new-modelled, in order that the enormous arrear of outstanding accounts may be examined and settled without farther procrastination; and at the same time to establish, as the most effectual check upon the current expenditure, an immediate audit of the accounts of each preceding year. These Commissioners, under the special instructions they have received from the late Board of Treas-

sure, may likewise be considered as a permanent establishment for inquiring into abuses in the public expenditure.

The establishment of the *staff* has been greatly reduced. There has been a great diminution of expense in the *barrack* department. There has been a reduction of the establishment of the *commissariat*. The debt incurred upon the *civil list*, by its excesses since the last estimates presented to the House of Commons, has been defrayed out of droits of Admiralty which fell to the Crown: and an attempt has been made to prevent the recurrence of such excesses, by directing quarterly estimates to be previously made of all the heads of expense, and all former demands to be satisfied before new expenses can be incurred; by introducing a more minute specification into the accounts, and by securing a more strict appropriation, of the several sums issued, to

the services for which they were allotted. *Thirty-six offices* in the customs in Ireland have been abolished by an Act of the present session.

A *Select Committee* of the House of Commons has been appointed to examine and consider what regulations and checks have been established, in order to control the several branches of the public expenditure in Great Britain and Ireland, and how far the same have been effectual; and what farther measures can be adopted for reducing any part of the said expenditure, or diminishing the amount of salaries and emoluments, without detriment to the public service; and to report, with their observations, to the House.

A new *plan of finance* has been adopted, which will defray the ordinary expenditure of the war, without any immediate increase

of taxes ; and provides for that expenditure throughout the utmost probable duration of hostilities, with the smallest practicable increase of taxes in any future year. It is another principle of this new plan, that, while it accelerates the operation of the Sinking Fund, it will distribute its effect more equally over all the years of the period.

The West India colonies have been secured in a supply, no longer precarious, of articles of the first necessity, by the *American Intercourse Act* ; which provided by Parliamentary authority a regular course of remedy for an acknowledged evil, in the room of continual violations of the law and bills of indemnity.

The final purpose of the Union with Ireland has been kept distinctly in view ; a full participation by both countries of the same liberties, civilization, and wealth.

The first step has been made towards an entire freedom of commercial intercourse between the islands, by the Act *to permit the free interchange of every species of grain between Great Britain and Ireland*. By placing a wise reliance in the constitutional powers of the law, conspiracy and insurrection have been suppressed without departing from the forms of justice. The *Habeas Corpus* Act has not been suspended. There has been no recourse to *martial law*. The administration of that country has been conciliatory and firm, and guided by a disposition to give real effect to those laws which have already conceded, in part, the just rights of the people.

The late Ministers had already made considerable progress in arrangements for extending, still further, to all descriptions of the King's subjects, the benefits of equal laws and the privileges of the English con-

stitution. Among such plans, the reform of the Scottish judicature, especially the introduction of jury-trial in civil causes, was so far advanced, that it would be improper not to point it out in concluding this enumeration.

In the prosecution of these measures, the Ministers had to contend with an Opposition of a peculiar character. Parliament exhibited the novel and extraordinary spectacle, of Ministers, required and refusing, to arm the Executive with powers beyond the law; and of an Opposition, invariably resisting every thing like concession and indulgence to the subject, and maintaining, on all occasions, the prerogative of the Crown against the rights of the people. Most of them were already placemen, pensioners, or reversionaries.





When the late Ministers were called to the Councils of the King, Parliament and the People expressed a firm confidence in their integrity, experience, and talents. They have made no sacrifices to popularity ; they risked it all, to discharge faithfully and consistently their duties to the public. They have made no sacrifice for the sake of power ; but considered it no longer the object of their ambition, when it ceased to be compatible with the free exercise of their judgment for the public good. Their claims to the confidence of Parliament and the people are confirmed and multiplied. Their services are the acts of little more than a single year ; but they were not mere expedients to get through the year : they were measures founded upon large principles, and productive of lasting and extensive effects. They will form an æra in the history of the country ; and the authors of them would be insen-

sible to their own certain fame, if, in retiring from power, they felt any other regret than at being disappointed in those farther councils which they had prepared for the security of the state and the happiness of the people.

THE END.





