

and to punish the natural enemies of this country? * That his own opinion was determined by a conviction of the necessity, in this hour of difficulty and distress, for exertion and firmness. Much has been said of the wealth and resources of France in comparison of those of England. I can only say, Sir, from all the observations I have been able to make, that France is, with respect to its finances, certainly an impoverished country. It has not yet recovered the impression made by the last war; and, whatever Gentlemen may think, neither Monf. Neckar (whom I very much respect) nor any other person, will be able, at least for a great length of time, to overturn the old mode of attainment of French money; I mean, Sir, by the vehicle of the *Fermeurs Generaux*. It must be a minister of great courage indeed, and a King of Terrors, that will new model the French finances; new taxes may be imposed, but I much doubt of the collection of them. When a good contract has been long in possession, it is too sweet to resign easily; and the *Fermeurs Genereaux* are too important to be offended, especially, when the state is necessitated to

* Whilst Mr. St--y was speaking, Mr. B--g was making numerical criticisms on the state of the House, which Mr. R-b-nf-n had done before, with his usual assiduity; and had taken his place at the door accordingly.

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