

“ drawing to a conclusion, and a dissolution was foreseen, they
 “ demanded *one hundred thousand pounds* from the Elector, *to*
 “ *corrupt boroughs, to influence elections, and to return men of con-*
 “ *stitutional and WHIGGISH principles* to the ensuing parliament.
 “ The magnitude of the sum left no room for hesitation in re-
 “ jecting their request. One repulse, however, was not suffi-
 “ cient either to intimidate or discourage a party so eager in the
 “ pursuit of their designs. They diminished their demand to
 “ *fifty thousand pounds*. The Elector plainly told them, that
 “ he could not spare the money. That he had done the greatest
 “ service consistent with his own particular situation, and the
 “ state of Europe in general, to the well affected in Britain.
 “ That he had engaged the Emperor and Empire, *to continue the*
 “ *war against France*. That he had employed *seventeen thou-*
 “ *sand* of his troops against that kingdom. That this circum-
 “ stance had deprived the French King of the power of sending
 “ an army into Britain with the Pretender. That could he
 “ even advance the money, which was far from being the case,
 “ the secret could never be kept; and that a discovery might
 “ be dangerous, from the offence that the measure was likely
 “ to give to the British nations *.”

Within a few pages, we meet with fresh applications of the
 same kind. “ The Whigs again urged the Elector *to invade*
 “ *the kingdom*. They promised to furnish him with sums, upon
 “ his credit, *to save their country*, and to execute his own de-
 “ signs; but with an inconsistency repugnant to these large
 “ promises, they reverted to their former demands of money
 “ from his Highness. They asked pensions *for poor conscientious*
 “ *Lords who were in want of subsistence*. They demanded, with
 “ the most vehement entreaties, *two thousand pounds*, to carry
 “ the elections for *the Common Council of London*. They repre-
 “ sented, that, with that sum, they could chuse their own crea-
 “ tures, and terrify the Queen and parliament with remon-
 “ strances and addresses throughout the winter †.” It is not
 surprising that Mr. Macpherson is a most unpopular historian.

* Macpherson, vol. ii. chap. 19.

† Ibid.