

“ breaking into appropriated Funds; and in a Word,  
 “ that the Laws had not made it criminal enough  
 “ to stop Payments in the *Exchequer*.” I do not  
 believe the *By-Stander* can point out any new Provi-  
 sion made since that Time; and yet with regard to  
 the Situation of Things in 1699, when his *Essay on*  
*the probable Methods to make a People Gainers in the*  
*Ballance of Trade* was printed, he expresses himself  
 from p. 159, to p. 174 of that Treatise to this Ef-  
 fect. “ Whoever considers the vast Number of  
 “ Duties now a-foot, will find that ’tis not impossi-  
 “ ble to make them the Engines, wherewith bad  
 “ Men some Time or other may endeavour to un-  
 “ dermine our civil Rights. ’Tis true, in this  
 “ Reign we have no Reason to entertain such a  
 “ Fear: But a Country that will preserve its Con-  
 “ stitution, must provide against remote Dangers.  
 “ Suppose then a Government in the Possession of  
 “ such a large Revenue, at first legally granted,  
 “ put into a Method of Collection, and to the Pay-  
 “ ment of which the People shall be accustomed.  
 “ And suppose in some future Reign the Ministers  
 “ should be either weary or afraid of Parliaments,  
 “ and desirous to govern by the Sword and without  
 “ Law. That this may happen is not impossible,  
 “ because we have heretofore seen Statesmen so  
 “ disposed. Suppose then an ambitious and despe-  
 “ rate Sett of Men, with all these Thoughts about  
 “ them, and resolved to make their Master abso-  
 “ lute, may they not with the Help of such an am-  
 “ ple Revenue, quite overthrow our Constitution?  
 “ Arbitrary Ministers have heretofore *stopped the*  
 “ *Exchequer*; and if we should ever see Men of  
 “ the same Stamp upon the Stage of Business, ’tis  
 “ not impossible but they may run into the same  
 “ wicked Measures, *especially if they should be backed*  
 “ *with the Support of a Standing Army. The Liber-*  
 “ *ties of a People are but in a very precarious Condi-*  
 “ *tion,*