

Now if this £ 10 per cent was to be paid upon their newly trebled capital of £ 94,500, £ 9450 would have been paid in every three months, and the whole subscription of £ 283,500 completed in seven years and a half: but if only £ 3150 was to be paid in every three months upon their former capital of £ 31,500, then twenty-two years and a half would have been necessary to complete the whole sum, which could not answer the end proposed, of extending and improving their trade in any reasonable time: and yet it appears from their increased capital in No. XVIII, that the £ 10 per cent paid in amounted to no more than £ 3150; for tho' at the general court the members were allowed £ 30 stock for each £ 10 they had paid in, their capital was increased only from £ 94,500 to £ 103,500, produced before the Committee as the present capital. How then was the sum of £ 283,500, to be raised in seven years and a half? Why probably thus,—every member was allowed a share of £ 30 stock for every £ 10 he paid in, and consequently £ 300 for £ 100. Now by bringing this £ 100 share to market, he would have got £ 300, and the purchaser have stood possessed of three shares in the Company's stock of £ 100 each. So that by the time the whole was completed, the original members would have received £ 189,000 for their own use, and the Company £ 94,500 to be employed in trade or in any way they pleased: and this design seems only to have been frustrated by the sudden fall of south-sea and other stocks, which deprived them of purchasers: however, they succeeded so far as to raise their nominal stock from £ 31,500 to £ 103,500. It is scarce worth mentioning, that one of the resolutions passed in this Committee of August 25th 1720, by which every man who

d

has