

lent War; especially in its present Management, will add to the heavy Load that was left upon us by the last; and what the Consequence of this must be, requires no mighty Foresight. We begin already to talk of reducing the Interest of the Funds, which is at the Bottom reducing the Principal; and if we compute the Number of Years between those Reductions, it is pretty much the same Thing, as if our Publick Funds, like our Land Estates were subject to Taxes; for if both are diminished in the same Time, and pretty nearly in the same Proportion, it matters not much whether these Diminutions do, or do not go under different Names, since it comes to the same Thing at last; and private Men find their Properties as effectually lessened one way as the other. All this is; or I have thrown away a great deal of Pains, perfectly plain and clear; and I hope will not be thought the less certain, or less worthy of Notice, for being so.

It will be necessary however in order to render this Treatise more useful and fitter to answer the End for which it was written, to apply the principal Points laid down therein to the present Situation of Affairs; for this I think not only expedient at this Time, but very allowable; by which I mean that it is not only agreeable to the Interest of the Nation, but ought to be so likewise to such as have the Direction of publick Affairs, since nothing can import them more, than that Truth, in such Matters as these, should be rendered so manifest, as not to admit either of Doubt or Evasion. A late Author, who is supposed to be much in Favour with the Great, and to be withal pretty deep in the Secret of their Measures, has taken no small Pains to persuade his Country-Men, that the single Rule of their

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