

in bank notes, they are naturally induced to exchange them for money current in other countries, and which it is notorious that they do at an enormous loss; that the recovery of the pay and prize money by the widows, children, or relatives of seamen, is rendered as difficult as possible; and finally, the regulations with regard to passing of the examination requisite, previous to an admission to the benefits of Greenwich hospital, subject the disabled seaman to so many difficulties, and to such long delays, that in numerous cases, he is compelled to beg his way in the pursuit of a boon, the amount of which, even in event of the loss of both eyes, or of both arms, does not equal that of the common board wages of a footman.

That one of the best and strongest motives to meritorious conduct in military and naval men, is the prospect of promotion, while such promotion is, at the same time, free of additional expence to the nation; but that to the British naval service, this powerful and honorable incitement has ceased to exist, seeing that the means of rewarding merit has been almost wholly withdrawn from naval commanders in chief, under whose inspection services are performed: in fact it is a matter of perfect notoriety, that it has become next to impossible for a meritorious subordinate petty officer or seaman to rise to the rank of lieutenant; that in scarcely any instance promotion or employment is now to be obtained in the navy, through any other means than what is called parliamentary interest—that is, the corrupt influence of boroughs.

That owing to these causes, chiefly, the crews of his majesty's ships of war have, in general, become in a very considerable degree worn out and disheartened, and inadequate to the performance, with their wonted energy and effect, of those arduous duties which belong to the naval service; and that hence has arisen by slow and imperceptible degrees, the enormous augmentation of our ships and men, while the naval force of our enemies is actually much less than in former years.

That, as a remedy for this alarming national evil, it is absolutely necessary that the grievances of the navy, some of which only have been recited above, should be redressed; that a limitation of the duration of service should be