

used to give the Advantage to the latter, in the Point of managing Parliaments; saying, “ that
 “ when *Cromwell* had a Mind to get them into any
 “ Step they did not like, he invested the House of
 “ Commons with a Body of Soldiers, and forced
 “ the Members to vote as he directed ; but this
 “ was an open Violence to the Constitution, and
 “ created a deal of ill Blood ; whereas later Politi-
 “ cians had fallen into an easier and much surer Me-
 “ thod of carrying their Points ; for instead of fill-
 “ ing the Lobby with Officers and Soldiers, they
 “ opened the Doors of the House, and let them
 “ into a Place, where they could do more Mis-
 “ chief by their Votes, that they were capable of
 “ doing by their Arms without”.

Dangerous as Standing Armies are to the Liber-
 ties of a Nation, they are not more so, in the Opi-
 nion of some wise Men, than *Standing Taxes* may
 prove ; especially when they produce large Supplies
 of Money ; for Armies cannot subsist unless they
 are paid ; but with such Supplies, there is nothing
 but they are capable of executing. Now our Stand-
 ing Taxes, appropriated to the Civil List, the
 Sinking Fund, and the Payment of the national
 Debt, produce by common Computation about *five*
Millions a Year ; a Sum which Sir *W. Petty* says,
 will pay 100,000 Foot, 40,000 Horse, and 40,000
 Seamen for a Year. There is no Occasion for a
 Parliament to meet for granting this Sum, since the
 Taxes are laid already, and continue for Years to
 come. Dr. *Davenant* long ago foresaw the Danger,
 to which the Constitution was exposed from this
 Quarter ; and therefore at a Time, when only Funds
 of three Millions and an half were settled for the
 Security of Lenders, he complained of it “ as a
 “ great Defect in our Constitution, that sufficient
 “ Provision was not made against diverting and
 “ misapplying the public Treasure, and against
 “ break-