

must be here observed that an Historian (*q*), who acquits Her of Avarice, although he doth not attribute her Oeconomy to a Regard for the Welfare of Her Subjects, is of Opinion that the real Source of this frugal Conduct was derived from her Desire of Independency, and her Zeal for the Maintenance of her Dignity, which might have been endangered, had She reduced Herself to the Necessity of recurring frequently to parliamentary Supplies. Consistently with this Motive, *Elizabeth*, although engaged in fortunate and necessary Wars, chose rather perpetually to dilapidate the royal Demesnes, than ask the Commons for the most moderate Supplies (*r*).

The great, and almost the sole heavy Expence incurred, by this Princess, was in the Support of the Magnificence of her Attire. In every other Respect, her careful Management of a small Revenue assisted Her to discharge a large Portion of the Debts contracted by the Crown. That She discharged the four Millions (*s*) which had been left on it, by her three immediate Predecessors, *Henry*, the Eighth, *Edward*, the Sixth, and *Queen Mary*, is scarcely to be credited. The Amount of her whole Revenue during ten Years was not equal to so enormous a Disbursement. The Assertions of a different Historian are more probable, and We may admit that the Sum paid was three hundred thousand Pounds, which, in the Year, one Thousand, five Hundred, and Fifty-three, was owing from the Crown (*t*). The States were indebted to *Elizabeth*

(*q*) Mr. Hume.

(*r*) Rymer, V. 16. p. 141.—D'Ewes, p. 151. 457. 525. 629.—Bacon, Vol. 4. p. 363.—Hume's History of England Appendix 3.

(*s*) D'Ewes, p. 473.

(*t*) Strype's Eccles. Mem. V. 2. p. 344.