

Lords of the Admiralty, are also generally in Parliament, and consequently obliged to attend the House of Commons regularly during the session. It is therefore obviously impracticable for them to exercise that personal superintendence over various branches of their departments without which the public service nevertheless cannot be satisfactorily carried on. If they had sufficient leisure, or the assistance of efficient and competent colleagues, I have no doubt that many of the experiments and improvements which I have suggested would have been already tried. It is to our system therefore, and not to individuals, that I impute blame; and until that system is changed or modified, and a few votes in Parliament considered of less value than the well-being of the British Navy, I confess I shall see but little hope of permanent improvement; being unable to understand on what other principle naval officers are excluded from naval employments, as, whatever prejudices may formerly have existed against them, they are now (if my own in their favour do not entirely mislead me) fully on a par with their equals in society in information and science; and on many remarkable occasions have shown themselves perfectly competent to the conduct of the most important affairs.

If any of those members of the House of Commons who watch vigilantly over the public expenditure, do me the honour to read these pages, let me advise them to scrutinise our navy estimates