

erty. The spoil thus obtained, was expended with equal criminality. We shudder to think of a domestic murder; but when a crowned robber, whose understanding is perhaps unequal to the office of a post-boy, sends an hundred thousand brave men into the field, to desolate provinces, and hew nations down like oxen, we call it *Glory*. Thus common sense and humanity are obliterated in a rhapsody of words. If Edward the First, as a private man, murdered a single Scot or Welshman, the world would have agreed in thinking that he deserved the gallows. But when he *only*, upon the most hateful pretences, butchered three or four hundred thousand people, we are summoned, at the end of five centuries, to admire "his wisdom, his good fortune, his valour and magnanimity." As to his *wisdom*, it is hard to say what England gained by his victories. The Welsh were independent or thereabouts, in the reign of Henry the Fourth, an hundred years after the death of Edward, so that the *merit* of subduing them is to be placed somewhere else. The Scots revolted in the life-time of this Edward. He died on a journey to Scotland, for the sacred purpose of extirpating the Scots nation. He would have been much wiser if he had staid at home at first, and saved himself the trouble of an impracticable conquest. As to the domestic legislation of this *Justinian*, he hanged two hundred and eighty Jews in one day. "Above fifteen thousand were plundered of all their wealth, and banished the kingdom."\* The same writer says, that these enormities were committed under various *pretences*. Edward first introduced tonnage and poundage, duties on imports and exports. He was, in every respect, a scourge to the human race.

Edward the Second wanted to live at peace, and Sir John Sinclair tells us, that his reign is remarkable for "the *inconceivable* taxes levied." He was fond of the society of some companions, and all the historians mention this mark of good nature, as a very gross weakness, if not a *positive crime*. The heart of a wolf was, at that time, an essential qualification, for a king of England. After various rebellions against him, Edward was taken prisoner by his wife. He expired in Berkley castle, by a species of death, too horrible to be described. His real guilt was, a social and peaceable disposition.

"The reign of Edward the Third is, without doubt, the most *splendid* in the English history.—His queen pawned her jewels."† The king pawned *his crown*; and this pledge lay unredeemed for eight years. He conquered a great part of France, without any sort of justice on his side. The rapacity of his son, the *BLACK* prince, as he has been emphatically termed, drove the French into rebellion, and the English out of the country. This conquest, and subsequent expulsion, first planted the seeds of that brutal antipathy

\* History of the Public Revenue, part 1, chap. 6.

† Ibid.