

kind, this Blood-letting to feed Leeches, was it not cruel in so low a State? Is it not too astonishing, that when we avowedly strain so much beyond our Strength, we have not the Address to engage our Neighbours to do more.

In the late War the *Dutch* furnish'd according to their own † Account, some Years 50, and never less than 40 Ships of the Line. To hear what Ships they have furnish'd (except a very few in the Time of the Rebellion, which too were withdrawn suddenly when most wanted) what Service they have done in the present War, what Ships of the Enemy taken, or even engaged, would give me a Pleasure, which I fear I shall not soon receive? Some alledge that leaving this Money to be paid at a future Time, is an Ease to the present. If it is an Ease, if Men can be satisfied while their Affairs go on in this Manner, 'tis an Ease that must necessarily be productive of great Uneasiness. For by these Means, if Things can be had, what is one Day or other to be paid for them, is little regarded, and it is with the Public in that Respect, as with a private Man.

If a private Man dreads or shuns the Inspection of Accounts, has no Attention to the Rates by which he Contracts, for what he wants Experience shews, that the most affluent Fortune is not equal to this Neglect, and how Gentleman-like soever it may be, no Man I believe will pretend it is prudent. If Affluence cannot support such Management, how shall we oppress'd with Poverty do it? It is well known, that the Want of Credit (nor can it be otherwise in the Nature of Things) greatly encreases the Price of Things, and this not upon the

† The Commissioners of the Admiralty in 1712 made the Number in one particular Year amount to 21, only 1 in others always very small of the *Dutch* Account. But at the *Dutch* observed, the North Sea was omitted, the Care of which was for some Years left almost entirely to them.