

and id. on British spirits; the produce of which he expected would amount in all to near 250,000'.

An additional tax on licences for stills in Scotland would afford 15,000'.

He then adverted to the article of tea, and the various circumstances that attended that branch of commerce. By a tax of 7l. 10s. per cent. which could not be regarded as a weighty inconvenience, the revenue would be benefited 180,000'.

On the articles of coffee, cocoa, &c. he would impose 6d. per cent. additional, which would bring in 40,000'.

The next tax would fall upon insurances on ships, cargoes, and lives, from which would result a sum of 160,000'.

On other articles of smaller concern, and in the department of the customs, viz. on raisins, lemons, oranges, salad-oil, raw silk, coals exported, except to Ireland and our own colonies, rock salt, deals and fir timber, a small increase of tax would afford 198,000'. He also deemed it no hard or unproductive tax to add something to that already imposed by stamp duties, to wit, on affidavits, writs, original agreements, indentures, probates of wills, receipts, &c. and which would be found to produce 68,000'.

Mr. Pitt now turned to a subject which came particularly home to the Members of that House, but which he was sure no motives of personal interest would induce them to oppose; he meant, the privilege of franking; a privilege to which, he said, on a variety of accounts, they were justly entitled. What he intended to propose could only tend to correct the abuses of it, and restrain its too extensive use—his regulations went to ascertain the number of letters received from, or sent to, the post on one day; also the number of covers they might contain, and the place of residence of the Member whose signature they bore. From these regulations it was calculated there would arise the sum of 40,000'.

Another article of a very different description, and which those who were fond of its use would not forego for a small consideration, he deemed a proper article of taxation, and that was hair-powder. It was his intention, that all persons who used that article should take out a licence, costing 1l. 1s. per annum: and as the number of persons using it were estimated at 200,000, it would produce the large sum of 210,000'.

He now recapitulated the different sum totals resulting from these different taxes, and ended a long and able speech by a variety of pertinent and forcible remarks on the state and resources of the country at large, and the necessity of prosecuting with spirit, vigour, and perseverance, the present just and necessary war, as the sole means of procuring that solid and secure peace which would enable them to enjoy all the blessings the nature of the Constitution and of the country was calculated to afford us.

The question was put, the resolution carried, and the House adjourned.

H. OF LORDS.

Feb. 26

Their Lordships were summoned to Monday next, on the motion of Earl Thurlow, to take into consideration the report of the Committee of Privileges respecting the trial of Mr. Hastings.

In the Commons, the same day, Mr. Wilberforce said, he had troubled the House to often on the subject of the Slave-Trade, that he should not enter at present into any details on it. The House, in 1792, had resolved that the infamous traffick should be abolished: he should therefore make that resolution the ground of his motion. Mr. Wilberforce then urged the expedience abolishing this trade, on the grounds of humanity, justice, and sound policy: after which he moved for leave to bring in a Bill for the abolition of the slave trade.

A debate took place, in which Mr. Barham moved, by way of amendment, that the debate be adjourned to the day six months.

Mr. Dundas and Sir William Yonge spoke in support of the amendment.

Messrs. Fox, Pitt, Grey, Whitbread and others, spoke in favour of the original motion.

Mr. Wilberforce replied, and the House divided; for the Amendment against it 61. Majority 17.

H. OF LORDS.

March 2.

The House met to consider of the most proper mode of delivering its judgement on the charges exhibited against Mr. Hastings; which being a question of privilege, arrangements were of course excluded. The result, we are informed, was the adjournment of the

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