

If the national expence, were reduced within reasonable bounds, a great part of the public debt, might, in time of peace, be paid off in a few years by the faithful application of the Sinking Fund. The whole of the taxes necessary to be levied, might then be easily thrown, upon a few articles of luxury, and every oppression upon the industry of the people, by taxes on the necessaries of life, might be entirely removed.

The articles of tea, sugar, and tobacco, if subjected to excise, instead of customs, would of themselves, raise a very large sum, without any obstruction to industry—and coffee and chocolate would require to be taxed, in some degree, to support the tea duty.

Wine and spirits, are proper objects of taxation ; and the duty on wine, would be greatly increased, by being excised, as there is little doubt, that at least one-third of the present consumption, is brewed at home.

Beer, though not absolutely a necessary of life, has become so in a degree, from the habits and manners of the people. It is, however, a proper object of taxation ; and if all other oppressive taxes were removed, and the whole of the present taxes on beer, were annually imposed upon malt, instead of being levied, on the other stages of the manufacture, it would distribute the burden more equally, and would even raise more money after lowering the tax ; for I am persuaded, that instead of about 24 s. or 25 s. *per* quarter, which may be reckoned the amount of all the present duties