

fect it, throughout the country. Those who attended to the evidence, as their Lordships did; knew all this to be merely idle unsupported declamation.

Mr. Hastings then went through the principal allegations in the Four Articles which the Commons abide by, and observed upon the material points in each.

Having done this, Mr. Hastings came to a very curious and interesting part of his speech. He said he never should plead necessity for what he had done; but he would shew the necessity in a manner that would flash conviction on every candid mind.

He then went through the astonishing difficulties he had to struggle with in the late war, and added, that when this Trial began, he did not think it *within possibility* that their Lordships would be so well able to judge of his situation by a comparison of it with the difficulties with which Earl Cornwallis had now to contend: with this difference, that against him (Mr. Hastings) all India and half Europe were united, while Lord Cornwallis had only to maintain a war against one power, unaided by a single ally, and having two great powers, the Marattas and the Nizam, acting in concert with his Lordship.

Their Lordships, he said, had seen that the revenues and resources of Bengal, amounting to about five millions four hundred thousand pounds, which he took credit to himself for having created, were not, with the addition of the revenues of the Carnatic and Bombay, sufficient to support a war in India against a single power; for a very large sum in specie had been sent from England; money had been borrowed at Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, at a high interest, to the utmost extent of their credit; and Hyder Beg Khan, of whom their Lordships had heard so much, had advanced twenty-two lacks of rupees to Earl Cornwallis.

It was not in my power, said Mr. Hastings, nor will it be in the power of Earl Cornwallis, to do, *what every Minister in England has done since the Revolution*. I could not, nor can he, borrow to the utmost extent of his wants, during war, and tax posterity to pay the interest of those loans. The possibility of borrowing upon bonds, ceased early in my government, and will cease much earlier in Lord Cornwallis's; not from any distrust in that Noble Lord, but because the people of Bengal had seen the surplus revenues since the last peace, directed to other purposes than the liquidation of the debt of Bengal. No man, said Mr. Hastings, thought of remitting money to me from England during the late war, and I was prohibited from drawing bills, except for the investment

I had every species of counteraction to contend with, that an hostile Administration could throw in my way; yet, in spite of these obstructions, and against so many enemies, I preserved entire what the India Minister, who voted for my impeachment, has repeatedly termed the brightest jewel in the British Crown.

Mr. Hastings next made a complaint, in such language as very seldom, if ever, has been applied to the House of Commons.—He declared, that he had sustained the most unparalleled injustice from them, and from the King's Ministers: that the Articles on which they now depended were Four; the remaining Sixteen were given up, or, in other words, abandoned. But he stood in a situation that no Englishman, nor any native of any country had ever stood before him. He had been compelled to defend, at a most intolerable expence, the wisdom and propriety of plans, which the King's Ministers, as Members of Parliament, had voted to be criminal; yet, the same Ministers, in their public capacity, had expressed their approbation of those plans in four several letters to Bengal, and had ordered that *they should be invariably adhered to*; and the House of Commons, in four successive years, had virtually approved the arrangements, by voting the Resolutions moved by the India Minister.

I have been arraigned, said Mr. Hastings, for accepting an illegal delegation to Oude, and am brought here as a criminal for concluding an arrangement with the Nabob of Oude, by which every rupee of his debt was paid off, and the subsidy has since been paid with the regularity of a Bank Dividend. Yet the arrangement has been fully confirmed by the King's Ministers, in the strongest terms of approbation.

I am accused, in another Article, of bringing oppression, ruin, and destruction on the natives of Bengal, although the falsehood of this Charge must be apparent to every man, unless it can be proved that the India Minister has, for the four last years, presented false accounts to the House of Commons.

In the course of the strong and pointed attack upon Ministers, and the House of Common, Mr. Fox applied to the Court. He said, he had no wish to interrupt Mr. Hastings, but their Lordships knew it was irregular to state how a Member of Parliament had voted, because Mr. Hastings could not possibly know the fact. Lord Kenyon said, it was fully competent to Mr. Hastings to point out *any absurdity or injustice* in his prosecutors, and he would naturally, when he could, avoid the use of names.