

The Marines and the Nation are both abused, by the long Detention of their Pay in the Hands of Administration; and to make the Marines some Amends, the Nation is further abused, as their Victualling is not deducted out of their Subsistence Money. Their long Arrears, I own, are in some Measure, tho' not altogether, occasion'd by their original Establishment; but then, why were they first put? why are they now continued on such a Foot? Another Method by which this Debt has been carried to such a Height, is very extraordinary, when the Administration avowedly intend to employ 50000 Seamen, they ask a Provision for 40000 only. It is pretended in * Excuse for this proceeding, that it is impossible to find Funds, to raise Money for the remaining 10000.

Is it possible to imagine, that this Argument is made use of by the same individual Persons, who in several Instances as well of Contracts at Home as Abroad, on an infinite Number of Articles have been so lavish of *British* Money? Will their own particular avowed Distress as Ministers (for I would not willingly suppose that Character entirely forgot by them) never teach them more Wisdom? Is not this a very pretty Account of the State, into which they have confessedly brought the Nation, and into what still worse State they are bringing it? Is not this Acknowledgment of public Necessity, a most pressing Argument for OEconomy? Is it not a high Aggravation of those in-Bargains, by which the Publick has been so great a Loser? When the Public cannot pay its necessary Expences, must it wantonly and idly lavish away hundreds of thousands on the Dregs of Mankind,

* Tho' in the late War 8000 Marines went to making up the 40,000 Seamen: And the reasonable Way of reforming now, would be by making a better Use of fewer Men: Yet this very Excuse is evidently ill-founded, as new Funds have been established since this Practice began, and more I fear will be so.