

doth the *By-Stander* assign them any, unless it be a Power of Money; to which they have so little Pretension at present, that it looks like scoffing at and insulting their Misery to urge it, at a Time when by a Load of Taxes, the Decay of Trade, and the want of Vent for their Manufactures, they seem hastening a-pace on the high Road to Poverty, and all the unhappy Consequences thereof. And whatever Room there may be to dispute the Connexion between some Things that are often tacked to one another, there can be little Doubt, but that Beggary and Slavery generally go together; the one treads close upon the Heels of the other, and they are such near Allies and such constant Companions, that where the former fixes her Abode, the latter is ever sure to take up her Habitation.

There is no Way to prevent these, but by taking effectual Measures to put a Stop to that general Corruption, which all the World complains of, and which, if continued, will make both inevitable; for stripped as the People are of all their ancient Power, both Civil and Military, they have nothing left to ballance the excessive Power of the Crown, but what they derive from their Representation in Parliament; and this, whenever Corruption prevails there, becomes a mere Shew; instead of a real Security, it only serves to lull the Nation into a false one; Liberty runs the greatest Danger from that very Quarter which ought to support it, and can never be so surely ruined as by its natural Guardians. The Nation in general seem sufficiently sensible of the Danger, and have instructed their Representatives to provide against it by Acts, to limit the Number of Placemen in the House of Commons, to incapacitate Pensioners for sitting there, to prevent false Returns of Members, and Bribery and Corruption in Elections, and to restore Triennial Parliaments. These are all very good Things, but