

P R E F A C E.

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Now as to the other part of the sentence quoted from the governor "that this system would be productive of the most important consequences to a class of people who bear the chief burthen of the taxes, and are the support of the state of the community." If about two millions the produce of the land tax at the highest, at 4s. in the pound, be the chief part of twelve millions, the sum raised in the kingdom, the governor's assertion is true; or if he can prove that the taxes on consumption, that are paid by the landed interest, in common with the rest of the people, exceed four millions for their quota—a very probable circumstance! then we may believe that the landed interest pay the chief or principal part of the taxes.

Who ought to bear a principal portion of the taxes? They who are most interested in the population of the kingdom; and who are they but the landed interest, especially those in the interior parts of the country? For what would their lands be worth without a sale at hand for their products, too heavy to bear a charge of long transportation, and is not the principal consumption afforded by the *manufacturers* in the inland towns? Therefore an *increase*, not a *decrease* of these *consumers* is evidently their interest. The certain way to bring about the latter, is to overcharge those people with taxes, and by a *monopoly* to compel them to take the produce of the land at the land-worker's price. If this event is to be avoided, it follows that the *landholders should bear a considerable portion of the taxes of the state, and allow a free commerce of the necessaries of life.*

I am no advocate for the landed interest paying more than they do, but only mean to shew, that they should not, in consequence of what they do pay, imagine they have a right to make every interest in the kingdom subservient to what some of them falsely esteem their own; and for that purpose we will compare the burthens of the neighbouring nations.

In France, the landed interest, besides being distressed by the non-allowance to export their produce (wine

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