

national bankruptcy would immediately vanish; and the distinction between a free government, and every other, would be placed in the clearest point of view; for I may venture to affirm, that no state in Europe, Holland excepted, could raise supplies for a war, in the manner proposed. It is in a free country only, that mankind feel themselves, so connected with the public prosperity, as willingly to sacrifice, in support of it, a part of their fortune, in great emergencies.

But it may be asked, how is it possible to suppose, that this nation, torn to pieces, as it has been, by dissensions, and dissatisfied with the management of its affairs, if it were even able to raise, within the year, so large a sum, in addition to its present burdens, would ever consent to pay it, much less to entrust it, to the Ministers of the Crown? Or how would it be possible to devise a mode, of levying to this extent, an equal proportion, of every man's fortune, for the service of the State?

I believe, indeed, that such a plan, however important, could not be carried into execution, without a very general concurrence and approbation, of the people at large, who must *first* be convinced, of the absolute necessity, of the utmost exertion, in the present crisis, to avert the black storm, which threatens us from every quarter; and, *secondly*, the nation must be convinced, that it is, in every view, their real interest, to raise the supplies within the year, not only to avoid the extravagant demands of *money-lenders*, but to prevent the imposition of new taxes, oppressive to industry,