HOUSE OF COMMONS,

December 10.

THE BUDGET.

The chancellor of the exchequer moved for the committee of ways and means, and alſo that the account of permanent taxes be referred to the ſaid committee.

Mr. Addington then roſe and ſaid, that before he entered into the general details, it was neceſſary for him to apprize the houſe of his motives for taking four millions of the growing produce of the conſolidated fund for the ſervice of the enſuing year; and alſo for his entering, at the preſent period, into the particulars of our financial ſituation. His reaſon for the firſt was, that if not adopted, there might, in the preſent ſtate of our revenue, be a ſurplus in the exchequer, and yet miniſters would not be able to avail themſelves of the redundancy. Laſt year, in April, 1801, he had taken this produce at four millions and a half, and his calculation was realized by the produce of the quarter. As to the ſecond object, it was his purpoſe to ſatisfy that houſe and the country reſpecting our financial ſituation; he was, therefore, deſirous of bringing forward his reſolutions before Chriſtmas, formed on the account, as far as they could be completed. Before he proceeded to ſtate the items of the ſupply and ways and means, he muſt be allowed to remark a little on the financial meaſures adopted at an early period in the preſent year. It was to be remembered that the capital for which the income tax was mortgaged, amounting to 56,000,000l. was then funded. To this was to be added the loan and intereſt on exchequer bills, &c. making together a capital ſtock of 97,000,000l. for the payment of the intereſt on which a proviſion was then made. The taxes impoſed for this purpoſe, he was happy to ſay, had conſiderably exceeded the calculated amount. What he had then ſtated was now proved. The taxes of malt and beer, with tonnage duty, had produced in the firſt quarter 920,000, to which was to be added the amount of the new duty on houſes 250,000, making a total of 1,170,000. This was greater than the fourth of 4,000,000, at which they had been taken. Beſide making proviſion for the public ſervice, it was ſatisfactory to know that no leſs than 18,000,000 of the unfunded debt had been taken out of the market, and that the public grants had proved fully equal to every eſtimate of public ſervices, that of the army extraordinaries only excepted. The reaſon of this exception was to be found in the ſtay of ſome large bodies of troops in foreign ſtations beyond the eſtimated period. The exceeding, he was ſorry to ſay, would amount nearly to one million. It was a conſolation, on the other hand, to know, that by the regulations and economy which had taken place in the navy, the extraordinaries of that department would not amount to more than the *half* of what they had reached to in the preceding year. The unfunded debt amounted laſt year to 37,377,000l. It was now no more than 19,800,000l. including therein 4,500,000l. of navy debt. Of this ſum 15,000,000l. was in exchequer bills; but for 3,000,000l. of this ſum no intereſt was payable, it having been advanced by the bank as a conſideration for the renewal of their charter. There had not been any deficiency in the land or malt duties but what would be made good out of the arrears. He then proceeded to ſtate the *items* of the ſupply, and ways and means, which were as follow:

SUPPLY.

Navy (50,000 ſeamen)	£4,500,000
Ordinary and Extraordinaries,	1,268,000
Building of ſhips,	901,000
Total navy,	6,669,000
Army	7,500,000
Extraordinaries—One million being taken for the deficit of laſt year,	2,000,000
Ordnance,	778,000
Corn bounties,	524,000
Miſcellaneous ſervices,	1,000,000
Iriſh permanent grants,	663,000

The ſhare of the army to be paid by England was £5,981,000; but a deduction was to be made thus:

From Ireland (2-17ths)	£1,981,000
Do. civil liſt,	141,000
	£2,122,000
The groſs total was	£22,826,000
Deduct Iriſh	2,122,000
Remains	£20,704,000

WAYS AND MEANS.

Land and malt,	£2,750,000
Surplus of conſolidated fund,	6,500,000
Aids from exchequer bills,	11,000,000
Lottery,	500,000
	£20,750,000

Thus there appeared to be an exceeding of near fifty thouſand pounds in the ways and means beyond the ſupply. In the latter were ſeveral items which were merely temporary, and he truſted would not be met in any future year. Of this deſcription, for inſtance, was the large ſum paid in corn bounties. There was a prospective circumſtance, however, which he thought it right to mention at the preſent moment, and this was a ſuſtainable demand of one million on the part of the Eaſt-India company, for aids which they had furniſhed at different times during the war to our expeditions in that quarter. If he were aſked why he mentioned this charge at the preſent moment? he ſhould anſwer, that it was from his wiſh to keep nothing in the back ground. It was his determination to look every difficulty in the face, and, inſtead of recurring to loans, which in his judgment were ruinous, to endeavor by every means to raiſe our revenue to a level with our expenditure. He looked for this purpoſe to the wiſdom of parliament, and to the fortitude of the people, and he truſted that his opinion of this ſubject would be ultimately found to be the opinion of the houſe. It was not his intention in the preſent inſtance to propoſe any meaſure to that effect. The only financial operation which he ſhould ſuggeſt this year would be the funding of a certain quantity of exchequer bills, in order to prevent a glut of that commodity in the market. It was his intention, at a more advanced period of the ſeſſion, to propoſe the funding of ſix or eight millions of exchequer bills, if it were found that this could be done on terms of advantage to the public; if it could not be ſo done, he ſhould, of courſe, recur to the meaſure of a loan. He had taken credits in this inſtance for 6,500,000l. from the growing produce of the conſolidated fund, and he held himſelf juſtified in ſo doing, as, in October laſt, the exceedings of that fund had amounted to 5,508l. and in addition to what may be expected from the reſt of the year, the corn bounties being at an end, their amount in the preſent year, 431,000l, was of courſe to be added to the produce of that fund. There was every reaſon to expect, in fact, that if the taxes continued to be as productive as they had been for the two laſt quarters, that the conſolidated fund would produce at the end of the year no leſs a ſum than 7,800,000l. He had taken credit for 6,000,000l. and a half only, though he might have taken a large addition on what he conceived to be ſure grounds. The progreſs of our revenue, Mr. Addington proceeded to obſerve, had been very exceſſive and rapid beyond all former example. The year 1792 had in general been the moſt proſperous year of our finance. The permanent taxes in that year amounted to 13,853,000l. In the laſt year the permanent taxes produced nearly double that ſum; including the latter additions, the produce of the permanent taxes amounted to no leſs than 26 millions eight hundred and 29 thouſand pounds. The permanent taxes would even have exceeded the large produce of the year 1799, if it had not been for the ſtoppage of the diſtilleries during a part of the time, which operated as a conſiderable diminution. He had expreſſed his ſatisfaction in the laſt ſeſſion on the promiſing ſtate of our finances. He could now, from more intimate experience, congratulate the houſe upon the proſpect, and aſſure them that the revenue was conſtantly and regularly on the increaſe.—There was every reaſon to look forward, if no impediment aroſe, with the utmoſt confidence to the growing proſperity of our commerce and manufactures. The amount of imports in 1801 had been greatly ſwelled by the large importations of grain. They amounted in that year to 15,500,000l. In the part of the preſent year which had expired, they amounted, without that aid, to 15,640,000l. Our general exports in 1801 amounted to 42,000,000l. The exports of the preſent year, he had every reaſon to believe, would fall little ſhort of 50,000,000l. their real value being taken. The number of veſſels which entered into the port of London in 1801 was 3,385; in 1802 it was 4,750. The tonnage of thoſe veſſels was—

	In 1801,	418,631
	1802,	574,371
No. of men navigating	1801,	23,096
	1802,	36,251

This was, he truſted, fully ſufficient to juſtify the aſſertion which he had lately made, that the commerce and navigation of this county had not ſuffered from the operation of the tonnage duty. [Mr. Tierney, aſked acroſs the table whether theſe were all Britiſh veſſels.] Mr. Addington ſaid, that he was thankful for the queſtion. They were Britiſh ſhips only. He had ſpoken of the port of London alone, as he had yet received no late accounts from the outports; though from the accounts which he had received, he had no doubt whatever but that their commerce had ariſen in the ſame proportion. Whilſt the number of our ſhips had thus encreaſed, he had to obſerve, that that of foreign veſſels had decreaſed even in a larger proportion, as would be evident from the ſtatement, which ſtill related to the port of London.

Foreign Ships	1801,	3,385
Ditto	1802,	1,549
Tonnage of do.	1801,	452,677
Ditto	1802,	214,113

Of the Britiſh ſhips outward-bound from the ſame port, the number was—

	In 1801,	1,331
	1802,	1,933
No. of men	1801,	24,000
Ditto	1802,	28,000

It was impoſſible for him, by any comment, to add to the general ſatisfaction which muſt ariſe from hearing theſe plain ſtatements. He muſt revert, however, to the period when well-informed, and, he had no doubt, well-meaning men, had expreſſed their apprehenſions of an immediate falling off in the revenues of this country. He was happy to find, on the contrary that his ſtatements were confirmed, and every Engliſhman, who was capable of feeling, muſt rejoice with him on the occaſion. It was an iſſue which could not fail of giving ſatisfaction in every quarter. It was to be obſerved, that what we gained by our traffic, others did not loſe. The Britiſh navy, it was to be recollected, has been the means of checking the progreſs of our late enemy, and thereby of preſerving to the other European powers every thing which they had not loſt. The Britiſh navy had not only protected the political intereſt of Europe, but, what was more paradoxical, it had protected the trade and commerce of the other powers. To the Britiſh navy Europe was, in fact, indebted for her independence. For more than a century, indeed, had that navy, which was created by our commerce, protected and ſuſtained the true intereſts of the continent. Other powers had, therefore, no more reaſon to look on our commercial purſuits with jealouſly, than we had to look on theirs with fear. In the latter reſpect, it was fairly ſaid laſt night by a noble friend near him, (lord Hawkeſbury), we had fairly got the ſtart of them. This pre-eminence he had no doubt but we ſhould retain, as long as we preſerved our ſuperiority in commerce, credit, and capital. The great inſtrument of their conſervation was the Sinking Fund, which as it had ſupported us under every difficulty, ſo now he was convinced it would uphold & maintain our preſent proſperity. When this great plan was propoſed in 1786, by his right hon. friend, (Mr. Pitt) who was now abſent, the Public Debt was 238 millions. The fund at that time was no more than one-tenth of the intereſt on the debt; but though the latter had ſo greatly increaſed, the fund had advanced more in proportion, as it now amounted to one-third of the intereſt. It was alſo to be remarked with pleaſure, that no leſs than ſix millions of money, which was at preſent locked up, would ſhortly be liberated for the uſe of the induſtrious, the enterpriſing and the ſpeculative. This he truſted would be found of infinite uſe in opening our reſources, extending our commerce, encouraging our agriculture, and increaſing our navigation. The effects of the ſyſtem on which we acted, and which could only be acted upon in this country, were in fact incalculable, and he hoped to ſee them go on with increaſing energy. It had given ſolidity to our permanent ſtrength, from the advantages which it rendered to our commerce and revenue. He felt alſo much ſatisfaction in noticing the increaſed proſperity of Ireland; a proſperity which he would aſſert, though it certainly could not be proved to a demonſtration, was owing to the late wiſe meaſure of an union with this country. The revenues of Ireland, in the year ending in Auguſt laſt, had received an increaſe of no leſs than 920,000l.—a ſum much greater, the relative means and proportions of the two countries being conſidered, than what had taken place in this part of the United kingdom. He muſt repeat, that if the funds of this country were not equal to meet its eſtabliſhment, an effort ſhould be made to put them on a level. It was impoſſible, however, to ſpeak with any degree of certainty on this ſubject. The eſtabliſhment for the year 1803 was not to be conſidered as a permanent eſtabliſhment. It was liable to increaſe, or it was capable of diminution, according to circumſtances. If out of that eſtabliſhment a deduction ſhould be made of one million only, a matter which he conceived to be eaſy and practicable, there was little doubt but that the revenue, flouriſhing as it was, could be made to meet the expences of the eſtabliſhment. The right honorable gentleman went over a part of his former ſtatements, for the purpoſe of ſhewing that with the deduction of one million, as before mentioned, our revenue would be ſufficient to maintain not only the preſent army eſtabliſhment, but even double the number of ſeamen uſually employed in time of peace. If this could not be done, other means muſt moſt aſſuredly be found. The revenues muſt be raiſed to a level with the expenditure, and he knew that he was only doing juſtice to the ſentiments of the houſe, when he expreſſed his reliance on their concurrence upon ſuch an occaſion. Loans, as he had obſerved, were ruinous; and the experiment of exchequer bills, which he was ready to admit, was a ſpecies of loan, was only tried until the reſults of the peace could be perfectly aſcertained. There was one reſource to which he muſt refer; and he could aſſure the houſe that the reference was not raſh, and this was to a future annual ſupply of 500,000l. from India. He had lately looked with much attention into the ſtate of the funds of the company, and he had to expreſs his conviction that they would be able to furniſh not only that ſtipulated ſupply to the government, but alſo to take proper meaſures at the ſame time for the extinction of their own debt. He had ſtated in the preſent inſtance nothing but matter of fact, and had not hazarded any thing like a ſpeculation. He would not at preſent enter into a diſcuſſion of the cauſes on which our preſent commercial and financial proſperity was founded. He would only ſay, that it ſprung in the firſt inſtance from the wiſdom of the ſyſtem which had been purſued—from the good ſenſe of that houſe—and from the fortitude and firmneſs of the people. The only merit which he could claim was that of having ſtrictly followed the example of his predeceſſor with ſome degree of ſpirit and perſeverance. This was the firſt time that he had troubled the houſe with reſpect to the feelings of ſo inconſiderable an individual as himſelf.—It had been ſaid, however, all who heard him would recollect, that he had diſplayed neither vigor nor energy, either in his adminiſtration, of the war or of the finances. The preſumption, ſuch as it was, certainly came very ungraciouſly from that quarter. [*A loud cry of Hear! Hear! and every eye was turned on the Grenville party.*] It had even been ſaid that he encreaſed in confidence, in proportion as he loſt the confidence of the people. How far the charges were true, it was for others to determine: for himſelf he ſhould only ſay, that he made every effort to ſerve his country to the beſt of his judgment. He was aware, at the ſame time, that he was the ſervant of a juſt and generous kingdom, which would paſs judgment upon him, from his conduct only, and not from looſe aſſertions, ſuch as he had ſtated. Since he had been called into office by the voice of his ſovereign, he could ſolemnly declare, that he had never been actuated by any other than a ſentiment of public duty. This was the firſt time that he had troubled the houſe reſpecting himſelf, and he ſincerely hoped that it would be the laſt. He had dwelt with much more pleaſure on the gratifying proſpects which he had held forth, of the rapid, and at the ſame time, the ſolid increaſe of our commerce, our revenue, and our manufactures. We had, at preſent an army which was fully competent to provide for our ſecurity, as the 110,000 men of whom it conſiſted, we could, at any time, ſhortly raiſe to 200,000. We had a navy more than ſufficient for every purpoſe, and if it was found neceſſary to augment it, it could be augmented to ſuch a degree as to make it ſuperior to the naval power of the world. What formed the ſoul and ſpirit of all this was, the diſpoſition, the enterprize and the loyalty of the people. When he ſpoke of their "loyalty," he was aware that there were ſome exceptions, but thoſe were too contemptible for notice:—they formed a number in a tavern, but they were nothing in the Strand. Our nation had arrived to a height to which no other nation could attain: and what formed with him a particular ground of ſatisfaction was, that this greatneſs was not to be encreaſed for the purpoſes of ambition. This country, he truſted, would ever maintain the principles of juſtice and peace—as long as peace could be maintained with honor. It was this diſpoſition which made her the example, as ſhe was entitled to be, and the admiration of the univerſe.

Mr. Addington then put the firſt of his ſtring of reſolutions, which was carried *nemine contradicente*. The remainder paſſed in like manner.

The other orders of the day were poſtponed and the houſe adjourned to Monday.

From the American Daily Advertiſer.

LANCASTER, Feb. 9, 1803.

SIR,

The encloſed letter "on the ſubject of duelling," has been preſented, read and referred to a committee, in the houſe of repreſentatives of the commonwealth of Pennſylvania.

Some of the members of that body are deſirous that the letter ſhould be publiſhed through the channel of the public newſpapers—with this view, I have tranſmitted it to you, truſting that it will receive a place in your daily paper.

Your's reſpectfully,

MATTHEW HUSTON.

Mr. Poulſon, printer of the
American Daily Advertiſer,
Philadelphia.

READING, February 5, 1803.

SIR,

Perceiving that the governor in his addreſs to the legiſlature at the preſent ſeſſion, has recommended the reviſion of the law for the prevention of vice and immorality; and as *duelling* is one of the crimes mentioned in that act, I beg leave, through you, in the moſt reſpectful manner, to ſubmit to the conſideration of your honorable body, a few thoughts upon this intereſting ſubject.

The principal reaſon why the crime of duelling is not puniſhed, is that the *parties* ſcreen themſelves from juſtice by a fort of conſpiracy againſt the *law* itſelf. It can never be expected, where an offence of the moſt atrocious kind is perpetrated, that the parties concerned, ſhould become informers againſt themſelves.

From experience, we find, in fact, they never do. Although a duel is talked of every where, and not unfrequently is publiſhed to the world in our newſpapers, yet the crime *never* undergoes a judicial inveſtigation.

The following we apprehend to be the true reaſon. A judge or juſtice of the peace, as the law now ſtands, does not conceive himſelf *authoriſed* to interfere on ſuch occaſions. It is generally underſtood *not* to be his *official duty*, to iſſue a warrant for the breach of any law, unleſs application be firſt made, ſtating the *name* of the party, and the *nature* of the offence.

Thus it happens, although every body knows that *murder* has been committed, the *murderer* ſtalks with impunity through our ſtreets; bidding defiance to the laws of God, and inſulting the laws of his country. It is therefore with the higheſt deference ſubmitted to the wiſdom of your honorable body, whether a law *authoriſing*, *requiring* and *enjoining*, every judge and juſtice of the peace to iſſue his warrant, *ex officio*, againſt every *principal* and *ſecond*, in any duel, upon the *evidence* of *report* or *common fame*, or upon the *evidence* of a newſpaper publication, would not produce the deſired effect.

More effectually, however, to enſure the iſſuing the warrant, it is propoſed to give a reward of *dollars*, to any juſtice of the peace, who ſhall, *ex officio*, iſſue ſuch warrant, in caſe of conviction; and of double the ſum, to any private perſon, who ſhall give information of ſuch duel, to any judge or juſtice, in caſe of conviction, as aforeſaid.

It is well known that rewards are frequently given by our laws, for the apprehenſion of thieves and robbers—and it is certainly not leſs proper in government, to offer a reward for the apprehenſion and conviction of a *murderer*, or of thoſe who attempted to commit murder.

When the parties are bound over to court, it might be adviſable, in order to render the enquiry more *ſolemn*, to direct that the grand jury ſhould hear the witneſſes in *open court*. See 2 Hale 159—that this has been done. And no doubt the legiſlature, in a *particular* caſe, might enjoin it, for the ſake of the *public good*.

In caſe of paſſing the law now propoſed, *one* of *two* things muſt be the conſequence.

1ſt. Either the duel would be kept a profound ſecret—or 2dly. The particulars would be known, as uſual.

With reſpect to the firſt (viz. ſecrecy) it is evident (on the ſuppoſition it were poſſible) the intereſts of ſociety would be greatly promoted thereby: in as much, as a veil of darkneſs would be thrown over a criminal act, which it is *now* the faſhion to obtrude on the public eye, by the moſt elaborate means, that can be contrived. But as fighting a duel in *ſecret*, would defeat the very *ends* the *duelliſts* have in view, (viz. to avoid the ſtigma of cowardice, and to paſs for men of honor, in the opinion of the world) it is highly improbable it ſhould be buried in oblivion. A duel known only to three or four perſons, or a folly two groſs, for our men of honor to countenance or practiſe. It is almoſt a moral certainty that no duel would be ever faught, if the parties were *thoroughly* perſuaded, the knowledge of it, would not extend beyond themſelves. Duelling is an offence, which courts the public eye, & lives only on the breath of popular and *miſtaken* applauſe. It is therefore much more reaſonable believe in the 2d place, that both in *fact* and in the *opinion* of the parties, the circumſtances of the duel, would be known, as uſuals.

Viewing the ſubject in this light, the ſecond will be obviouſly placed in a *dilemma*, that will be ſufficient to ſtagger a man of honor, when he reflects, that he may be called upon in a court of juſtice, either to convict his *friend*, or to acquit him at the expence of *perjury*. Now, though *duelling* may be the vice of a *gentleman*, we well know *perjury* is not; and may, therefore, reſt aſſured, that a man of honor cannot ſtoop to ſo baſe and infamous a crime. To a requeſt, to act the part of a *ſecond*, he would naturally reply the circumſtances of the duel cannot (in the nature of things) be long concealed; and as the baſe report of it, is made a *legal* ground to arreſt us, and a reward is offered by government for hunting us down like wolves, you muſt excuſe me, from expoſing myſelf to a ſituation, which may reduce me to the alternative of committing *perjury*, on the one hand, or of *ruining* you, on the *other*, by a declaration of the truth.

It is proper further to remark, that as an accomplice cannot be a witneſs *againſt* his comrades in iniquity unleſs he confeſs the fact,* the law, in this particular, will require alteration, and that the *Seconds* ſhould be made competent witneſſes, without ſuch *previous* acknowledgment of guilt—but, that no queſtions ſhould be put to ſuch witneſs, the *direct* anſwer to which, would criminate himſelf. Putting him on oath, ſo far as relates to the commiſſion of a crime by *other* perſons (waving, at the ſame time, all enquiry into his *own* acts) will violate no eſſential principle of juſtice. And as it does not appear (except from report) whether he was preſent, as a *ſpectator* or *ſecond*, it is the more reaſonable, he ſhould be called upon to give evidence. It is only, by making the *ſeconds legal* witneſſes with the reſtriction juſt mentioned, viz. "that they be aſked no queſtions, touching their *own* conduct that the truth can be ever aſcertained."

As long as duelliſts diſcover, that the arm of *judicial authority* is never exerted againſt them, and they can rely upon the fidelity of their aſſociates in guilt, the barbarous cuſtom will, undoubtedly *prevail*, to the diſgrace of our *religion, government* and *humanity*. To break up this den of *conſpirators* againſt the law, and to drag them from that obſcurity in which they have heretofore too ſucceſsfully concealed their nefarious practices, are important points, that can be accompliſhed only by the power of the legiſlature.

It is therefore humbly apprehended, a law founded on the principles now ſuggeſted, will either force the crime of duelling to hide itſelf in abſolute darkneſs and ſecrecy, by which, ſociety will be greatly benefitted—or if it become known, that it will be the means (eſpecially if the rewards, in caſe of conviction, are liberal) of bringing to trial, thoſe bold offenders, who wantonly ſport with the laws of their country, and the blood of their fellow creatures.

With very great conſideration and reſpect,

I have the honor to be, ſir,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

JACOB RUSH.

The honorable Iſaac Weaver.

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* 1 *Hale*, 303.

LONDON, December 29.

The following extract, relative to the bank of Amſterdam, is of conſiderable importance to the commercial world:—

The intermediate adminiſtration of the commune of Amſterdam, having nothing more at heart than to eſtabliſh, upon ſolid baſis, the well being of the city, and particularly the propriety of its commerce, has the ſatisfaction to make known to whomſoever it concerns, that the commiſſaries of the bank of this city have declared to them, by their report of the 19th July laſt, that the deficit which was found in the bank, has been entirely filled by the payment made by, and on the part of the treaſury: and that it appears, by the account they have drawn up, and of which they have ſent a copy, both to the ſaid treaſury and the ſuperintendants of the bank, that all the pretenſions of the bank, at the charge of the city, have been fully acquitted, and replaced by ſpecie, ſo that at preſent, there is no bank money in circulation which does not reſt upon effective and metallic value, in ſpecie, ingots, and monies depoſited in the abovementioned