

**CHOICE CHIPS OF REVENUE LORE. ALSO  
CULLINGS FROM EXCISE GENERAL  
LETTERS OF THE LAST CENTURY, AND  
FROM OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING  
PRINCIPALLY TO THE EXCISE REVENUE  
IN ENGLAND. FROM 1660 TO 1876**

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Choice Chips of Revenue Lore. Also Cullings from Excise General Letters of the Last Century, and from Other Documents Relating Principally to the Excise Revenue in England. From 1660 to 1876 by R. E.

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**R. E.**

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CHOICE CHIPS OF REVENUE LORE.

HAMPSHIRE TELEGRAPH PRINTING WORKS.



CHOICE CHIPS  
OF  
REVENUE LORE.

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BEING  
PAPERS RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF THE EXCISE,  
EXCISE DUTIES, SALARIES, SUPERANNUATION, &c.

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ALSO  
CULLINGS FROM EXCISE GENERAL LETTERS OF THE  
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PORTSMOUTH:—  
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1877.



232. e. 406.

## PREFACE.

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THE compiler requests of his brother officials a favourable perusal of these pages. Their contents have been obtained from various sources during his official career, and are now given to the Service in the hope that—whilst they do not disclose any State secret—the information they impart will interest and entertain, and also throw some light on the early history of the Service.

Every endeavour has been made to ascertain what salaries were paid to the Excise officials on the establishment of this Revenue, but with little success, although search has been made at Somerset House for the information desired; but it appears that no documents on the subject are in existence, and the old "Daily Minute Books" make no mention of salaries.

The articles on the Establishment of the Excise, on Salaries, Superannuation, Weights and Measures, &c., containing much useful information, will, it is hoped, be found acceptable to the Service; whilst the quaint old General Letters, Extracts from Acts of Parliament, and from Mr. Talbot's report on his survey and inspection of the Salt Duties in Wales, will furnish both information and entertainment; the latter affords some information respecting the salaries paid to the officers under the Salt Board, and to certain Customs' officers at that date.

The first introduction of the Excise was so unpopular and brought so much odium upon all officials engaged in charging and collecting the duties that although two centuries have passed away since its establishment the prejudice is not yet extinct. But the Excise Laws do not appear at first to have been the subject of such general reprobation as when they were extended in the reign of Queen



Anne, and again by Sir Robert Walpole, and this feeling was further augmented by the scurrilous definitions of the words "Excise" and "Exciseman" given by Dr. Johnson—before he became a "State Pensioner"—and by other writers, not omitting the gauger Burns. It is now happily fast fading; indeed this should be so when the varied nature of the duties and responsibilities of the officials are calmly considered. "Your honourable and useful profession," wrote the Earl of Buchan to Burns; and may we not ask in the words of a more recent writer, that "when a word of disparagement to his (the officer's) profession is thoughtlessly about to be spoken, let it be quickly called to mind that, between the subject and the State, he holds an office of heavy responsibility, that he wrong not the one nor overcharge the other; and that by the duties which he assesses, the Crown, in the exercise of its integrity and power, is supported, the wheels of Government kept in motion, and the judges—those dread oracles of the law—are paid to minister, with even hand, the decrees of justice to the nation."

R. E.

PORTSMOUTH, *July*, 1877.

## CONTENTS.

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	PAGE.
Establishment of Excise Revenue . . . . .	1
Excise Salaries in England . . . . .	13
Superannuation . . . . .	30
Commutation of Pensions . . . . .	38
Extracts from General Letters . . . . .	41
Extracts from Acts of Parliament . . . . .	78
Extracts from Board's (Old) Instructions . . . . .	94
Weights and Measures . . . . .	100
Qualifying for the Excise in the 18th Century . . . . .	108
Excise Duties, from 1660 to 1876 . . . . .	113
Excise Licences, ditto . . . . .	117
Extracts from Report on Salt Survey and Inspection in 1740	121
Extracts from Letters of Robert Burns . . . . .	130
Miscellaneous . . . . .	139

