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A N
A D D R E S S
T O
The People of England.

*Recd Aug 2. 1780 Six shill for duty as above
for J. Dugdale Esq Sec Gen
J. Hart
Whitely
3 Shill*

0413

A N
A D D R E S S

T O

The People of England;

O N T H E

Increase of their Poor Rates,

D E D I C A T E D

To the EARL of

S H E L B U R N E.

B Y

J O H N B U R N B Y.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. DODSLEY, Pall-Mall.

M, DCC, LXXX.

To the Right Honourable,

The EARL of SHELBURNE.

My LORD,

AMONG the variety of grievances, which the people of England at this time groan under, the great increase of their Poor Rates is not the least, for in many places, they are nearly double, what they were fourteen Years ago, and in the following Sheets, I have endeavoured,
as

DEDICATION. ii

as far as my poor abilities would let me, to point out some of the causes, which I apprehend productive of this general evil, conceiving, an attention to this consequential object, absolutely necessary for the welfare of the Inhabitants in this Island. I have taken the liberty to dedicate the following Address to your Lordship, from a clear conviction, that the pure spirit of Patriotism glows in your honest Breast; and from the noble exertions so frequently made by your Lordship, against the numerous attacks on the Liberties of this Country, I flatter myself that an Apology is unnecessary; conscious as I am, that your Lordship, is determin'd to persevere in that line of conduct, which must ever render you dear, to every true lover of his Country. My Lord, the Constitution of this
 Kingdom,

iii DEDICATION.

Kingdom, seems in a galloping consumption, and unless an ABLE Physician is speedily called in, I fear it will dissolve, "and leave not a wreck behind." Our present state Hippocrates, administers OPIATES for the disorder; your Lordship advises a course of ALTERATIVES, the people of England approve of your PERScription, which if speedily followed, may remedy the melancholy disease; but no time should be lost, and at this perilous juncture, all true Englishmen, look up to your Lordship with a pleasing anxiety, acknowledging your extensive abilities, and goodness of heart, that you not only feel for their numerous grievances, but hourly study to redress them, and that your political sentiments, are diametrically opposite to him

" Whose

DEDICATION. iv

“ Whose infatiable avarice devours
“ like the Grave, and still gapes like
“ Hell for more.”

I am,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's

most obedient servant,

JOHN BURNBY.

APRIL 27th, 1780.

An Address &c.

THE present increase of the
Poor Rates in this kingdom,
becomes very alarming, and
the dismal prospect calls loudly
for the attention of every benevo-
lent man, to the melancholy view; for
unless a speedy and effectual Remedy
be found, to eradicate this growing
Disease, the middling class of Inhabi-
tants, who already bend under the bur-
then of EXTREME national Taxation,
must sink under its ponderous weight,
and however the VENAL COURTIER,
may smile at this bold assertion, yet I
trust those worthy members of the com-
munity, who have the good of their
country, and welfare of its people at
B heart,

heart, will turn their thoughts to an object of such national importance; for 'tis not from DEPRAVED Nobility, the publick can expect relief, corruption binds them in chains of adamant, and their sole object in this once flourishing Isle; is the accumulation of wealth, on the ruin of their country; for alas, they feel not either for the oppressions on the sons of industry or the miseries of poverty. The aged grey-hair'd Peasant pining for bread, and the melting wailings of a naked Infant for nutriment, are unknown to the gay luxurious Lord, whose partial ear was never tinctur'd with the discordant sound of adversity, therefore nothing meritorious, either for the benefit of the people at large, or of any oppress'd individuals, can be expected from such men, the remedy for the direful evil, must in a great measure arise from those persons who are legally vested with power, as GUARDIANS, OVERSEERS, and MANAGERS of the POOR, and to such in particular, are the following Remarks humbly submitted.

The office of an Overseer of the poor

poor is a very consequential one, and ought to be considered as such; by every member of society, who wishes to see justice impartially administered; and the greatest care should be taken in the appointment of Overseers, who should be men of tolerable property, so that by feeling the weight of the Rates themselves, they may be the better able to judge of the same on their neighbours; an independent spirit, is also essentially necessary for Overseers to be bless'd with, without which, TYRANNY will at times, trample on TIMIDITY, nor should any be appointed to such offices, unless they have many leisure hours to attend their duty; not only as faithful Delegates from their parishioners, but as Parents to the poor.

OEconomy in all private Families is commendable, nay absolutely necessary FOR THE EXISTENCE OF A STATE; consequently the greatest Care should be taken by Overseers, not wantonly to dispose of their neighbours property, by lavishing on Paupers the superfluities of life, for such a practice will naturally produce suspicion, that must

tend to the disgrace of those guilty of such injustice; as it is well known, improper Indulgencies granted to paupers, are often, too often, done, thro' some finister view of the Officers, probably from some cursed mercenary motives; wherein they sacrifice a reputation, that was once an honour to them, which shews how indispensably necessary, it is nicely to survey the characters of persons, before they are invested with power, lest by their unjust and injudicious conduct, they not only bring disgrace upon themselves, but fix an odium on those who elected them, for men who betray the trust reposed in them, either by PARISHIONERS or CONSTITUENTS, are a disgrace to human nature, and unworthy of any confidence whatever.

The great increase of the Poor, especially in many opulent cities and towns in this Kingdom, is owing to a variety of causes, and it will be my earnest endeavour in the following sheets, to hold up to the public that mirror, wherein they may discover the same.

Bastard

Bastard Children frequently become a great burthen to a parish, merely thro' the negligence of its Officers, for tho' it usually happens, that those unfortunate Females pregnant with misery, seek for a secret reception, to conceal their shame; yet such an inattention prevails among many overseers, that a discovery does not take place, 'till the birth of the guiltless babe, when its Settlement is fix'd on the innocent parish. And here I cannot help remarking, that the general disgrace which mankind in this island, impute to the unwary mother of an illegitimate infant is cruel, for it oftentimes proves the destruction of them both, and the too frequent murdering of Bastard children, is owing to the shame and odium, which the ill-natur'd part of the world, stamp indelibly on the Character of perhaps the deluded innocent female, who often by threats and scourges from unnatural parish officers; is induced to fix a father for her child, by a false Testimony. This practice, tho' contrary to the Laws of this land (as all oaths must be voluntary) is to the disgrace of humanity in many parishes used, but I hope

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hope for the future it will to the credit of Englishmen be discontinued, as it favours so much of the extortion procured from the torture of a rack. I hope the Reader will pardon this digression, especially when he considers how essentially necessary it is for the preservation of our liberties, to let humanity be our dictator. Whenever any single women remove from the place of their legal Settlement into another Parish, for the purpose of secretly lying in, there is no doubt but it is the duty of the Overseers in that parish, to cause them immediately to be examined and removed to their place of settlement, and the legally getting rid of such persons is both lawful and equitable; but there is a horrid practice used in too many parishes, to disincumber themselves of an idle dissolute female Pauper, by giving 5l. or 10l. to some worthless Object of another parish to marry her, the union of corruption produces a mutual life of infamy, and the imposed parish murmurs without redress. Such a shameful proceeding, ought to be universally discountenanc'd and detested by every honest overseer.

Overseers

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Overseers cannot be too diligent in procuring Certificates from those persons residing in their parish who have not gained a settlement therein, and also to be very careful that they do not receive the Poor-rate of any Inhabitants in their Parish, who not having any settlement in the same, yet from the privilege of having served the King, &c. cannot be removed. And if the Officers of the poor will in their respective parishes attend closely to their duty, I'm sure it must give them singular satisfaction, to be received by the Inhabitants, when collecting their Assessments, with placid and chearful countenances, who although bending under the frightful burthen of immense Taxes, yet joyfully contribute their mite towards the maintenance of their fellow creatures; and do it without repining; knowing their money will neither be secreted by rapacious GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS, or applied for the hellish Purpose of UNDERMINING the glorious Constitution of this Country.

In consequence of the present
CHEARFUL War produced by the refin'd
policy

policy of a blessed NORTHERN Administration, the stagnation of trade, and the decrease of manufactories, in many opulent cities and towns, have greatly increased the poor rates; therefore it is absolutely necessary, not only for the Overseers of the poor in such cities and towns, but for the Justices of the peace in the same, to exert themselves upon every occasion, to stem the torrent of any prevailing Vices, which tend to the augmenting of the poor rates. There is one great evil which generally passes unnotic'd in a town burthen'd with poor, and which upon receiving encouragement from the thoughtless part of mankind, produces the worst effects; I mean the admission of strolling Players to perform their illegal Entertainments; a Play-house, especially in the country, is the fountain of corruption to youth, wherein they sip deep the liquid of libertinism, and which too frequently ends in their total ruin. By suffering such idle dissipated vermin to infest a City, husbands and wives are sensibly injured, daughters debauch'd, sons ruin'd, and brothers and sisters bring down their parents
grey

grey hairs with sorrow to the grave, nay often, very often, do those misrepresentations of human nature, allure even POVERTY itself, to partake of their visionary enjoyments, whilst an innocent offspring at home, are drown'd in tears, for nourishment to satisfy the cravings of nature. All publick, and particularly private Gaming-houses, which swarm in opulent cities and towns, should be suppress'd; for such infamous retreats, daily tend to the downfall of masters, apprentices, and often whole families; 'tis true the passion for gaming in this degenerate age, seems rooted in the minds of the young, as well as the old, and I fear no exposition whatever, will eradicate the pleasing vice, yet I could wish those gentlemen term'd Gamesters, would but reflect a few moments before they throw the die, on the pernicious consequences which often follow, and I'm sure they would fly from the cursed fascinating delusion. Gambling is productive of all manner of vice, and generally ends in POVERTY; men of that ungodly stamp, are nuisances to society, and totally strangers to Mr. Pope's admirable thought.
" An honest Man's the noblest work of God. "
C

The numerous quantity of Alehouses in many country towns, greatly increase their poor rates; for those places which were originally intended as benefits to Society, by their amazing increase within these few years, are now render'd receptacles for idleness and debauchery; were they to be less'n'd, the publick in general, and more particularly the middling class of people would find some relief in their contribution towards the support of their poor, business, agriculture and professions of all kinds would be more attended to, the PLOUGH, the SPADE, and the HARROW would be oftener in action, the incessant weeping of Infants in the cottage for bread would cease, and what are now injurious to the community, might become of infinite utility.

The present mode of Assessing to the poor in many large towns, from its inequality deserves every mark of reproach, it originates from partiality, and is founded on injustice, altho' the law expressly says, all poor rates shall be equal, presuming Overseers will always act judicially, and if otherwise

otherwise, a remedy presents itself by an appeal to the Sessions. In many towns, persons are rated to the FULL of their Rents, others at THREE FOURTHS, some at TWO THIRDS, others again at a MOIETY, and to the discredit of partial officers many NOT rated at all. Therefore a tax of such inequality must be cruelly oppressive, and it is the duty of every gentleman of property in such places, to crush the arbitrary proceeding, by using every legal method to establish a fair, equal, and just assessment; and in order to accomplish so desirable an end, it requires mature consideration. I could wish that some regular mode might be found, exclusive of appealing to the Session for relief. To obtain a poor tax, founded upon that pleasing and substantial basis Justice, is to rate according to value (a power given by Parliament) which would totally destroy the unequal abuse, but the difficulty which attends the procuring of such an assessment is obvious, and I fear almost impracticable, for were an attempt to be made, to execute such a plan, it would certainly involve the parish in continual law,
C 2 and

and therefore ought to be avoided; for nothing destroys the peace and harmony of society, more than frivolous and vexatious law suits. Suppose the following method was to be taken to obtain an equal assessment; let the Overseers rate every Occupier to the full of his REAL Rent, and in order to come at the knowledge of the same, pursue the following wise Plan, adopted by many parishes in England; rate the occupiers at something more than it is apprehended they really pay to their landlords, and at the same time, deliver to each of them, a printed Affidavit something SIMILAR to the following, requesting of them to go before a Justice of the Peace and swear to the same.

I A. B. of _____ do hereby voluntarily swear that the rent I pay for my Dwelling-house Store-house &c. (or FOR MY LAND as the case may be) which I occupy in the parish of _____ is _____ per annum and no more, and that I do not directly or indirectly, pay by my self, or any other person for me, any other consideration whatsoever, and that I am not constrained by any agreement with my _____ Landlord

Landlord, from holding in my own possession, the whole of the before mentioned premises, solely to my own use, and no part thereof for his use, or any other person for him witness my hand this day of _____ 17 _____ Sworn &c.

Let the Occupiers then wait on the Mayor, or one of the Justices, subscribe, and swear to the affidavit before mentioned, and return it to the overseers, who will rate them accordingly, by this means they will be Assessed to their FULL rent; and soon convinc'd of the utility of this practice. But lest many new buildings may be a check to this pursuit, and impede the production of an equal poor tax, the best information respecting the value of such Buildings upon the oaths of two reputable Housekeepers non parishioners should be had, and then rate them accordingly, unless the occupier (which is the desirable mode to avoid valuation) will enter into a reasonable composition with the parish officers, and suffer himself to be assessed, equal with the generality of the inhabitants. This will intirely prevent the rapid contagion of law, from spreading

spreading its venom thro'out the parish.

The great quantity of general Workhouses in England, are in my opinion very injurious to the community; for the abuse daily practic'd within their walls, constitute them the seats of Idleness and Debauchery, rather than of Industry and Sobriety; and I am happy to find the plan offered for establishing county Workhouses proved abortive, and that the true lovers of English liberty, not only discountenanc'd but oppos'd the same. Englishmen will bear immoderate burthens, while they are strangers to the rod of poverty, without seeking legally for Redress, but when overtaken by adversity, the immuring them within the walls of a political Prison, would sufficiently secure such, from procuring that relief, which they are intitled to, when bending under the galling yoke of Slavery.

Workhouses were I apprehend, originally intended as Asylums for the reception of aged, and infant Paupers, and not for the idle and dissolute poor

poor who steal into the same, thro' either the negligence or partiality of shameful Overseers, under the specious pretence of the want of work. The duty of overseers or guardians is particularly consequential, where they are provided with a Workhouse, and the first and most essential ingredient to the encouragement of industry, in notorious dissolute Paupers, is a REASONABLE CONFINEMENT; therefore such poor, should never be suffered to walk at large, to go out and in of an industrious mansion when inclination bids them, lest Temptation constantly stare them in the face, and the continuance of Vice is the consequence; the Flock should never quit the fold and wander about at pleasure. It is the duty of the officers to be careful that the paupers are faithfully supplied with every necessary for the support of life, ever considering themselves as the fathers of an unfortunate Family, but as nature never intended man to eat the bread of idleness, the poor should be kept constantly to work, not hard labour, but in such a manner as to leave no cause for complaint in those, who by industry and fatigue contribute largely towards

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towards their support, for work, will not only preserve their Health by exercise, but of good order in a family so numerous. Knitting of stockings, Spinning of yarn, wool, and flax, for sheeting, shifts &c. Beating of hemp, Weaving of sail cloth, Hop bagging, making of Sacks, and picking Oakum &c. &c. are the principal Manufactories used in most of the well regulated poor houses in the Kingdom, therefore no just plea can be made by thoughtless overseers for want of work for the poor; but it is impossible to conduct a Workhouse properly, without the necessary provision of a good Master and Mistress, and in order to procure an able man and a notable woman, no pains should be spared; a genteel salary should be given, the officers should not tie themselves down to a few pounds per annum to procure such; the sensible part of the parishioners will not complain, especially when they consider what savings will arise to the parish, if they are bless'd with an excellent Master and Mistress, who will preside over the unfortunate part of mankind, with care equal to tender parents over their innocent

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innocent offspring; and as a proof of the utility to the inhabitants which must take place in such a case, I know of a City in this Island, wherein are upwards of a dozen parishes consolidated by parliament which have a Workhouse for the whole, who are happy in the choice of a superexcellent Master and Mistress, whose humanity, oeconomy, and attention are such, that without exaggeration I dare say, they absolutely save the parishes some hundreds a year. There is a great abuse which prevails in too many Workhouses, of allowing paupers a weekly Maintenance out of the house, every officer has some one or other to recommend, and by this scandalous mode of Distribution, the inhabitants are defrauded of their property, to support a legion of unworthy objects; few should receive a weekly maintenance out of the house, and those only should be the aged and infirm, who have been reduced from prosperity to adversity, and are known objects of Charity, but unless such, have some visible means of earning a trifle, they should be partakers of that confinement and nourishment, the

D Workhouse

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Workhouse produces. Young Persons who by Idleness, Gaming, Drunkenness, and Debauchery &c. &c. that have the assurance, or rather impudence, to claim the benefit due to real objects of Charity, should neither be relieved, or admitted into the house; for by the relief or admission of such unworthy beings, an arbitrary Tax would be imposed on the inhabitants to maintain vice. Cleanliness is one great preservative of health, and should not be neglected, it will ever redound to the credit of the Master and Mistress, and be of great benefit to the Poor, for it is very natural to suppose, that epidemical distempers will at times, make their way into so numerous a family, and it is well known, one great preventative against so melancholy an evil, is keeping the house and family neat and clean. The Children should be superintended by two or three of the best humane female paupers that can be found, if they have been Mothers of a family, so much the better, for nature will then direct them to treat the innocent Babes with more tenderness. The Girls and Boys should be separated from the aged in iniquity

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iniquity as well as in years, which may be the saving of them from destruction, so that when they ripen into men and women, they may be useful, and not injurious to Society. How pleasing must it be to the friends of humanity, to see poor children in a Workhouse at a proper age disposed of in creditable Families, the Boys apprenticed, and the Girls to service, nor should any thoughtless parents ever intimidate the officers from doing that Duty, for whenever they find the father or mother of a child, they mean to put out apprentice, or to service, unreasonably object to the same; they should exert themselves, and immediately execute their determination, or give up the future maintenance and care of the boy or girl to its ungrateful parent. In regard to the provisions, cloathings &c. for paupers, the same should alternately be purchased of the shopkeepers who respectively contribute to the support of the unfortunate, I mention this impartiality necessary, having had ocular demonstration of Overseers, serving the poor ONLY from their own shops; which gave rise for a just suspicion in the

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breasts

breasts of the Inhabitants, that the provisions, cloathing, &c. were not purchased at the lowest prices and of inferior quality, to what they ought to have been. upon the investigation of the matter, it turn'd out, that the yillainous Overseers, were appointed by partial Justices of the peace, for the sole purpose of making a property of the Parish; however the spirited inhabitants published the fraud, and the worthy Justices and Overseers, were held forth as publick spectacles of infamy and corruption. Prayers are absolutely necessary to be performed, weekly, or oftner, in all Workhouses, and to allow a genteel salary, to a good parish Priest for that pleasing purpose, will ever meet with sanction from religious Parishioners, whose moral characters will bear the test of examination; for every honest man, which I term a religious man, will allow, that a Chaplain, who is actuated by the best of motives, and constantly attends his duty at a Workhouse, endeavouring by every persuasive gentle argument, to instill into the minds of the poor, a pure and religious sense of their Duty, is a worthy being, and

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a most valuable member of society; and at the same time, acknowledge, that the blasphemous ravings of an enthusiastic Madman, when suffered to breathe forth the foulest prophanation to the unfortunate paupers, is a despicable wretch, and one of the greatest pests to society this Kingdom can be curst with. A due attention to Religion is highly meritorious, and will soon convince the cruel and merciless Sinner of his error, and plant humanity in a once harden'd breast, for as the famous Dr. Young observes,

“ On PIETY, HUMANITY is built;
 “ And on HUMANITY much HAPPINESS;
 “ And yet still more on PIETY itself. ”

The BADGING of paupers seems to be a cruelty which ought not in a land of Liberty to be exercised, for it borders so much upon Slavery, that every true Englishman ought to detest it. Subordination is necessary I allow for the public good, but there can be no necessity to brand the miserable, with the MARKS of poverty, and stamp on their outward Garments the seal of arbitrary power, tho' I verily believe,
 some

some of our **RAPACIOUS RULERS**, would to satisfy their lawless ambition, have the poor fear'd on the cheek with the letter P. could they do it with impunity, for they never reflect, that on the dissolution of our human frame, the wealthy and indigent, mix together in one undistinguish'd mass of corruption, that the immortal part of the rich and poor, will on one great day receive the impartial judgment of Divinity, no distinction will be then visible between wealth and poverty, and the only **BADGE** wished for, will be **INNOCENCY**. God set a mark on **CAIN** for his wickedness, not for his poverty, why should the unfortunate, be pointed at by the thoughtless multitude, forbid it freedom, forbid it humanity; the badging of paupers, can only be desired, by arbitrary wretches, who disgrace the tender feelings of humanity, and who look upon the sons of adversity, with as much contempt, as the **TENDER HUMANE** Traders on the coast of Africa, do on their fable Commodities; such a vile custom may prevail in Algiers, but must be a disgrace to a **FREE COUNTRY**.

There

There is another horrid custom which subsists in some parishes, to the discredit of the jobbing officers, that of **FARMING** out the Poor, and tho' many warmly contend in favour of this unchristianlike practice, yet I do aver it to be cruel and impolitic, for were such a plan to be adopted by parishes in general, the depravity of human nature is such, that the chances would be greatly against them, in procuring honest upright humane Purchasers, men whose feelings would do honour to them as christians, for however they might flatter themselves in meeting with such valuable persons, I fear the cursed fiend Avarice would disappoint them of their wishes; but admitting they were so far to succeed in farming out the Poor to some tolerable moral men, (for those in the superlative degree, would spurn at the brutish offer;) they would soon be convinced from the present price of cloathing, provisions, &c. that they would expect to be paid so extravagantly for their slavish job, as would render their virtuous scheme totally impolitic, but in the name of the **Astreaan Goddess**, who so proper to have

have the care and management of paupers, as the Overseers of their respective parishes, and what right, by either the law of God, or nature, have such officers, especially in this boasted land of liberty, to hire out their fellow creatures. Every benevolent man must be shock'd at the idea, and I conceive no English inhabitants whatever, will suffer their unfortunate Poor, to be at the will of a mercenary master, the worst of Tyrants, without murmuring.

There are many persons assessed to the poor who are not able to pay, and instead of rating them, they should be excused the Cess, and put down POOR, but all this should be done with the greatest caution, taking care previously to examine them minutely relative to their inability, in order that the general contributors to the poor, may have no reason to complain; for I have seen many instances of flagrant partiality in Overseers, who from interested motives, have excused persons, paying their poor Cesses, when they were rated at, and paid a bona fide Rent of three pounds per annum.

annum. Overseers should never make a new Rate, 'till their last is nearly, if not quite clear'd, for by so doing, at the end of the year, when they quit their offices, a considerable surplus will probably appear uncollected, and not only give an unjust trouble to their successors, but stamp a discredit upon them for ever after; nor should they ever employ indifferent persons, to collect the Assessments, every one knowing that it is not more improper than illegal; for no Warrants of distress can be granted, on the non payment of a poor cess unless a previous demand has been made by the legal, and not nominal officer, as no person is obligated to pay a poor rate to the servant of an Overseer, besides, such a practice, is an affront and insult to the parishioners, and shews negligence in the LEGAL and folly in the NOMINAL Collector; an hired man on such an occasion must be paid, and well paid too, for receiving the discontented looks, and illiberal reproaches of probably the pitiable oppressed inhabitants, and although his HONEST master may aver, that the expence is all out of
E his

his own pocket, and possibly it may, yet there is no destroying that disagreeable weapon SUSPICION; and so far do I differ from the admirable poet, that I believe suspicion oftener accompanies the guiltless, than the guilty mind; I think it unnecessary to take any Notice of the general characters parish officers have, for abusing their trusts in luxurious Entertainments; if they are suffered to indulge their voracious appetites, at the expence of the parish, the inhabitants deserve the imposition, as 'tis well known there are officers of the poor in many places, particularly corporate towns, who live to eat, and are constantly defrauding the parish by their extravagant entertainments. Such epicurean gluttons often put an end to their existence by indigestion, when their dissolution ought to have taken place, at a tree and not on a feather-bed.

In all classes of life, Punishments are necessary to deter the wicked, and by the admirable laws of this land, their severities should be equivalent to the criminality of their vices, an Englishman

Englishman cannot help boasting of his excellent laws, any more than he can, lamenting the dismal situation his country would be in, should ever the time arrive, when the three powers of JUDGE, GRAND, and PETTY JURY, as well as KING, LORDS, and COMMONS, should be by unbounded corruption, consolidated in one mass, without a balance, without a check. But to return, a severe Discipline is sometimes necessary, to be inflicted on the idle and vicious pauper, tho' it never should be put in execution inconsistent with humanity, an officer who is guided by justice, and not malice or revenge, will ever in such disagreeable cases, have an eye to reformation, and by duly administering the rod of correction to the wicked pauper, frequently save the deluded object from perdition.

In many towns there are considerable Donations originally intended as great benefits to the poor, but from the frequent abuse of the trusts vested in bad men, they become of little utility. Charities should be made as publick as possible; for it is not the mere

portraits of the donors, fix'd in any notorious place, or the whispers of one consequential individual to another that can sufficiently acquaint the interested publick with the nature and due execution of such charities; a Committee from every parish, where such bequests subsist, should be annually, if not oftner appointed, minutely to examine into the same, and make their report accordingly, by this means they will not only be able to discover the **TREACHEROUS** Trustee, but do honour to the **FAITHFUL** one; and as a proof how necessary a Committee for such a laudable purpose is. I have known a recent instance of the shameful abuse of a charity, from the non attention of the inhabitants within the parish it existed, that impartiality would be hard to determine, whether the Trustees or the parishioners were most to blame; however at last, some spirited men, undertook to file a Bill in Chancery, and obtained a decree against the **OPULENT TRUSTEES** for abusing their trust, by misapplying some hundreds of pounds, which ought to have gone for putting out poor children apprentices agreeable to the donor's will.

The

The Religious Liberty which at present exists in this country is admirable, but the abuse of that freedom, to the suppression of industry, and encouragement of indolence, is much to be lamented; for every liberal man must allow, that the horrible ejaculations, so constantly issued from the uncharitable lips, of itinerant Preachers, not only tend to the destruction of that labour so necessary for the preservation of a Kingdom, but are often productive of fatal consequences to many of their illiterate auditors; very early in the morning, are the poor infatuated labourers, necessitated thro' fear, to obey the Summons of some arch apostate, often at noon the same, and ever in the evening, by which their manual occupation is neglected, and in a few Years, their families become a burthen to the parish. To hear a fellow in the fields blubbering out his enthusiastic nonsense to a gaping croud, encouraging them to leave the provision of their families to providence, and follow him; is surely licentiousness: The great author of the universe, has bless'd mankind with reason, and that godlike perception

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perception tells us, that industry is essential to our happiness here, and hereafter; it promotes health, procures wealth, encourages virtue, and is inimical to vice. It is well known, that under the specious mask of Religion, the most enormous crimes have been committed, how common is it to find the industrious handicraft, who maintains with credit a Wife and Children, deluded by the HOARY HYPOCRITE,

“ That always preys on grace or sin, ”

“ A Sheep without, a Wolf within. ”

Caught by the heavenly bait of this modern apostate, he returns to his wife, tells her he has received a CALL, neglects his CALLING, is dubb'd a preacher, and leaves her and his babes to the care of the injured parish; how many weak infatuated beings, have been drove to distraction, nay, have put an end to their existence, thro' the damnable threatenings, of perhaps an INSPIRED Scavenger; surely such dangerous wretches to society, should daily be held forth to the publick in their true light, that

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that the industrious may view their hypocrisy clearly, so as never to substitute Idleness for work, and that the present followers of such ITINERANT PREACHERS, who

“ Compound for Sins they are inclin'd to, ”

“ By damning those they have no mind to, ”

May speedily see their error, and withdraw themselves from a Society, which tends to the subversion of the mind, and increase of their poor Rates.

By the Militia Act, “ no poor man, who has three Children born in wedlock, shall be compelled to serve personally, or to provide a Substitute, ” and yet I find it is a very common thing for such persons, when drawn for Militia-men, to claim this benefit, and immediately afterwards thro' the connivance of the Deputy Lieutenants, and Justices, suffered to receive a considerable bounty as a Substitute, and thereby fix his family upon the oppress'd parish. Unfortunately the Act of Parliament, makes no provision for redressing of this grievance, however
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the Parishioners may use their endeavours, to remedy this abuse, by delivering a Petition to the Lord Lieutenant, praying a dismissal of the UNWORTHY DEPUTIES; and by moving the Court of Kings Bench, against the Justices of the Peace, for OPPRESSION; in the latter case, there is no doubt but success, would crown their wishes; tho' in the former, I fear humility would fail, for since corruption has diffused itself, so universally over the Kingdom, very little redress can be expected from Petitions. Men who are neither bias'd by interest or prejudice, will frankly acknowledge, that a mere SOLITARY PETITION, tho' built on the most noble and solid foundation of RIGHT, will ever in this degenerate age, be either contemptuously treated, or totally disregarded, and can have little or no other effect, than to depress the firm, from the optics of our country Gentlemen, and enable them, clearly to discern, the tyranny of power, and insolence of office.

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Altho' I have pointed out many causes, which in my humble opinion, contribute greatly to increasing of the Poor Rates; yet I conceive the great and first cause to originate from the depravity of the people, for since the last inglorious peace, from whence old England may date the æra of her misfortunes, Luxury has made such a rapid progress thro'out the Kingdom, that all ranks of people, are more or less infected with the horrid contagion, and even in this alarming hour of danger, when more is to be feared from our DOMESTIC than NATURAL enemies, irreligion, immorality, and dissipation, blaze forth in the Nobleman down to the Labourer, so that if the candid reader will take a view of the manner in which the wealthy and indigent, pass away the vale of life, he will cease wondering, either at the increase of the Poor Rates, or the addition of national Taxes, not but there are many worthy Noblemen and Gentlemen in this Kingdom, whose virtues are daily render'd conspicuous, by the due attention, they constantly shew, for the welfare of their country; blest with the true spirit of independence,

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corruption

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corruption is a stranger to them, and their greatest pleasure lies in supporting the rights and liberties of the subject, that the same may be transmitted to their posterity, pure and undefiled: how opposite such men are, to the following troop of venality, the reader will determine.

The NOBLEMAN, having arrived to the age of twenty one, not of discretion, launches forth into the troubled sea of dissipation, and embraces with ardor, a legion of vices, as gallantry, gaming, drinking, &c. &c. In a few years he reduces that annual income, handed down to him by his noble ancestors, and leaves the kingdom, under the fallacious pretence of travelling. Foreign courts, soon produce foreign vices, and in a short time he returns to his native Country, replete with effeminacy and extravagance; pride, then bids him have recourse to the M---r, where he soon barter his conscience, for a few thousands, and having first obtained a fashionable divorce, retires to his country Seat, amid the curses of the people, who can always distinguish the REAL PATRIOT, from the VENAL COURTIER.

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The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN, when he arrives to his fortune, finds himself blest with affluence, yet in a short time is induced by folly, to imitate depraved Nobility, and by a kind of involuntary dissipation, soon decreases his paternal estate; the sink of Corruption receives the wretched dependant, and he slides thro' life, totally disrespected and despised, a tyrant to his neighbours, an oppressor of his tenants, and a BETRAYER OF HIS COUNTRY.

The ESQUIRE, with the small pittance of 400l. per annum; must have his chaise, phaeton, hounds, and Town-house, despising the antique mansion of his forefathers, wherein the old English hospitality, shone forth with splendour; he must partake of all the fashionable amusements, in the metropolis, especially if he is wedded to a Lady of family, and no fortune, 'till by a succession of visionary pleasures he finds

“ One Mortgage to another still succeeds,

“ Another, and another after that.”

When in a year or two, COMPOUND
F₂ INTEREST,

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INTEREST, that devouring monster, swallows up the country Squire, in the dreadful gulph of adversity.

The LONDON TRADESMAN cannot exist without his phaeton, geldings, livery servants, town and country House elegantly furnish'd, and Lady at the other end of the town; a profusion of dainties constantly decorate his sumptuous Table, he keeps the best company, partakes of every diversion in and near the metropolis, his Wife visits alternately the fashionable watering places, his business decreases, bills are return'd protested, credit vanishes, and the earth has scarce six times performed its annual revolution, before he does homage at Guild-hall, is received in the gazette, pays half-a-crown in the pound, obtains his certificate, opens shop, and plays the same game over again.

The COUNTRY TRADESMAN, is an admirable mime of the London one, his House must be GENTEELLY furnished, his business transacted by a lively shop Maid, and a dull Apprentice, whilst himself and Lady, to whom
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he acknowledges passive obedience and nonresistance, are partaking of elegant dinners, divine card parties, or handsome suppers, with some of the FIRST families in the town; they must also be uniform attendants at routs, concerts, assemblies, plays, &c. &c. and often when Madam, is killing of time at the quadrille table, Sir, sacrifices his hours at the gaming one, or devotes them to venus, or bacchus, when on a sudden the terrific appearance of a Sheriff's Officer, he sells off his stock, shuts up his shop, and by the KIND interposition of a MODERN member of parliament; arrives to the honourable office of either an Excise-man, Tidewaiter, or perhaps Supervisor, of the customs—O tempora O mores!

The PROFESSOR either of LAW, PHYSICK, or DIVINITY, warmly engages in all the transitory enjoyments of this world, with a determined resolution, that posterity may take care of themselves; mounted on an excellent gelding, followed by a livery Servant, he bends his rapid course, to Races, Cockmatches, hunting Feasts, and
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in fact is never at rest, but when he is neglecting his profession, and partaking of diversions and amusements; home is nauseous, Coffee houses and Taverns are his delight; thus blinded by folly, he rushes into all the mad scenes of dissipation, till his Fortune dissolves, when his friends of course forsake him, and for ever after he is necessitated to drag on a life of miserable servile curst dependance. PLATO seeing a young spendthrift eating bread and water at the door of the tavern, where he had squander'd away his estate, could not help saying, "Young man, if you had dined moderately, you need not have supped so poorly."

The FARMER who once toil'd to maintain a Family with credit, no longer lends his hand to the Plough, but must RISE a GENTLEMAN, and enjoy all the neighbouring diversions in a ROUND TILT; his sons must have the best of hunters, his daughters neighing palfreys, and his wife, whose grandmother wore a high crown hat and rode to town in a pea cart, her Devonshire brown habit, and her chaise; whilst the envious eye of his landlord

darts

darts upon him, his rent is rais'd, corn gets cheap, expences increase, the wheels crack, the carriage falls to pieces, and the modern Farmer and family lie wallowing in the mire.

The LABOURER in days of yore, rose with the lark, and maintained a large family, by the sweat of his brow; but now, altho' the Parish pay his rent, and he does not contribute one farthing to the support of the poor, cannot make both ends meet, for after working HALF a day; the remainder and part of the night, he spends in an Alehouse, whilst his dame indulges herself at home, with tea, snuff, and spirituous liquors, his diversions are ninepins, skittles, &c. hers gossiping from neighbour to neighbour, instead of spinning, no brown bread or skins of beef enter their cottage, the modern Labourer continues this depraved life a few years until the iron finger of the law takes possession of his Body, and the Workhouse of his miserable Family.

The seeds of corruption, are so deeply rooted in the minds of Englishmen, that the virtues of our Forefathers

fathers are totally forgotten, and folly most assuredly must attend the man, who glories in the name of Briton; however let us yet hope, that "Virtue may rise on the ruins of Corruption; and a despairing Nation yet be saved, by the wisdom, the integrity, and unshaken courage, of SOME GREAT MINISTER." If the foregoing ADDRESS should prove beneficial to the public, my wishes will be fully gratified, tho' from its CONCISENESS methinks I now view an impartial Critic penning as follows:

The increase of the poor Rates in this Kingdom, has given BIRTH to several Pamphlets, but this Month, has BROUGHT FORTH one, which by its short BODY, and little or no HEAD, favours so much of the MONSTRUM HORRENDUM, that nature calls aloud for its DISSOLUTION, but so great an aversion has the kind Parent to SMOTHERING, that he smiles on his OFFSPRING, cherishes the INFANT, gives it a name, applicable to its DEFORMITY, and delivers it to the world, as a CHILD of UNCOMMON genius.

F I N I S.