

211-4



0041

AN IMPARTIAL
I N Q U I R Y
I N T O T H E
B E N E F I T S a n d D A M A G E S

Arising to the NATION from the present
very great Use of *Low-priced*

S P I R I T U O U S L I Q U O R S :

W I T H

Proper ESTIMATES thereupon, and some
Considerations humbly offered for preventing
the Introduction of Foreign Spirits not paying
the Duties.

By *J. T. of Bristol.*

Author of the *Brief Essay on the Advantages
and Disadvantages which respectively attend
France and Great Britain, with regard to
Trade.*

L O N D O N :


Printed for T. TRYE, near *Gray's-Inn Gate,*
Holborn. 1751.

[Price Six-Pence.]



To the Right Honourable
 THE
 EARL of HALIFAX,
 First Lord Commissioner
 For Trade and Plantations, &c.

MY LORD,

 NY Design, wherein the Industry, the Manufactures, the Morals, and Lives of the People of *England* are deeply concerned, could not possibly be offered to a more proper Person than His Majesty's First Lord Commissioner for Trade, &c.

BUT the great Abilities, the Integrity, the Application to Business,

DEDICATION.

the Zeal for the Welfare and Prosperity of his Country, which make His Majesty's Choice of that Great Officer so agreeable to the whole Kingdom, would render it highly absurd, not to submit the following Pages to your Lordship's favourable Perusal.

I SHOULD be justly afraid of the Penetration of so able a Judge, were I not as fully convinced of the great Candor with which he always receives any well intended Attempt.

I HAVE the Honour to be, with the utmost Respect,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's most Obedient,

and devoted Humble Servant,

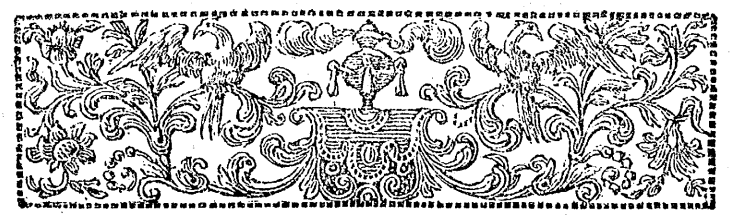
J. T.

ADVERTISEMENT.

I THINK it incumbent to advertise the candid Reader, that he is not to expect in this Essay a full and pathetic Description of the Miseries and destructive Consequences occasioned by Spirituous Liquors. The many Tracts and Discourses already published, and particularly the last, by the Lord Bishop of Worcester, render any such Attempt of mine entirely unnecessary. The Author's only View, therefore, is to present the impartial Reader, with a Series of plain Answers to the several Objections that may be started, and to set forth such Facts as seem necessary to be insisted on, in order to remove every Prejudice and Obstacle, which the partial Representations of private Interest will attempt to raise.

AN IMPARTIAL

INQUIRY INTO THE BENEFITS AND DAMAGES ARISING TO THE NATION FROM THE PRESENT VERY GREAT USE OF LOW-PRICED SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS, &c.

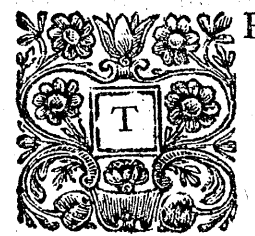


AN IMPARTIAL

INQUIRY

INTO THE

Benefits and Damages arising to the Nation from the present very great Use of *Low-priced* SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS, &c.



THE pernicious Effects of Spirituous Liquors, and the excessive Attachment of the Common People to them, are to be taken for granted in the present Case. But if any one should doubt the Truth of the Position, he may too easily obtain the most indisputable Proof, viz. DAILY OCULAR DEMONSTRATION. He may likewise observe, that the Evil is increasing every Day; making its way from the Metropolis into the Country Towns, and even Villages, and particularly infesting

2 *An INQUIRY concerning the*

festing Places of Manufactures. So that if any Regard is due to Virtue and Religion, to the Souls and Bodies of Men, to the Good of our Country, the Health, Welfare, and Being of Posterity, as well as to our own, it is high time to endeavour to put an *effectual* Stop to this raging, and in some respects even worse than pestilential Infection. The Steps that have been already taken by the worthy Magistrates of the chief City of the Kingdom, afford the most pleasing Hopes, that the Legislature likewise will take due Cognizance of so important an Affair, and in their great Wisdom, apply a Remedy equal to the Disease. In the mean time, a small Insight into the Views of Mankind, will suggest, that those Persons, whose immediate Interest, unhappily for the Publick, leads them to wish for the Continuance of the Evil, will use every Effort to prevent, or invalidate so salutary a Design. It may not, therefore be an unseasonable Attempt at this Juncture to obviate such Objections, and to remove those Difficulties, which are, or may be pretended, to obstruct the carrying this laudable Pursuit into just Execution. Let us therefore consider the most plausible Objections that can be offered.

Objection I. If the Use of Gin and *English* Spirits is restrained or discouraged, it will cause a very considerable Deficiency in the *Revenue*.

1. *Answer.* The Deficiency in the Revenue, will be in a great Measure made up by a larger Consumption

Use of Low-priced Spirituous Liquors. 3

sumption of Malt, Ale and Hops. The Trial hath been already made, * as appears below; so that we may speak in the present Case with the Certainty of Experience.

Moreover, as Spirituous Liquors destroy the People, the preventing that Destruction is adding to their Numbers. And an Addition of People to a trading Country, is an Addition to the Wealth of the Nation, and consequently to the Revenue of the Government: Every Tax, Custom, Duty, and Excise producing so much the more, as the Number of the Consumers encreases. Consequently, the Loss one way must in a short Time be more than compensated by the Gains in the other.

It is indeed impossible to conceive it to be the true Interest of any Government to grant a general

B 2 ral

* In the Year 1737, being the Year after the Act past for prohibiting the Selling of Spirituous Liquors in less Quantities than two Gallons, and before the Distillers and their Agents had found out so many Means to evade it, there was a very large Encrease of the Revenue on Malt and Ale, compared with the former Year, which very near made up the Deficiency of the Excise on Spirituous Liquors, as will appear by the following Account, *viz.*

	1736	l.	s.	d.
The Gross Produce of the Excise on Beer,	}	1107688	6	6
Ale, &c.				
Ditto on Malt,				
Ditto on low Wines and British Spirits,		149736	7	5
		1883190	9	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
	1737			
The Gross Produce of the Excise on Beer,	}	1140625	7	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ale, &c.				
Ditto on Malt,				
Ditto on low Wines and British Spirits,		88554	9	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
		1879903	14	10 $\frac{3}{4}$

4. *An INQUIRY concerning the*

ral Licence to the Subjects to destroy one another. The Principles of sound Policy, to say nothing of any *higher* Motive, would suggest, that the Deficiencies in the Revenue occasioned by the Numbers so † destroyed, must beyond Comparison be greater than the Gains arising from the Sale of Licences for destroying them.

2. *Answer.* If there should be an immediate Deficiency for a short Time; or if the Encrease on one Branch of the Revenue cannot be so commodiously transferred, as to make up for the Loss sustained in another, on Account of their several distinct Appropriations, there is no Doubt to be made, but the Sagacity and Prudence of the Legislature will easily find out proper Equivalents.

And if a private Member of Society may be allowed to offer his Sentiments on such an Occasion, he would propose, with due Submission to the Publick Judgement, such Taxes for Equivalents, as may not only bring in the necessary Supplies, but also have a natural Tendency to promote the general good Ends of Commerce, and the Suppression of Vice. Among which Number he humbly conceives the two following, *viz.* A Tax upon all Publick Places of Diversion, by means of Stamp Tickets;—and a Tax upon Batchelors. As to the former, Mr *Fielding* hath so copiously set forth the evil Consequences attending the making Diversions cheap for People in common and middling Life,

† *Vide* Postscript to the Lord Bishop of *Worcester's* late Dedication to the Lord Mayor, &c.

Use of Low-priced Spirituous Liquors. 5

Life, that I shall beg Leave to refer for fuller Information to his very seasonable and judicious Treatise concerning the *Causes of the late Encrease of Robberies, &c.* And with respect to the latter, it may be affirmed with the utmost Truth, that never antient *Rome*, in the Time of *Julius Cæsar*, nor any State, wanted a *Lex Maritalis* more than ours at this present. And those, who are disposed to see the extensive ill Effects of this growing Evil of Celibacy on the Morals of both Sexes, and on the Commerce and Prosperity of the Nation, may please to consult the *Brief Essay on Trade*, Page 124, Printed for T. TRYE, *Holborn*.

3. *Answer.* The present Laws concerning *British* Spirits, are found by Experience to be not only ruinous to the general Revenue in their Consequences, but to have opened a Door for great Evasions in regard to the Malt Tax. The Spirits distilled from Corn are beyond Comparison more in Quantity, than those which are extracted from all other Materials. All this Corn ought in Reason to pay the Malt Duty: Yet the Distillers find Means, in a great Measure, to evade paying it: As they use no greater Quantity of Malt, than is necessary to begin and support the Fermentation among the unmalted Corn. Whereas the Brewer makes use of none but malted Corn. Thus the Maltster and Brewer are both Sufferers by this Favour permitted to the Distiller; who consequently pays considerably less Duty in making a Liquor infinitely prejudicial, than is paid by the others

6 *An INQUIRY concerning the*

others for making one, that is in itself very wholesome.

4. *Answer.* Though an high additional Duty on any Commodity hath a natural Tendency to diminish the Consumption, it doth not follow, that it will lessen the Revenue, in any considerable Degree; because the Addition in one respect may make up for the Deficiency in the other. If it should be judged becoming the Wisdom of Parliament to oblige the Distillers to pay the Malt Duty for all the Corn they use, — to lay a new Tax of 6d. per Gallon at the Still Head, — to compel the Retailers to take Annual Licences of 5*l.* each; and also to subject both Retailers and Compounders to the Laws of Excise, at 6d. per Gallon, or more, if thought necessary: Perhaps indeed the Quantity consumed would be diminished one half, or more, but the Amount of the Revenue would be much the same: And in that Case, the Produce only on 2000000 of Gallons would be nearly equal to the present Income, on three times the Quantity. It appears by the annual Accounts of the general Excise on low Wines, and British Spirits, from the Year 1736 to the Year 1750, that the several Laws, which their respective Preambles set forth, as *designed to check* the excessive Use of Spirituous Liquors, have had no manner of Effect. The additional Duties laid on from time to time, have indeed encreased the Revenue, but were not sufficiently heavy to discourage the Vice. The gross Produce of Spirits for the Year 1750, was 6613011 Gallons: But the gross Produce of the Excise, both

Use of Low-priced Spirituous Liquors. 7

both on low Wines and Spirits, was only 334874*l.* 3*s.* 10½*d.* which scarce amounts to more than 1*s.* per Gallon, even though the Duties on low Wines are thrown into the Account. Now what Discouragement can be expected from so small a Duty? — Especially if we consider, that the Distillers could afford to sink their former Profits vastly, and yet remain great Gainers; for the Price of Spirits has been raised within a few Years from nineteen and twenty to 28*l.* per Tun, notwithstanding they become more expert every Year in the Arts of their Profession, by Compendiums of Labour, Compoundings of Liquors, Cleaning * of the Spirit, and the like. Whereas were new Duties laid on, in some Form or other that would certainly discourage the Consumption, the Increase by this Duty would yet very probably cause no Loss to the Revenue, — perhaps an Addition.

Objection II. The Passing a Law, which must be ruinous to the Persons engaged in the *British* Distilleries, is a kind of Law *ex post facto*, to deprive People of their Subsistence.

1. *Answer.* The Passing such a Law as here intended, can in no Sense be called a Law *ex post*

B 4

facto:

* *Cleaning of the Spirit.*] Note, There have been already, and doubtless will be many more Frauds and Evasions practised under this Article, unless the Legislature particularly interposes. Under the Notion of cleaning the Spirit, Pepper, Ginger, and other fiery Ingredients are put into the Still; which make the Spirit hot to the *Palate*, and *burning* to the *Stomach*, though mixt with Water, and under Proof as to paying the Duty.

8 *An INQUIRY concerning the*

facto: Because the Legislature have always looked upon the Use of Spirituous Liquors, as pernicious and destructive; and never so much as intimated, that there should be no heavier Duties, and farther Restraints, laid upon them. On the contrary, there were exprefs Declarations made in Parliament, when the last Bill was past, by the very Members that promoted it, that they would readily concur in laying a greater Duty on the Still-Head, if they found by Experience, that the aforesaid Bill did not prove a sufficient Restraint. Woful Experience hath now evinced this to be the Case beyond Dispute. Therefore the Distillers can have no shadow of a Pretence for urging such a Plea.

2. *Answer.* If such a Bill should pass, Provision will undoubtedly be made, as in the Year 1736, that Distillers may set up any other lawful Trade. And as there will be greater Demands in the Malting, and the Brewery Way, they may turn their Stock and Utensils to those Branches, which come the nearest to their former Profession.

3. *Answer.* If neither of the two former Answers should obviate every Difficulty, and redress every Hardship, Who ought to be the Sufferers? Is it reasonable, that a very great Part of the Common People of *Great Britain* should be permitted, and indeed *encouraged* to go on in the Practice of a Vice, which enfeebles and enervates them and their Descendants, effaces all Sentiments
of

Use of Low-priced Spirituous Liquors. 9

of Religion, shortens their Lives, and renders them a Burden to themselves, their Families, and the Publick? — or, that a few particular Persons should suffer *some* Inconveniencies? — For the Distillery may still continue as far as publick Utility will allow; and, as appears by the Preambles to several Acts of Parliament, the Legislature did not design it should extend farther.

Objection III. The passing such a Law would prevent the Consumption of great Quantities of Corn, particularly of damaged Corn: and therefore would be highly injurious to the Farmer, the Gentleman, and the Landed Interest.

1. *Answer.* The * passing such a Law would greatly encrease the Consumption of Bread, consequently of Corn: — It would also encrease the Consumption of Malt, Hops, Butter, Cheese, Milk, Garden Stuff, Flesh, Wool, and every other Produce of Land. It would be a Means of lessening the Poor's Tax, encreasing the Numbers of People, promoting Trade and Industry; — and consequently, in every View, highly beneficial to the Farmer, the Gentleman, and the Landed Interest.

2. *Answer.* If a Bill should pass to discourage the excessive Drinking of Spirituous Liquors, the Quantity of Corn which would thereby be prevented from being used in the Distilleries, is not
near

* See the *Appendix*, containing the Estimates and Observations on them, for a further Proof and Illustration of what is advanced in these Answers.

near so great as one might be apt to suppose from the mighty Strefs which is laid upon this Article.

And first, as to damaged Corn. By the pompous Accounts which have been spread abroad, one would imagine the Distillers consume all the damaged Corn in the Kingdom. Whereas of late Years they have scarce consumed any. This is a Fact which hath been proved before a Committee of the Honourable House of Commons in the Year 1745, by Persons of undoubted Credit and Veracity; and may so easily be proved again, both by the Dealers in Corn, and by those who have seen the Magazines of Distillers, and observed the Corn put into their Tuns, that, I am persuaded, they will hardly attempt to contradict it. And if we suppose the Distillers to understand their own Interest, which no one questions, they must use the best of Corn, as it affords a better Spirit, and greater Quantity, and as they are at the same Expences of Wages, Utensils, and Apparatus, House-Rent, Fire, &c. in extracting from the damaged as from the good Corn.

The Farmer, then, hath not the Vent that is pretended for his damaged Corn.—What is to be done with it? The most natural Way of disposing of it, would be the antient Method of feeding Hogs, as that would render the Flesh firm and wholesome. But here again the Farmer is injured by the Distiller. For it hath been undeniably proved before the same Committee, That the Distillers feed prodigious Numbers of Hogs, at

a much cheaper Rate than the Farmer can afford. Mr Thomas Waite said, “ That he has seen 2000 Hogs fattening at one Time in a Distiller’s Yard at Deptford; that they are not fed with Corn, but by Distiller’s Wash, and other Things by them used, whereby they are always kept Drunk.” Excellent Methods of preparing the Flesh of an Animal, which at best is not the most wholesome, to be Food for Man! and the Effect is accordingly: For Mr Timotky Child observed, (who had been in the Business of making Bacon upwards of twenty Years) “ That the Flesh of Distillers Hogs is unwholesome, when kept in Salt or Pickle any time, and half of it will be rotten.” A lamentable Consideration this for our poor Sailors, whose chief Food is Pork in their long Voyages! What Scurvies! what Cachexies must this occasion in the human Constitution! Nay, speaking of the Consumption of it at home, even as fresh Meat, he observes, “ It is eatable in Summer, but has frequently made People sick.”

Yet as the Distillers feed so much cheaper than the Farmers, they greatly undersell them: And Mr John Butterfield observed upon his Examination, “ That in the Year 1722, (N.B. Before the drinking of Spirituous Liquors was come to such an immoderate Height) “ he fatted a great many Hogs with Corn not capable of being malted; and the Price of Bacon was at that time 2s. 4d. per Stone to the Market, and 2s. 6d. per Stone to private Families. — But when Pork was re-duced

“duced to 20*d.* ⚡ Stone, he left off; and that
 “that Sort of Corn he then fed Hogs with, is
 “now usefess to him. That many Farmers have
 “left off feeding and breeding of Swine. For
 “they may as well throw their Corn away, as
 “attempt to feed Swine upon an Average with
 “the Distillers: That the sprouted Corn, with
 “which the Witnesses used to feed Hogs, he makes
 “very little use of at present: Some of it, he
 “said, he had sold to a Person, who grinds Corn
 “for the Distillers, at 4*s.* ⚡ Quarter less than
 “the Price he had sold Corn at to the Maltsters:
 “and the Person who bought it, sold it again
 “at 3*s.* ⚡ Quarter *lofs.*”

Let the Publick by these Instances judge, how
 far the Distillers are Benefactors to the Farmers
 and the Landed Interest.

Secondly, As to the Case of *sound* Corn. It ap-
 pears by the Prices of Corn at *Bear Key* for the
 last Year, that Wheat (except the very Prime of
 all) at a Medium was about 27*s.* ⚡ Quarter, and
 Barley about 15*s.* Now, according to Mr *Will.*
Harvest's Account, when examined by the above-
 mentioned Committee, 12 Quarters of Barley
 will produce one Tun of Spirits, that is, 252
 Gallons. But the same Quantity of Wheat would
 have produced more. Yet we will suppose, that
 both Sorts of Grain produce only the same Quan-
 tity, and reckon equal Parts of Wheat and Barley
 to make the Quarter at 21*s.* upon an Average.
 Now the gross Amount of the *British* Distilleries
 being

being 6613011 Gallons, for the Year 1750, there
 will be found, according to this Computation, to
 have been used 314905 Quarters of Grain, which
 at 21*s.* ⚡ Quarter amounts to 330650 Pounds
 Sterling.

Here then we see the whole Amount of what
 is paid by the Distillers to the Farmer and the
 Landed Interest.

If therefore the Sums are deducted, which are
 expended in Corn for making Spirits for Expor-
 tation, as it is not proposed to restrain that Branch:
 —And what will still be used for home Consump-
 tion, notwithstanding any new Discouragement
 both which Articles must at least be computed to
 be one half of the gross Sum; then there remains
 165325 Pounds, the Sum which the Distillers are
 supposed at present to expend on the Landed In-
 terest;—and which would sink, were the exces-
 sive Drinking of Spirituous Liquors duly re-
 strained.

N. B. It is to be particularly observed, that the
 Calculations are made to run as high as possible in
 the Distillers Favour. For there is no Notice
 taken of the damaged Corn used, be it more or
 less: But all is supposed to be of the best, and at
 the highest Price. No Allowance is made for the
 advanced Price last Year, on Account of the large
 Exportation to *Spain*, which may not happen ano-
 ther Year: It is here likewise granted, that equal
 Quantities of Wheat and Barley are consumed by
 the Distillers, though the certain Fact is, that
 there

there are much greater Quantities of Barley; Moreover 12 Quarters of Corn are supposed to produce only 252 Gallons of Spirit; though the Treatise entitled, *Distilled Spirituous Liquors the Bane of the Nation*, (whose excellent Author is above all Censure both as to Integrity and Judgment) positively asserts, page 21, That the Distillers themselves confess, they can draw 23 Gallons of Proof Spirits from one Quarter of Corn, *i. e.* 276 Gallons from 12 Quarters.

If therefore all these Items were taken into the Estimation, there would not remain 100000 £. to * the Credit Side of the Distillers Account. But suppose the most:—nay, suppose 200000 £. what is that to the preventing the Consumption of about two MILLIONS a Year of the Produce of Land! and the yearly Loss of very near FOUR MILLIONS to the Nation in general! (See the Estimates, and Observations on them, in the *Appendix*.)

4. *Answer.* If the present Use of Spirituous Liquors is beneficial to the Farmer, and the Landed Interest; then it follows, That the fewer the People, — and the less Work they do, — the poorer they are housed and cloathed, — and the less Appetites they have for their Victuals; the more would be the Profit of the Farmer and his Landlord: That is, When the Farmer sells much *less in Quantity* than he otherwise would do, and for *less*

* *N. B.* No Allowance is here made for the great Quantity of Spirits drawn from Molasses, Treacle, or other Materials, which would considerably reduce this Calculation.

less Price,—then he receives the MORE MONEY. This is such an Expedient for the Benefit of the Landed Interest, for paying of Rents, Rates, and Taxes, employing the Poor, and preventing their becoming a Burden to their respective Parishes; —that I shall only observe, those Persons must be hard put to it, who could not propose a better, than that of converting Barley into Poison to murder the Consumers of Wheat and every other Produce of the Land.

Objection IV. The putting down, or discouraging the *British* Distilleries, will be only so much Encouragement given for the Introduction of *Foreign* Spirits not paying the Duty:—A Practice too frequent already.

1. *Answer.* Foreign Spirits, though run, cannot do so much Mischief, as our own at present; because they must be necessarily dearer, and consequently not so easy to be purchased by ordinary and common People. Any small Quantity of the best Gin (as it is called) may be retailed at the Rate of 9d. the Quart; but the same Quantity of Brandy can hardly be *retailed* for double the Sum, even upon the Sea-Coast, where it is run.

2. *Answer.* In the Case of *English* Spirits, the Inland Parts of the Kingdom, where the *chief Manufactures* are, suffer equally with the Sea-Coasts; because Distilleries may be, and are set up, wherever there is a Vent for the Commodity, which is particulatly found to be in Places of *Manufacture*. But these Inland Parts of the Kingdom

dom cannot be much hurt by the Smuggling of Liquors from abroad, as the very Land Carriage, and the continual Risque, enhance the Price, so as to make it too dear for the manufacturing Poor to purchase.

3. *Answer.* Some proper Methods may be taken even to suppress Smuggling. For sure the Evil is not altogether incurable, if such Expedients are happily found out as go to the Root of it, and are carried into just Execution.

It may indeed be too difficult for a private Person, to find out a Remedy equal to a Disease so universal, and of so long Continuance: But yet as every well-meant Endeavour for the Publick Service is candidly accepted, when offered with Modesty and Submission, it is to be hoped the following Thoughts, which proceed no farther than by Way of *Quere*, will be favourably received.

Quere I. If the Privileges and Exemptions of the Islands of *Guernsey* and *Jersey*, &c. were abolished, and those PERFECTLY united to the *British* Crown, could the same Frauds be then practised, as the running of Goods, which have had a Drawback granted them, Smuggling of *French* Wines, Brandies, Teas, Coffee, Chocolate, Silks, Lace, and all other Commodities, as are at present?—Could the *French* Wines be mixt with *Port*, and then entered as if they were all the Growth of *Portugal*, to the great Detriment of the Revenue, the manifest Injury of the *Portugal* Trade,

Trade, the certain irreparable Loss to the Nation, and the open avowed Encouragement to PERJURY?—Could the Smacks and Cruisers, which were designed to guard the Coast, have the same Pretence to enter the Ports of *France*, which they have now to step into *Guernsey* and *Jersey*, viz. to see what Vessels were lading,—and sometimes take in a Lading for themselves?—*Et quis Custodes custodiat ipsos?*

Quere II. If the Jurisdiction of the *Isle of Man* was annexed to the Crown, in the same Manner as the Hereditary Jurisdictions in *Scotland* lately were, could *France*, *Holland*, *Denmark*, &c. find any Place in *our own* Seas, as a *Storehouse* or *Magazine*, for depositing their several contraband Goods, in order to run them on the Coasts of *England*, *Wales*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*? If the Collectors of the Customs of the present noble Proprietor of this Island, were obliged to lay before the Parliament their Books of Entries for the last seven Years, and such Entries compared with the Accounts that might be transmitted from *France*, *Holland*, *Denmark*, &c. would it not appear, that the respective *India* Companies of those Countries had imported vast Quantities of Teas, and other *India* Goods, PRINCIPALLY with a View to make their Markets by Smuggling them into *Great Britain* and *Ireland*? And ought not that Circumstance alone be an alarming Consideration to the *English East-India* Company, to the Government, and the whole *British* Nation? Do the *French*, *Dutch*, *Danes*, &c. permit the *English*

to use any Part of their respective Dominions for the like Purposes? And would it not be more advantageous to the *British* Nation, as to the mere *Articles of Profit and Loss*, to pay Subsidies to these Countries of 200000 Pounds p^{r} Annum, than to let Matters continue on the present Footing? Lastly, with regard to our own Subjects, if this Island were annexed to the Crown, could the *corrupt* Part of the Commanders of the Smacks and Cruisers receive any Emolument for *conniving* at the Evils here complained of? or the *honest* Part be insulted, and even imprisoned by the Deputy Governors or their Agents, for discharging faithfully their Duty; of which there hath been a very glaring and recent Instance? And would it be practicable to make as many *sham* Exportations of Tobacco, and other Goods entitled to a Drawback, as it is at present?

Quere III. Whether the present Methods of collecting the Duties on *French* Brandies, and other Foreign Liquors, are not found to be eventually productive of great Temptations to smuggle them? Whether such Temptations could possibly be so strong, if there was the same Permission granted to the Importers of these Commodities, as there is to the Importers of Rum; viz. *To put them in the King's Warehouse, paying the Duties only for the Quantities they take out, when they meet with a Purchaser, and leaving the Rest to continue?* Whether a Smuggler with One hundred Pounds Stock would run the Risque of his Life and Fortune, which the present Laws subject him to, if he

he could commence a fair Trader, to sufficient Advantage, with so small a Capital? And whether, in Case of such a Permission, a Man could not carry on a more extensive Trade with One hundred Pounds, than he can do now with six times the Sum?

Whether the great Frauds in the Tobacco Trade, to the prodigious Detriment of the Revenue, and the National Interest, cannot likewise be accounted for, upon the Principle here suggested? And if the Importers of Tobacco were allowed the like Benefit as the Importers of Rum, whether there would be any illicit Practices in the Trade of the one, more than in that of the other?

Quere IV. If all Seizures were absolutely prohibited to be sold for home Consumption, could they then cover the vending any Quantity of unaccustomed Goods, which are now vended in large Quantities by this Means?—If the Seizures were not to be used at home, would the Purchasers give *more* for such Goods, than they do for others of the like intrinsic Value? And is not the *advanced* Price now given, a plain Indication of the Uses to which they are applied?

Quere V. If the Commanders and Officers of the Smacks and Cruisers were to be paid only one half of their Salaries of *Course*, and the other half by way of *Gratuity*, when it appeared that they had been vigilant and active to an *high* Degree, would not this quicken their Motions, and add new Life and Vigour to their Endeavours?—If those who could give no Proof of an *extraordinary*

Vigilance were to lose such Gratuities, and others to receive them, as an *additional* Reward, who had distinguished themselves the most eminently, would not this be a Means of raising a Spirit of Emulation among them, and making the *active* Principles of Interest, Shame, Fear, Honour, Disgrace, all unite, and operate for the Publick Good?

Quere VI. If a few independent Companies of light Horse were raised, in the Nature of *Hussars*, would not such kind of Cavalry be much more proper to scour the Coasts, and pursue Smugglers, than heavy Horse, and Dragoons, and regular Forces?— And if their Officers were paid in the same Manner, as is proposed for the Officers of Smacks and Cruisers, would it not be an additional Advantage to the common Cause, a Security for their Integrity, and an Incentive to their Vigilance?

Quere VII. If the *whole* Seizures were given to the Captors, would it not be a greater Encouragement than giving them a Part? And if the Fees and Expences of the Court of Exchequer for Condemnation did not rise so high, would not this enhance the Value of the Prize to the Captors, and consequently make them more active and vigilant in the Pursuit of it? Whether there have not been Instances of Customhouse Officers, *compounding* with the Delinquents for *petty* Seizures, rather than be at the Expence of condemning them in the *Exchequer*, as that would swallow up the Profit?

These

These Queries the Author would humbly offer to public Consideration; not doubting but many other Methods might be found out, greatly conducive to the same good End. As to the Difficulties against putting this Scheme into immediate Execution; he is not aware of any, but is far from presuming to determine that there are none.

Objection V. If our common People cannot get drunk with Gin and Spirits, they *will* with other Liquors:—and that is as bad.

1. *Answer.* The Use of other Liquors is not as bad; because the Drinking of Spirituous Liquors is a kind of *instantaneous* Drunkenness, where a Man hath no time to recollect or think, whether he has had enough or not. The Smallness of the Quantity deceives him, so that his Reason is gone before he is aware. But when a poor labouring Man hath drank his Pint of Ale, he is still Sober, and cool enough to consider, whether he should call for more.

2. *Answer.* The Use of other Liquors is not as bad, as the *Nature* of the Drunkenness is not the same. Ale is a *Soporifick*: A Man drunk with Ale, falls asleep, and is *so far* an harmless Creature: whereas the Person intoxicated with Gin, is *mad* and *furious*, without Sense of Duty, Fear, or Shame, “ready to engage in any Acts of Villany and Outrage.”

3. *Answer.* The Effects and Consequences on the Human Constitution, and in Relation to the Increase of the Species, are not the same. See

22 *An INQUIRY concerning the*
the Miseries and direful Consequences of drinking
Spirituos Liquors, set forth in the Lord Bishop
of Worcester's late Sermon, Dedication, and Ap-
pendix.

Objection VI. All the Rules and Regulations
that can be devised, will not cure the Evil. Peo-
ple bewitched with Spirituous Liquors, will have
them by some means or other: so that the new
intended Law, will be as ineffectual as all the
former ones.

1. *Answer.* The Reason why the former Laws
became ineffectual, hath been accounted for al-
ready, *page 7*: So that the Experience of former
Times will help the Legislature to provide against
the like Inconveniencies for the Future.

2. *Answer.* As to the Position, That People
will have Spirituous Liquors: it is to be observed,
that the present Drinkers of Spirituous Liquors
may be divided into three Sorts; first, such as are
obstinately addicted to it;—secondly, such as have
no unconquerable Attachment, yet cannot with-
stand the Temptation, when thrown in their Way;
—thirdly, young Children, and the rising Gene-
ration.

With respect to the first of these;—Though it
should be found impracticable totally to prevent
them, yet a Law of this Nature must necessarily
make it exceeding *difficult* for them to get at it,
as often as before:—consequently, the Price being
enhanced, the Quantity drank, would be much
less; which Circumstance alone, would prolong
their

Use of Low-priced Spirituous Liquors. 23

their Lives, and hinder their Example from being
so corrupting, as otherwise it would be.

With respect to the second Sort;—If the
Temptation is removed, these People may be easy
enough without it: there being a material Diffe-
rence between *being tempted*,—and seeking a Temp-
tation. Many People, who would never have
sought a Temptation, may yet be overcome when
they are assaulted by it.

As to the third Sort;—There can be no Rea-
son to believe, but that Children and the rising
Generation may be easily reclaimed, as they have
not yet been *habitually* accustomed to it.

3. *Answer.* If such a Law will be no Restraint
to this growing Evil; we shall be at the worst
but just where we were: consequently, there can
be no very weighty Reason for *industriously* oppos-
ing it. Therefore, if there should be any violent
Opposition made to a Bill for this good Purpose,
it cannot be upon Account of its having no Ef-
fect, though that may be pretended.—There must
be some other Reason at the Bottom.



(24)

A N

APPENDIX,

C O N T A I N I N G

Certain Estimates of the Annual Loss and Profit of *Great Britain*, by drinking Gin and Spirituous Liquors, with Observations upon them.

A N N U A L L O S S .

	£.	s.	d.
S UPPOSE there are 400000 Dram-Drinkers, who eat less Bread by at least 3d. each, in the Space of seven Days, the Amount of this is, —	260714	5	8½
They eat less Butchers Meat, Fish, Roots, Garden-Stuff, Butter, Cheese, Eggs, Bacon, Salt, Milk, Sugar, and all Sorts of Groceries, by 1d. per Day, or 7d. per Week,	608333	6	8
They drink less Malt Liquor, by 4d. per Week, — —	347619	0	11½
Carried over —	1216666	13	4

A P P E N D I X . 25

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over —	1216666	13	4
They use less Apparel and Cloathing of all Sorts, less Washing, Soap, &c. by 2d. per Week, — — —	173809	10	5½
They use fewer Utensils, and less Furniture in their Houses or Lodgings, less Change of Bedding, and Washing of ditto, less Fuel and Candle to Work by, by 2d. per Week,	173809	10	5½
They do less Work by 1s. 6d. per Week, — — —	1564285	14	3½
What is above computed, relates only to Gin-Drinkers when <i>alive</i> ; but to this Account must be added the Loss which the Nation sustains by the <i>premature</i> and <i>untimely</i> DEATHS of so many Labourers and Mechanicks, whose Lives are continually shortned or destroyed by means of this Poison.--Likewise the Thefts, Robberies, and Executions hence occasioned.—The Prevention of the Encrease of the Species,—The consequent Losses and Deficiencies in the Working up all Sorts of Ma-			
Carried over —	3128571	8	6½

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over —	3128571	8	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Manufactures.—Less Provisions expended.—Sickness brought on.—The Numbers that daily become a Burden upon their Parishes.—The prodigious In- crease of the Poor-Taxes,— and the Loss of Labour from ALL these Causes; which, that we may be sure to put it low enough, shall only be esti- mated at 2s. per Week, —	2085714	5	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
	5214285	14	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Deduct the Annual Profits, as appears underneath, —	1216666	13	4
Remains for Total of Annual Loss, — — — —	3997619	0	11 $\frac{1}{2}$

A N N U A L P R O F I T.

THE above 400000 Per-
sons of both Sexes in Great
Britain, are supposed to drink
two penny worth each per Day
of English Spirits, one Day
with another: The yearly
Amount of this is — 1216666 13 4

So

So malignant is this Evil, and extensive in its fatal Consequences! Here therefore let us observe, that if the Calculations are just, the Loss which the Nation annually sustains, is prodigious and astonishing; the Prevention of which in the Course of few Years would amount to a Sum equal to the whole National Debt. But if there are any Objections against this Train of Reasoning, they must turn upon the Supposition, in the *present Case*, that the Calculations are made *too high*: For the Distillers can have no Grounds to complain in Case the Losses are set *too low*, as every Error on that Side is so much in their Favour.

Now if the Estimates on the *Profit side* of the Account are too high; a Rectification of the Mistake would make the Balance appear still *worse* in their Disfavour. Therefore the *only* Objection to be made, must relate to the *losing side* of the Account. The Question therefore is, Which of all these Articles can be supposed to be over-charged?

Is it an immoderate Computation to allow 400000 habitual Drinkers of Gin and English Spirits in the whole Kingdom of Great Britain? — Rather would not any Man say, that there are a much greater Number within the City of London, and the Neighbouring Counties, without taking in the rest of the Kingdom? But whatever be the real Number of Gin Drinkers, whether 400000, or four Times that Number, the *real* Loss to the Nation is in *Proportion* to the *real* Number; which beyond all Dispute is much greater than 400000: and of Course the Nation, besides that dreadful Calamity, the *Destruction* and *Diminution* of *People*, suffers a much greater annual Loss, as to the Consumption of the Produce of the Land, as to Manufactures, Trade and Revenue

nue upon all these, than I have represented. — But to be somewhat more particular.

Is it then an Over-charge to say, that each *habitual* Dram-Drinker eats less Bread by 3d. per Week? If any one is disposed to be of that Opinion, let him please to consider, that whereas a Day-Labourer or Mechanick, who is no Dram-Drinker, can very well eat a Pound of Bread per Day, at a Medium, together with a good Quantity of solid Animal Food, and a Pint of Ale (and must require more, unless he hath these Supports) an habitual Dram-Drinker seldom eats one third of the Quantity. — Moreover it is a notorious Fact, that many of the Parish Poor have carried their Allowance of Bread to the Gin-Shop, and there exchanged the *four-penny Loaf* of Bread for *three-penny* worth of *Gin*. One Circumstance relating to this Subject may perhaps recur to the Memories of several Persons, *viz.* That in the late hard Winter, the Candidates for Money, and *whole Loaves* were vastly more numerous than those for Slices of Bread, Cheese, dressed Meat, and good Broth; — though these latter were intrinsically of greater value: — Nay, they were slighted and despised: And the Reason was, *Because they were not saleable at the Gin-Shop.*

The next Article of Loss consists in the less Consumption of Butchers-Meat, Fish, Roots, Garden-Stuff, Butter, Cheese, Eggs, Bacon, Salt, Milk, Sugar, and all Sorts of Groceries; — and this is only rated at 1d. per Day: Whereas had it been double the Sum, perhaps it would not have amounted to the real Loss. And indeed the habitual Use of Spirituous Liquors is known, not only to pall and destroy the Appetite, but to make the little that is remaining *weak* and *delicate*. The common People by their bodily Exercise are supposed to be capable of digesting, and by their Station

Station in Life are under a kind of Necessity of purchasing, the *coarsest* Provisions; — consequently the *cheapest*. But ever since the frequent Use of Spirituous Liquors, the Palates of the Poor are become *Nice* and *Sickly*, to a degree deserving one's Pity and Compassion. They are not able to purchase *Dainties*; and they cannot *touch* what is *coarse* and *ordinary*. — The Dram therefore is the only Refuge: And hence it is, that the great Dealers in Flesh-Meat in *Southwark* and *White-Chapel* have justly complained of late Years, that they can have no Purchasers for the coarser Parts of Meat, which used formerly to be Sold to the Poor at a low Price, but must now be buried, or thrown upon a Dunghill*. And most undoubtedly what proves to be the Case with respect to Butchers-Meat, holds equally true in regard to all other Sorts of Provisions.

As to the great Deficiency in regard to Beer and Ale, I would only beg leave to observe, that when labouring People use these Liquors in a *moderate* Degree, they are enabled and supported to Work the better: Consequently a Pint a Day is no unreasonable Allowance in hard-working Trades, and a Penny-worth in others. But the Dram-Drinker hath no Ends to answer by the Use of Ale, or Beer; it is too *cool* and *spiritless* to warm a Stomach long habituated to the Fire of distilled Liquors; — And yet not cool and quenching enough to allay the burning Thirst this Fire has occasioned. Therefore Small Beer or Water is the only present Remedy: But as Small Beer is excessive cheap in comparison of Ale, the largest Consumption of it can by no Means compensate for the Loss sustained in not making a proper Use of

* See that judicious Treatise, *Spirituous Liquors the Bane of the Nation*, Page 13, &c.

of Ale. Moreover, I submit it to the learned Gentlemen of the Faculty, whether the large Draughts such unhappy Wretches swallow down, do not lay the Foundation of many fatal Diseases.

The two next Articles are the Loss of what might be expended in Apparel, Washing, Soap, &c.—And in Furniture for their Houses or Lodgings. Now whoever will be pleased to take Notice of the Rags and Nakedness of these miserable Objects, their want of proper Change, Washing, &c.—the shocking Scenes of Nastiness and Poverty in the Places they herd together in, often without so much as a Bed to lie on, never with what is decent and convenient; will, I am persuaded, be much apter to object to the Estimate as vastly defective, than that these Articles are at all over-charged.

To come therefore to that which must occasion all these Losses, viz. THE LOSS OF LABOUR. This is estimated only at 1s. 6d. per Week: Whereas it is to be considered, that where the Drinking of Spirituous Liquors mostly prevails, there the Price of Labour is at the highest. In many Trades in London Journeymens Wages are 15s. and 20s. per Week, and upwards; and Women may get from 8s. to 12s. So that the mispending but a few Hours in a Week would more than double this Sum. And those who are addicted to this Vice, have no Notion of getting any more at their respective Trades than sufficient to purchase the Dram: This being the Sum Total of their Wishes, or, in their own Phrase, their Meat, Drink, and Cloaths:—Which indeed is almost literally true; as they use very little of either besides.

After what hath been said, I hope it will be needless to add any thing, as to the concluding Article of the Estimate. — If the Losses occasioned by so many Lives shortned or destroyed, — Robberies

beries and Murders—the Prevention of the Increase of the Species, &c. &c. can be objected against, as set too high, at 2s. per Week, I shall despair of giving any Answer, which can satisfy such Objectors. On the contrary, if the candid and impartial Reader will be pleased to pardon the setting the several Articles so very low, I shall have little Reason to apprehend his Censure on the other Account. — One Thing I must beg leave to add, that I did not intend to exceed by a single Farthing; and designedly chose to set every Article vastly short of what was my own Judgement concerning them.

The whole aggregate Sum indeed, or total Loss, when brought in one View, strikes one with a degree of Horror and Amazement: A Loss little less than FOUR MILLIONS, which Yearly falls upon the Trading Interest, — the Landed Interest, — and the Revenue of Great Britain! How complicated and extensively destructive is this Evil! — It would be a poor Consolation to pretend to shew, which of the Three here mentioned, are the least Sufferers. Be it sufficient to observe, that they must all jointly suffer: And more particularly, that as every Decay in Trade, &c. must ultimately fall upon Land, the Damage accruing to the Landed Interest, now the Evil hath been of so long Continuance, must be at least TWO MILLIONS A YEAR. — And will be soon more, if this Vice is suffered to go on.



POSTSCRIPT

AN Objection has lately come to my Knowledge, which I did not suspect there was any Colour for, viz. That in the above Estimate there is a *double Charge* on the losing Side; first, by specifying the several Particulars, which the Drinkers of Spirituous Liquors are supposed *not* to consume in consequence of this Practice; and, secondly, by charging the Loss of their Labour as a distinct Article from the former.

But suppose *A.* and *B.* are both Manufacturers, and *mutual* Consumers of each other's Produce. *A.* hath a certain Number of Wants, suppose twenty, partly natural, partly artificial, to be supplied. So likewise hath *B.* But *A.* takes to drinking of Spirituous Liquors, and by that Means becomes both *incapacitated* and *disinclined* to work for *B.* in the Manner he did before. In short he supplies but the one half of *B.*'s usual Wants. What then is the Consequence? — Will *B.* work for him for nothing? That cannot be supposed. — Besides, it hath been already proved, that the habitual Use of Spirituous Liquors doth destroy *A.*'s Appetite, and takes away his Inclination for almost every Produce, or Manufacture, but his beloved evil Spirit.

On the contrary, if *A.* should grow more industrious than before, he would still purchase with this Surplus something he esteems of Use either to himself or his Family; that is, he would give a suitable Encouragement to *B.* to become more industrious likewise in the several Branches of his Profession. Thus it is, that these Persons must
always

always prove either a *mutual Incentive*, or a *mutual Check* to each other: And there can be no Medium in this Case, between a *double Advantage* or a *double Loss* to the Community.

Hence likewise it appears, it is impossible there can be a Want of Labour, but where there is a previous Want of Industry on one Side or the other. For the more Hands there are employed, the more Employment they will create for other Hands: and by that means, a mutual Circulation is carried on through every Trade, every Profession and Condition, from the Meanest to the Greatest. For Example; One hundred Families in any Town, if industrious, mutually find Employment for one another in their various Occupations; the same Town encreased to Five hundred Families, would by mutual Commerce produce a correspondent Addition of Trade and Manufactures: and the Five hundred would find Employment in the same Manner as the One hundred do. — With a proportional Encrease of Advantages to the *Landed Interest*, and to the *Publick*, by larger Consumptions of the Produce of the Land, and larger Contributions to every Tax and Duty.

FINIS



BOOKS wrote by the Author of this Treatise.

A Brief Essay on the Advantages and Disadvantages which respectively attend France and Great Britain, with regard to Trade. With some Proposals for removing the principal Disadvantages of Great Britain. In a new Method. The Second Edition, corrected, with large Additions. Pr. 2s.

This is the Pamphlet from whence the Fool, in the Gazetteer, No 600, of December 21st and 22d, has taken his Extract, relating to the Question in Agitation between the Masters and Journeymen of the City of London: Also in that of March the 22d, with regard to the Importation of IRON from our AMERICAN COLONIES.

Two Dissertations on certain Passages of Holy Scripture, viz. the first on Luke xiv. 12, 13, 14. and the second on Rom. xiii. 1, 2, 3, 4. Wherein the Cavils and Objections of the late Mr CHUBB, in the first Volume of his Posthumous Works, viz. Remarks on the Scriptures, are particularly considered and refuted. Pr. 1s.

Printed for T. TRYE, in Holborn.

Where may be had,

The Works of the Most Reverend Dr EDWARD SYNOR, late Lord Archbishop of Tuam in Ireland. Consisting of great Variety of Tracts, wrote on the most useful, interesting, and important Points and Doctrines of the Christian Religion. In Four Volumes. Price bound 12s.

A Collection of Tracts on several useful and interesting Subjects, relating to Publick Affairs. Pr. 1s.

Philosophical Conjectures on Aereal Influences, the probable Origin of Diseases: Addressed to Dr SHAW, by EDMUND LITTON.

The Power of Imagination in Pregnant Women, discussed. With an Address to the Ladies on the Occasion. By J. H. MAUCLERC, M. D. Pr. 1s.

Practical Reflections on the late Earthquakes, that have happened in Europe and America, but chiefly in the Islands of Jamaica, England, Sicily, Malta, &c. with a particular and historical Account of them, and divers other Earthquakes. By JOHN SHOWER: and a recommendatory Preface, by Mr THOMAS BRADBURY. Pr. 1s. 6d.

An Appendix to the Rev. Mr JOHN SHOWER's Practical Reflections on Earthquakes; being a Continuation of his Account, and Practical Reflections after his Manner, from the Year 1693, down to those last Shocks, that were felt at London and Westminster, on February 8, and March 8, 1749-50; with an Application adapted to the present Times, &c. Pr. 6d.

