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THE

TRUEWAY

Of Evading the

GIN ACT:

AND

The vast Advantages that will attend the Evasion of it.

Humbly Inscribed to all Distillers and Venders of Spirituous Liquors.

By Dr. Sw-T.

Nunc est bibendum.

Hor.



DUBLIN Printed:

London, Reprinted for W. Webb, in Paster-noster-Row; and Sold at the Pamphlet-Shops in London and Westminster, 1736.

Price Six-Pence.

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THE

TRUEWAY

Of Evading the

GIN ACT.

Was, Yesterday, (the Lord forgive me, for my Landlady wou'd not, though I begg'd of her and intreated the old Hag more than enough, besides bussing her, till she had too much); Well, as I should say, I was, though it was Sunday, reading over the New Act, as they call it; and, I verily think, never saw a Thing better contrived, or more closely put together, in all my Born Days. There's no Possibility, scarce, of evading it, nor Chasm lest for one to creep out at. For my own Part,

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I fay it, upon my Sincerity, I think there's none. But,

I was fometimes doubting in my own Mind (you may be fure, not in any other's) whether a Perfon might not climb up a Tree and drink with Licence, till he should tumble down again. I humbly proposed this Point to my Landlady's Daughter, who is a very smart Girl, as witty as *Hudibras*, and *understands*, even those Things that are *above* her.

Her Reply to the Query was a Complication of Witticisms; full of Humour, and as teeming with Poignancy. Ay, ay, said she, you're a pretty Fellow enough, in your own Way; that you are truly! You are prohibited from drinking this by Land or Water; but don't Trees stand upon Land? Try half a hanging Bout, my good Lad, and you'll find to your Cost, that they'll stand longer than you can. Thus she went on, for above half an Hour together, endeavouring to puzzle me with several cross Interrogatories in Female Ingenuity.

I immediately answered her after this Manner. My dear Miss, though I've fometimes kiss'd your Mamma, yet that

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was no Transgression; you've known me stand, out of Complaisance to you, above the Space of an Hour, without once fitting down. There's no hing in the Cafe. No truly, my Dear; you've often defired me to rest my Limbs; your own dear felf being fenfibly affected with my standing Posture, and, I believe, more tired with it, than ever I was. And as for Trees standing upon Land, which you talk of, it never proves, that when a Man has got up a Tree upon Land, or a Topmast upon Water, that he's upon either of them, I mean, upon any Thing, that we strictly call Earthy or Watry; otherwife it must follow, there is no such Thing as Motion, nor Distance between any one Place and another: Though this I said mostly for Argument's Sake, and to divert my Charmer, whom I adore like a Goddess. I knew very well her Reasoning was just, and I would, upon Occasion, defend it against any Body.

But now, to quit this Digression from the main Point, I would, nay, shall, briefly show what is the ready Way of putting down all the Gin-Shops in Town, and Country too, long before Michael-

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mas Term. I am now going to speak good Law, ay, and good Sense to boot, which is more; and therefore let every one attend closely to what I say.

First, Let all the Lawyers, and other Members of our Club, next Vacation Time, meet together in a Body, each of 'em call for two Gallons of Comforting Gin, and repeat the Quantity till the Whole is diminished.

Secondly, Upon this Diminution, let 'em fend for me, and fome other merry Fellows, to help off with it.

Thirdly, Let'em pay my Reckoning, and I'll keep Accounts, without ever casting up, because I seldom pay at the Time of scoring down.

Fourthly, Let 'em fend for my Mistress as well as myself, because one can't possibly attend without t'other; both of us being, for the most Part, closely stitch'd together.

Fifthly,

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Fifthly, Let 'em all join with me, in finging Lillyhollero, and dancing a French Horn-Pipe.

Sixthly, When we can drink no longer, let us all tumble down.

Sevent bly, When we are down, let us lie till we rise again.

Eighthly, When we rise again, let us drink the Liquor out, next kick off the Hoops from the Butts, and then spill the Remainder. And,

These Eight Rules, being duly and rightly observed, will, I'm persuaded, put down all the Gin-Shops in this Kingdom, before the Mass or Feast aforesaid approaches, and consequently, upon the Whole, will prevent the Publick the Expence both of Time and Money: Both of which (God knows) are always precious, and, to the busiest among us, often very scanty and scarce.

A Ninth Rule, I own, might here have been added, though not fo much by Way of Regulation, as of Caution; and that is, if any of our Apothecaries or Surgeons should mix among us, let us, then,

In the Ninth or November Place, endeavour to keep them as fober as is poffible.

Should us break a Leg, they would be apt to gee in fetting it, or, at least, in fetting it off, as right as it should be on.

Or, Should us meet with a Contusion, and require them to bleed us; Egad, they might prick ten Times before they would hit the proper Vein, nay, perhaps, might

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might touch an Artery instead of the right. Vessel. Or, again,

Should us have Occasion for a mollifying Clyster, for Gin is devilish costive, they, possibly, might make two, three, four, or five Holes in the *Posterior* Way, before they could hit the right one; or, if they should accidentally light on't, might hap to leave a Part of their wooden Instrument in it; which would of Course, be a great Mar to any sitting Member. Nay.

Lastly, Should any of your Wives (for I have only a Mistress myself) be taken with the Cholick, and these Men be imploy'd to apply the said Instrument to her, these Messieurs Clysterpipe and Bag, might, possibly, go out of their Biass, or run a Pipe too low, that is, mistake (being thus intoxicated) the under Pipe for the upper Butt; which would, I am persuaded, considering their Advantages of Visibility, be a consounded Blunder; if it is not, besides, what bears some-

thing, as one may fay, of Analogy or Resemblance to Cuckoldom.

And

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And therefore, for these, and many other Reasons, 'tis my humble Opinion in this Affair, that the true Way of putting down all the Gin-Shops, &c. and of preserving every Subject sober as he should be, is, as aforefaid, to drink out all the Liquor, and next, when that is done, to spill all the Rest. I can assure you all, I'll be a helping Hand to you, and shall ever stand by you, while I am

able to sit.

However, to assure you of my Abilities herein, I shall be frank to tell you, that I walk all Day; being bent on a Resolution to find out perpetual Motion. Not only fo neither, but frequently walk by Night; and when I am fatigued, I fit in my Coach. True, the Horses are then generally, I should say, always unyok'd, because they are such prancing Animals, there's no resting with them for half a Minute; by yea and by nay there is not: No troth; but, on the first Slumber, I'm immediately awak'd; and my Head is as agitated as if I were hobling along Shoreditch. For which Reason I dismiss them whenever I intend a Nap; and when that is over, wheel home to my own Castle,

Castle, where I sleep as found, for the Time I lie, as a Castle-Top does when it

stands upon the Sharp.

But, if what I have faid don't feem fufficient, nor a reasonable Method for putting down the Gin-Shops, I shall offer another Scheme; and that is, to blow them up. If this last Rule be well obferved, they will, I'm perfuaded, foon fall to the Ground. True,

The Gin itself won't fall; no truly, never can. And why? Because tis a Spirit, and much lighter than the Air

itself.

Who the D——I, ever, in all his born Days, heard of any Spirit's falling? None

ever did, nor can prove it.

The Devil, I own, is faid to have tumbled down. But don't you believe that. Don't, I say: Do not. That never could be; unless he got drunk with Bub; which you've no where any Account of.

Besides, you are told he's always going about, which necessarily implies, that he meets with no Cadencies; unless it can be proved that he's down and up, at

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the same Time; which is contrary to all Logick that I ever heard of.

Perhaps, you'll tell me, then, he's no sitting Member. Right enough; and that's a great Compliment to our worthy Society. For they often sit, often stand, and, yet, seldom go about any Thing; which is a plain Proof, they can do nothing that's hurtful. How should they? How can they? None of them. Therefore, I'm fure, none of them are Devils.

They often fit, and yet get up, Whene'er it's Time to reach the Cup; Or if, thro' tremor, chance to spill it, They fit again, until they fill it; And, when they fill it, drink it out, Withal, refresh'd as any Trout; And, when they've drank it out, 'tis empty, Nought but the Bottom in to tempt ye; And, when the Bottom's gone, they spill, Because't goes thro', and does not fill; And, when it don't fill, 'tis not Measure; Now, learn the Story at your Leifure.

Their living in Grubstreet, is no Proof of the contrary. No, truly; it init. Life

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Life is not Action, tho, I own, it may cause it, and often does effect it.

I have known a little, short, dapper Blade, not much above Seven Foot 12 Inches high, at least, not much more, full of Life, lived well, lived fast, and for that very Reason, would do more in an Hour than some would desire to be done in a Day; I've known him, I fay, show vast Dexterity with his Left Hand; and with fuch Ingenuity, that you would think it was his Right, when he show'd it. If you don't believe me, ask of my Brother Roger, who would not tell a Lie for a Bushel of Potatoes. He would go all Day, walk all Night, and ride by Intervals for the Sake of Change.

It may be, indeed, you'll fay, he was a D—l for that! Not he f—th! Was as honest a Fellow as ever p—s'd Brandy; and, withal, was so nimble, that if he fell, at any Time, he was no fooner down than he was up; Nay, honest Lad, was so active, one Morning half an Hour before Four o' Clock in the Afternoon, that, when his Heels, some Way or other tript down, he ran Fifty Miles, in Postbane, till he got me to take him up

 \mathbf{C} 2 again. again. The D—I a Souse had he, that's true, in his Pocket, which might make him the *lighter*; but I borrow'd Nine-Pence from my Landlady's Daughter, and, though I had no more, lent

him a Shilling out of it.

He thank'd me heartily for it, and fwore, foberly, he'd spend it upon putting down the Gin-Shops. Agreed, faid I to him. Meet me, and the Rest of our Members, next Week, and our Twelve-Pence apiece, with good Management, will do the Fob. They're all clever Fellows in their own Way; some of them are Lawyers, fome of them Tradesmen, and some of them Parsons. Some of the Parsons wear two Shirts upon Occasion, one of which, you know, is superfluous, or goes over and above what's necessary, as we fay; and, if the Money should happen to run short, we'll make them pawn one of em, e'er the Gin should be left, or a Drop of it loft: Egad, we will, and so it shall be out before Michaelmas Term Time.

After all, if this won't yet suffice, let us, as Names (according to Mr. Lock) are arbitrary in their Nature, call a Quar-

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tern a Gallon, and upon drinking two, we shall fulfil the Whole Act, and so make a Key to the whole Act and Deed; which is one Way of evading or getting

out of any Thing.

This is as true as Law or Gospel; ay, marry is it; but if ye don't believe me, enquire of *Tim Sobersides*, who's as honest a Fellow as any among the *Quakers*; and I seldom found any of them, but would speak upon their *Sincerity*.

Perhaps ye'll fay, by the by, he's a Scotchman. Well guess'd by Chance. But what then ? It still confirms my Argument more and more. A Pint Stoup in Scotland, if it's good Measure, will, when 'tis right emptied, fill our Pottle-Pot. Egad it will, or go nigh to do it. And, so, why mayn't we, upon Occasion, use their Terms, when we're look'd upon as Brittons as well as they be; and are Subjects of the same Crown that they are subject to? Riddle me, Riddle me Ree; or give me an Answer

To that, Plain, Pat, Not flat,

Nor

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Nor fomewhat,
Like a flouching Hat,
That covers a Cat,
And faves a poor Rat,
Creeps under the Mat,
From the Claws of an ill-natur'd Brat.

Do, I say; — any of you do't; and I shall extend my Thanks, as far as ye do your Recipe's. By the Lord Harry will

Î. Ay,

But we've Rules, you'll fay, different from theirs. Concede. But we're under no Obligation not to learn their Language; to improve upon't neither; nor to invent any new one. No, no, the more Tongues the more Trade. Egad, 'tis true as Hearth-Money in Ireland. But this leads me to the

Second Head of my Discourse, which we know, my beloved, was to show the

Advantages of Evasion. And,

How wonderful and manifold are these? They're many, many, very many, and so wonderfully great, that, without stretching, they can't be fully unfolded! they can't upon my Conscience. Ye'll believe me, when I swear; or, believe me, and

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I won't fwear, but shall immediately turn Nonjuror, or Conjurer, or something like one of them. Z—ds I shall, and so I will, for plain Words or Affirmatives are best; and therefore, by the Lord Harry, I'll never swear while I hold a Glass to my Head! never will.

Well, then, — the Advantages are

these.

First, by observing the forementioned Methods, for Instance, first by your all meeting together, calling for Two Gallons of Gin, and repeating the Quantity till the Whole is diminished; by this, I say, we shall reap great Benefit. As,

First, we shall all meet together, and that will be comfortable, for we don't meet every Day, but sometimes turn Tail to one another; we turn Tail to our Wives; we turn Tail to our Mistresses; we turn Tail to our Dry-Nurses; and so turn as tailish as cross-legg'd Taylors; which, in my humble Opinion, is as bad as retailing, though it may tally with many Things, which are vended by Wholesale.

In the next Place, by finging Lillyhollero, and dancing a French Horn-Pipe,

we

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we shall stretch our Lungs first, and next stretch our Limbs, which will be very good Exercise to our whole Body.

It may be, you'll tell me, a whole Eody don't need this, because 'tis whole and not disordered. Right enough still. But I'll maintain, 'tis a proper Way to preserve it from Distempers. Solomon says, A little Mirth doth Good like a Medicine. And there's no Tune better than Lillybollero. There is both Mirth and Musick in't: Musick that would charm the Heart of a Wheelbarrow, as Orpheus charm'd the Trees. And a French Horn-Pipe is the best, tho the Tune int quite fo taking. 'Tis French, that's one Recommendation of it; and 'tis alamode, and that's another; fo that, with the old Irish Tune to it, 'twill be both Medicinal and Fashionable.

Further, observe the next Rules aforefaid. When we can drink no longer, let
us all tumble down; and then, lie, till
we rise again. This is likewise a necesfary Caution: For, hereby we shall be
refreshed as much as we could desire.
Whereas should a Man rise before he gets
up, he's never the better for't; not one

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Jot. He'll yawn and reach, grunt and grumble, and be as lazy as a Hog; nor shall one scarce be able to tell what Posture he's in. But,

Proceed we to the Inforcement of the other Advice, viz. When we get up again, let us drink all the Liquor, next kick the Hoops off the Butts, and then spill the Remainder. The Advantage that will accrue from this Rule in Practice, I've already shown in Part; and therefore shall now only touch upon that Link of it, that joins between drinking all, and spilling the Remainder, and that is, to kick the Hoops off the Butts.

In the first Place, this, with good Management, will kindle our Fires, and keep us warm as a Toast, which will prevent us from taking Cold; or, at least, prevent the Cold from catching us.

And then, again, 'twill vastly promote the Cooper's Trade. The Wine-Cooper's first; for as the Gin will be all gone, or, some Way, metamorphos'd. And the Wooden Cooper's next; for-aslittle as there, then, there will be no old Butts, till they sit down, and make up new ones. Ones, here, are as much as two

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two, or three, or four, or five, or fifty, or a hundred, or near a thousand. They are, egad; — There won't be an old Butt, excepting ourselves.

A one, with an s, if one is but shifty, May prove, that young Bess is older than fifty, And, like one in Years, may bend, or may stoop, Till one, two, or three, shall drive up the Hoop.

Put it to (egad I was going to fay, fet it, tho that's like a Pfalm-Tune) well, then, put it to the Tune of the Black Joke, or White Joke, or Blue Joke, or a Joke of any Colour. No Matter for that. No, no; 'tis still Truth, and no Jest.

But, perhaps, you'll fay, the Hoops may be of Iron. No Harm i' that, if you rightly ware Shins, or ward up Petticoats. No, no; fo much the better, fay I. They'll draw Money, I warrant you. And that Money again will buy any Thing, but Wit. Twill buy Beer; 'twill buy Ale; 'twill buy Rum; 'twill buy Brandy; 'twill buy Gin or Punch (don't punch me by the bye); 'twill buy Wine, which is no Spirit; or Cyder, which bas none; or Coffee, or Tea, which

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which, ye know, are vapourish; or two Gallons of Water, which no Chymist can prove a Pneumatic, excepting so far as it's fartish or cholicky.

In short, and in brief,
'Twill buy Pud and Beef;
Or, as some will say to's,
Sheep's Head and Potatoes;
(With relishing Sauce,
To season the Mass,)
'Twill buy a New Act,
E'er Matter of Fact,
'Tis as true, as the Truth, when its rack'd!

Money makes the Mare go. Ay, ay; a true Story, though an old one; Antiquity's no Bar to a young Counsellor, he goes backward and forward, like a kept Mistress, that han't pass'd her Teens, till she's gone after twenty, which don't make a Guinea without eeking. As true a Story from a dull Sharper, egad, as ever was read, or said, or made by Don Quixot, or Quick-shot, or both of em off Hand, though that's Extempore, which in English is out o' Time. It really is; and then there's a vacation Term till next

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Morn-

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Morning, when a Man gets up and puts

on his Slippers.

But, now, after all the Buts, egad, you'll ask, are there no Spirits in Wine? No; no F—th; Duce a one. 'Tis flat, till brew'd with Brandy or Gin; Marry is it, as fmall Beer and Rum; or as Flip, or Bumbo. 'Tis always brew'd, that's true, else there would be no drink-

ing it.

But, you'll tell me again, it must then be a Spirit. That's another Butt; Good enough; 'Tis fo. 'Tis a Spirit without Body, and yet a comfortable Cardiac. But, still tis no spiritous Liquor, because you may, at any Time, or Place, or Places, excepting as afore excepted, without any Exception, Molestation, Eviction, or Disturbance, excepting what accrue from a nimious Quantity, which don't affect the real Quality of the Liquid, when its clearly rack'd off, without any Sedement; you may buy less, sell less, or drink less of it, than two Gallons in the Old Stile: Whereas Brandy or Rum, or Gin, or Aniseed; or any other spiritous Liquors, are Spirits with Bodies, and, therefore, both Meat and Drink. So that

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any one, who would drive away Sorrow, and put Comfort in its Stead, may enture upon eight Quarts of either of 'em, without ever, afterwards being fensible of Pain. A true Story, F—th. A Man feldom feels Pain, until he grows fober. Therefore Sobriety is a great Vice, according to my own System. It is upon my Sincerity. Therefore always keep drunk, and you'll never take Harm, whatever you may take. Tis so with most Folks, who have made the Experiment; and vast Numbers, I assure you, have try'd it.

Then let us still booze,
And daily carouze,
Let's drink all the Gin out,
Nor make any Sin o't;
Be merry and wife,
While fee with our Eyes;
And, when we grow blind,
Our Way we shall find,
(Altho' we've been toping)
By carefully groping;
For, from Fate there is no eloping.

None at all, egad. A Dog follows his Nose, and a blind Man follows him again

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again with as much Safety as if he had a Pike-Staff to ride on. And so there's nothing but Fatality all the World over.

Yet, if any puny Bodies should not be able to drink fuch a Quantity, let them observe the other Rules already laid down. Let'em make two Quarterns pass for two Gallons, and bring that Custom of speaking into a drinking Practice, and then they may drink and pay as they will, which will be very beneficial to the Publick in general: Forafinuch as any one may drink eight Quarts of Gin for three Pence, and hereby live happy at a moderate Rate. 'Tis true egad; and fo when any of them get into the Gin-Shops, let 'em immediately call for, just, what they please, pay what they please, which (according to Direction) will fave them Health, Wealth, and Money, all three both together. And fo, for this Time, good by to ye all.

But hip; — Egad there are three Men of two Sorts, or two Sorts of Men of three Kinds, and yet of one Sort of Species, that you must hear me about. Stay one Minute, and I won't detain you half an Hour. By G—ge I won't, and

that's

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that's a great Oath. No, no; 'tis just, hark ye! Well, then, - They're, or Master-Sailors; or Bargers; or Soldiers; or all three both together. All clever Fellows F-th. And one of them was fo sturdy and strong, one Evening t'other Day, that, when he was riding from Pofthac to Antegone, he carried his Horse the whole Way, without fo much as a fling. A true Story as ever was told by a Parfon. He back'd and carried him, as if he had led him by the Nose. He took a Dram of Gin, I own, upon the Road; and that might help him, you'll fay. Right enough. But he did not break the Act undesignedly; for, he only drank two Gallons of it, and paid three Pence towards the Score, as it was a chalky Road he walk'd along. And,

Therefore, for the Sake of this Fellow's Ingenuity, I shall write an Heroic Poem on himself and all the rest of his Comrades. Egad, I will; and now for't.

Behold the Pilot, how he fleers the Way; And who has Soul more spirituous than he? Untaught, ye'll say, nor Pray'rs, well, can he read,

Less understands the true Immortal Creed; Who

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(Who can? No Man on Earth!) and when does die,
Knows not, if 'tis a Truth, or mortal Lie.
While, still, with manly Soul, he skims the Main,
Or plows it, as Celestial Pow'rs do reign.
If hard on him, he shifts his shirted Sail,
Or, Canvasses to please the fickle Gale.
Full fraught, perhaps, with Ore, perhaps, with Aim,
To reach the wish'd for Harbour, whence he came.

He turns his Glass to measure out his Time, Next elevates his Eyes to the Supreme! White Surges chase each other, in a Train, And drive with Fury, thro' the briny Main; Whiz — Loud they roar; — their baffl'd Rage rebounds,

Repeats th' Attempt; — but, vain their maddening Sounds.

Thro' Strength of Gin, the threat'ned Fabrick stands,

And, like a God, the Billows he commands; Dispelling Shoals, would damn him in his Way;

And fandy Mountains, at his Nod obey;
Not he, the least, Attonite, nor in dread,
But mauls the Living, and subdues the
Dead.

Easy, withal, as if he were a-bed.

Behold,

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Behold, again, the Barger, with what Force, What Courage, and how nicely, steers his Courfe? Agility of Body and of Mind, Upon a Survey, in him shall ye find. With what Dexterity of Left and Right Plumes he his feather'd Oars, by Day and Night? Nought, but a Surplice, oft, to hide his Skin, Yet, tugs incumbent, dies but for the Gin. The Spirit, Vital Principle of Life, O'ercomes the Danger, — and he takes his Whiff, Whiffs without Dread, awhile, next takes his Song, And all the while, Brave Boys, he sweeps 'Gainst Wind and Tide, and thro' dread Neptune's Throng. Propitious Heaven applauds the Hero's Skill, Owns his Performance to be more than well, Conducts him fafe to his intended Shore, And, to the next intended, wafts him o'er; Wasts him, without the Help of pregnant Sail, * 35 4 Emblem of cheering Glass, and hearty Meal!

Once more, Behold the Soldier in the Field, Intrepid there he stands, tho' wears his Shield, Fool-hardy not to do't, while Bodies are, To Death most subject, in the Times of War:

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In Times of Peace, precarious is his Life, Ten thousand Odds, — ingag'd in Martial

Strife.
Yet, Gin inspires him with true Faith and Hope,

For that, he scorns the Grandeur of a Pope. Oh! with Heroic Braveness fends the Cause Of the Best Prince, True Liberty, and Laws, Manly, in all his Actions, as he shou'd, Nor dreads th' Essusion of his Loyal Blood! Fulgur and Smoak succeed in mothy Trains, And Thunders eccho o'er the tinged Plains. Undaunted still, 'midst all, his Soul remains. Bent on his just Decree, he sports with Death, And, the Inglorious mauls, while He has Breath.

Good Reason for't; — most bravely do't he can; — Great Bones make Drones, but Spirit makes the Man.