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AN
ENQUIRY
INTO THE
Melancholy Circumstances
OF
GREAT BRITAIN:

More particularly

In regard to the OECONOMY

OF PRIVATE FAMILIES and PERSONS, GENTLEMEN, CLERGY, FARMERS, MERCHANTS, TRADESMEN, MECHANICKS, &c.

With OBSERVATIONS on the New Methods of Living and Diversions in both CITY and COUNTRY, with some Remedies to prevent the Ruin of private Families; and Remarks upon our TRADE in general, and especially of such Commodities as are imported for Luxury, or injurious to our Manufactures.

Also some Hints to prevent the growing POVERTY of these NATIONS.

Tunc tibi cura tui, cum sit tibi cura tuorum.

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A
T A B L E
O F
C O N T E N T S.

TR A D E is what this Nation solely depends on Page 2
 — is Foreign or Domestick ibid.
 — the best for Great Britain ibid.
 — Foreign, which best to be encouraged 3
 A Comparison of Foreign Manufactures with the Eng-
 lish ibid.
 No Signification what Subjects of Great Britain are the
 Manufacturers 4
 Dangerous to the State and People to use Foreign Ma-
 nufactures 6
 The least Reason to encourage French Manufactures,
 with an Account of their rivalling the British, and
 their

C O N T E N T S.

<i>their Methods of employing their Manufacturers; and the Use of English and Irish Wool to the French</i>	7 and 8
<i>The Extravagance of several Gentry, &c. in encouraging the French</i>	8
<i>The ill Effects of Foreign Luxury</i>	8 and 9
<i>Luxury the Bane of the Romans</i>	10
<i>Remarks on English Travellers</i>	ibid.
<i>Fine Cloaths made at Limburch in Flanders, and the Reason</i>	ibid.
<i>Farmers useful Members of the Commonwealth, with their Inconveniencies</i>	12 and 13
<i>Account of the raising the Rents in England, and the ancient Usage</i>	14
<i>Present Hardships of Gentlemen of Estates, and their Danger</i>	15 and 16
<i>Observations of Persons of Quality's Method of Living in Flanders</i>	16
<i>Settlements of Gentlemen upon their Estates</i>	17
<i>The Distresses of the West of England</i>	ibid.
<i>The Misery of falling from a Life of Luxury and Ease</i>	18
<i>The industrious Poor not sufficiently encouraged</i>	ibid.
<i>Smugglers, their Wickedness, and their Encouragers</i>	19
<i>Dutch Frugality superior to English</i>	20
<i>Extravagances in Furniture and large Retinues, with their Inconveniencies</i>	21
<i>Hardships of the Cities of London and Westminster, and Places within the Bills of Mortality</i>	23
<i>Of the Clergy, and the Inconveniencies that may arise to them</i>	23 and 24
<i>Account of Domestick Traders</i>	25
<i>The greatest Princes encouraged Trade</i>	26 and 27
<i>Of Retailers in Trade, their Usefulness</i>	27
<i>The moving of Nobility and Gentry into the New Buildings, the Ruin of Retailers about London</i>	28
<i>Expences</i>	

C O N T E N T S.

<i>Expences and bad Customs of Retail Traders</i>	29, 30, 31
<i>If Nobility are Epicures, not be followed by Tradesmen</i>	32
<i>Inconvenience of Country Gentlemen's coming to London</i>	ibid.
<i>The Reason Estates cannot raise their Value</i>	33
<i>Private Vices cannot be publick Benefits</i>	34
<i>Love of Musick descended too low, and occasions Idleness</i>	ibid.
<i>Danger of Pawnbrokers ought to be remedied</i>	35
<i>Associations proper to prevent Destruction of our Country</i>	ibid.
<i>Over-ballance in Trade, and Remittances abroad, Smugglers, Standing Armies, Custom and Excises, allows no room for expensive Pleasures</i>	36
<i>Placemen, Pensioners, Commendams, Pluralities, useles Offices in the Law, &c. may bring the Nation to Slavery</i>	37
<i>His Majesty a Stranger to the Poverty of his People, with Instances of their Poverty</i>	ibid.
<i>Instances of Nations supporting their Liberty when frugal, and falling under arbitrary Government when luxurious</i>	38
<i>Virtuous Education recommended</i>	ibid.
<i>The depraved Character of a Gentleman, and not a Patriot</i>	39
<i>The ill Examples of debauched Courts</i>	40
<i>Bishops and Noblemen had in their Houses Academies for the virtuous Education of Youth</i>	ibid.
<i>Qualifications of Instructors of Youth</i>	41
<i>Reasons why private Education is preferred to publick</i>	42
<i>Youth intended for Trade not so properly educated as the Jew's Children</i>	ibid.
<i>Noblemen and Citizens Children educated together, advantageous to neither</i>	43
<i>Dead</i>	

C O N T E N T S

Dead Learning without Fortune useles *ibid.*
The present Female Education to be amended *ibid.*
Children in Charity Schools in general may be made
more useful 44
If Bounties were given to raise Commodities to British
Subjects in America, we might gain the Ballance of
Trade in Europe 45
Luxuries not used formerly cease to be so, but those that
are to be avoided 46
What makes the Dutch so much at present courted by
all the Powers in Europe 47



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E N Q U I R Y
 I N T O T H E
 Melancholy Circumstances
 O F
G R E A T B R I T A I N , & c .



IT is a melancholy Thing to hear the Complaints of the Loss of Trade, the Dearness of Provisions, the Greatness of our Taxes, the Highness of our Poor Rates in the midst of an unavoidable War, while some are rioting in Diversions and an universal Luxury, without considering how near they are to the Brink of Destruction, and how much it behoves all, even in private as well as publick Stations, to be frugal, upon which depends the Liberties of their Country.

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This will appear by an impartial Enquiry into our Affairs, particularly in regard to our Trade and Manufactures, our Method of Living, &c. from whence some Observations may be made, and Methods proposed to induce People to think for themselves, and prevent growing Evils to themselves and their Posterity.

In this Enquiry let us take a View of our Trade, Method of Living, and Diversions at present, and then compare them with the State of this Kingdom in the glorious and flourishing Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*.

Trade is what this Nation solely depends on; for miserable would be the State of landed Gentlemen without it: The Farmers could not vend their Wool, their Wheat would grow in their Granaries, and their Barley lie unmalted, without Exportation; their Ash for Hoops and Oak for Staves and Hop-poles would be but Fuel; in short, their Land would lie uncultivated, and Landlords instead of receiving Cash for Rent must, at best, be contented with a poor Pittance in Kind. Without Trade there would be no Diversions for the gay World, nor, what is more essential, no Liberty for the People in general, but must return to their old Villanism, a Yoke which our Fathers could not, nor shall we be able to bear.

Trade may be reduced to two Heads, Foreign and Domestick; the first with other Kingdoms and States as are not subject to the Crown of *Great Britain*. (In Domestick I shall include *Ireland* and our Colonies abroad.)

That Foreign Trade is better for *Great Britain*, where the Ballance is paid our Merchants in Cash, than where they are obliged to remit Money to make good their Deficiencies; therefore it is but Prudence to prefer the Commodities of those Countries before those for which a Ballance in Cash must be paid; as
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the Wines of *Portugal* before those of *France*; tho' either may be a Luxury to encourage farther than for Health; yet that would not consume much, and the *Portuguese* are in Justice entitled, as they take our Labour, we should take theirs before other Nations, who neither pay us Ballance, or give us full-wrought Manufactures or Commodities of a fantastical Value, or for Luxury. Neither is it prudent to encourage such Nations as rival us in any of our Manufactures, or such as we have a Probability of raising either at home, or our Colonies abroad; for if our Nobility and Gentry will not encourage their Tenants, how can it be expected that they should pay them their Rents? And in strict Justice the Manufacturers are entitled to their Consumption; for if they consume the Commodities of the Gentleman, which is the Product of his Lands, the Nobility and Gentry ought to consume theirs, as the Manufacturer enables them to live with Grandeur (which they cannot do, let their Estates be ever so large) without them: Sure they are entitled to a comfortable Support from their Superiors, and not to be left to starve whilst foreign Tradesmen live in Luxury.

The preferring foreign Manufactures before our own is a sort of Robbery to the Publick, as well as an Injury to our own Families, especially where they can have those at home, which answer all the Ends of those brought from abroad, and are sometimes better in their Kinds, but forced to be sold to unskilful Purchasers under Foreign Names.

Are there not as good Velvets and Silks wove in *Spittlefields* as any imported from abroad? Are not the Laces of *Bedfordshire*, *Buckinghamshire*, and *Northamptonshire*, of whiter Colour, and as genteel Patterns as any brought from *Flanders*? Are not the *Scotch* and *Irish* Linens of all sorts come up to if not brought to exceed any foreign? Does not the Carpeting wove in

England, rise again where it has been trod on, which the *French* does not? Then they are better; and if this is allowed, as all of Judgment in those different Branches affirm, surely it must be the highest Imprudence in the Encouragers of Foreign Manufactures to injure themselves and their Country; for if our Importations in such Commodities, thro' our Luxury, should exceed our Exportations, Foreigners will overbalance us in Trade, which will cause an Exportation of Money, the common Standard of all Commodities; for no Country will part with their Effects without an Equivalent, which if not in Goods, must be in Money; and if our Luxury increases, Money must go out for them to the Injury of all Estates in *Great Britain*. Mr. *Gee*, in his Account of Trade, tells us, most Nations in *Europe*, (*Portugal* excepted) do overbalance us, and we are forced to pay it in Cash; if so, how cautious ought we to be how we use those Commodities, which drain so much Money from us; when we have equally as good, if not superior Manufactures from our Fellow Subjects, who take our Produce in Return?

Nor in general does it signify what part of the Subjects of *Great Britain* are the Manufacturers, whether those of *North Britain* or *Ireland*, there being some few staple Commodities peculiar to *England*. As for our *American* and *West India* Colonies, they raise Commodities peculiar to their several Climates, which after being manufactured here, are returned them again with other Effects in Balance for the Produce of the Plantations, to the great Encouragement of Navigation, the Strength and Glory of these Nations. If we wear *Irish* Linen, their Absentees spend the Profit amongst us, so does the *Scotch* Nobility, and all our Colonies, whose Children are chiefly educated here, besides the Manufactures they all have from hence; so that the Money circulates again to us, and is not
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sunk in the bottomless Pit of Foreigners Pockets. Therefore shall the tender Mother forget her Pains for Pride, and be forgetful of the Offspring which she brought forth with so much Labour and Sorrow, by wearing Foreign Manufactures? and will not our Ladies appear more amiable when their Dress showers down Blessings on them, the repeated Blessings of the Poor and Indigent, of the Widow and the Fatherless of their own Country, than when they have contributed towards enriching Foreign Manufacturers? The Reflection, they have contributed towards the Support of many poor Families of their own Country, will give them inexpressible Peace and Tranquillity of Mind, will make their most solitary Hours chearful, and they will appear with more Lustre in publick. Would but the Gentlemen lead the way, and convince them, they would soon think thus, and then it is not to be doubted but our Ladies, who have a Love for their Country, and who desire to act in a Course of Virtue, will follow their Example; and if they come to this just way of thinking, they may expect their Countrymen may improve in other Ornaments of Dress for them. Several can remember when printed Callicoes were put down, when it was said we could not print Linen so beautiful, nor make Paper or Linen in these Islands; it is demonstrable, that with Encouragement all has been done to answer all the Uses of Foreign *India* Chinces, &c. White Callicoes being seldom used but by Ladies of the Town, or People of no Fashion, I shall let them pass, but continue to speak to those of Fashion. That though Diamonds are the Product of the *East* and *West Indies*, they are best cut and set by the Lapidaries about the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*; and for Watches, the *Englisch* exceed all the World.

Nor can the encouraging Foreign Manufactures, before those of our Fellow Subjects, by any means
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[6]

be safe ; for although we are in alliance with a Kingdom or State at one Time, we may not be so at another, and if we use their Commodities before our own, we may not only provide them with the Sinews of War to molest us, but must raise Taxes to support ourselves against them ; as in the present War with *Spain*, although we took more of the Commodities which were chiefly for Luxury of that Kingdom than all other Foreign Nations, yet they, under the Ministry of the Duke of *Ripperda*, set up a Woolen Manufacture at *Segovia* for their own Troops, which used to be clothed by the *English*, assaulted *Gibraltar*, and molested our Trade in the *West Indies*, that it made War absolutely necessary, from whence proceeds heavy Taxes to support ourselves. And this may be again, and has been the Case of other Nations ; for *Charles* the Twelfth of *Sweden* put up a Monopoly for Pitch and Tar, and would not only force us to buy of that Company upon his own Terms, but insisted upon its being imported in *Swedish* Bottoms ; and the *Czar Peter the Great* insisted in having the naval Stores we had from *Russia* imported in his own Vessels ; and it was not only in his Power to put what Price he pleased upon them, but prevent our having them at all, if we should have happened to be at War with him or his Allies, had not the Government interfered in Commodities so absolutely necessary, that it was not fitting that we should lie at the Mercy of Foreign Princes, and pay ready Money for what we could be supplied from our Plantations with upon easier Terms, and save our Money by carrying our own Manufactures for them, whereby we not only encouraged our Fellow Subjects there, but diverted them from setting up or carrying on Manufactures, which directly interfered with *Great Britain* to the Damage of the Manufactures at home.

[7]

But of all foreign Manufactures we have the least Reason to encourage the *French*, if we look upon them as hereditary Enemies, Breakers of Treaties, or Rivals in Trade, or the Unnecessariness of their Commodities, and the Ballance they have against us in Trade. For the first, our History is full of it ; and, for the second, *Dunkirk* tells us. At this Time in *America*, they have planted upon the *Mississippi* and *Canada* Rivers, that they can come upon the Back of our Plantations ; and they have frequently molested our Settlements in those Parts ; upon *Newfoundland* they have the Liberty of building Stages, and drying their Fish ; at *Cape Britaine* they have a better Fishery than any belonging to the *English* ; in the *West-Indies* they have *Martinique*, *Dominique*, *Guardalope*, *Grand terre Margilante*, *Granada*, *Cayanne*, and the best Part of *Hispaniola*, where they raise not only the same Commodities as the *British* Planters, but rival them, in Time of Peace, in the *Spanish* Trade, and run *French* Goods into the *British* Colonies. In *Africa* they have an exclusive Trade from *Serra Leone* to the *Cape of Good-Hope*, from thence they supply their Colonies with Negroes ; in *Turky* they have a great Influence at the Port, and by late Accounts, they are to pay less Duties there, than other Nations. The *East-Indies* they are no Strangers to, nor is there a Part of the World, where there is a Possibility, but they will get a footing. In *France*, at *Abbeville*, they established a Manufacture of Cloth under the late Mynheer *Van Robe*, and allowed him, though a Protestant, the Practice of his Religion, which Manufactory is now in Partnership of four Persons, who keep, at least, 1000 Persons employed, who are daily called to, and discharg'd from, their Work by the Beat of a Drum ; and though they have not above five Shillings *per Week*, dare not absent themselves

elves from their Work, (Sickness or any other corporal Ailments excepted) they being bounden to their Masters, as some of our Glass-Manufacturers are to theirs about *London*; nor are their Masters scrupulous in owning, that they could not carry on the Manufactory without *English* or *Irish* Wool, at which Time they will tell you, that the *English* as much exceeds the *Irish*, as the *Irish* Wool exceeds their own: Neither, in that Town, could the Manufactory of *Mocquettes* be carried on at this Time by Messieurs *Homasselle* and *Huguet*, without *English* Wool; there is, likewise in that Town, a Manufactory of Stuffs which would, if not quite sink, greatly decline without a continual Supply of that Commodity. That Town, and the whole Kingdom, is in a great Measure supplied by our Smugglers with Wool or Money, in exchange for *French* Spirits distilled from the Lees of Apples, not so good as the *English*, used to the Destruction of their Persons, and of our Wealth, which being a better Standard than their own Coin, is melted down to their great Advantage.

To supply our Extravagance of Dress, several of our Gentry must have the Trimmings of their Cloaths, which is now carried to a great Height, to be of *French* Gold or Silver-Lace; and for their Tables, it is perfectly unpolite, unless it is plentifully supplied with *French* Claret, a Wine never esteem'd so much as Port before the high Duties put upon it, and, by our Physicians, reckon'd pernicious in the Gout: Which shews, what Pains some will bear, and what Pride they will shew, rather than be thought not to exceed their Neighbours in Extravagance, in Injury to our Farmers, Butchers and Graziers. About these Cities, in Winter, we have Wild-Fowl lies about our Streets brought from thence, Eggs by Barrels, Apples without Tale; our

our Fish is often bought of *French* Smacks caught upon the *English* Coast; likewise *French* Toys and Things of no intrinsic Value, for all which, at the most moderate Computation, what we pay in Balance, is esteem'd at five hundred thousand Pounds annually, besides the Injury we suffer by Smugglers, which tho' it may be as much more, the Knowledge of it can't be so easily come at.

Thinking People allow, that by these Methods many of our Misfortunes are brought upon ourselves. But our Luxury is not confined to *Europe*; the whole Globe is compassed for it; the *East* and the *West-Indies* must be visited for to supply our Pride and Vanity; full wrought Manufactures are imported, when we might be supply'd with as neat, and as useful at home, which would help to relieve our poor Manufacturers, and lessen their Rates to the Ease of Gentlemen's Tenants and Estates. Teas, Coffee, Chocolate, Liquors unknown to our Ancestors, supply the Place of Provisions of our Farms: Immense Sums are given for the brittle Ware of *China*, *Dresden* and *St. Cloud*, which if it has the Fortune to escape the Cats, or a negligent Servant a few Years, a fantastical Value is put upon it; and some will sooner have their Lands mortgaged, or Children unsupported, rather than go without the useless wooden Ware of *Japan*.

Experience demonstrates the ill Effects of our foreign Luxury, and all prudent Methods ought to be taken to suppress it; for he is so much a *Frenchman*, or *Indian*, tho' a Native of *Britain*, and perhaps won't bear to be called by another Name, if he uses their Manufactures before those of his own Country; and if the Citizens will not prefer the Manufactures and Provisions of our Kingdom before what is foreign; how can they expect the Farmers can pay their Rents to the Gentlemen? and, How can the

[10]

the Gentlemen purchase of them, unless they consume the Produce of their Lands, and the Labour of their Tenants ?

Let those that are Lovers of their Country, and of the Rights and Privileges of it, remember, that Luxury was the Bane of Liberty ; the *Romans* were no sooner corrupted, but they lost it ; it prevailed against them more than Hosts of their Enemies. Luxury and expensive Diversions may be ushered in with as much Applause as the *Trojan Horse*, but they, like him, bring Ruin and Destruction to their Receivers.

Those Gentlemen who have travelled and brought home *French* Fashions, ought to be remembered, that one has been forgot to be imitated by many of them ; that is, that the *French* will wear their own coarse Cloaths with their fine Cambrick Ruffles, as unsuitable as they look in *England* ; but they think not so, as long as they are both their own Manufactures ; and this was a Fashion of their great Monarch *Lewis XIV.* who being told upon the Death of his Mother, that *English* Cloth was wanted for Mourning for his Court, prohibited it, and had his own made of *French* Cloth ; and desired his Courtiers to see how it fitted him, and which of his Subjects thought it not good enough for him, when he wore it, and took particular Notice of such as appeared in Cloaths and Stuffs of their own manufacturing ; a Fashion well worthy Imitation by *British* Courtiers.

For if Gentlemen will not encourage the Manufacturers of their Country, it will drive them to seek for Refuge abroad, rather than starve at home, where they are encouraged to carry on *British* Manufactures. At *Limburgh*, in *Flanders*, they formerly made only coarse Cloths, a few Years ago ; but by the Means of the *Amsterdam* Merchants, and one *Capell*, who broke at *Stroud* in *Gloucestershire*, and was forced out
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[11]

of *England* by his Creditors, who refused a Composition of ten Shillings in the Pound, joined in Company with one Mr. *Clermont* of that City, and grew rich in a few Years ; he was followed by others in the like Circumstances, who chose rather to leave their native Country and Friends, than all their Lives to be the Prey of pettyfogging Attornies, Bum-bailiffs, Gaolers and their Followers. Several Places in *France* and *Holland* are full of *English* Fugitives, some of which carry over, or have large Remittances made to them, which is a great Drain to the publick Cash, as well as our Manufactures. It would be worth the Thoughts of some publick-spirited Person to think of some Method to prevent it ; and then, if they will not stay at home, those Absentees ought to be taxed extraordinary, as they are in *Ireland*, and the poorer Manufacturers, if they should be some Way relieved here, would never fly to teach Foreigners the Manufactures of their Country, so much to the Prejudice of Gentlemens Estates ; for without Employment it can't be supposed they can live, without being a Burthen to their Parishes, or fall into Idleness, the Consequence of which leads them into vicious Courses, which may be more destructive ; so that Gentlemens Tenants will be either burthened or plagued, that they will not be able to pay their Rents, (which in some Places in the West of *England* is so already) the Taxes and Poor Rates being so high. Therefore, it is the Interest of Gentlemen not to encourage Foreigners before their own Countrymen, lest their Estates should be flung upon their Hands, which many are ; and if such luxurious Practices should be further followed, those that have Estates may be more necessitous (as they are more helpless) than the poorest of all ; and if they husband their Lands themselves, they will scarcely mend their Affairs, Gentlemen generally making such indifferent
C 2 Farmers,

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Farmers, that seldom upon an Average any could boast of the Gain they ever made by Farming.

Having mentioned Farmers, I can't overlook such a Body of useful Members of our Commonwealth without putting them in mind of some Inconveniencies they bring on themselves, and they are much concerned to rectifie, though the Parliament has in some measure done it for them in that of Horseracing, which made their Families expensive, and Servants idle; for where-ever these Diversions are, though in the midst of Harvest, all must go to the Sport, where the poor Horses, which worked hard in the Heat of the Day must be hacked about in the Evening, and made unfit for Labour the next Day; and those that live near a Course are sure to have their Habitations like a Cake-House at such Times, yet none but Publick Houses receive any Advantage by them; and of them there are such Numbers in every Road, that if all the Kingdom were Travellers, or the whole World to travel through *England*, I question if it would support half of them; so they are become a great Nursery of Idleness, and by some little Artifices Wine Clubs are put up in many of them, where the Farmer is detained, spending not only what should be saved to provide for their Families, but also to the Prejudice of their Landlords, and the Consumption of the Products of their Farms. Their Families are set out with Tea Equipage or Cards, and some are so polite, that they have visiting Days, and go to Assemblies, in which their Dress is above what was anciently wore by Farmers Daughters; and being bred so polite, they are not content with being Servants of better Rank, though upon Terms of having their Education with their Landlords Children; and some of the Farmers own Servants are so set out in their striped party-coloured mix'd Silk Gowns, that they might be employed to scare the Crows in their Ma-

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sters Fields. How can the Farmer that acts thus, or suffers such Things in his Family, complain of bad Times, or having no Call for his Wool, when his Family is too proud to wear it? He perhaps drinks Wine instead of his own Ale or Cyder, and has the Silks of *Italy* and *France* made up for his Family, and instead of good housewifely home-spun has Foreign Linen in the stead. He may complain unpitied till he rectify these Fopperies. Those good Dames that wore the High-crown'd Hats, with fine *English* Scarlet Cloth Petticoats and Sleeves, who were not above making their own Hay, or looking after their Dairies themselves, who preferred their own Manufactures before Foreign; were such as *Solomon* spoke of, whose Husbands were honoured in the Seat; these did not only pay their Rents chearfully, provide for their Families handsomly, lived hospitably, and gave charitably to their poor and decayed Labourers; whilst many of our modern Madams and Misses, Pride and Extravagance prevents the Esteem as they would have from their Inferiors, or the Regard as would be shewn them by their Superiors; for the more any Persons esteem themselves, the less they are valued by others, especially when Self-regard is accompanied with Pride and Poverty.

There are indeed some great Inconveniencies arise from some Landlords to their Tenants, and where such Tenants have such Landlords the best Way is to sling up their Farms the first Opportunity, I mean such as are always for raising their Rents: It will be impossible for a Farmer to thrive under such a Landlord, or make any Provision for his Family. Nor is it the Interest of the Landlord to do it; for if he racks his Tenant, and impoverishes him, he wears out the Heart of his Estate, nor manures it as it should be; so that when he is obliged to leave it the Estate must be under-let, and Repairs must be made before

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the Landlord may be able to get a Tenant as can pay the Rent of it.

The raising of Rents began in the fatal Year 1720, for then a false View of Riches intoxicated the Nation to a Degree of Frenzy; few were without their imaginary Wealth, and such talked of their Ten Thousands as could not raise Ten Pounds Sterling. Whimsical Projects had Subscribers to raise Millions to carry them on, and Numbers of ignorant People through Avarice, or the Artifices of sharpening Stock-jobbers, and knavish Projectors, who had imported it from France, where the destructive Scheme was first begun, which we imitated, to the same fatal End. It was then that these Harpies realized their Subscriptions and Stocks for ten times the Value, by purchasing Estates for Bubbles, and raising their Rents in proportion to what was the supposed Purchase; and Country Gentry, who saw neighbouring Lands fetch higher Rents, raised theirs likewise. This was not the ancient Usage of England; for Tenants have remained on Estates from Generation to Generation, and where that has been, the Land has been kept in good Heart, the Fences and every thing in Order, and the Rent duly paid, and the Farmers could live and provide for their Families; for the Custom was, that the Value of a Farm should be divided into three Parts, Profit the First for the Landlord, the Second for the Farmer to live on, the Third to provide for his Family, which is to be wished could be done now: Poor Rates and Taxes (setting aside the modern Way of Living) being so much higher than in former Times, that unless the Gentleman falls his Rents, which were raised in this Year, and the Farmer alter his Method of Living, there can be but little Probability of either of their holding it.

For if a Country Gentleman is reputed to have five hundred Pounds a Year, and lives in proportion, as was

was formerly usual, to such an Income, he must run out; for as the Land Tax is four Shillings in the Pound, (and in some Divisions is more, as some know by the Over-rates they are called upon for) it is One-fifth of annual Income. The Poor Rates in some Countries take away another Fifth, besides Highways, Window-lights, and other Taxes, with Church Rates; all which must be paid out of the Estate, though Part is laid upon the Tenant, it will be exceeding happy for such a Gentleman to receive neat 250 l. per Annum; but if he should be one that has his Estate racked to the utmost to increase his Rent-Roll, and his Tenants should not be able to hold it, or break, it may happen, that two Years Rent may not put his Farms into Repair again; then how can such a Gentleman live as he should? or suppose he has a Family, Can he afford without great Frugality to provide for them, or, if Daughters, marry them equally to their Stations in the World? No! from this proceeds so many Country Gentlemen spending their Times at Levees of great Men to provide little Places for their Sons, and unhappy Marriages (if not worse Fates) for their Daughters.

Some Gentlemen are so unhappy as to come to their Estates, which are mortgaged to half their Income, and yet make a Shew of living to the full Rents; if that is the Case, let them state their Accounts by Debtor and Creditor, thus:

Annual Rent per Rent Roll	500 l.	at 5 per Cent.	
P. R. Debtor to R. W. for	5000 l.	250 l.	Interest.
Land Tax	_____	_____	100
Church Rates, High-ways, and			} 100
other Taxes	_____	_____	
			450

[16]

so that the Total of a Gentleman's Income under such Circumstances is, that he has fifty Pounds a Year, supposing his Rent is duly paid him, to provide for his Family ; but if he has Losses by Tenants, or Repairs to make, which few Gentlemen are without, then what a melancholy Prospect has such a Gentleman before him ! If the above Taxes are not over-rated ; but it is to be wished they may find them rather under ; tho' there are few, I am afraid, but will exceed rather than come under that Sum, especially if Ground-rent is paid out of it, as is the Case of many in and about *London*.

If any Gentleman should be in such Circumstances, or like it, what Difficulties has he to struggle with, unless he uses Frugality to retrieve himself ? Is such a Gentleman prudent to encourage Foreigners in his Diversions, or Foreign Manufactures of any kind ? had he not better confine himself to the Produce of his own Lands, and that of his Fellow Subjects ? or if he does not, others may confine him from his own Estate, *which shall pass away to Strangers, and his Name shall be no more heard of.*

Here give me leave to add a prudent Piece of Management which I have often observed in *Flanders*, where the Quality during the Winter Season live in *Brussels*, or some other large Town, to the full Height and Splendor of their Fortunes ; nor do I doubt but they very often exceed the Extent of them during the abovementioned Season ; but then no sooner does the smiling Year appear, but they retire to their *Chateaux*, and live to much less perhaps than One-eighth of their Estates ; their Game-keeper or *Chasseur* goes out every Morning and brings home a Brace, two or three, of Partridges, Woodcocks, Hares, Rabbits, or what else Fortune flings in his Way, which with their own Poultry, and a little Butchers Meat, and other Vegetables of their

[17]

their Produce, makes an Appearance of living high, when at the same time, I doubt very much whether they spend more than I have above mentioned. A very good Example for such Gentlemen whose Fortunes are declining.

Sometimes Country Gentlemen have Marriage Settlements upon their Estates ; and this is but Justice : Some prudent Women have provided for younger Children out of them, perhaps for an adequate Fortune paid upon Marriage, which is highly reasonable in such a Case. It may be no improper Caution for young Gentlemen not to live up to that Income before they come to receive it ; for many have found great Inconveniencies from such Proceedings.

If this should be the Case of Gentlemen, they can ill afford expensive Diversions, and Foreign Luxury ; for if their Money is sent abroad for such Things, how shall the Produce of their Lands be valuable ? It is ridiculous to suppose Barter and Exchange of Goods to be easy or commodious, or that it will furnish the Gentleman with as many Conveniencies of Life, as if he kept his Cash at home.

In the West of *England* they are in great Distress, the Number of their Poor, together with their Taxes, put Gentlemen to great Streights, that several of them would let their Estates upon sure and clear Rent for a quarter Value to what they are called, the Tenant paying all Taxes. Therefore it is to be hoped Gentlemen will keep an exact Account of their Debts, and consider how small a Part of their Estates they have for their own Use ; for if their Debts should happen to be equal to the fourth Part of the present Value of their whole Estates, and with what is paid out of it in the Taxes to the Church and Poor, they can be scarcely said to have One-fifth to provide for themselves and Family.

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Nothing

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Nothing is more miserable than to fall from a Life of Luxury and Ease; happy would it be for these Gentlemen if they had lived by their daily Labour, the Grievance would be less than if they should come to the Parish for Subsistence; but how far more wretched would be the Condition of those gay Ladies, who sparkle in foreign Laces and Silks at *Ranelagh*, *Vaux-hall*, and other publick Places in Summer, and blaze every Night in the Boxes, or at Masquerades, (a Diversion first brought into this Nation by the Duke *D'Aumont*, the *French* Embassador, who at the same time aimed to give us Popery and Slavery in Exchange for Liberty?) how will those soft Hands be brought to work? how will their Complexions agree with the Morning Air? and yet very Hunger will not let them sleep. And lastly, what will become of the finest Race of Fox-hunters? they may e'en feed their Dogs with their Horses; and when they have done that, they may hang up all their Dogs: It will be no Time for Sports and Diversions; but in their Place they will be every where entertained with Scenes of Horror, and be no where able to turn their Eyes without seeing the Ruin and Desolation of their Country, yet no where find more miserable Objects than themselves.

If we look into the lower Class of People, we scarce find the industrious Poor sufficiently encouraged, and the idle Vagabonds left to too much Licentiousness; for an industrious poor Person, who works at the Spinning Wheel from Five in the Morning to Nine at Night, can't earn in some Counties and Businesses above Four Pence *per Diem*; a poor Pittance for honest Labour: They surely deserve their Hire, whilst a Smuggler or strolling Gipsy goes free, and lives better. To presume to instruct the Legislature, is Assurance; but many would be pleased to hear of Acts to hang the first, and transport the last.

Smugglers

[19]

Smugglers not only deprive our Poor of their Bread by transporting our Wool and Cash, and importing poisonous *French* Spirits to enervate the People, but corrupt the more able labouring Men from their honest and useful Method of Life, to go armed in Numbers with Blunderbusses and Pistols at Noon-day, through several Market Towns, with their Run Goods, to the great Injury and Detriment of the fair Trader, who pays the Duties, and by those Means is of real Service to his Country, while the Smuggler is robbing it every Day; and such People as buy of Smugglers ought to consider how near they approach to be Receivers of stolen Goods, though several think this Sort of Robbing little or no Crime; but the *Romans*, whose Virtues we would seem to imitate, punished robbing the Publick as the greatest Crime; yet we frequently hear them complain of our sinking Condition, whilst they are daily contributing towards its bad State, by buying such Goods as they know ought to be forfeited by Law. As for those idle Vagabonds, who go about under the Name of Gypsies, on Pretence of telling Fortunes, corrupt poor Servants, and rob the Villages they pass thro'; nor is it uncommon to find them prostituting themselves on or near the High-way, if they were transported to some of our Plantations, they would be satisfied in their Way of Strolling, and from Thieving might come to have a Knowledge of Property, which would give them an honest Way of thinking, as Experience has shewed by several transported Felons, who when our Sailors at *Virginia* have stolen a few Cabbages from them have been amazed at their Wickedness, not considering for how far greater Crimes they themselves were transported.

In a Word, it is a great Pity the labouring Poor have not better Encouragement, the Cries of those

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unskilful

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unskilful Men, who made a Clamour of Labour, being too high, is a Doctrine propagated more by Theory than Practice; for if these poor People, whose Poverty does not arise always from Extravagance, but sometimes from Sickness, and other Casualties, turn Fugitives abroad before being sacrificed at home to Gaolers, where they meet with Encouragement, as I before observed, it encourages others of their Craft to follow them, who by their Interest with their Friends at home get supplied with every thing necessary for carrying on their Projects abroad, to the great Injury of the Manufactures at home.

Having mentioned the Danger of Luxury, and the Use of Foreign Manufactures, let us consider, that of our Domestick we have but few staple Commodities, which are or may not be rivaled by Foreigners. In the Fishery, I have observed many that are used are bought of the *French*. All along the Coast of *Great Britain*, the *Dutch* fish for Herrings, and outdo us, except in the red, which is owing to the Wood that dries them, more than to any extraordinary Industry of our own; and for want of a right Management of pickling them, as the *Hollanders* do. They are reckoned at the first coming in of the Season a great Rarity with them; and a Burgher of *Amsterdam* will dine as contentedly on one, as a Citizen of *London* of the same Circumstances will with a Surloin of Beef; but of their Living I may observe more hereafter. The other is our Wool, which employs most of our Inland Poor, has been always esteemed the greatest Staple of *England*; but by the Means before mentioned, it may change, if some Scheme or another is not forwarded to prevent it. The Lords Commissioners of Trade advertised for Persons to give in Proposals, several were offered, but probably the Alterations that since happened, and the

[21]

the other Affairs, took up so much Time in the last Sessions of Parliament, as prevented any thing being done for its Security farther; then his Majesty graciously ordered the Penalty of such Offenders to be published in the *Gazette*: We must rest contented till we see what this will produce: We had hopes from the Coinage, Gold and Silver Lace, and Linen Manufactory, that this material One would not have been longer postponed.

Extravagance in living higher than usual with our Ancestors, (a Race of Men famous for their Courage, Morality and Hospitality,) is a Truth too well known to be dwelt on; nor are we content, as they were, with the Necessaries and Conveniences of Life; but exceed in Ornamentals both of Apparel and Household Furniture. The Interest of Money this Way expended might be more usefully employed than laid out in Watches, Rings, and Plate, which is carried to such a great Profusion by some, that it visibly exceeds what their Fortunes can afford.

Families of Fortune keep very large Retinues, which draws those from Country Labour, who were born to it, into a luxurious idle Way of living, in which Stations we find them so puffed up with Pride and Insolence, that it is no uncommon thing to see a good Tradesman, nay, sometimes People of a superior Rank, cringing to a saucy Lacky; and this is no small Injury to the Farmers who want Hands; and the Resort of the Nobility and Gentry to *London* draws many to attend them, where, if such don't turn Soldiers, Gamesters, Highwaymen, they marry and pine away their small Gains in some petty Shops, or Publick Houses; for of them there are such Numbers, that they prey upon one another; whereas the Method formerly was, to put such Servants as married into Farms, and encourage them in Habits of Industry

[22]

Industry until they were able to support themselves; and such often improved their Landlords Estates, and proved the best of Tenants. Many of the Country Cities and Towns having no Manufactures, fall into Assemblies, which naturally produce Gaming and Extravagance; and many of them club to pack Dogs, whereby they lead the lower sort into Habits of Idleness, who take up a poaching Livelihood. Would it not be better, if Gentlemen about such Towns would join in encouraging some Manufactures which might cure this strolling Idleness, and then fix them in an established practical Usefulness, and by these Means preserve their Parish from Poor, and keep the Game more secure than all the *Laws* for that Purpose made and provided now in Force?

The Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and Places adjacent, labour more than any other Part of the Kingdom under Hardships of Taxes, and are more exactly collected.

Besides some local Taxes particular to the Places within the Bills of Mortality, the Duty upon Coals falls exceeding heavy upon all the Manufacturers and Poor that live upon the Banks of the River *Thames*; and it is to be hoped, that the Legislature will take it into Consideration; for it is not the High Price of Labour in *England* that enhances her Manufactures, but the Taxes upon Coals, Candles, and such Things as the Manufacturer cannot do without; and if we lose our Trade abroad by neighbouring Nations underselling us, the Fault is not in the *English* Merchants, who venture as freely their Fortunes as those of any Nation whatever, and with as generous a Principle; and if he pays the Manufacturer for his Goods, it is but reasonable he should be satisfied for the Risque and Interest of his Money; and if the Manufacturer employs his Time in Labour, by the same Reason he should be satisfied; but if the Materials in Trade continue

[23]

tinued so high taxed, that must be paid in the Manufactures, which makes them so dear to Foreign Markets, and gives other Nations Opportunities of underselling us; and this is one Reason of the Complaint of our Loss of Foreign Trade.

The Tax upon Coals was first granted for rebuilding *St. Paul's*, and continued to build fifty new Churches; but through the Liberality of Parliaments, some of whose Members were not so much concerned in the Consumption of them, granted large Sums out of this Fund to rebuild old ones; also in several Sessions since the Revolution 4000 Pounds a Session to repair and beautify *Westminster Abbey*: If the Right Reverend Fathers, as belong to that Cathedral, and the Reverend Clergy, who petitioned for such Grants, will take into their serious Consideration what the Poor suffers about these Cities, especially in hard Winters, and what an Injury it is to Manufacturers, who cannot employ the Poor, if the Merchant has not Demands for them, would it not rather shew a Spirit of Charity and Generosity in them to apply something out of their Fines on Leases, or other of their Dues, rather than help forward with an universal Poverty? which will be the Case if our Trade should be lost abroad, and that must be the Consequence if our Manufactures rise higher than Foreign; and then must not our Houses fall in their Rents or yearly Value? and will not the Glebe or Tithe of the Clergy in the Bills of Mortality, and elsewhere, (the City of *London* excepted, which was settled by Parliament after the Fire) be reduced to that Condition? is it not better for the Clergy to part with this Humour of publick Buildings until a more proper Season, rather than lose perhaps Three-fourths of the Value of their Livings?

Universal Poverty may possibly be the Way to Uniformity in Religion; but where is that Self-denying

[24]

ing Minister of the Gospel, that will give away his Tythes to have his People orthodox, and to have no Heresy or Schism in his Parish? Can they imagine that Poverty will make Way for a more absolute Dominion of the Priesthood? but if any are of that Opinion, which of them will part with the greatest Part of his Substance for more Power? which of them would desire to be a starving Ruler of a starving People?

But of the *Clergy* we hope to speak better Things, that is, that where they have Fines upon Renewal of Leases, or other Dues, where they aim (under our present Circumstances) at publick Ornaments, they will apply them rather than burthen the Poor, or hinder the Merchant or Manufacturer from employing them, and become Petitioners themselves to alleviate the Burthen, and remove the Yoke from the Shoulders of the Labourer and Manufacturer.

Nay, those good *Clergymen* who exhort their Audience to Acts of Charity, setting forth the Rewards of those that feed the Hungry, and cloath the Naked, whereby a Treasure is laid up in Heaven, should they not rather appear with a *British* Band and Linen, and thereby help to maintain the Poor of this Kingdom, than in a *Cambrick*, which only enriches a *Flanderkin*, and dispense with other *British* Manufactures, and thereby do real Service to his Country and Countrymen, by whom he is supported, than to indulge his Family in an *Italian* Mantua Silk, or *French* Paduafoy, to the real Prejudice of both?

And how can it be expected, that Numbers of young Clergymen about these Cities can be supported in Lecturehips, or otherwise, if the Endeavours of the Clergy are not joined to take off burthensome Taxes from the Laity? How can they who are scarce able to live themselves contribute to support the Clergy? and will not the young Gentlemen, who are
received

[25]

received in Holy Orders, who have no other Method of Living but by serving at the Altar, expect to live by the Altar? and is it not reasonable the Revenues of the Church, (which moderate Clergymen allow, though unequally divided) should be their Support? but will not these Revenues sink in their Value with the Loss of Trade? and the Dignity and Grandeur of the Church be overwhelmed in an universal Poverty? Therefore out of Compassion to the Poor, which the Reverend Clergy, who are such great Promoters of Charity, and in Assistance to their inferior Brethren, and in Compassion to their Country in general, it may be hoped they will lay aside all Thoughts of publick Buildings until a more proper Opportunity.

In our Domestick Trade, or Home Consumption, some don't look upon retailing as any thing to Trade; yet some Deference ought to be shewn them; for though they do not export or import as the Merchant, if a great many Commodities are consumed through their Means and Recommendation, though the Merchant is the Importer, or Wholesale Dealer and Purchaser of them, and sort their Commodities in such Methods as are proper for the different Retailers, through whose Hands they must pass to Consumption, they ought not to be slightly passed over; for in all Cities they make the chief Bulk of the People; and it is they that bear the Burthen of all inferior, troublesome, parochial and civil Offices; and if they don't pay the Customs, they bear a proportional Share in other Taxes. This is not mentioned to put them in Competition with Merchants; all know they are the chief Support of the State; it is they that employ Thousands by Sea and Land; it is their Fortunes that employ the Poor, and breed up the most valuable Hands to support the Crown, and Man the Fleet, which gives Laws to distant
E Nations.

[26]

Nations. All wise Princes and States protected, esteemed, and encouraged them. *Solomon*, the wisest Prince ever recorded in History, speaks of them with Honour; and he was a Merchant himself; his Ships went to *Tarshish*, and traded with the Kings of *Syria*, the *Hittites*, and *Egypt*, that by his Merchandize he made Silver to be as Stones in *Jerusalem*, and Cedar as Sycamore Trees. In the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth* we find the most honourable Families planting Colonies, and seeking out Trade with Foreign Nations, the Queen sending her Embassadors to unknown Princes, and her Statesmen sending out brave Adventurers to distant Parts of the World, the Benefit of which we reap to this Day; her Statesmen imitated the publick Spirit of their Mistress; her Soldiers were courageous; her Sailors ventured farther on the Deep than any went before; her Bishops were venerable Fathers of the Church, and Feeders of their Flocks; her Lawyers grave, learned and honest, and from her glorious Reign several noble Families date their Rise. Ignorance and a narrow Education are the Consequences of Necessity, and the Consideration of being only indebted to their Country for their Birth; and a poor Livelihood, earned by hard Labour, may sometimes tempt the meanest of the Community to Actions destructive of Society; and Death, and the Confiscation of their little Substance, is the Punishment on such Criminals by our Laws inflicted. What Punishment is then due to even Coolness towards the Welfare of their Country in those who enjoy the Blessing of a publick Spirit, and being what they are?

The Writings of *Shakespear*, *Ben Johnson*, *Spencer*, shew us, what a publick Spirit could inspire. In that Age, they had no Ridottos, Operas, Masquerades, *French* Strolers, Harlequins, &c. their Diversions were manly and modest; their Poets were such as became

[27]

came a *Sidney*, to be a *Mæcenas* to, and learned Men had then Protectors both in Church and State.

The same Spirit in that Reign animated the lower Sort of People, who oftener follow Virtue from Fashion than Principle; they under such Examples cheerfully followed their Leaders in their different Stations; from thence proceeded Success in Arms, a happy Establishment in State, which ended after a long Reign glorious to their Sovereign, and honourable to her Subjects.

Edward the Third, another of our greatest Monarchs, encouraged Foreign Manufacturers to come amongst us, and granted them many Privileges, and an Allowance from the King, till they were able to support themselves; and it was enacted, that none should wear Foreign Cloth: Not so happy were the Reigns of our Monarchs, who disregarded or loaded our Trade with Taxes. *Henry* the Sixth had first Customs. The Affair of Tonage and Poundage in the Case of *Mr. Rolls* and *Mr. Chambers* with King *Charles*, is too tender, but just to be mentioned.

But to return to the Retailers, as they make the Bulk of the People, so they are the Tenants of the Rich; and should they not be encouraged, their Rents must fall, to the Loss of their Landlords; and they are pretty sensible of it within these few Years; for what with new Buildings, and the Decay of Trade, there are many Houses in the publick Streets, for which not only large Fines, but large Rents were formerly given, now empty and decaying; and several about this Town, which pay Ground Rent, would be glad to part with their Leases, which when bought some Years ago were thought the best of Purchases; and the Builders have so far out-run themselves, that it is no uncommon Thing to mortgage one Story to build another, and let them drop before they are quite finished; so there is a Necessity to restrain this

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Itch, which has ruined Numbers by confining the Buildings from spreading farther, as was done by King *James* the First, the Head growing too bulky for the Body; and it scatters the People too wide from Business, so that the Retailers or Mechanicks cannot now wait upon the same Number of Customers in a Week as formerly he might in a Day; and the Loss of his Time is the Loss of his Money.

In King *Charles* the Second's Time many of the Nobility and Bishops resided in the City, the *Strand*, *Holborn*, and *Hatton Garden*; and several Members of Parliament about the Inns of Court, whereby the Retailers about those Parts were enabled to pay Fines, and large Rents; but the Alterations thereabout is so great, that Houses are greatly sunk in their Rents, and several Houses, which were formerly inhabited by Gentlemen, are now occupied by Tradesmen: The Gentry being moved to remote new Buildings, and with them carried the Retail Trade.

So the principal Retailers, as used generally to live about those publick Streets, and paid large Rents, which they used to make in Part, if not the whole, by their Lodgings, and by those Means procure Customers in their various Occupations, now find a Deficiency in both; and a young Couple, with a thousand Pounds between them, will find more Difficulty to live now than forty Years ago such Persons could with five hundred. But that the Case may be fairly stated, let every Tenant that pays fifty Pounds *per Annum* standing Rent examine his Accounts, and see if they come under or exceed the following Expences.

Rent

	l.	s.	d.
Rent <i>per Annum</i> _____	50	00	0
Poor Rates at 2 s. <i>per</i> Pound	5	00	0
Water _____	1	04	0
Scavenger _____	0	14	0
Window Lights _____	1	00	0
Parson _____	1	12	0
Watch _____	0	12	0
Lamps _____	0	6	0
Trained-Bands, when they go out	0	5	6
Summoning Bailiffs, &c. _____	0	3	6
Insurance _____	1	0	0
Wear and Tear of Furniture _____	10	0	0
Maid Servant Wages and Keeping	15	0	0
Man Servant Wages and Keeping	28	0	0
Fire and Candles _____	12	0	0
Butcher, Baker, and Brewer, &c. _____	100	0	0
	216	17	0

This is an Expence which will follow House-keeping upon the young Retailers, many find it more; for with all their Care Sickness may happen, and Loss in Trade; and they must have very extraordinary Returns who can say, that in his Shop he has no dead Stock, such as he would not be content to lose by, nor did ever lose by that, or bad Debts. Besides, some Rates here may be placed too low, and if any are estimated too high, it is easy for the Reader to bring them to an Average; for there are several Expences, as being on Juries and parochial Offices, which will occasionally happen, besides those mentioned; also Wearing Apparel, and Pocket Money, &c.

Some Customs are used which had better be omitted, such as *Christmas* Boxes, which among the lower

[30]

lower Class of People is often given to corrupt one the other's Servants, and sometimes as a Bribe to injure their Masters. This is so bad a Custom, that it would be better broke than kept; and it would be more advantageous to Masters of Families to give Servants higher Wages, than permit them to take Money of their Visitors; for good-natured Masters have often put themselves to large Expences to entertain their Friends, that their Servants might have a Trifle (to his Expences) given them; and if his Guests have not been so extravagant as to pay more for their Meal than they could have decently provided for themselves at a different Place, they may run the Chance of being affronted by the Servant.

The Humour of Country Houses and Lodgings is pretty much abated; but to those that keep them, How idle does it look, unless want of Health forces them to it? for all the last Summers it has been observed, that *London* has been more healthy than the Country, and great Expences follow Country Houses and Lodgings: Neither was this the Method of the ancient Citizens of *London*, who kept *Sundays* at Church, and at home every Person that went thro' their Gates was examined. Their Apprentices, 'tis true, did not give such large Sums of Money as they do now; but what was deficient in that they made up in Fidelity and Industry, which turned to a better Account to the Master and themselves. Formerly they used to clean their own, if not their Master's Shoes, and attend them to Church, and fetch Water from the Conduits; and instead of Cambrick Ruffles had a good clean Band; and for Silk-laced Waist-coats, an Apron before them to keep their Cloaths clean; and for fine Holland Shirts, had half Shirts and Sleeves; but now to their great Misfortune, many of them are at Taverns at Nights, and riding out on Days, that unfortunate Instances may be given

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[31]

of deluded Youths having been ruined before they set up in the World, who might have enjoyed better Fates, if they had been prevented by prudent Masters, and kept to the old Customs of the City, from falling a Prey to Sharpers, Extravagance, and Debauchery.

There is another very ill Custom grown within these few Years: Formerly a Man in Summer Time could not have walked from *Charing-Cross* to *White-Chapel*, and seen a Shop shut at Five of the Clock in the Morning, and now in going the same Ground one by Chance may be found open at Seven; likewise in the Evenings, they never shut up till Nine or Ten; now few keep 'em open till Eight, so lose many Hours in the Day; and the Four o'Clock in the Morning Bell, which is used in many Cities of *England* among manufacturing People, is too little regarded in some Places; so that if they do not follow the laudable Customs, and keep to work the Hours of their Ancestors, they cannot expect to have their Riches and Plenty.

In following our modern Diversions instead of Business, is it to be expected they should gain by it? or rather under the above Estimate, are they able to afford any? if not, surely they ought not to take up too much of their Time: These musical Entertainments, which are set up all round the Town, besides the many Concerts, would make our Ancestors say, that we make the old Proverb literally true, in giving away what we have for a Song.

Though Nobility and Gentry of large Fortunes encourage expensive Diversions, it does not become the Frugality of Citizens to follow such Examples; for though they may spend Time and Money in such Diversions, whatever they may think of themselves, they make a Part of the Entertainment.

If the Report is true, that our Nobility are grown greater Epicures than their Heroick Ancestors, for
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by *French* Cooks their Tables are furnished with *French* Dishes, and more consumed in making Sauces than furnished out the substantial Hospitality of their renowned Ancestors: For we are told of a Dish of *Ortelans* of thirty Guineas Price at one Entertainment; at another, of two hundred Hams for Gravy, taken by the Clerk of the Kitchen, who thought it great Frugality, that he had wasted (for it deserves no other Name) but one hundred and seventy. These are enormous Examples, such as none but a *Juvenal* is fit to lash, and no Citizen to imitate.

Tradesmen would do well to remember the Saying of King *Charles* the Second, if they must frequent Taverns, and Places of Diversion, that wise Men drank, but Fools eat there; for in his Reign Wine was less adulterated. Sack was the Liquor of the Poets in *Shakespeare* and *Ben Johnson's* Time; and a But used to pertain annually to the Laureats; but whether this Perquisite is taken away, or is so much brewed of late Years, that the Bays seems to be withered upon the Heads of our modern Poets; the Reader must satisfy his Curiosity of the present Poet; but it is certain, it was sold in the Country only at Apothecaries Shops, and then drank only in such Quantities as our modern Drams are now, too frequently used of late Years. The Butt Beer of *London* is so much improved, that not only several of the Nobility have it at their Tables, but it is sent to *York*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, as one of the best of Potables, and by Physicians recommended as the Healthfullest.

A great many Gentlemen leave their Estates in the Country to follow their Diversions about Town, and carry the Extravagance down among their Tenants; for in many Country Cities, since our standing Armies, the Officers that have been quartered there have joined with them in their Assemblies, and raised a Spirit of Gaming, Pride, and Idleness, unknown to their

their prudent Ancestors; for in these Meetings their Wives and Daughters must have new Dresses, with Toys, every time they go to such Places; this brings on mortgaging Estates, which is often lost from some ancient Family to some *Novus Homo*, or upstart Usurer, which had not happened had they forbore these Extravagances. A general Register might perhaps intimidate Men from following these Diversions too close; for the Shame of a mortgaged Estate strikes some much, whilst others for want of Registers turn dishonest, and give frequent Mortgages on theirs to carry on their expensive Pleasures; and though prudent Care has been taken by the Government to prevent the Cheats of Dice, yet we do not know (so much the Itch of Gaming prevails) but that it may be necessary, to prevent more Ruin, to make another Act against all Gaming in general.

Our Ancestors in the Beginning of Trade were naturally brought into the Knowledge of Figures, and Frugality of living, by which their Estates were kept free from Mortgages, and their Tables plentifully supplied with Viands of their own Country: *Methglin*, *Cyder*, *Mead*, *Ale*, *Beer*, &c. supplied the Place of expensive Foreign Wines; and the Tenants could live whilst the Lord consumed the Products of their Estates; but when a Foreign Vineron is paid the Rent of the Tenant for his Wines, and little *Ortelans* preferred to Turkeys, or other Domestick Fowls, Can it be expected that Estates can raise in their Value, or that the Tenants can be able to pay their Rents to support the Nobility and Gentry in that Grandeur and Splendor of Living as suits their Dignities and Stations? When we consider how prone Inferiors are to mimick their Superiors, how natural is it to think that they will follow them in their expensive Pleasures to their Destruction? Therefore it may be highly prudent for those in higher Stations of Life

[34]

to banish as much as possible all Foreign Luxury from their Tables, and Foreigners from their Diversions, lest they should bring themselves to such an unhappy Pass, that they may have no Rents to receive for want of their Tenants having no Money to pay.

Private Vices cannot be publick Benefits. *Nemo repente fit pessimus*; Vice comes by Degrees; from Fashion often proceeds those Ills, which Custom and a long Standing render incurable: Else whence can it come, that our Ladies should prefer the Singing of an *Italian Umbra Viri* before the more natural Harmony of their own Sex? but it is no doubt but our Gentlemen, in bare Compliance to the Fair Sex, imitate their Taste; and may they not find *Shakespear's* Saying, by sad Experience, too true, *viz.* that the Toe of the Peasant follows so close the Heel of the Courtier already, that it galls his Kibe.

The Love of Musick is now descended from the Opera-house in the *Hay-Market* to the little Publick Houses about this Metropolis, and common Servants may be now met with, who pretend as much Judgment of an Opera Tune as my Lady Dutchess; and it may be feared, that these, for want of Judgment or Education, may follow their Superiors in their other Diversions; however, improper for Persons of inferior Stations of Life to imitate.

From hence proceeds such Numbers of idle People, that Correspondence is almost stopped in some Parts of the Town; Thieves, Vagabonds, and idle Women, are grown a greater Nuisance than ever in and about this great Metropolis: Bagnios and Coffee-houses not put up for Health or Business, but to encourage Debauchery, whereby several young Gentlemen have been decoyed, to the Destruction of their Healths and Estates. Gaming is carried on, where the meanest are admitted; and we have had Instances

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[35]

of Servants robbing their Masters to be tricked by Sharpers at such Places.

When Robberies of this kind are committed, the common Receptacles, as appears by the Sessions Papers, are the Pawnbrokers about these Cities, whose Balls are too common in almost every Street; they have Clubs and Societies to support one another, when they happen to be prosecuted for their illegal Practices. The Labour of the industrious and necessitous Poor these Cormorants devour by their Extortion, not being contented under almost *Cent per Cent*; it is surely worth while for the several Parishes to look into such Creators of Poverty, which over-burthen the Inhabitants with Poor; and if they tried, like the Banks of Piety abroad, to lend a little Money to their necessitous, honest Poor, and take no more Interest than is necessary to carry on such an Expence, they would ease their Rates; but if they don't care to do that, perhaps the Legislature may find a Method by Stamps and Licences to partake in their Gain; for it cannot be reasonable, that these Drones of Society should suck up all the Honey of the poor, industrious, labouring Mechanick.

It is time (if not already too deep rooted, for the Magistrates or Legislature to eradicate) that private Persons should step forth in the Cause of Virtue, and enter by Cities, Towns and Societies into Associations, to prevent those Things that bring Destruction on their Country, and prevent the Use of Foreign Commodities in their Families; when we can be supplied with every thing at home that answers as well, if not better, to all the Purposes designed; nor entertain Dancers and Singers from abroad, when we have People enough of our own ready to divert us, and lay out what they acquire by such Means amongst us. We are engaged in a War with *Spain*; nor know we but we may be actually in another for the

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[36]

Queen of *Hungary*, who already has had large Remittances to support her, and the Liberties of *Europe* in general; nor know we but more may be called for; likewise large Remittances are and must be made to support our Forces in *Flanders*, and the Loss the Nation suffers by their Absence; besides the *Hessians* and *Hanoverians* in *British* Pay, which will be a constant Drain of Cash from us.

Besides the Lottery, 800,000 Pounds is added to the Capital of the Bank, which will lock up so much more Money from the circulating Cash of the Nation: Balance of Trade against us in *Europe*, Remittances of Interest to Foreigners for their Money in the Funds, is so great a Weight to over-balance us, unless we use all Methods of Frugality, and discourage every thing that tends to Extravagance, inevitable Destruction and Slavery must be our Portion.

At home *Smugglers* almost ruin the fair Trader, *standing Armies* the Publick, *Customs* the Merchants, and *Excises* every one. The Excise Man is our Companion from the Crown of our Head to the Soal of our Foot; if we clean our Hair, he examines the Powder; even the Washing the Ladies Linen does not escape Inspection; he walks abroad in our Shoes; at our Tables he seasons our Meat; and he drinks so deep in our Cup, that he has a larger Portion than the Owner of the Land, which sowed the Barley for the Malt, through the various Payments of Land-tax, Malting, and Brewing (besides Tythes.) Is it Day-light? he peeps in at our Windows; is it Night? he shines in our Candles. Have we Sweets or Sours, Light or Darknes, the *Custom-house Officers* or *Excisemen* are our constant Attendants. Under such Circumstances, what Room have we for expensive Pleasures, or exotick Diversions?

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[37]

The Complaints about the State is the Number of Place-men, who have, we are told, Pensioners upon them, and Numbers of useles Officers. In the Church, Commendams and Pluralities, Arch-deacons Visitations, which, as Bishop *Burnet* says, were only created for Forms and Fees, and might be better supplied by rural Deans. In the Law, several expensive Offices intirely useles. Though Money is borrowed by the Government at Three *per Cent.* the Interest and collecting of it has been computed to cost the Nation finely; all which are paid out of the Industry of trading People: These accumulated Hardships, (unless with great Prudence and Frugality remedied) must bring us to Slavery in the End.

His Majesty, who is a true *Pater Patriæ*, hears but with other Ears, and knows not the real Poverty of his People; he sees splendid Equipages, gay Looks, embroidered and rich Apparel, and therefore may reasonably conclude, that their Estates are answerable to their Appearance; but if it should be His Majesty's Royal Pleasure, upon some publick Day, to command my *Lord Chamberlain* to order Receipts upon their Tradesmen's Bills, as Tickets for Commifion to appear in the Royal Prefence, or even in the Anti-chamber, without a Spirit of Prophecy one might tell, there would be a fuller Park than Court that Day at *St. James's*.

The City is supplied with greater Plenty of luxurious Provisions than any Part of the Kingdom, the Market being made by the great Number of Purchasers, especially where the Court and Nobility resort so much to it; but if we were to look into remote Parts, how miserable are the Poor in *Ireland*? Though they supply the Shipping with Beef, they live on four Milk and Potatoes. In *Scotland* and *Wales*, though they breed Cattle, they are sent to other Markets;

Markets; and though they have Wool, neither wear Shoes or Stockings, but upon extraordinary Occasions; Whey, Oatmeal and Rye Bread, and Fish, being their chief Support, and the Landlords are obliged to take their Rents in kind; and some Parts of *England* are but little better provided: Therefore we ought to avoid the present modish Diversions, as we are liable to their State of Life.

Palestine and *Egypt* enjoyed Liberty when the Natives were frugal and industrious; the Climate made them the richest People in the Universe; but when Luxury had effeminated the Inhabitants, they fell a Prey to arbitrary *Turkish* Government, the Country grew depopulated, and is at this Day the poorest in the World.

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula Cautum.

In order to prevent such Effects happening to our own, there ought to be taken the strictest Care of the Education of our Youth of both Sexes. The Ancients understood that wise Precept, of training up a Child in the Way that it should go: Experience taught them, that Virtue could not be propagated without a virtuous Education, which was therefore looked upon as the most publick Concern; the Inspection of it was committed to the wisest and most prudent Magistrates, and the Youth was instructed by the most disinterested Philosophers. At the Age of seven Years the *Lacedemonian* Youths were delivered to the Magistrates to be educated, according to the Rules of that State; and it is recorded of the *Areopagites* or *Athenian* Senators, that they were not content with having ordered stated Punishments for certain Crimes, but made such wise Regulations for the Education of their Youth, that there were no

Crimes for Punishment. The Politeness of *Greece*, and the old *Roman* Parsimony, were agreeably blended in those that were intrusted with the Education of the *Roman* Youth; they were equally eminent for their Temperance and Moderation, their Humility and Learning. They were living Examples of those virtuous Dispositions they inculcated, their Honour was great, their *Gain* moderate, and annexed to a strict Execution of their Duty; the higher the Station of a Student, stricter were the Obligations laid upon him to Application, and the more assiduous the Care of the Instructor to imprint upon his tender Mind virtuous and generous Principles; he was taught to despise Riches in comparison of Virtue, *Fulvo preciosus auro*, and made to know that neither Titles nor Money could dispense with the Rules of Society, nor atone for idle Irregularities of Life, or the Want of a publick Spirit. Tutors thus qualified, the Methods of Education thus regulated, must of consequence produce Pupils of immortal Fame; by these Methods a *Roman* Youth put on Patriotism with the manly Robe, and was qualified to fill the most important Posts in the Common-wealth; such were *Valerius Corvinus*, *Scipio*, &c.

There cannot be a more incoherent, despicable and depraved Character, than a Gentleman and not a Patriot. Publick Honours and Wealth ought to accompany publick Spirits, and he that wants such a Disposition infamously sullies his Honour, and basely forgoes the Love of his Country, and the Regard and Welfare of Mankind; he is intirely unworthy of bearing any Trust for his Country; he may be flattered by a few Adherents to his private Fortune, as Princes are by their Court Locusts, a sufficient Number of which may equal, if not surpass, the deplorable Calamity *Egypt* once suffered by Insects of the same Name, though less venomous Quality.

[40]

Virtue is the Support of every State, which cannot stand without a virtuous Education. *Livy* attributes the Degeneracy of the Sons of *Junius Brutus* to a vicious Education in the luxurious and debauched Court of a cruel Tyrant: And the Want of a virtuous Education, the same Historian tells us, preceded the Destruction of the *Roman State*, viz. Oaths were contemned, the Laws invaded, Vice become the Subject of Mirth, and the most sacred things turned into Ridicule, and *Corruption* the reigning Vice of the Age. The Words of this Historian are sufficient to convince the People of *England*, that it is both their Duty and Interest to be the Guardians and Promoters of a publick Spirit, which, though like the human Body, attains its Growth but by slow Degrees, is liable to a momentary Depravation.

In *England* formerly Bishops and Noblemen had Academies in their Houses for Youth: Cardinal *Woolsey* had Lord *Piercy*, Son of the Earl of *Northumberland*, and other young Noblemen: Archbishop *Whitgift* had a Number of young Gentlemen and poor Scholars in his House, who were instructed in Arts and Languages: Archbishop *Williams* for the same Purpose had the Sons of the Marquis of *Hartford*, Earls of *Pembroke*, *Salisbury*, and *Leicester*, with other young Gentlemen; and some Lay Lords have done the same, as the late Lord *Lansdown* assures us, of the the Earls of *Bath*, whereby they secured a natural Interest in their Country, and trained up the Sons of their Friends in the Principles of Integrity and Virtue.

It is the Opinion of some, that our present Method of Education lies under some Disadvantages, the Church of *Rome* resolving to establish her Usurpation, not only over the Bodies, but the Minds of Men. The World was sufficiently vitiated for any wicked Purpose (one would think) by the prevailing Luxury
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[41]

of preceding Ages, and by the Reigns of many imperial Monsters; yet she judged the Minds of Men not sufficiently debased to swallow her gross Absurdities, unless Virtue was quite eradicated, and all useful Learning extinguished, and the very Name of a publick Spirit obliterated. In order to this, she invented a nonsensical Jargon of unintelligible Distinctions, Definitions and Divisions, adapted to perplex the Head, without improving or mending the Heart.

Neither Gravity, Temperance, Moderation, Humility, Knowledge of Mankind, Experience in Affairs, or a publick Spirit, were reputed necessary Qualifications for an *Instructor* of Youth in those Days; but such as rather gloried in propagating Principles destructive of publick Liberty, and effectually to incapacitate the Nobility and Gentry from opposing her Designs. It was on all Occasions inculcated, that Application was only required of those that wanted Bread: Idleness was encouraged in proportion to the Station of the Student, and Money washed out the Stains of Negligence and Irregularity. Thus young Gentlemen were sent out *Drudges* into the World amidst the Pleasures of Luxury, unfortified with Virtue, and Heads either empty, or filled with Trifles.

But since the Reformation, Virtue, and all sorts of Learning, flourish in our Colleges and Universities; but some think they labour under considerable Discouragements. We know the Intention of the Church of *Rome's* injoining Celibacy to her Clergy; but of what Use Protestant Celibacy can be, is hard to determine, since Academical Statutes cannot extinguish natural Passions; and since so many and such comfortable Settlements are provided for such as are inclined to change their Conditions, we must expect a quick Rotation of Fellows; and to our Grief a Time
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[42]

may come, when a Set of raw unexperienced Youths may be intrusted with the Education of the Flower and Hopes of these Nations.

Some think the Clergy, in the first Rudiments of Education, not the most proper Persons to have the Care of Youth, being often tempted to seek Preferments, rather than attend the important Charge of their tender Pupils: This Neglect in several publick Schools has made several prefer a private Education to a publick one; and Persons of a more inferior Degree have found it much cheaper to purchase a Presentation or perpetual Advowson for their Children, than to run the Risque, not without Danger to their Persons or Morals; besides the *extravagant Expences* of our modern School Education in Attendance of Preferment, which arises from them.

But notwithstanding the Advantages of Education, if the Love of our Country grows lukewarm, it is not to be doubted but our *Legislators* will make the Cause of so ruinous a Degeneracy the Subject of a Parliamentary Enquiry, and apply Remedies suitable to the Urgency of our Affairs.

In private Life our Education wants Reformation: *Youths* intended for *Trades* are kept so long at Schools learning dead Languages, which are useless to such as are not bred to some particular Professions. This we see by the *Jews*, whose Children, when very young, are Masters of the modern Languages, transacting Business of some Thousands of Pounds, whilst ours of the same Age are puzzling themselves about some Criticism in a *Classick*, drudging whole Years in useless Pedantry, until his Passions are grown upon him; and if it should then happen, for want of a Foundation, to apply to Business, it is a great chance if ever such a Person rightly apply to it all his Life.

[43]

The Education of Citizens Children at great publick Schools among Noblemen gains them no Respect; and when they grow up, they are no more esteemed by their School-fellows, than *Moliere's* Citizen turned Gentleman; and young *Noblemen* are often imposed upon, and brought into mean Habits, which in a private Education they would have been Strangers to.

Dead Learning creates a great many poor Gentlemen, or as the *Dutch* call them, idle Men; for without Estates (where it is both ornamental and useful) it may be prejudicial to those Persons, who are only possessed of such Accomplishments: Many of whom, by Experience, know the Land about *Parnassus*, though fruitful in fine Flowers, does not bear sufficiently to defend from the Inclemency of Weather, or satisfy a craving Appetite. *Boileau* the *French* Poet used to say, that a good Mason or Shoemaker were more useful Members to the Commonwealth, than a Dabbler in Poetry; nor does this dead Learning contribute so much, as many would persuade us, to excuse their Loss of Time in refining our Language, there being few Words besides those that terminate in *on* derived from the *Latin*. We are a compound of various Nations and Languages, the chief of which is the *Saxon*; and the Laws of our Ancestors were in that Language till the *Norman* Conquest, who, to introduce theirs, altered it to the *French*, but never could quite eradicate the *Saxon*: But what Compliment do such pay the Fair Sex, such as *Mrs. Singer*, *Mrs. K. Phillips*, who distinguished themselves before several who have read *Virgil* and *Horace* in their Original?

Our *Female Education* at Boarding Schools teaches a false Politeness, where Children are too much instructed in *Visits*, *Fashions*, *Cards* and *Assemblies*, that they are Strangers to all Domestick OEconomy when they are settled in the World: Often from

[44]

thence proceeds Discontents in their Marriage States; and if it should so happen, that their Parents die before them, and leave not a Sufficiency to support them suitable to their Education, to the Shame of such, they often run into the most enormous Vices the Sex can be guilty of. A good Family Education would be far more advantageous; and if it was carried farther, that Part of their Time was more employed in Writing and Accompts than is usual at present in Female Education, it would not only give them a Notion of Frugality for the Benefit of their Families, but, like the *Dutch Wives*, might be trusted with the Purse; and by being useful to their Husbands, get a greater Ascendant over their Hearts, than all the idle Amusements that can be invented; and in case of their Decease, might be more able to encounter with such Accidents than most Widows, which at present fall under such Circumstances.

In the lower Part of Education, the *Charity Schools* may be more usefully applied than what is generally thought they are: These poor Children having no Dependance are bred up above common Labour, equal, if not to exceed middling Tradesmen's Children. This seems not to have been the first Intention of the Founders, but charitably to take those Children from being Vagabonds about our Streets, and giving them Notions above such Vices as must proceed from such Courses of Life, that they might become useful Servants. And indeed it is wished by many, that they had not so much Liberty as they have; but by placing them in some Method of Work, according to their different Capacities, to make Labour a Diversion to them, it may be better than letting them go home constantly to their Parents, who cannot give them such good Provisions, and are bad Examples, which with a small Addition which might be this
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[45]

Way provided for them, they might be prevented from seeing a great many Vices, as otherwise they might be subject to. Indeed in several Workhouses about *London*, they are employed in little Manufactures as they are capable of, which prevents them from being subject to the Hunger, as those which are not so well provided are subject to; and even if they were employed (in which they would be diverted) to make Toys like the *Dutch Children*, some think it would save thirty thousand Pounds *per Annum* going to *Holland* for such Bawbles, which would be a great Support to all the Charity Schools in this Kingdom; and the Children might be bred up in Habits of Industry, that will make their Service be sought for rather than refused, as is now by many.

Thus much for *Education*: The Reader may think it too much, but it being so material from the highest to the lowest Station, that the Prolixity on this Subject carries its Excuse; for an Authority that cannot err has told, that *we cannot gather Grapes from Thorns, or Figs from Thistles; what we graft, such shall we gather, and every Tree is known by its Fruit*; therefore we cannot expect to have a publick Spirit, Virtue and Integrity, grow up in a Mind uninstructed in it; and for a virtuous Education, a Child is more obliged to its Parent than for its very Being.

As *Trade* produces *Riches*, so naturally will follow *Luxury*: But where it runs in Ballance against a Nation, though a private Person may get by it at present, no Encouragement may be given to it, especially from those Nations that depresses ours, for in the long run it will bring Destruction upon the whole Kingdom. As to several Commodities as we have from other *Europeans*, there is no doubt if Bounties were given at first, but that they might be raised in his
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[46]

Majesty's Dominions in *America*, they being so extensive, that they take in all the Latitudes of *Europe*; and then those things that are now Luxuries would cease in some measure to be so, and become our proper Commodities; and, like naval Stores, we might sell some to other Nations, and inforce our Ballance and Trade with them.

Sugars, Rum, Coffee, Chocolate, are of *English* Growth (though not used in Queen *Elizabeth's* Time) cease to be publick Luxury to those that can afford them; as does the Tobacco, Snuff and Rice of *America*, besides taking the Superfluities of our Fellow Subjects to the Encouragement of Navigation, are re-exported to other Nations; they raise *Naval Stores* of all Sorts, *Iron, Fir, Woods for dying*, and other Uses, which we should be obliged to purchase at their own Rates of Foreigners, or *Felts and Skins* as employ our People at home, or *Fish* for Exportation abroad; but what is to be avoided is real Luxury, that is, finished Commodities, or Things of no intrinsic Value, which we purchase with Cash, or other solid Commodities, such as China, which those that purchase old are *prodigiously cheated* by an Imitation, Diamonds, Toys, Wines, Provisions for Luxury, and full-wrought Manufactures of Foreign Make; these Things, like Pest-houses, ought to be avoided, or it will affect not only the Persons, but the Nation that uses them, with the *Plague of Poverty*.

The *Dutch* are remarkable for Frugality, and it is fashionable for them never to live up to Two-thirds of their Income, though loaded with Excises, which is not given away to Pensioners or Placemen, but frugally applied to the publick Use; this joined with Industry, and the low Interest of Money, enables them to trade into all Parts of the World.

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[47]

This makes the States, in Queen *Elizabeth's* Time, the poor distressed, now the high and mighty, courted by all *Europe*; their Credit is great, their Trade extensive, and their Liberties secure, amidst the Wars in *Europe*; and if we imitate their Maxims, we are not yet so far sunk, but we may as well in private as in publick Life appear with the same Grandeur.

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