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THE
TRIAL of the *SPIRITS*:
OR, SOME
CONSIDERATIONS
Upon the *Pernicious Consequences* of the
GIN-TRADE
TO
GREAT-BRITAIN

(As it is *Destructive* of the
Health and Lives of His Majesty's Sub-
jects; and as it affects the *Trade, Manufac-
tures and Landed Interest* of this Island)

Humbly offer'd to the Right Honourable

Sir ROBERT WALPOLE,

And to the Right Honourable

Sir JOSEPH JEKYLL.

By a LOVER OF MANKIND.

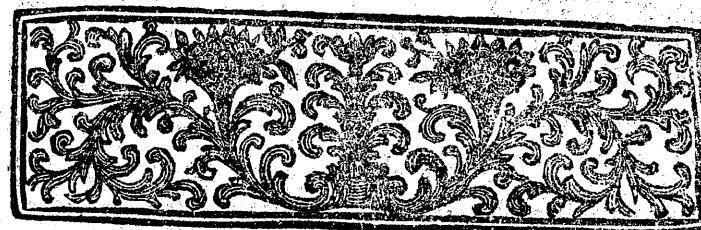
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SOME BRIEF
CONSIDERATIONS

Upon the prevailing

III CONSEQUENCES and DANGERS,

Arising from the

MALT-STILLERY,

Humbly offer'd, &c.

RIGHT HONOURABLE SIRS,



BEG Leave to lay before Your Honours some Observations I have made, some Months since, respecting the *Malt-Stillery* in particular; and as you are about to regulate this *Trade*, if the Hints I have given will be of any Service to you, the *Author*, has obtain'd his End.

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I must in the first Place premise, that I am no Ways *disaffected* to the present Government; nor to any *Minister* or *Ministers* of State —; that I am no *grumbling Patriot*, have no Expectations of a Place, nor any Int'rest at Heart, but that of the Welfare of my Country.

This, I allow, is the common Pretense of a great many Scriblers. Be that as it will — I am sure my Design is *Honest*; and I'll venture to say, the *Happiness* or *Misery* of our dear Country depends upon the *Regulation* of this *Trade*.

What has led me into the following *Considerations*, is some *Observations* I have made in General (as a *Magistrate*) of the most enormous, wicked and dangerous *Use* and *Consequences* of the Liquor call'd *Gin* or *Geneva*, the produce of *Malt-Spirits*.

This, I am sure, cannot escape the Notice of every Justice of Peace, in and about London especially. To detain your *Honours* therefore no longer by the Preamble, I propose to do these two Things.

To set in a clear Light the great Inconveniencies of this *Trade*, with Respect to the *Influence* it has upon People in General. And

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To detect the Falsity of that receiv'd Notion, *viz.* That it promotes the *Landed Interest* and the *public Revenue*; and then leave it to your *Honours* to conclude from the whole, whether if a public Good must and ought to be prefer'd to a private One, the *Malt-Still*ing, so far as it affects the Question, ought not to be destroyed.

Here I must take the Opportunity of declaring to your *Honours*, that I am no Ways, directly or indirectly, concern'd in the *Brewery*. The Truth therefore of what I have in Miniature depicted will strongly appear from the following Representation, I had almost said *Demonstration*.

I make no doubt but this *Postulatum* will be granted me, namely, That the Strength and Riches of a National Community consist in the *Health* and *Numerousness* of its Labourers; for if these be not preserv'd, where will your Produce be? Where will you find Soldiers? How will the Culture of your Lands, the useful Manufacture and Merchandize of the Nation be carried on? This premis'd, I now proceed to my first Argument, which is, to prove, that this *Trade* (I mean the *Malt-Stillery*) has most *pernicious Effects* upon People in General, and in Reality is the Source of those many Mischiefs we daily meet with, and as dangerous in its *Consequences* as any *Pestilence*, tho' somewhat slower in its Operations.

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rations. This will appear if it be consider'd, that

This same Liquor, call'd *Gin*, is sold very cheap, so that People may get *muddled* with it for Three Half-pence, and for Three-pence made *quite Drunk*, even to Madnels, especially those who first imbibe this fatal *Lethe*.

For this Reason it comes within the Power of the common People to purchase the hopeful Reputation of getting very Drunk at a very small Expence.

What then are the Consequences or Effects of this *Liquor*? Why, the first is, To forget all Obligations of paying their *just Debts*, and by that Means to expose their Children to the utmost Extremities that Want and Poverty can reduce them to. This appears every Day, both in Men and Women, given to this Vice.

The next Effect it has upon 'em is to *inspire* 'em with a *false Courage* or *Mock-Heroism*. *Gin* being predominant, they are ready to undertake any rash, dangerous or unlawful Enterprize that may be put into their Heads; and if it happens that any old Resentment should be reviv'd against any Person, who has either affronted 'em, or been imagin'd so to do, Methods of Revenge must immediately be persw'd, without Fear or Wit, how hazardous soever, no Matter! for so long as this *false Courage* remains,

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His Majesty's Peace must be broke, the Neighbourhood disturb'd, and litigious expensive Suits, Prosecutions, &c. commenc'd.

But this is not all; when these People have spent their Money, (but this sort of *Courage* still subsists) the next Step is how to come at more Cash, for which a *speedy Method* must be taken; otherwise the *Hero* will *subside*. Hence follow *desperate Attacks*, *High-way and Street-Robberies*, attended sometimes with most cruel, unheard of *Murthers*. Thus circumstanc'd, the Fear of a House of Correction, Imprisonment, or Danger of the Gallows, make little Impression upon them, if any at all.

These are the *first and immediate* Effects of this *noxious Liquor*: Nor indeed, Sirs, can it be otherwise in the *Nature* of the Thing, because all *distill'd Spirits*, particularly *Gin*, are absolutely destructive of the Animal Constitution; therefore ought never to be receiv'd into the Body, but Medicinally. This appears from the immediate Ebullition of the Blood, and turbulent Flow of the Animal Spirits that attends the immoderate Use of them. For *Gin* it self being a fiery, inflammable Body; hence are excited the worst Passions of the Mind; the *necessary Consequence* of which is, that the Person so affected, *audax omnia perpeti*, dares put the most impious Design into Execution.

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The public Consequence of this is, that our *Jails* and *Bridewells* are fill'd, and thereby so much *Labour* lost to our Country, and as 'twas hinted before, public *Law-Suits* commenc'd, to the great Emolument of another Set of Men, almost as hurtful to the Commonalty as the *Gin-Trade*; namely *Wapping-Attorneys* and *Solicitors*, and others of that sort of *Fernin* wheresoever active.

And now I'm about exhibiting another dismal Scene to Your Honours, in which I believe you will concur with me, even at first View, the *Deduction* so easily and naturally flowing from the *Premises*.

Here, Sirs, if you form to your selves all the shocking Ideas of a common *Lazar-House*, and apply them to our present Circumstance, you will find no Difficulty in reducing the Argument to a *Demonstration*.

The Stomach having receiv'd these *Spirits*, they must in some Time evaporate.

During this Operation the *Hero* swells, as was observ'd before; but the *Fury* at length being over, the *Hero* subsides in proportion, and sinks into a miserable *Invalid*, his whole Strength and Courage being intirely demolish'd.

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That this must be the Case, appears from *Distillation* it self. For when the *Spirit* of any fermented *Wash* is extracted, that which remains, the *Distillers* call the *Faints*, which is a very pernicious Composition of acid *Phlegm* and *Earth*. The *Chymists* call it *Residuum* and *Caput Mortuum*. This is of so very bad a Quality, such a *Venenum per se*, that little more than the bare Taste of it will give the Patient a *Vomit*.

Thus then it fares with our *Gin-Drinkers*; the *Liquor* being rarefied and evaporated, the *Caput Mortuum* remains in their *Stomachs*. Hence a Train of universal Disorder, such as Indolence, Depravation of Appetite, Weaknesses, Nervous Convulsions, Epilepsies, Apoplexies, Death; or if the Patient should 'scape the last, he is render'd for the most Part so stupid and enervated, that instead of being a useful Member of the Community, he is actually become a scandalous Burthen upon it.

Hence then, Sirs, you will easily perceive, that the Nation must in a little Time be destitute of both *Labourers* and *Soldiers*. The *One* will not be able to carry a Musket, no more than the *Other* a Burthen, and what then must become of Society, especially this Fertile, Trading Island? This I leave to every disinterested Man.

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The second Thing propos'd to consider was, that *false*, tho' *vulgar Notion*, which has been industriously propagated, namely, that the *Stillery* promotes the *Landed Interest*, and the *public Revenue*.

Here the Task, at first View, seems somewhat *difficult*; yet I am persuaded it will appear in a *contrary Light*, when the Case is consider'd, as drawn from *Matter of Fact*, which the following Remarks will help, I think, to elucidate.

To set this Matter in its true and natural Light, it will be necessary, Sirs, to observe in the first Place, that the *Malt-Still* is vastly different now, to what it was thirty or forty Years ago. Then, it was but in its Infancy, in Miniature. (Happy for these Kingdoms, had it continu'd so to this Day!) Then the *Distillers* were contented to use the *worst* of our Grain, and that *all Malted*; by which Means, they were oblig'd to consume a much greater Quantity for the produce of the same proportion of *Spirit*, as from a lesser by the *present* Management. So that the Case now is vastly alter'd. For instead of using the *worst* of our Barley, they use the very *best*, (the *worst* being thrown away, or given to the Hogs,) a great deal of which (if not the Major Part) is *unmalted*, which being ground into Meal, will raise a much more profitable Fermentation; especially, as they mix it with the finest of *Wheat-Flower* from whence they get a great deal more *Spirit*,

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Spirit, and at the same Time save Expenses, as well in the Manufacture, as in the King's Duty: So that one may venture to affirm from these *Circumstances*, that if the same Quantity of *Spirit* were drawn from *Barley only*, supposing it all Malted, and that no *Wheat-Flower* were us'd at all, the *coarsest Malt* would produce Twenty *per Cent.* more at Market than it now does. — Therefore the Country Gentlemen are impos'd upon in this Case; for what they get in the *finer*, they loose in the *coarser* Sorts of Grain.

The next Thing which the *Landed Interest* suffers in, is the *Brewery*. It cannot be suppos'd that labouring People can spend their Money in both *Beer* and *Gin*. The former is certainly a very *useful*, as well as *necessary* Manufacture, as 'tis not accompany'd with such *pernicious Consequences* to the *Consumer*. People cannot so *soon*, nor so *easily* get Drunk with *Beer*, as with *Gin*; and if they could, the Effects, from the one, would not be half so *dangerous*, as those, from the other, have been demonstrated to be. Therefore what the *Landed Interest* is said to gain by the *Distiller*, in all Probability is lost to the *Brewer* in a double Sense. For by Means of the constant Use of *Gin*, People do not live out half their Days; and the *Pigmy* Generation of Animals they leave behind them, unfit for Labour and Industry, would rather see Three Half-penny-worth of *Gin*, than a full Pot of *Porter*, or good, wholesome *Beer*: This will, at long Run, reduce the *Landed Interest*, with Respect to *Barley*, to nothing at all.

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The next Thing wherein the *Landed Interest* is considerably affected upon the Account of this *Trade*, is the great *Diminution* of the Consumption of *Bread*; in which Article the *Bakers* are no small Sufferers, and that for the same Reason assign'd for it in Relation to the *Brewers*.

For, as it was hinted before, the ordinary, if not the necessary Effects of *Gin-Drinking*, are a *Depravation* of *Appetite*, *Vomitings*, *Relaxation* of the *Coats* of the *Stomach*, by which all its *Roughness*, necessary to the Promotion of *Appetite* and *Digestion*, is, by Degrees, totally destroy'd, and an absolute *Smoothness* left in its Room; or else, by the *inflammatory* Quality of these *Liquors*, the whole Body of it is, as it were, so *parch'd* or *crisp'd*, that neither *Appetite* nor *Attrition*, upon which *Digestion* principally depends, can be obtain'd; at least till the Patient has Recourse to the same Evil for a Remedy, viz. more *Gin*, the Consequence of which is *horrid Disgrace*, *inevitable Destruction*, *exquisite Misery*, and, the *End* of all, *certain*, *untimely Death*.

From such Means it cannot be, but the Consumption of *Wheat* must be greatly lessned, both from a total Inappetite of these poor Wretches, while *Defunct*, (I can scarcely say, while *Living*, they're so *Stupid*) and from their *Stealing* out of the World before half their natural Days are finish'd.

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This would have been very severely felt these two Years last past, wherein we had such plentiful Harvests, and so remarkable a Decay of our home Consumption of *Wheat*, had it not been for that happy Call the Foreign Differences caus'd for Exportation. But as that can't always be the Case, I am sure it will be felt more and more, unless a speedy Remedy be found out, to prevent the *Public* vending this *contagious Liquor*.

Therefore the *Gentlemen* of the *Landed Interest* are greatly impos'd upon, when they are persuaded this *Trade* redounds to their Advantage; for the *Landed Interest* loses as much, if not more, in one Year, by the diminish'd Consumption of *Wheat*, from the Causes above recited, than it gains by all the *Distillers* take off their Hands, which may equally be prov'd in Fact, as in Theory, but that the confin'd Brevity of these Appeals, as Hints, admit of no Room for frequent Illustrations. This, however, is the Case of the *Bakers*, and, so far, of the *Landed Interest*.

What comes into further Notice, as it regards the *Landed Interest*, is the Consideration of this *Gin-Trade*, as it affects the *Butchery*, and consequently the *Grasery*, for the *Interests* of these are inseparably connected.

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All that has been advanc'd above, with Respect to *Bread*, will, in a more eminent Degree, hold good in the Case of *Meat*: For if the Stomach, through its Depravity, occasion'd by the Reception of those Liquors, rejects so *light* and *inoffensive* a Food as *Bread*, that can offend or oppress no Stomach in any *tolerable* Condition, either by its Weight, Smell or Taste, and which would give light and natural Nourishment: How must it not nauseate *Butchers Meat*, offensive to the Smell of every sick Person, heavy to Digest, and of substantial Nourishment? Why, the miserable Creatures, in such a Situation, rather than purchase the *coarser Joyns of Meat*, which the *Butchers* use to sell them at a very easy Rate, (whilst they were in a labouring Capacity) and I may add, good and wholesome in themselves too; I say, rather than do this, they will repair to the *Gin-Shops*, upon whose destructive Commodities they will freely lay out all they can rap or rend, till the *Parish Work-Houses* are fill'd with their poor, starv'd Families, *Trade* and *Country* depriv'd of their *Manufactures* and *Labours*, while the *Butchers* cannot so much as give these *Joyns* to the *common People*, to whom they us'd to sell 'em, but are forc'd, either to bury 'em, or to give 'em to the Dogs.

This seems to be the true Reason, why your *Cattle* is sold at Markets at such low Rates, that it
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is hardly worth while for the *Grazier* to fatten his *Bullock* or *Sheep*. Therefore in these Cases the *Distillery* cannot but be exceeding hurtful to the *Landed Interest*. — This I may have Occasion further to touch upon, when I come to a *Recapitulation* of the Argument.

In the mean Time, how far this *Trade* affects the *Woollen-Manufacture*, I leave Your *Honours* to consider. To me it appears plain, that People given to this *Liquor*, chuse rather *Nakedness* for themselves and Family, than *Abstinence* from this comfortable *Cordial*, as they call it.

To all this might be added the *visible Effect* these Liquors have upon the Consumption of *Tobacco*, no inconsiderable a Branch of His Majesty's Revenue, and to which the Populace do not a little Contribute. An honest Man may Smoak a Pipe or two of *Tobacco*, with a Pint or two of good *Butt*, a whole Evening, but is so suddenly demolish'd by the Force of *Tyrant Gin*, that he has scarcely Time to puff out half a dozen Whiffs.

The last Thing I undertook, is rather an *Inference* from the above Premises, than a *Cause* wanting Proof, namely that the *public Good* must or ought always to be prefer'd to any *private Interest*; which, if it be true, then 'tis undertaken to shew, the *Malt-Stillling* cannot subsist.

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Here again, Sirs, some may be apt to imagine that I must Encounter unsurmountable Difficulties. But I am persuaded the contrary will appear, if we have any remains of *Virtue*, any *good Will to Mankind*, or *Love to our Constitution*.

Throwing aside therefore all little *Party-Distinctions*, such as *Whig and Tory*, *Court and Country-Interest*, let us unanimously adhere to those Notions, the *Dictates of Reason* tell us must be Beneficial to the *Community in General*.

Before I proceed herein, I cannot but allow, that Mankind, in a *Trading Nation* especially, live upon the *Vices and Extravagancies* of one another. But, I think, at the same Time it ought to be allow'd me, that the *several Trades* more immediately concern'd in those *Extravagancies*, are to be *Tolerated and Regulated*, by the *Legislative Power* only, that is, in Proportion as they prove more or less hurtful to *Society*.

Now if there be any one Art or Manufacture that directly Strikes at the well-being of the *Community*, so as in a very short Time either greatly to wound it, or to bring it to nothing, that *Art, Trade or Manufacture*, be what it will as to *Number or Quality*, ought to be prohibited to all Intents and Purposes; this is the Case of the *Malt-Stillery*.

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Taking it therefore as a *Universal Concession*, that a *public Good* ought always to be prefer'd to a *private One*, that we may place every Thing in a just and proper Light; let us, as we have already without Prejudice consider'd the *Inconveniencies* of the *Malt-Stillery*, impartially speak to its *Conveniencies* also, and thus we shall better Judge where the *Balance* lies.

The *First*, and indeed, *great Conveniency* of this *Trade*, is the *Revenue* thence arising to the *Crown*, by Way of *Excise*, which must be allow'd to be very Considerable, and (whatever *Inconveniencies* may attend other Commodities) capable of being Collected with a great deal of Ease.

This has been in a great Measure already Answer'd, for what the *Public* gains by the *Excise* upon *Gin*, it loseth in *Beer, Bread-Corn, the Grassery, Tobacco* and other Particulars not insisted on, the difference of which were it fairly to be *Calculated*, as I fancy, with some Application, it might, I would venture the whole of the Argument upon it.

But let us take it for granted, that the *Accrue-ment* to the *Treasury* from this Manufacture exceeds the *Deficiencies* it may sustain from the aforesaid other Branches, (which is *gratis Dictum*.) Will this be an *Equivalent* to the disabling our *Labourers* in

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in General? To the filling our *Work-Houses* and *Hospitals* with an unprecedented Number of poor People, loaded with *Distempers*? Our *Houses of Correction* with Throngs of abandon'd, young Whores and old Bawds? Will this be a Satisfaction for the innumerable Evils that arise from violent Quarrels, *Street-Robberies*, *Highwaymen*, and *Desperadoes*? Will this be a sufficient Apology for disabling our *Soldiers*? Will this *Revenue* atone for the making us a poor ruin'd Nation? When we shall have no Hands to carry on our *Manufactures* and *Merchandise*, no Hands to Cultivate our *Lands*?

These *Expostulations* are not the Result of unguarded Passion, or heightned Prejudice against those whole *Interest* it is to support and continue this *Trade*, but of an Ardour naturally arising from the Prospect of these Miseries that must attend our *Country*, if some *speedy* as well as *effectual* Remedy be not resolv'd on to the preventing them.

Let the *Gentlemen* at the *Helm* therefore consider this Subject carefully, and they will find that this is no aggravated Description of the *Case*, which every judicious and humane Person cannot but View with Sorrow and Horrour.

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Therefore what I have here advanced cannot stand as an *ipse dixit*; I appeal to the World for the *Truth* of the *Facts*, and leave the rest, with great Submission, to the Legislative Power, but cannot help concluding with a *ROMAN PATRIOT*, on an important Subject, *Delenda est Carthago*.

The second Thing that may be alledg'd in Favour of the *Spirit Trade* is, that for many Purposes we want them at *Home*, as well as for our *Foreign Trade*, particularly the *African*.

This, I think, may be fairly answer'd thus, *viz.* Suppose an *Excise* were to be laid upon *Malt-Spirits*, so as to make them equally dear with *Rum*; it would put it out of the Power of the common People to make them their common Tipple, as they most *flagrantly* do now.

Suppose again that *Molossus's* were only to be Distill'd, with such a *Duty* upon their *Spirits*, as would make them equal in Value to *Rum*; then, I say, there would be Quantity enough produc'd to answer all the valuable Ends, both of our *Domestic* and *Foreign Trade*; and yet there would be no such

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Overplus, as to make it *Cheap*, and consequently it would answer a very good End, with Respect to the common People. The *Dearness* of it would be a kind of *Prohibition*, and as it would tend to the *Preservation* of the Healths and Lives of His Majesty's Subjects in General, so it would no Ways prejudice the *Merchants* who Export them, allowing them a *Draw-back* in proportion to all other Merchandize.

I am sensible, as to this Article, it will be objected, that such a Procedure will greatly encourage the pouring in upon us *French Brandy* and *Holland's Gin*. I answer, there are already *Laws* in being, (or that such may be soon added) that render that *Trade* wholly impracticable, and from the Effects which the *high Duties* already laid upon the said Goods have manifestly produc'd, one may venture to affirm, that it is absolutely out of the Power of the common People to come at them for a Constancy. The Quantities Run cannot be sufficient to do any considerable Mischief, and therefore *Gin* ought to be destroy'd.

Whatever Difficulties may be here started, the greatest of which is *Parliamentary Faith*, which I shall have Occasion to take Notice of in the Sequel; yet, I say, the *Inconveniencies* attending the free Consumption of this *Liquor*, are so great,

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so *flagrant*, that if *public Good* ought to be prefer'd to a *private One*, the *Malt-Stillery* must be given up, at least in the *Shape* it now appears in.

If it should be said, that such a Step as this will fall heavy upon the *Distillers*, with Respect to the Charge they have been at for *Utensils* and other Qualifications: To this I answer, That the Gentlemen who have been at so much Expense for the purchasing and fixing such necessary Furniture, have had (at least the major Part of them, who have been any considerable Time in *Trade*) their *Principal* largely repaid them with *Interest*; which fully appears from their Amassing such *large Estates*. Their very *Hog-Trade*, if I am rightly inform'd, has been vastly profitable to them; though, by the Way, a very great *Nuisance*, if not *unhealthy* to the Neighbourhood round them. These *Hogs* being fed with the *Residua* or *Wash* of their *Distillations*, produce a *flashy Substance*, which boyles to *Nothing* in the *Coppers* fitted in His Majesty's Navy for that Purpose; from which, consequently, little Nourishment can arise, (to say no worse of it) to the great Detriment of our *honest Sailors*. This is every Day complain'd of, and I doubt not with very good Reason. This *Branch of Trade* therefore, if strictly inquir'd into would, I'm afraid,

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turn out very hurtful to the *Public* in this tender Point, and consequently ought to be entirely suppress'd.

If, Sirs, 'tis said this is my private Opinion only, or that there is no Proof given of the *Matter of Fact*; I answer, let the *proper Officers* of the *Ships* be strictly examin'd, which is the truest Way of getting at a satisfactory Proof of the Reasonableness of this Suggestion; for nothing is *hinted* here but what is submitted to *impartial Scrutiny*.

Hence, I think, *another Enquiry* very naturally arises; which is, Whether the *Commissioners* of His Majesty's *Victualling* have done their Duty in this Affair? Or in plain *English*, Whether there has not been some private Understanding between the Contractors and Persons contracting? Otherwise I cannot see how they can cleverly escape the Charge of being *Penny Wise* and *Pound Foolish*; none being charg'd here with *Corruption*.

But to return to the *Argument*, Whether it falls hard upon the above-mention'd Gentlemen or not, is not the Question. Without that, it has been already sufficiently *demonstrated*, that this Trade in General, is of *universal, infallible, pernicious Consequence*

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sequence to the *Nation*, and that it must necessarily and unavoidably end in the *Ruin* of the *Community*.

Therefore the *private Good* must submit to a *public One*. *Personal Interest* is entirely out of the Question. It will not so much as admit of a Hearing in this Case. If they can't satisfy themselves with their present Gains, let them turn their Hands to some *other Trade* or *Employment* more Advantageous to *Society*. The too long Toleration of the *Malt-Stillery* has more than prov'd it inconvenient to the whole *Nation*, and therefore it ought not to continue in the *Shape* it now appears.

The same *Argument* will hold good with Respect to those who have serv'd their *Apprenticeships* to the said *Trade*; unless it can be imagin'd the Legislative Power will follow this Maxim, *Si Populus vult dicipi, decipiatur*. This, I think, would be a very odd Rule for those to Walk by, who have the Welfare of the Community committed to their Charge.

Indeed,

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Indeed, the *Complaints* upon this Head seem at first Sight very *Plausible*. To deprive Persons of a *Business* that carries with it a comfortable *Support* for their *Family*, and a handsome Provision for their *Posterity*, is an *oppressive* and *cruel* Act. To turn young *Men* a drift, whose Friends have been at large *Expense* to fit 'em out for the purchase of a good *Establishment* in the World, seems very *unjust* and *Severe*.

But if this Manner of *Reasoning* be fairly examin'd into, it will be found to be attended with these or the like *Absurdities*. Here are a great many Persons, who carry on an excellent and *ingenious* Trade 'from an *artificial*, *compendious* Preparation of *slow* and *pois'nous* Liquors, for the Honour of *Parliamentary* Faith. Of this *Liquor* they vend prodigious Quantities to the *Bewitching* of Mankind, and the *Scandal* of their Nature. These *Gentlemen* having gain'd immense *Estates*, tho' at the *Expense* of Thousands of *Lives*, to the apparent *Injury* of all useful *Labour*, *Culture* and *Manufacture*, ought for the Good of the Nation to be highly encourag'd in their *laudable* *Undertakings*. And whereas the said *Gentlemen* have, at several Times, receiv'd considerable Sums of Money for the *Education* of young Men, in order to carry on and perpetuate this most dangerous Trade ;

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it would therefore be very unjust to discourage the *Succession* of this Business, tho' the general Good of the Kingdom is *Apparently* at Stake as long as they can make this Trade a *flourishing* Business, no Matter if the rest of the Nation be in a *declining* Condition.

To argue after this Manner, I believe, I may venture to say, is *monstrously* Absurd.

Having said this, little more need be added than common Observation, which to every *unbias'd* Person will confirm more than the Particulars already advanc'd. The *Facts* are so *Glaring* and *Numerous*, that you may see daily Instances of them in *Town* and *Country*. They are aggravated to so shameful a Degree that all *Ages* and *Sexes* are infected with them, and many publicly Glory in them.

Besides the infinite Number of Retailers of these *Spirits* in these Two great Cities, Sheds and little Timber-Houses are erecting every where about them, purely for the Distribution of them. If this continues much longer, all Attention must be given to it. The *Landlords* won't be able to let their Houses to any Advantage, nay to get any Rent at all

all for 'em, except they prostitute them to the scandalous Offices of *Gin-Ware-Houses*. And how shocking is the bare *Apprehension* of such a Neighbourhood to sober, industrious Families? We see Children in the high Roads about *London* and *Westminster* begging for Money to buy 'em Gin. That's the Gulph into which all Charity, all Labour is swallow'd; and where these are wanting, they have Recourse to the last Shifts, namely Pilfering and Stealing; so early are they Instructed in wicked Arts, inur'd to dangerous Practices; thus effectually are they Vitiated both in their *Morals* and *Constitutions* by the *Instillments* of this cursed *Juyce Hebena*.

No *Laws*, even the *Severest* that can possibly be contriv'd, will be able to check the growing Evil of *House* as well as *Street-Robbing*, while this *Vice* so universally prevails. Families are in Danger, not only from those *Seminaries* of *Mischief* the *Gin-Shops*, the *Alma Mater* of Rogues and Strumpets, that Educates and Shelters them, and sends them out thoroughly accomplish'd to Execute any desperate, bloody Purpose; but from those of their Household, their Servants, who are Daily more and more corrupted, by *Chandlers*, and other *Shops* where *Gin* is Sold, so as from modest, industrious, honest Servants to degenerate, into *audacious*, *pilfering* *Drones*. This is an Evil that loudly cries for a speedy Redress.

And

And as the *Universality* and *Flagrancy* of these *Mischiefs* call for an immediate Redress, so methinks, Opportunity it self seems to invite to it. There is great *Probability* of an *absolute Peace* *Abroad*. What have we to do, but to *Cultivate* the *Advantages* of it at *Home*? by consulting the *Interest* and *Ease* of His *Majesty's* People, as well as of His *Government*, by promoting the true *Interests* of the *Trade*, *Manufacture* and *Produce* of these *Islands*, and by effectually *discouraging* every *Project* that stands in *Competition* with them? This would be an *Atchievement* truly worthy of a *British Patriot*, would certainly give him a *stronger Lustre*, than the whole *Display* of his *Titles* and *Power* enblazon'd together, and a greater *Glory* to His *MAJESTY* of *GREAT-BRITAIN*, than the *Diadem* that adorns him.

For, if we consider the *direful Influence* that the *Trade* we have now been speaking of has and must have upon all other *Trades* and *Interests* whatsoever, if continu'd, we cannot but behold it in as horrid a View, as we should a Civil War, As *Horace* lamented over *Rome*, when in that deplorable Situation, *Suis et ipsa Roma viribus Ruit*, that she was perishing by her own Sword; so if this *Gin Trade* continues much longer, we may

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say of our Country, *Suis et ipsa Anglia viribus Ruet*, that Poor, Old England will be undone by her own Spirits. But *Meliora speramus*, therefore *Majora cadamus*.

Give me Leave in the last Place, to make a short Remark or two upon the whole, by Way of Recapitulation.

I am sure every good Subject, every good Englishman, as such, must have the good of his Country at Heart, and therefore cannot see any growing Evil threatening his Country, actually infecting the Society, which must be the Bane and Ruin of it to all Intents and Purposes, without being deeply affected therewith.

Will it be for the Honour of His present Majesty and the Royal Family, that he Reign'd, and they Liv'd in Great-Britain at a Time, when Gin was the prevailing Liquor of the Nation? When the common People were so Debauch'd thereby, that their Soldiers, Labourers and Manufacturers were scandalously Disabled? When Street-Robbers and Highwaymen were more frequent and desperate than any Age ever knew them in these Nations? Will it redound to the Honour of the Ministry, that they have

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have suffer'd these Calamities to grow to such a monstrous Heighth for want of timely Application? Will the Pretense of keeping up Parliamentary Credit be an Excuse for them? Is there no other Way of preserving our Constitution, but by letting it fall into a deep Consumption?

I am persuaded, that there are other Methods of preserving our public Faith, and I hope the Ministry will attentively think of 'em: For what signifies a great Revenue's being brought into the Exchequer for a few Years, when the certain Consequence of it must be a miserable and untimely Death to Thousands of useful Inhabitants of the Island, and Ruin to our Country and Posterity?

Were I to suppose myself in the Place of some great Man, the first Step I would take should be to Screen the Royal Family from the least Imputation of Neglect or Avarice, or any Thing like them, that their Enemies may be apt enough to throw upon them. Were I a Minister of State, I think, I should never rest, till I had baffled the Enemy at Home, more formidable than them altogether Abroad.

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In short, if there be any *Virtue* left, if we are not intirely given up to *Licentiousness*, if their be any Remains of *Affection* for our *Country* and the present *Royal Family*, the *Gin-Trade* must be destroy'd.

Nay, I will yet add, that the Man who abets this *Trade*, be he who he will, is an *Enemy* to his *Country*; and I'll venture to say, will be recorded, as such, to *Posterity*. For, as I said before, the *Farmers* will have no Hands to cultivate their Lands, the *King* no *Soldiers*, the *City* no *Porters*, the *Manufacture* no *Labourers*, nor Your *Honours* a *Servant* scarce able to open your *Coach Doors*.

I cannot but conclude with the celebrated Mr. *Addison's Appeal* in his *Cato*, which with very little Variation is applicable to any *Set of Men* in such *Circumstances of Trade*.

O Portius, is there not some chosen Curse,
Some hidden Thunder in the Stores of Heav'n,
Red with uncommon Wrath to blast the Men
Who owe their Greatness to their Country's Ruin!

I am,

Your Honours

Greenwich, Feb. 23.

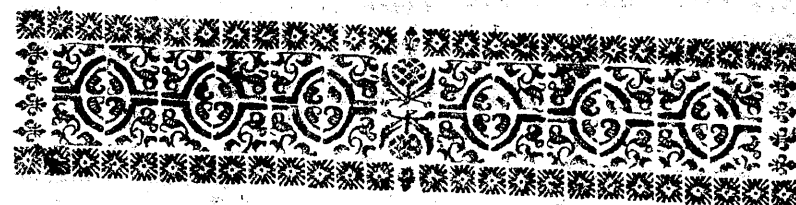
1735-6.

Most Obedient,

And Most Humble Servant

PHILANTHROPOS.

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POSTSCRIPT.

HAVING carefully review'd what I have Address'd to Your *Honours* as above, I cannot but look upon it as very near equal to a *Demonstration*, that the Consumption of the *Barley*, *Wheat*, &c. by the *Malt-Stillery*, does not promote the *Landed Interest*; at least, that it cannot do so in the long Run: Consequently that, in a few Years, as much of these Grains would be consum'd (and that to much better Purpose) as there actually now is in the Height of the *Malt-Stillery*. Thus it is a *super-numerary Trade*, tending only to indulge the *Luxury* of the *Indigent*. Whatever Trade may be allow'd to get out of the *Rich*, no *Body* of Men ought to get Estates at the Expense of the *Poor*, when that very Expense disables 'em from being serviceable to the *Community*. This is laying the greatest Hardships upon the *Magistrate*, as the *Malt-Stillers*, by the Indulgence of *Parliament*, lay in their Way the *Temptation* of being Drunk at a little Expense. For by the same Authority, the *Magistrate* is oblig'd to

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Levy Fines upon 'em, or in Default of them, to send 'em either to the House of Correction, or to the Stocks, which, *pro tempore*, equally deprive the Society of its useful Labourers.

It is still therefore my humble Opinion, that the Landed Interest and the Nation in general, would be great Gainers, if the Malt-Stillery were quite destroyed.

Yet it must be granted at the same Time, that it is absolutely necessary that some Spirits should be produc'd, both for our Home and Foreign Consumptions; and therefore that the Produce of our Sugar Colonies ought to be very maturely consider'd.

This Trade ought to be particularly cultivated and nourish'd, as it greatly encourages our Navigation, consumes our Manufactures, and therefore promotes the public Weal: Add to this, that the French will be (if they are not already) our Rivals in this Trade, which has been fairly demonstrated in a Letter lately publish'd in the Daily Advertiser. I therefore undertake to demonstrate, that the Encouragement given to the Importation of Rum, and the Distillation of Molasses at Home, can be no Disadvantage to the People in general; but on the other Hand, must be of very

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very great Service to the Community, provided this Trade be subject to such Regulations as the Legislative Power shall think proper to establish. Far be it from me to dictate to so wise and weighty a Body of Nobility and Gentry. But if any of these Hints should prove useful, I trust, they will not be discourag'd.

Let the Computation be then, what Quantities of Rum have been Imported, *communibus Annis*, for Ten Years last past, from all the Sugar Islands and Colonies. Let it be consider'd too, what could be Imported upon the utmost Encouragement: And then let it be consider'd, what Quantity of Spirits can be produc'd from all the Molasses made in England, supposing the Sugar Trade to be in the most flourishing Condition. If upon such a Calculation it can be made appear, that the whole Malt-Stillery produces as much (if not more) Spirit in Three Months, than the other in a whole Year; then the Argument will appear in a very clear and a plain; and indeed in a very strong Light: As thus,

Supposing no Duty upon Rum and Molasses Spirits, yet their Produce being not so great, by a Fourth Part, as that of Malt; the Damage done to the People would be in the same Proportion, and one Fourth would considerably lessen our Grievances. This at first View will be granted me — I think I have made

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made it appear, that the *Malt-Stillery* is so far from being *serviceable*, that it is of the greatest *ill Consequence* to the *Community*. I am greatly afraid that *Avarice* and *Luxury* are the *Basis* on which it stands; and whensoever, or wheresoever these Two Vices are indulg'd, that *Society*, be it great or small, cannot long subsist.

Now as the *Spirit Trade* is necessary in some Shape or other for us, both for our *Home* and *Foreign Consumption*: Let it be first Consider'd, which Way ought to be Consulted, to make it the least *Hurtful*, and then the most *Beneficial* to us.

It will be allow'd me, that *Rum*, in it self, is as wholesome a *Spirit*, as any can be produc'd, which cannot be said of the *Malt-Spirits*. The Quantities of *Rum* Imported can never be so large, as to render it the *common Tipple* of the People. So far therefore, it does us no harm. In Return for this, our *Manufactures* are exported, a great many *useful Trades* and *Families* employ'd: So far 'tis *Serviceable* to us; besides that it is a great Encouragement to our *Sugar Colonies*. The *Duties* being continu'd, as they now stand, the *public Revenue* will be increas'd, and at the same Time, the *labouring People* will not be able to purchase it frequently,

Supposing

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Supposing again, that *Molasses* were only to be Distilled in *England*, and an *Additional Duty* Impos'd of *One Shilling per Gallon*, it may be reasonably argu'd from the trifling Quantity it produces, in comparison of that of *Malt*, that His Majesty's Subjects can receive little or no Damage thereby, and yet the *Revenue* will find a very considerable Account in it; and our *West-India Trade* thus far encourag'd, these Two would answer all our *Domestic Ends*, with *no Damage*, but indeed with *very great Advantage*.

If it be objected that these *Liquors* will be too dear for our *Exportation* of them, and for that Reason we shall be oblig'd to go to Market in *Holland*; ———
I answer,

To prevent this, let the *Legislative Power* grant such a *Draw-back* as will reduce 'em to a *Par* with our *Neighbours*; and then, I believe, I may venture to say, that our *Molasses Spirits*, as better than any the *Dutch* can produce from *Malt*, will come to a much more profitable Market Abroad.

Proper *Precautions*, I allow, should be taken to prevent *collusive* and *clandestine Practices* in this Case:

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For when these Things are put upon a just and equitable Foot, the *unfair Trader*, I own, cannot be too severely punish'd. This I, with great Submission, leave to Your *Honours Conduct*, and *Wisdom of Parliament*.

I shall only add, that the *Demolition* of the *Malt-Stillery* may probably lower the Prices of our *Grain*. But in Answer to this Objection, I say, that when the People are once restor'd to their *natural* Taste of *Bread, Meat and Beer*, that *Defect* will be repair'd, and the *honest and necessary Consumption* be as great as ever.

I am,

Your HONOURS

Most humble Servant,

&c.

P. S.

IT has been suggested by *some*, that a Passage or two, at the Close of the *Considerations*, seem to reflect upon those at the *Helm*. I hope that will have no Weight with *them*; for *all*, who have the least Knowledge of the *Author*, know, that he has ever distinguish'd himself as a hearty Subject and Friend to the present *Royal Power* and *Happy Administration*; and therefore; that he cannot be capable of a Conduct so inconsistent with his *known* Principles and *constant* Practice.