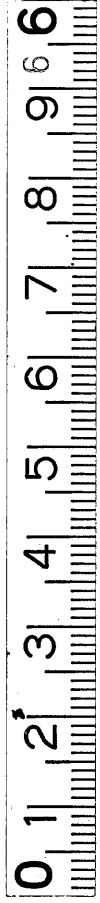
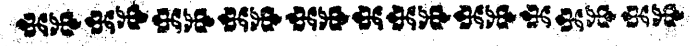


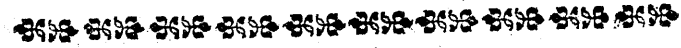
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THE
CAVEAT,
AN
ESSAY.



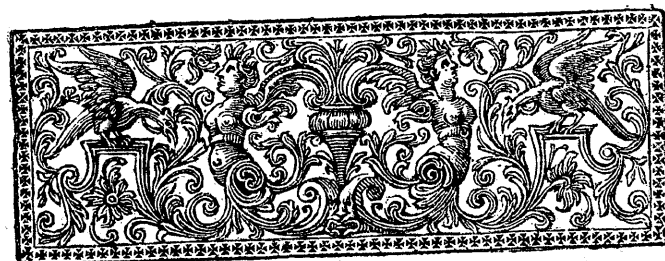
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A

THE
C A V E A T,
 AN
E S S A Y,
 UPON
 Incorporate MERCANTILE BODIES,
 AND THE
 Reduction of INTEREST by extra-
 judicial Means.

*Ordior audaci tenebrofa per æquora velo
 Cimmerium tentare adytum; fubmerfaque lethis
 Siftere de barathro luci.*

L O N D O N,
 Printed for the Bookfellers of *London* and
Westminster.
 [Price Six-Pence.]



T O

V I R T U E .

Vilius argentum est auro, virtutibus aurum.
Virg.



STRÆA (or the hieroglyphical Personage of Justice) was your favourite Offspring, and we might longer have enjoyed her pleasing Presence, but she was unhappily abused and straitway fled to the sure *Asylum* of Heaven. Pro-

A 2 vidence

DEDICATION.

vidence received the lovely Guest with Kindness; but wondred much that Mortals should be so unhappily mistaken, as to send their chiefest Good away into Exile: Behold the Consequence: The lovely Maid, requited nobly for the Abuse, was raised to equal Height and Lustre with her Merit, and rolls amidst the Orbs, illuminating all the Zodiack with her pure and crystal Rays. She revolves about the World, and has done ever since, to watch the wished Occasion when Mankind can be convinced of former Errors: The Council of the Gods decreed to post her upon the *Libra*, or the golden Scales, to intimate that Justice never can subsist

DEDICATION.

sist without impartial Measure and true Weight: Immortal *Newton*, and great *Halley* have surveyed with Accuracy and Judgment every Step which she has taken in the glowing Gallaxy, and wished to have the beauteous Nymph no more a Stranger to us; but the Periods of Life are not in mortal Hands, and one of those great Men is gone to meet her as she is returning home: Methinks the Harbinger is near arrived, and then the Visiter is not far off: If I may venture to prophesie, I'll do it in *Virgil's* Words

— *Redeant Saturnia regna.*

— — *I'll venture to presage
That shortly we shall see the golden Age.*

See

DEDICATION.

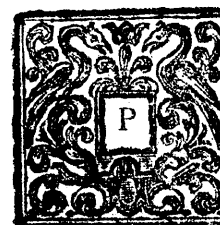
See! fair Astræa her bright Form display,
 Down thro' the Air serene she cuts her Way;
 And smiling o'er her Sons, in Freedom born,
 Cheers like Aurora, or the rising Morn;
 Impending Clouds disperse as she appears,
 Doubts, like thick Vapours, vanish with
 their Cares;
 And, Phœbus-like, wher'e she deigns to
 shine,
 The Hemisphere is blest with Rays divine:
 Survey the attendant Train, how lovely
 bright!
 Fair Truth resplendent with her genuine
 Light;
 Content and Plenty with the Vase of Store,
 Engaging Modesty, great Beauty's Pow'r;
 Unspotted Fame, the Hero's lawful Pride;
 Duty with Right attending by his Side;
 Unfashionable Faith, and antique Piety,
 Learning and Arts, and gen'rous Liberty;
 Blest Liberty the Guardian of the Train!
 Without whose Safeguard all Protection's
 vain!

THE

(I)



THE
 CAVEAT,
 AN
 ESSAY.



POLITICK Projectors are a
 Sort of Prostitutes, who sel-
 dom come abroad without
 their Masks; publick Ad-
 vantage and Utility are the
 Shapes in which they usually appear to
 amuse unwary Gazers, so that like Strum-
 pets too they delude us in the Garb of
 Innocence. Both wear artificial Counte-
 nances, and are careful to conceal their

B true

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true Completions; insomuch that Numbers of unthinking or ignorant People are unwittingly engaged, and become so fond of false Appearances, that they can seldom be persuaded to forbear meddling with them, till they have thoroughly burnt their Fingers, and severely smarted for it.

As Beauty is truest discerned in the Mirror of Virtue; so publick Schemes are surest proved by the Touchstone of Truth and Worth; and if the Oar be found pure in the Refiners Hand, disinterested Zeal, like female Chastity, will be esteemed above the finest Gold: For Enquiry is the Furnace of Truth, and if the Metal's intrinsic, 'twill be found free from Dross; but if it prove base, the Vendor should be punished as a gross Impostor.

As Penetration is a Faculty bestowed on few, and Party Prejudice or Affection commonly sway the Multitude, so plausible Appearances contrived with Subtlety, for want of true Discernment, captivate and impose upon wary Minds, and draw
them

(3)

them to the Tempter's Lure. Gain is the specious Bait which Avarice runs away with, and the greedy Populace affected by delusive Prospects of Advantage, eagerly swallow, and are caught like Gudgeons: The politick Angler has his artificial Flies besides to take the wary Trout, and spreads his fine wrought Nets to circumvent the nobler Prey. Hence the Life of Man is proverbially stiled *vita piscium*; for Power inclines to oppress in every Element, and Force learns from Fraud to entangle where he cannot openly compel. Waryness is a watchful Centinel, and if Travellers would guard against the Lynx, the Crocodile, or Hyæna, they must shun their Purlieus, or be deaf to their delusive Sounds: If Men would not be insulted by Power they must imitate the Sword-fish, and then they may despise the enormous Bulk of the huge Leviathan.

THERE is a Poison in arbitrary Sway which has but one Antidote, and that has often been neglected: If Authority be-

B 2 comes

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comes exorbitant and oppressive, there are but two Remedies, Flight or Opposition: Private Property is more delicious than Honey in the Palate of Power; but the sedulous Bees always guard against the Incurfions of the Wasp, and combine to expel the lazy Drone from their Hive.

*Pervigilanter apes tueuntur mellita vespæ
Insidiis cautæ grassantis. —*

————— *Agmine facto
Ignavum fucos pecus a præsepibus arcent.*

UNIVERSAL Industry is the best Cultor of a Commonwealth; Indolence in a politick Body is like the Palsie in a natural one, which benumbs the Faculties, and renders them useles. Pride is the Cancer of a State which preys upon the tenderest Part, and corrupts the very Breast-Milk, which is Commerce, that should rear up her Children. The Republick of Bees described by *Virgil*, is a standard Model for the Imitation of Mankind;
and

(5)

and that delightful Painter has with one Stroke of his Pencil given us a View of his Community, labouring industriously in all its Branches, and every individual Member endeavouring to promote the Welfare and Advantage of the Whole.

*Venturæque hyemis memores æstate laborem
Experiuntur, & in medium quæsitæ repo-
nunt.*

*Namque aliæ victu invigilant, & fœdere
pactæ*

*Exercentur agris: Pars intra septa domorum
Narcissi lacrymam, & lentum de cortice glu-
ten,*

*Prima favis ponunt fundamina; deinde te-
naces*

*Suspendunt ceras: aliæ, spem gentis, adultos
Educunt fœtus: aliæ purissima mella
Stipant, & liquido distendunt nectare cellas.
Sunt quibus ad portas cecidit custodia forti;
Inque vicem speculantur aquas, & nubila cœli
Omnibus una quies operum, labor omnibus
idem.*

THE

(6)

THE State like a Bark will not kindly work, unless every one on Board occasionally lends an helping Hand; and 'tis absurd for any to seem careless of the Navigation, under Pretence that they are only Passengers. The Safety of the Vessel must be the united Care and Concern of all, and without reciprocal Aid it will inevitably perish: The Mariner on the one Hand relies on the Skill and Conduct of the Pilot for Direction of the Course, and for necessary Provision in the Voyage; on the other Hand, without the Pains and Vigilance of the Watch, I doubt the Bark will scarce reach the intended Port.

ÆSOP's Fiction of the War amongst the Members proves, that Government's a Concatenation of mutual Benefits and Dependance, whose Strength is impaired, when any one Link of the Chain is broken; and if the Mouth in the Fable should refuse to let in Sustenance to the Stomach; if the Hand should attempt to destroy the visive Power of the Eye, or the
Head

(7)

Head and Arms endeavour to debilitate the Legs, the Trunk of the Body must unavoidably fall to the Ground.

IT's literally true that Meanness oftentimes is the Support of Grandeur; for as *Shakespear* quaintly expresses it, "the Peasant treads so close upon the Courtier's Foot, that he kibes his Heel". The Pride of the Palace is indebted to the Corner-Stone for his Eminence, and a Prince may stand in need of a Cobler for his Wax to draw a Bile: 'Tis by Concurrence and Dependance of Parts that a Fabrick subsists, and where Symmetry and Proportion are observed in the Members, it must be permanent as well as beautiful.

NOTHING is more absurd than the common Maxims of private Persons in their separate Pursuits of Wealth or Advancement: The mere self-interested Man is a Wretch, that like a murrained Beast, instead of benefiting, will infect the Herd, and therefore should be driven out of the Pasture: There is the same Reason for
getting

(8)

getting rid of such Creatures, as the Countryman has for frightening away the Crows, because they are Carrion that prey upon Industry.

SELF-INTEREST, in the common Acceptation of the Word, is really Nonsense *in terminis*; for suppose that a Number of wealthy Men should be brought to think and act upon the same narrow Principles and private Views, regardless of the publick Interest, and that such a Number should unfortunately happen to be the major Part of the Senate, as of old in the *Roman* State, what would become of the Commonwealth? Beyond Dispute it must sink, and be destroyed: And they who contemned the Safety of the publick, in Pursuit of private lucrative Aims, must perish with it, and their Wealth be buried in its Ruins. Suppose a rich Citizen living under a free Government, by whose Constitution his Property is secured under a Guard of wisely established Laws; can such a Man have any truer Interest than
the

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the Preservation of that State in its ancient Freedom, when he knows that such Property by any Innovation will be rendered precarious. This would be rational Self-interest, if there is any Reason in the Term; if not, the Name and Practice are equally contemptible.

THE *Roman* Republick made her self the Mistress of the World by promoting and encouraging the Virtue of publick Spirit; and whoever tries to explode it, attempts to overturn the Fabrick of Government, as *Sampson* did the Palace of the *Philistines* by wresting away the Pillars, and perhaps their Fate may be like his, to be crushed by the Fall.

BUT Self-Interest and Avarice, the contrast Characters to publick Spirit, are Vices that, like Revenge, bear their own Punishments about them; for Caution being blinded by greedy Lucre, Guile finds Admittance in the Mask of Gain, and perpetrates his Frauds unsuspected and secure: Like *Æsop's* ravenous Cur, they
C quit

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quit their Substance to grasp at Shadows, and embarque upon a rotten Bottom to trade at *Terra Incognita*, in Hopes of reaping uncommon Profit by the fairy Traffick.

THE memorable Year Twenty produced Thousands, who, *Ixion*-like, ambitious to embrace a Goddess, pursued a Phantom, and found themselves within a Cloud: Deceit's a Scorpion, which has no Antidote but Caution, and yet it contains a Remedy for the Mischiefs it creates within itself; but the venomous Creature must be destroyed before the Medicine can be applied.

MISCHIEVOUS Designers ever insinuate themselves into the Unwary and Innocent, as *Milton's* Fiend glided into Paradise in the Obscurity and Cover of a Mist: Specious Propositions of Advantage should be suspected of the Serpent's Guile, and Jealousy is the best Security in such a dangerous Circumstance: For nothing but the Touch of an *Ithuriel's* Spear can detect

(11)

teet the cloven Foot, and shew the Tempter in his real Shape.

THE politick Schemist, like a Juggler, plays Legerdemain with Mankind, and by *deceptio visus* dextrously conveys the Properties of others into his own Hands; like the Empirick, he cajoles the Populace with specious Shews and plausible Pretences, while he vends his Quackery for wholesome Medicines; and we are never satisfied with trying the Skill of State Pretenders to Surgery, till they have drawn all the Teeth out of our Heads. When the Mischief is accomplished Men begin to discern the Cheat; but Pity in such Circumstances is too great a Kindness, and the credulous *Trojans*, ruined by the *Greeks* Impostor, only stand as a *Caveat* in History, to warn succeeding Nations from incurring the Reproach of *sapiunt fero*.

EXPERIENCE, though a welcome Guest, is usually the last at an Entertainment; and Retribution rarely obtains the Benefit
of

(12)

of a *Diploma*: Ministerial Magick is an occult Science, whose Instruments, like Moles, work in Darkness underground; and countermining is the best Defence, till Time, an able Engineer, shall blow up Fraud, and bring the Truth to Light.

*Cuncta aperit secreta dies, ex tempore verum
Nascitur, & veniens ætas abscondita pandit.*

IF there ever was an innate Principle in Man, it must have been the Love of Liberty; and as Reason is bestowed upon him properly to restrain and circumscribe it, so nothing but spontaneous Consent could ever lawfully abridge it: *Ubique domi* is a Motto which every Citizen of the World has a Right to; and Men by Nature have as indisputable a Claim to traversing the Globe, as to breathing common Air. 'Tis Tyranny to prohibit it, unless it's done by legislative Power, in the Form of common Consent; and even then

(13)

then Men are treated like School-Boys, who are confined to very scanty Bounds. It's a Matter of Mirth and Ridicule, more than serious Argument, to see a few Possessors of small Spots of Earth, quarter out and divide the whole Orb amongst them; closet up (as it were) the greater Part, as if they would reserve it to themselves, and perhaps, in order only to supply their Nicknackitories with Rarities: Exclusive Charters are the modern Cookery of Trade, but the Dish does not altogether relish, because our Neighbours have monopolized the Spice; and, in Reality, I question much if any Ruler in the World has a Right in himself; and consequently whether he can delegate an exclusive Power of Traffick to others. The Monarch of *Spain* took a Fancy to *America*, and butchered a Million of poor Wretches to obtain it. The *Dutch* loved their Pottage well seasoned, and so got Possession of *Java*, *Borneo*, and *Ceylon*, (three of the largest Islands in the World, excepting *Calephornio* and

and *Madagascar*) and thereby ingrossed the Pepper Trade to themselves. The *French* had a little more Modesty, and were content to go Snacks with the *English*, in sorting out the Territories of the Great Mogul. The Emperor bartered away his Birth-right *pragmatically*. The *Danes* got a Snip, and King *John* of *Portugal's* Mouth waters to taste of the Fare, upon hearing it commended. But it is not at all surprizing to see Power elbowing her Neighbours, and grasping at new Dominions; it's rather wonderful to observe them selling their Acquisitions like Cattle at a Market. *Denmark* affords a flagrant Instance of it; she robbed the Minor King of *Sweden* of two valuable Possessions *Bremen* and *Webrden*, and mortgaged them so deep as to endanger a Foreclosure; and *Charles* the Second of *England* sold the *India* Charter of 1661 to a Body of Merchants for a Sum of Money to supply his Courtezans: The Preamble to the Grant contains in it so much Fustian and Cant, that the gravest Person cannot read

read it without laughing; and therefore I recommend it as a Supplement to a Book entitled, *Pills to purge Melancholy*.

GRANTS of Importation in Trade from a Prince to a select Number of his Subjects, more especially for a Price, is selling the Liberty and natural Rights of all his People to a few, and erecting a Miniature of Tyranny in the Body of a Commonwealth, which, like a Polypus in the humane Constitution, must in Time destroy it by interrupting the vital pulsative Motion or Systole and Diastole of the Politick Heart: The *South-Sea* Hydra is a Conviction of this Argument; and not more than twelve Years since, like a Dropsie in the State, they turned pretended Nutriment into liquid Element, and frequent Tapping is the only Regimen that can preserve Life in such a Case. The erecting that Corporation was a scandalous Chicanery: The Debenture Estates, anticipated by the Scheme, owe their Rise to Land Pyracry; and that burlesque Body of Trade
having

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having lately committed an Overt-Act of Bankruptcy resort to a Sponge to wipe out the Score. When an Annihilation of the Body is become an established Doctrine, it is tacitly confessed that there is no Soul; and this single Comment may serve as an Abridgement of that Corporation's Annal for the Year 1732. For a Century past unhappy Credit has been metamorphosed into an empty Bubble, blown up by Fraud, sustained by Power, and fleets in Air through Ignorance; like *Ovid's* Virgin *Echo* pursued by pilfering *Pan*, 'tis dwindled into little but a Name, *Vox & præterea nihil*. *Ægypt* was plagued with Locusts, *Byzantium* is seldom without a Pestilence, and *England* is infested with leachy Stockjobbers and Brokers; like Barnacles about a Whale, they subsist by preying on the Body, and are a Species in the Creation as despicable as the Gnat, who's only known by doing Mischief, and rues the only Remedy. Brokers are to Companies what Puffs and Setters are to Sharpers;

(17)

Sharpers; and fair Traders wonder as much at such Creatures being licensed in a free State, as Passengers in a Caravanfary would to see a Patent to authorize a Banditti: It's a Blemish in the Reign of *Elizabeth*, that she granted the first *India* Charter, which was 131 Years ago; and her Favourite *Leicester* led her into the Mistake, and that's the secret Reason why the then distressed States of *Holland* could not bear him as a Viceroy; and *James* her Successor renewed the Charter at the mercenary Instigation of his Favourite, *Stenny Villers* Duke of *Buckingham*. *Clifford* of the Cabal in *Charles* the Second's Reign, notorious in History for introducing *Member-Markets*, helped to exchange the *India* for the *Drury* Commerce, and *Cleveland*, *Gwin*, and *Portsmouth* emulated for the Golden Prize: King *James* gave a Charter, as he thought, for making Profelytes; and *Ranelagh* persuaded cautious King *William* not to innovate, and was considered for his Pains.

D

WHEN

(18)

WHEN Queen *Anne* succeeded, this great mercantile Body, so uplifted and supported, trusting to State-walking Staffs, lost the Use of its own Limbs, and tumbled to the Ground: A spurious Phoenix arose forthwith from its Ruins; the Body became Bankrupt; a sort of Assignees bought the Goods, and the Tripartite Indenture of 1703 gave a Sanction to the Bargain; three Years since the injurious Lease of separate Commerce expired, and Hope produced a Glimmering of Redress, but Power entered and extinguished it.

It's a Paradox to suppose that any one can give more than he is possessed of. Calls of Companies are despotick; for if the Prince has no Right to seize six and a Quarter out of the Hundred in my Estate, how can a Parcel of petty Merchants, delegated by him, scotch off so much *per Cent.* from my Credits in a Reckoning?

It's a Million of Pities that fair and kind Credulity should be abused; Innocence
is

(19)

is so delightful and pleasing a Personage, that Bravery blushes to see her ravished; especially when the Sword is rusty in the Scabbard, and they who would assist her cannot exert the Gallantry that's necessary in her Defence. Who is there that has a Soul can bear to behold lovely Virtue in Distress? what Man of Spirit would not try to rescue her? and give me Leave to say, that resigned Simplicity and conscious Integrity in Men should be deplored or assisted in Danger, equally with defenceless Women; and they who are strictly found and independent, may say that both may critically be saved. I begin to be shocked at what I see, for the Iron Age seems about to revolve, and there is nothing but the Rainbow to signify that there will not be another Deluge. The Gods met in Council upon that grand Criterion, and resolved upon sending Destruction to Mankind; because Corruption had entered so far as to mortify; and in such a Case Amputation is a Godlike great Prescription. How im-
D 2 pudent

(20)

udent would a Beggar appear before a Magistrate, who should shew a Pistol while he is asking Alms; and how preposterous would it be for Officers of a Parish to contrive a charitable Sermon under Pretence of Kindness to poor distressed People, and leave them destitute of the Loaves, while they fled away with the Bread and Fishes too?

LYCURGUS of *Lacedæmon* brought with Art and Industry (Money so much now esteemed) into real Contempt; his Precepts and Example remained prevalent for 500 Years; and *Agis*, like *Harry* the Seventh, innovated and abolished the noble Pattern of his Ancestor; Corruption and most dark and base Desire entered with that Innovation; and *Lacedæmon* famed so long for liberal Arts and incontestèd Bravery, was sold for a Price; to tell the Tale is *renovare dolorem*. History in Point of Morals is like a Chart in Mercator sailing, and it is designed to kindly tell us how we may avoid the Rocks and Shoals: I am sorry
to

(21)

to think how many fair unhappy Innocents, as well as many honest worthy Men for want of proper Pilots, have been lately run-a-Ground.

I KNOW the Law of Nature; I have examined the Law of Nations, and civil and Statute Laws; but neither *Justinian* in his *Codes* nor the celebrated *Domat* make any Mention of By-Laws: A Prince who grants such a Power to a Company, signs a *Carte Blanche* to an Usurer, and fifteen or twenty *per Cent.* instead of five, is taken under the ridiculous Mock-name of INDULGENCE.

THE Statute Laws of *Britain* express, that no Lord of the Manor can turn or obstruct a Road without a Writ of *ad quod damnum*, to enquire what Prejudice may accrue to the Copyhold Tenant thereby; and is it not absurd then that the *French* Monarch should set up a Turnpike to obstruct Travellers in the Way to *Mississippi*; that the King of *Spain* won't let any one be so complaisant as to
pay

pay a Visit to the Yncas of *Mexico* and *Peru*; that the *Dutch* serve the Kings of *Borneo*, *Java* and *Ceylon* like the Prince of *Siam* (who is kept shut up in a Box;) that Virtuoso's cannot go to see the Curiosities of the Mogul's Court, or the Merchant deal at *Byenos Ayres* Market without taking their Passages in the Caravanfaries of *Eroad-Street* or *Leaden-Hall*, and paying exorbitant Prices for a Passage?

GUY of *Warwick* and *Bellianis* of *Greece*, lose their Fame in Chivalry, compared with these Achievers: But Pope *Dominicus* carried up the Joke still higher, and possessed himself of all the Avenues and Roads to the Land of *Canaan*, inasmuch, that his Successors pretend that none can get Admittance for a little Milk and Honey, without an Imposition of Pence to turn *St. Peter's* Key.

Mabomet also formed a gallant Scheme of turning all the Roads to *Elyzium* into one, and made the Passage to his Favourite

rite *Albi* through his own *Arabia Felix*; and it's Pity but he had sooner been suspended between Heaven and Earth for his Pains.

THE Council of Beasts in the Fable assembled about the *Julian Æra* to canton out the *Globe*. In the Result it appeared, that the *Lion* and the *Leopard*, the *Bear* and the *Fox*, engrossed the chief Parts; but before they departed, the *Eagle* darted down upon the *Map*, carried it away in his *Claws*, and destroyed the *geometrical Scheme*.

Vae miseros! si rursus advenient dirique cometæ.

NOT one Charter granted to the *India* Company confers a *regal Power*, and in their corporate Capacity they are but Subjects even in *India*. No Authority but the Crown can seize by Extent; and yet I aver that mercantile Body has presumed to take the *sovereign Style* abroad, and send their

(24)

their Mandates forth as *peremptory* as the thirty Tyrants of Greece, although the royal Flag was all the while *displayed*: Delegated Power is a Child that first wants leading Strings, and affects to go a highlone when he's out of the Nurse's Sight; and thus these Companies get the Rickets.

I KNEW an artful Gamester abroad, who punting at Basset, found his Bank in Danger of sinking, and therefore swept the Board; but the injured Parties soon tript him up for his Pains.

DEPUTED Power, like a Stilliard, is designed for certain necessary Uses; but the further the Weight is removed from the Hand, the Balance is more uncertain. The Jugurthine War arose from delegated Powers, which, Distance favouring, made the State that gave the Authority tremble: The Imperial Monarch declined by granting Sorts of distant Viceroyships, and *Ruit molet sua* was a proper Motto. The antique Sibyls Leaves record the following ominous Words,

Vespere

(25)

*Vespere in ætatum longo celeberrima fama
Præliis & arti præponet ubique Britannos;
Serius at vitio stolide vel nascitur illud
Quo patriæ pretium latroni vilius auro;
Proinde (indomiti Nisi venditione) cavete!
Fataque Romanis vitate incurrita prædâ.*

*When Time grows hoary, Britain's Isle shall claim
For Arms and Arts the Preference in Fame:
Successive Scenes to Base transform the Bold,
And all intrinsic Worth be truck'd for Gold:
Guard then, ye Brave, whom none but Fraud can
hurt;
Rome too must sink, in Rapine grown expert.*

ACCORDING to our Laws Bond Creditors are entitled to a Priority in Payment to Notes or Book Debts; and a private Merchant, who engages in Credit by Obligations of Penalty to the Tantamount of his Capital, in Case of Bankruptcy or Mortality, must at best appear indiscreet, and will be shrewdly suspected of unjust

E Inten-

Intentions to his Note and Book-Debt Creditors.

WHAT Dependance can there be upon Statute Laws, if little trifling Corporation illegitimate By-Laws can, in strange Defiance to legislative Authority, prescribe instead of following a wholesome Regimen; and when I see them so employed, my Lord *Rochester* comes to Mind, and I conceive the ludicrous Idea of his vending *Powder of Post*, with this Exception, that his proceeded from Wit and Humour; whereas these People have no Wit, but dogmatically insist to be humoured.—
Risum teneatis amici?

IF Statute-Laws inflict the Penalties of Extortion upon accepting more than five *per Cent.* of Interest at this Time, why is there not an equal Refuge for the Subject, to prevent Compulsion in obliging him to take involuntarily Loss? Common Law affords Relief for a single Subject in these penal Obligations; 'tis an Overt-act of Bankruptcy to elude Payment of a lawful vouch-

ed Demand, and Companies or their Managers should consider that they have no just Pretensions to greater Privileges than a private Subject; and the strongest Proof that I will give at present is, that about two and thirty Years ago the Creditors of the old insolvent *East-India* Company sued out many Proccesses for Recovery of their Bond Debts, which were at fifty *per Cent.* Discount; And let the Juglers of that accommodated Difference declare, if they could ever engage in Law otherwise than, *quasi Societas privatim constructa, nequam collectivè, sed singulariter, & quasi unicus vir in oppugnatione contra viros.*

THE sly Design produced of late for lowering Interest extrajudicially, was artfully contrived, but indiscreetly produced: The Project was brought over from a Country, where Impositions are so plentiful, that *General Excise* is too faint an Expression to describe them. Of late our Countrymen have affected much to follow foreign Fashions; but by that Means Vir-

(28)

tue has been sometimes neglected, grown Threadbare like an antiquated Dress, and, as I am told, is bought by a Salesman for an inconsiderable Price. — *Pudeat an? Si non, certam te cito pudeffe.*

By all the Observation which I have been able to make in the Course of nineteen Years Experience, I will only remark that a Stock of thirty Millions is not so soon squandered as three; and though a Physician may have one Patient ill of the Dropsy, another troubled with a Polypus, and a third in Danger from a Consumption, yet the Case of all may be desperate; and the only Difference is, that sudden Death may be expected to happen to some, and others by a flattering Distemper may die by the Inch. The State Surgeon who asks no Fee, and yet is anxious to heal, will seldom have his Skill suspected, or his Help refused.

PUBLICK Spirit has complicated Virtues, and one essential Quality is a communicative Disposition, that is conjunct to the
very

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very Humanity of our Natures; letting our Neighbours see by our Lamps, seldom wastes or absorbs the Oil: Cicero's Maxim was, *Quicquid sine detrimento possit commodari, tribuetur vel ignoto.*

THIS is the Motive to my Publication, and the only one; for I look upon hireling Pens like *Swiss Troops*, who bear the same Motto of *point Swiss, point l'Argent*; and the same Coat in Heraldry, which consists of the Fields *Or* and *Argent*; but they have no Relation to mine which contains the *Gules*. And in Reality I almost dishonour the gallant *Swedish* Nation by the Comparison; for the *Swedes*, though they fight for Pay, ever merit it by their Service; but these Wretches, like Jackals, are fed for Catering for their Master, and yet starve his Cause. As for my part, I have no Reserves but what some small Share perhaps of Prudence renders necessary. Whoever I am, I neither want nor abound; I have neither Fear nor Con-
tempt

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tempt in my Composition; I revere the Laws, and I know how to keep within that sacred *Asylum*. It's in my Nature neither to boast, nor to presume to instruct; but an ordinary Head may give a Hint, and if it is not taken, there's no Detriment; but this Reflection then must naturally ensue, *Si populus vult decipi, decipiatur*.

I SHALL only add, that, like a fair Trader, if the Reader likes his Pattern of what Goods I shew him, he may have more from the same Stock. And now I'll conclude with Part of *Ovid's Peroratio*, *Jamque opus exegi*; with a *non obstante* to a second Course, if my Guests like the first Dish, which I have thus served up at the publick Table; and if the Taster happens to please the Palate, there's a whole Pipe ready to draw off,

CICERO, who saved the *Roman Republick* by his Skill and Integrity in the very Agonies of the *Cataline Confusion*, prescribes

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prescribes this salutary Maxim for the Observation of his Countrymen whom he had at Heart, *Nihil honestum esse potest justitiâ quod vacat*. It's a Joke for People to talk of Honesty, if they don't administer Justice.



Pag. 15. Line 4. for *Importation*, read *Incorporation*.

F I N I S.

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