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A N
E P I S T L E

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE the
LORD-MAYOR,
ALDERMEN and COMMON-COUNCIL,
OF THE
CITY of LONDON,
AND
GOVERNORS of the several HOSPITALS;

WITH AN
A P P E N D I X,

Containing

The most Material Extracts from the SERMON, &c.
concerning the pernicious and excessive Use of
SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS.

The THIRD EDITION, with ADDITIONS.

By the Right Reverend
ISAAC Lord Bishop of WORCESTER.

S. M. Cox

L O N D O N :

Printed by H. WOODFALL, in Pater-noster-Row; and
sold by H. WHITRIDGE, at the Royal-Exchange, and
G. WOODFALL, at Charing-Cross. 1751.
(Price Six Pence.)

A SERMON
 PREACHED
 AT ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH
 ON EASTER-MONDAY
 1750
 BY
 JOHN HENRY
 OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
 WESTMINSTER
 LONDON
 Printed by
 J. BARNARD
 at the Sign of the
 Crown in St. Dunstons
 Church-yard
 1750
 The Third Edition, with
 Additions
 By the Right Reverend
 the Bishop of London
 JOHN HENRY
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 1750

A
LETTER, &c.

MY LORD,

THE Sermon^a, which is now offered
 to Your Lordship, and the Magistrates
 of the Metropolis, was preached and
 printed at the Desire of one of the most re-
 spectable Communities, which this Kingdom
 knows; the Lord-Mayor and Aldermen of the
 City of *London*. And if the Subject is treated
 in any Degree as it deserves, Apologies will be
 less necessary for submitting, in this still more
 public manner, to some of the most able and
 competent Judges, Matters of so great Impor-
 tance: Which is done, not without reasonable
 Hopes, that such an Approbation may create
 Attention and give Weight to the Considerations
 that are offered in this plain Discourse.

B HAPPY

^a Preached at *St. Bridget's Church on Easter-Monday, 1750*; and sold by the Bookfellers in *London and Westminster*.

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HAPPY will it be for the renowned City over which you preside, for the Kingdom in general, and for succeeding Ages, if, like great and good Magistrates, you shall seasonably become, in any Measure, effectual Instruments in the Hand of Providence, for stopping those many, pernicious, growing Evils, which I am much afraid, however heinous or dreadful, are here represented but too justly.

It is the Honour and Happiness, I might say the Duty, of those who are entrusted with Authority and Influence, and especially where Authority and extensive Influence are united, rather to *prevent* than punish Enormities. In this View, the regular and constant *Employment* of the *Poor*, and especially of *Children*, is earnestly recommended^b; since in no Instance is *Prevention* more remarkably preferable to Remedy, even if a Remedy *could* afterwards be had, than in an early Care to enure Youth to Labour and Regularity.

In like manner, to *prevent* the excessive Use of Spirituous Liquors, which are now grown so cheap and common, is much more wise and beneficial, and infinitely more practicable, than to aim at curing the Distempers, or punishing and restraining the Disorders and Outrages, which this particular kind of Intemperance so plentifully produces^c.

Any *repeated* Representations from me, besides what this Sermon contains, of the many fatal Consequences of Spirituous Liquors as they are

^b Sermon Page 12. and seq. ^c Appendix

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are now dispersed through the whole Kingdom, would be entirely superfluous^d. The Appendix contains Evidence from such skilful, disinterested and upright Hands; the Proofs therein exhibited are so strong and numerous, so notorious and undeniable, as must produce Conviction; God grant they may also produce the desirable Effect!

And what, my Lord, is the real Fact, which is thus indisputably clear and certain? Is it not, that every Year, every Month, every Day, beholds vast Numbers of our Fellow-Creatures, our Countrymen and fellow Subjects, Men, Women, Children, debauched, ruined, destroyed; that Spirituous Liquors prove injurious and fatal to the Health, the Industry, the Morals, the Lives, the present Welfare and eternal Well-being of Multitudes; with the sure Ruin of their Families; and with prodigious Detriment in various Ways to the Nation in general, not only in the Loss of Labour and proper Circulation of the Gains of sober Industry in purchasing the several Necessaries and Conveniencies of Life; but by daily increasing the Number of Persons not merely idle and useless, but actually hurtful to Society; whose Necessities prompt them to undertake, and these inflaming Spirits embolden them to perpetrate every barbarous

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and

^d See a *Sermon* before the Societies for the Reformation of Manners; and a *Sermon* before the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts; and *Journal of the House of Lords*. Feb. 25. 1742.

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and daring Enterprize ; dis-peopling our Country of Thousands that might have proved useful Members, and preventing a Supply by greatly obstructing the Increase of the Species.

Having mentioned the audacious and cruel Villainies which these mischievous Liquors inspire Men and *Women* to commit, I must beg Leave to appeal, and I do it in the most solemn manner, to Your Lordship, and the Aldermen of *London*, and I may add to his Majesty's Justices in the adjacent Counties, whether *by far* the greatest Part of all the atrocious Crimes that come in Judgment before you, either at the *Old-Baily*, or at the Sittings at *Guildhall*, or elsewhere, be not committed by Persons most apparently enraged by these inflammatory Spirits; whether the *Criminals* themselves, and the *Crowds that sometimes attend them*, do not bear in their Countenance, and their whole Manner and Appearance, the plainest and most shocking Proofs that their Blood is enflamed by the habitual Drinking of Gin.

And is all this extremely certain? I beseech you then, my Lord, stop one Moment and look again upon the tremendous Collection of Misery and Mischief in one short View.—Intemperance! Poverty! Villainy! Murder! Desolation!—Good God! what an Assemblage is here! How dreadful and how real! Can it be read without Concern; or is it possible it should be seen every Day with Indifference!

Were Murders by any other Weapon half so frequent, and by none are they committed more

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effectually; or were half the Number of Families, who might otherwise prove greatly useful to the Community, as evidently plunged in Vice and Ruin by any other Means, is it possible that those, who are clothed with Authority and appointed as a *Terror to evil Works*, should be unconcerned Spectators of such dreadful and enlarging Scenes of Wickedness and Misery? Or, would the Magistrates of this chief City, deservedly invested with great Power and Influence, quietly behold, in any other Shape, the Continuance and Increase of so much Wretchedness and Guilt among their Fellow-Subjects, for whose Welfare and Safety it is their Office and Duty to be constantly watchful? Common Humanity would prevent a single Murder, and restrain the uplifted Arm that would administer *one* deadly Potion, or that aimed a deadly Weapon but at *one* innocent Breast. But what is a single Murder compared to the many Thousands that are annually sent out of the World by a slow but sure Poison; and among these how many unoffending Children and helpless Babes, fall pitiable Victims? In a Case so plain, Inferences are needless.

It does not, my Lord, admit the least Doubt, that Thousands and ten Thousands, after a short Life of Intemperance and Ignominy, if not Violence and Outrage, have miserably perished, who might have been a Strength, a Support and Credit to our Country, in their own Persons, and in a Race of healthy well educated Children.

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'Tis not for me to attempt any Estimate founded upon Calculations of political Arithmetic, nor fix any *Value* upon the *Lives* and Labour of these wretched Creatures so totally lost to the Nation. Your Lordship, and Your worthy Brethren know much better, what immense Sums our Country has *already* lost by the untimely Death of such large Numbers of People, as have *already* perished; and, *if it do not exceed Calculation*, how much more must be lost, in no very long Tract of Time, to the *Nation* and to the public *Revenue* too, in various Articles, by the Destruction of so many Inhabitants; who when engaged in sober Industry, as civil Prudence directs, are beyond all Dispute in every View, the Riches and Strength, the Support and Glory of a Country. Each individual Person that dies an unnatural Death, whether by a quicker or a slower Poison, makes a Part of this aggregate Sum. The Advantages of every regular, industrious Subject, both as to his Labour and Expences, are much more considerable with respect to the National Safety, Wealth and Taxes, than from the little Attention paid to Considerations of this Nature seems generally to be apprehended: And Destruction of *People* is a Loss of that kind, which no *present* Sums of Money will supply or compensate.

If the growing Evil is still neglected, and Debauchery, Vice and Murder are still to increase; if Death and Hell are to open their Jaws yet wider, what can be hoped for hereafter?—Hereafter, when every Pretence, I cannot say Argument,

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ment, for this Indulgence will have acquired new Force; when like other bad Practices and bad Habits, *this* also will spread and gain Strength by Time; when private Profit will become more extensive, and of course its Efforts more powerful; and when large Additions will be made to the Produce of *this* Tax. What is *then* to be expected, if no Redress, no Remedy is provided now? The ruinous Scene, that must in this Case ere long appear, is too plain to need Description, and too dreadful to be looked upon without the utmost Grief and Horror!

Whatever Reasons might prevail for making an Experiment of the present Method, the Consequences of this Trial are now well known and too sensibly felt; or whatever Necessities might intervene in the Progress of an expensive War; these Considerations subsist no longer: And the Reduction of Interest upon the National Debt is become a Circumstance of great Weight.

The *Interest* of the Debt for which this Duty was mortgaged, is *now* reduced *One-eighth*, and in a few Years will be reduced *One-fourth*. A *less* Produce therefore from this Duty upon Spirits will be fully sufficient to satisfy the Interest of the Debt. And if we should be so happy as to see the Consumption of these now very low-priced Spirits considerably lessened; a *greater* Duty upon a *less* Quantity will produce the same Revenue. But if there should still be *some* Deficiency; is *that* a Consideration of Weight enough in the Views of Policy, Humanity and Religion, to ballance all the grievous Evils which the wicked

wicked Practice of drinking these cheap Spirits so extensively produces? But besides the signal Blessings, which every Christian that engages in so pious, humane, and compassionate a Work, may expect from HIM, *who came not to destroy Mens Lives but to save them*; there is great Reason to apprehend, that an ample Compensation for *some* Loss in this one Duty, would certainly arise in many Particulars, from the increased Labour and Consumptions of a growing, instead of the present declining Number of sober, orderly, industrious Labourers, Manufacturers and Artificers; even supposing that the *increased* Duties upon *Malt, Hops, &c.* should make no Amends; nor any *other* proper Equivalent could possibly be devised. For, permit me to observe, my Lord, that the View is by much too narrow and contracted, if no other Object is looked at; but the growing Produce of *one* single Duty; or, possibly the Sale of some damaged Corn.

How many thousand *Consumers* of the general Product and Manufactures of the Kingdom are annually *killed*; and of course all the Benefit that would have arisen from that whole Number and from their Offspring, certainly lost to the *Nation*, and to the *Revenue* too, for ever!

And how many Commodities, and how many Utensils does this pernicious Gin supplant or supply the Place of, to *those* Wretches addicted to it, who *as yet* crawl about, a public Nuisance? How much less Bread-corn, Malt, Hops; how much less Meat of all kinds; how much less
Cloaths,

Cloaths, both Linnen, Woollen and Leather, &c. &c. &c. do these befotted, miserable Creatures consume than an equal Number of sober and laborious Subjects of the same Rank? Look in upon the *Dwelling* of a regular industrious Workman of the like Occupation with the Slaves to Gin: How many Trades have been employed to provide Cloaths, and furnish a homely but decent and cleanly Habitation for himself, his Wife and healthy Children, while the noisome and filthy Abode of Gin-drinkers, if they have any settled Abode at all, shall be void of every thing decent or even necessary; and no Wonder, for this intoxicating Liquor which consumes the *little* that they earn, (and very little they do earn) does literally become their Viçtuals, Drink and Cloaths; as Variety of Tradesmen daily find by sad Experience.

Many other Reflections must naturally arise upon this important Subject.---Bloodshed and Slaughter, in *Europe* at least, are indeed at present ceased, and open War is at an End. But are Disputes and Contentions of another kind entirely extinguished? Is there no Skill and Application employed to restore and strengthen the *Sinews of War*, where they have been lately strained and weakened? Are there no lively Contests for Trade, for Riches, for naval Strength, for the Increase of People, Power and Revenue, by domestic Regulations as well as foreign Acquisitions, enlarged Dominion and Extent of Country? Or are there no Endeavours used to acquire and secure *first* a civil and

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commercial, and *then* perhaps more easily a military and maritime Superiority ?

Can any Period of Time, then, ever furnish more persuasive Instruction IMMEDIATELY to cultivate the Arts of Peace ; to promote Sobriety, Virtue, Industry ; to encrease as much as possible the Number of laborious, regular, useful Subjects ; *at least*, to bestow the utmost Application and Care to prevent the *daily Waste* and Diminution of that great Support to every Country, and to restrain and suppress the Increase of ungovernable and furious Invaders of Life and Property.

In every salutary Attempt for Reformation, we have the great Blessing of being secure of the chearful Concurrence of a *most gracious* PRINCE, ever watchful for, ever happy in the Happiness of his People. And in Truth without any great Degree of Foresight, 'tis easy to predict, that *his Majesty's* most paternal and seasonable Recommendation from the Throne, " to enforce the Execution of the Laws, and " suppress those Outrages and Violences which " are inconsistent with all good Order and Government, and endanger the Lives and Properties of his Subjects," will never be carried into Execution, or have any tollerable Effect, if the lower People are still allowed to disqualify themselves for honest Labour, by enfeebling their Bodies and intoxicating their Minds, and with a Fury too that is peculiar to those fiery Spirits, by which they are made drunk ; if a necessitous Wretch, eager for the
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enchancing Poison and without much Money to procure it, can extinguish for less than *two* Pence all Sense of Duty, Shame or FEAR, and is sure to find Company ready to suggest or join in the greatest Acts of Villainy and Outrage ; no *subsequent* Punishment however severe, or how many Subjects soever are put to Death, will cure these heinous Evils. Emboldened Wretches, prompted by Want, and inspired by Gin, will enter upon the most daring and audacious Acts of Wickedness ; despising Law and Punishment.

PREVENTIVE Wisdom therefore, is the most natural, the most humane, not indeed the *most*, but the *only* EFFECTUAL Means to deliver us from the formidable Enormities that are daily encreasing.

GIN *may* be kept out of the Reach of a *poor* Creature ; but if once you suffer him to be enraged with that pestiferous Liquor, 'tis speaking to the Waves in a Storm, when you attempt by *subsequent* Penalties to restrain him from any Theft or Murder, or any other atrocious Wickedness, which a drunken Companion recommends, as the surest Means to enable him to quench with fresh Supplies of Spirits, that burning Thirst and Longing, which these Spirits constantly create.

Whether the Gentlemen of the Army experienced any Difficulties in raising the necessary Recruits during the last War, national Prudence would not perhaps publicly inquire : It can however give no Offence to assert, that it certainly is of the utmost Consequence, that there
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should always be a sufficient Number of *able-bodied* Men to bear Arms in Defence of their injured Country; and that Sobriety, Regularity and strict Discipline, should be constantly preserved; to which good Purpose the drinking inflammatory and intoxicating Spirits is by no Means likely to contribute.

I am sensible the Calculation will be thought, and really is, very much too low, if, besides those who are *enfeebled* and *disqualified* for Service, which is *no small Number*, we suppose only *fifty thousand* Persons, who might have carried Arms when the publick Safety required, to perish by these destructive Liquors, in the Course of ten Years. And who can say that in less than half that Space of Time, the Religion, the Liberty, the very Being of this Free and Protestant Kingdom may not depend upon, may not be lost for the want of half that Number of able Men in a Day of Battle! Will the Advance of *one Tax*, even tho' in no wise balanced by numerous Losses upon other Articles; will this *Price of Blood* make any Recompence for the Loss of so many Lives, or supply that most important of all DEFICIENCIES, the want of Men to fight for their injured or invaded Country?

How oddly extravagant and monstrous would the Proposal appear, if any Power with whom we were actually engaged in War, as the surest Method of preserving their own Forces and destroying the Enemy, should offer twice the Produce of the Duties upon Gin, for the avowed Liberty of poisoning half the Number of *British* Subjects

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Subjects able to bear Arms, which this liquid Fire, beyond all Denial, annually burns up and consumes: And yet, the Loss and Injury to the Nation is the very same, by whatever Hand the People are destroyed; or whether the poisonous Potion is prepared in an *English* or a foreign Alembic: with this only Difference, that in the present Method of Slaughter, our Enemy would save the Expence, and yet derive the same Advantage from diminishing the Number of our fighting Men.

Unhappy *Britain*, and undone for ever! If the boasted Wisdom of the present enlightened Age, even in a Time of public Peace and Tranquility, can only raise Supplies for national Service, by murdering its Inhabitants, and lessening Trade in numberless Branches! 'Tis indeed very true, that there is no positive Law, no formal Injunction, to commit these numerous Murders. But yet it is as true that, whatever Indulgence is allowed in Cases less atrocious, in the Death of a Subject the Law considers every Person concerned as *Principal*, and does not even admit of *Accessaries* in Murder: Nor is it less certain, that *Connivance* in Cases of this Nature is *Encouragement*, according to the allowed Maxim, *qui non prohibet, jubet*: The Sword of Authority is not borne in vain; and it is the great End and Design of Government to preserve *Life*, as well as Property; and with this View, to punish, restrain, and if possible, extinguish Wickedness of every kind: And the more enormous and extensive any Vice becomes, Theft, for

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for Example, in the public Streets or private Houses, or Forgery, or *Murder*; the *more* serious and earnest Endeavours are in all such Cases justly called for to discourage and suppress the growing Evil.

Is the Loss of a single Subject by Murder, or is a single Robbery made capital, and actually punished with Death? And is it of no Consequence, is it below all Attention and Regard, if Thousands of Lives are every Year destroyed; and the Public defrauded of the manifold Advantages, all the Riches and Strength, that would arise from the Multitudes of its lost Subjects. The antient Precaution, *Ne quid detrimenti capiat Respublica* is a primary Consideration in every well ordered State: And if any Species of Liquor, tho' perhaps somewhat slower in the Operation, does yet prove as pernicious and fatal as infected Meat or infected Goods, is there not the same Reason in true Policy, and the same Justice to the Community, to lay Restraints upon *liquid*, as upon *solid* Poisons?

To say,—“What can be done? Alas, the “People *will* have this liquid Poison,” is one of the most *dreadful* and most *fatal* Declarations that can possibly be made, not only as it is contrary to the fundamental Principles upon which Communities subsist, and destroys Government itself, by transferring to the inconsiderate *Will* and Pleasure of the Multitude, that Power and Authority, which belong *only* to *Law* and the civil Magistrate; but also as such desponding Lamentations, whether sincere or not, entirely dis-

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discourage that *strict* Attention, that *active* Vigilance which should be *constantly* employed to restrain and abolish any Vice, that is so extremely pernicious in all Respects. Suppose the Populace *enflamed* against the present Distribution of *Property*, and discovering by outrageous Overt-Acts, the strongest *Inclination* to bring it nearer to an Equality, and *encouraged* herein by *foreign* Assistance; would it be thought a tolerable Excuse for suffering their *Will* to prevail, merely because they are *eager* for this Change, and may find some *present Gratification* from a new Allotment; when Reason and public Utility so loudly declare against any such Indulgence?

If there be any considerable Power in *Europe*, that looks from the Continent with an Eye of Envy upon this great Island, which perhaps our Industry and Virtue might easily excite; what Grief and Indignation would arise in every *English* Breast, ever to see that Envy changed for Pity and Contempt, exulting with too reasonable a Satisfaction, and a sort of triumphant Complacency, very naturally derived from the Continuance of this fore Destruction among us, that with a speedy Ravage is accomplishing *their* Wishes, by daily wasting *our* Strength, and diminishing *our* Numbers!

But this, my Lord, I trust can never be our unhappy Lot: The Wisdom, the Policy, the Virtue, the Resolution of this Country can never sink so low, as to be unable or unwilling to contrive, or dare to execute a Scheme of Deliverance from Destruction so certain and so apparent.

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In order to accomplish this most desirable Deliverance, it may not perhaps be requisite; that the whole Art of distilling Spirits should be entirely abolished; or the Door opened wider than at present for the pernicious Introduction of foreign Spirits that pay no Duty. It must be acknowledged, that Reasons of some Weight are offered against totally destroying the Distillery; but yet, unless the Distilling Trade come under some *effectual* Regulations, and the vending in so many Places, at such extreme low Prices, such prodigious Quantities of those spirituous Liquors, which in poisonous Streams now overflow the Land, be *really* restrained; whatever becomes of the *British* Distillery, whether *that* be, or be not destroyed---the *British* Nation certainly is destroyed.

Far from *Encouraging*, it is one essential Part of this necessary Reformation *to restrain*, and if possible suppress the infamous and daring Practice of SMUGLING, big with so many Evils in Times of *War*, as well as Times of *Peace*.

'Tis impossible (for *me* at least) to reflect upon this Subject, and not lament with deep Concern, the *late Death* of a NOBLEMAN, not more distinguished by his high Rank, than by his many excellent and amiable Qualities: The Bravery, Benevolence and Love to his Country, which always adorned his Mind, excited this noble Person, totally regardless of the Danger or Fatigue, to bring to public Justice some of the most enormous Offenders in the Smuggling Way; who, hardened in that bold and outrageous Practice,

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and defying Law and Government, had advanced to the utmost Lengths of savage Brutality, and shocking Murder.

'Tis needless to be more particular, or say how great a Loss His Family, His Friends, His Country have sustained, in this affectionate, beneficent, brave, and truly great Man; who had most justly acquired a Regard and Esteem, as unconfined and universal, as was the Benevolence and Compassion of the open and generous Heart of the DUKE OF RICHMOND!

But I must proceed; unless these bold and flagrant Insults upon Law, Justice and Government, be effectually prevented, any other Remedy must prove imperfect; for though some Difference may arise in the interior Parts of the Kingdom, yet the present Mischief will certainly continue near the Shoar, if all the Coasts of *Britain* can be supplied with cheap Spirits from Abroad, that pay no Duty.

The present Methods for stopping these Enormities, it is much to be feared, are by no means sufficient and effectual: Nor will Decency or Abilities permit me to prescribe such as may promise better Success. Very eminent and able Judges of these Matters have been of Opinion, that much might be done towards removing this great Evil, if besides punishing with Death, poor, inferior Instruments; the impartial Hand of Justice were regularly and constantly to extend itself to the *wealthy* Promoters and Support of this fraudulent and mischievous Traffick; and a Punishment, in some Degree proportioned to

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the manifold Damage the Nation suffers, were invariably inflicted upon those Persons, whose Substance not only builds the Vessels, and purchases the Cargo, but likewise *seduces*, maintains and encourages the Under-Agents in this Scheme of Fraud and Outrage. An Instance we have at the very last Execution, Dec. 30, 1750, in the Account of *John Watling*, aged but 25, who then suffered Death for aiding and assisting, with diverse other Persons, in landing and running Goods, liable to pay Duty, &c. which is as follows---That, "He was bred up to Husbandry
 " by his Parents, and lived with them, and
 " went out to *Day-Labour* in the Neighbour-
 " hood, for *many* Years, and was looked upon
 " as a *quiet, sober* Fellow; but as the Itch of
 " being concerned in the Smuglers Trade is
 " very catching in that Neighbourhood [*Budf-*
 " *dal* in *Suffolk*,] he at length became one, and
 " was employed as a Rider, in fetching and
 " carrying run Goods. He was an active, handy,
 " *young* Fellow, and so never wanted for Em-
 " ploy; and as it was a Business that brought
 " in *greater Gains*, and easier than what he was
 " first bred to, he grew fond of it, and was
 " ready upon all Occasions." 'Tis extremely natural to enquire *who* seduced this poor young Fellow by this *greater Gain*, and what *they* have suffered?

Another Expedient has been also thought of; the encreasing still further the Number of small Vessels to cruise upon our Coasts, as Occasion shall require; and of a Size and Make best fitted

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to pursue the smuggling Boats and Cutters into the Creeks and Shoals which they resort to; and employing in this Service, a proper Number of a most brave and useful Order of Men, the *British* Sailors, under *that* Direction which shall be most conducive to secure the great End of the Appointment.

Whether these or several other Schemes will prove absolutely effectual, it would be highly improper to pass any Judgment.

The Opinion however seems very general, that in order to prevent the many terrible and increasing Mischiefs arising from the excessive Use of spirituous Liquors, *two* Expedients are absolutely necessary; the *one* is raising the Price of Home-made Spirits, which are now purchased at an incredibly small Expence; the *other* preventing, in a great Measure at least, the illegal Importation of foreign Spirits, by *encreasing* in every Way at Sea and on Shoar, the Difficulty and Hazards of carrying on that most detestable and pernicious Practice, contrary to the Principles of true Policy and true Religion, which requires every Man to render *Custom to whom Custom is due, and Tribute to whom Tribute.*

In a Case of such immense Importance to the Preservation of numberless Lives of *British* Subjects, and to the Welfare and Safety of the Nation itself; where the present and future Happiness of Millions is concerned, in this and succeeding Generations; where an Evil already so very extensive is daily enlarging its baneful Progress; and with a Poison peculiarly venomous,

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gnawing the very *Vitals* of a trading Nation, by spreading largely its sad Infection in Towns and Villages engaged in *Manufactures*, where *Industry* and *Temperance* are so peculiarly *essential*, if any Product of *British* Labour is to appear at foreign Markets: In a Case where such Variety of Mischief, personal and public, is so very conspicuous; where undoubtedly the well-being, most probably the very Being of our Country and Constitution are at Stake, in Circumstances so justly alarming, where the Danger is so great and so manifest; *Neglect* or *Despondency* can only hasten and compleat our Ruin.

Try every Method of Cure; leave no one probable Expedient unattempted; each Effort may produce some good Effect: Go on; still go on, till at last some one Regulation or other, perhaps several in Conjunction, may happily, with God's Blessing, accomplish the desirable Reformation, and put a Stop to this devouring Pestilence, and all the Wickedness and Violence and Mischief it produces; and bless our Country with Thousands and Ten Thousands of sober, industrious, happy People!

In a Case, my Lord, of this apparent *Necessity*, the Difficulties which heighten the Merit of the Enterprize, do at the same Time call more loudly for Zeal, Resolution and Dispatch. In one plain Word, something must be done, and *speedily* too; or this Nation is certainly undone. Where the Dilemma is so interesting and so dreadful, no Degree of Earnestness and Warmth can need an Apology.

'Tis more than probable, this may be the last Struggle between Life and Death, the last Gasp of dying Multitudes; and that the Body politic, notwithstanding the *fallacious* Appearance by a disproportioned Resort of People from all Quarters to the Metropolis, must gradually decline and soon perish under this sore Distemper, this spreading Pestilence, if immediate Relief be not *properly* and *effectually* administered.

May the Fountain of Life and Father of Mercies, inspire us all in our respective Stations with a becoming Zeal upon this great Occasion!

I am, MY LORD,

With great Respect for Your Lordship,

and the Government of the City,

Your Lordship's

Most Obedient Humble Servant,

ISAAC WORCESTER.

POSTSCRIPT.

SINCE the Conclusion of the foregoing Pages, to my great Surprize I was informed, that some Argument or other was drawn in Favour of these pernicious Spirits from the Bills of Mortality, I thought it incumbent upon me to examine the real Fact from those authentic Accounts annually published, by the Company of Parish-Clerks, which, tho' not exactly accurate, yet, when compared with themselves, one Year with another, must be supposed equally just.

The Fact then stands thus ;
The CHRISTENINGS were no more in the Year
1748, than — 14,153
1749, — 14,260
1750, — 14,548

This at a Medium amounts to 14,320 per Ann.
But if we look to preceding Years the Christenings are much more numerous ; for in
The Year 1731, the Christenings were 17,830
1732, — — 17,788
1733, — — 17,465

The Medium of these 3 Years is 17,694
The annual Difference then in this short Tract of Time is 3,374 Christenings !
But if we go still a little farther back, the Case will appear yet more evident and glaring.
The pernicious Practice of drinking these destructive Spirits, began to be more frequent and

and extensive about the Year 1722; and the Christenings near that Time stand thus,

1723,	—	19,203
1724,	—	19,370
1725,	—	18,859

From that Time to the present, the Decrease, with some little Variations, has been very gradual, and in this View it now amounts to near 5,000 Christenings less than in the Year 1723.

What an amazing Loss is this to be annually sustained in those Parishes, and among those People only, who are register'd by the Company of Parish Clerks ! More than the one fourth of the whole Number, every Year !

This Proportion will carry on our melancholy Thoughts with some Degree of Certainty, to those many, and some of them very populous, Places near the Cities of London and Westminster, not included in the above annual Accounts of the Bills of Mortality, as for Example, Camberwell, Chelsea, Deptford, Greenwich, Marybone, Pancras, Paddington, Kensington, Hampstead, Highgate, &c. and will at the same Time enable us to frame a proportional Calculation of the terrible Havock and Destruction of the human Species, made by these pestilential Spirits in manufacturing Towns, and other distant Parts of the Kingdom ; according as this fatal Poison appears to be proportionally spreading in those several Places.

In the Burials, as register'd by the Parish-Clerks, there is no great Difference at the different Times ; thus for Example,

In

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In 1731, there were 25,262. In 1749—25,516.
 1732, ——— 23,258. 1750—23,727.

But as to Burials I am credibly informed, that since a late Practice has prevailed of having no Intercourse with the Parish-Officers upon the *Removal* of a Corpse, there is *no Entry* made of that very great Number which are now annually *removed* to Places near and remote; these not being entred with the Company of Parish Clerks, by whom alone the publick Account is given. And if all such Deaths were added to the Number of registred Burials, it would very much swell the Account, and occasion a still greater Disproportion between the *present* Numbers of Births and Burials; for upon due Enquiry it appears that the Number of the Corpses now carried away, is much larger than it was some Years ago, or than is commonly apprehended.

'Tis impossible, nor is it necessary, to be minutely exact, as to the Number of People in the City and Suburbs; it makes no considerable Alteration, if we take the common Calculation, and suppose the Number to be 850,000.

Then, as 17,694 Christenings is to 850,000 People; so is 14,320—to 687,916. The Difference is no less than 162,084 People, who upon this Proportion, founded on the Number of Christenings, appear to have been diminished, computing only from the Year 1733.

If only the *same* Number die from a *decreased* Stock; and if the *Supply* is so *inadequate* to the *Loss*, it certainly becomes a Matter
 of

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of very melancholy and serious Consideration. The same sad Truth might be confirmed by various other Circumstances, which I will not enter into.

But to avoid all little Cavils, and the *supposed* Operation of *other* Causes, which it is extremely difficult to assign in a *Destruction* so exactly *coæval* with Gin, and which has manifestly *increased*, as the Use of *that* pernicious Liquor has *increased*; suppose instead of a Decrease of near 5,000, we only reckon 3,500. This Abatement will more than account for every *other* possible Cause of the Decrease; and this *reduced* Account leaves the Nation under the deplorable Circumstances of losing, in *one* District, more than 10,000, every three Years, even supposing these consuming Flames did not continue, as they have undoubtedly hitherto continued, with *increasing* Devastation, to burn up the Human Race.

This *excessively* large Allowance is made, not because there appear any Reasons for it; but effectually to cut up by the Roots all frivolous Causes of the Diminution, that might be assigned, in order to weaken or set aside the just Conclusion, that would demonstratively arise even from Half this important *annual* Loss: And if the *late War* should (as is very natural) be thought of upon this Occasion; I beg it may be observed, that besides the Necessity of employing every proper Method to *repair* the Loss of People *then* sustained, it appears that in the Year 1724, the Number of Children

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Christened

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Christened was 19,370 ; but since that Time, as this Pestilence of Gin has spread, the Number of Christenings has been lessened ; and in such Manner, that in no *one* Year since, the Christenings have ever amounted to 19,000 : But, on the contrary, in Times of *Peace*, as well as War, have *gradually*, with small Variations, continued to *decrease*. Thus, in the Year 1734, *i. e.* in Ten Years, they were reduced from 19,370 to 17,630. And, since that Year, the Christenings have never once reached 17,000. But, in the Year 1743, they were reduced to 15,050. And since that Time, notwithstanding the *Peace*, and the *large Disbandments* consequent thereupon, the Christenings have never arisen to 15,000—But (*I repeat it again*) in the Year 1724, they amounted to 19,370 !

Possibly the Case of the CITY OF PARIS may convey some useful *Instruction*, it certainly conveys very full *Evidence* of the happy Effects of the *Police* and Sobriety which are maintained in that populous Place.

The respective Accounts for the last Year stand thus,

PARIS	—	—	19,035	} Christenings.
LONDON	—	—	14,548	
		Difference	4,487	

LONDON

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LONDON	—	23,727	} Burials.
PARIS	—	18,084	

	Difference	5,643
So that <i>Paris</i> has more Christenings	4,487	
fewer Burials	—	5,643

Difference upon both Articles *this* Year 9,130!

Again ; In PARIS, notwithstanding the prodigious Resort of grown People, from the Provinces of *France* and all other Parts of *Europe*, *Nunneries*, &c. the *Supply* by Christenings exceeds the *Loss* by Burials — — 951

In LONDON, the Case is unhappily *inverted* and the *Loss* by Burials exceeds the *Supply* by Christenings as many THOUSANDS, viz. 9,179

N.B. The Number of Foundling Children, receiv'd into the Hospital of PARIS this Year was, — — — 3,785

Mr. Maitland in his *History of London*, p. 548, has given an Account for nine Years (1728—1736) of the Christenings and Burials at PARIS.

The Medium of Christenings for that Period	is,	—	18,688
of Burials	—	—	17,804
More Christenings than Burials	—	—	884

The *melancholy* View of the *same* Events at LONDON for the same Period (1728—1736) is quite

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quite the *Reverse*, for the Medium of *Burials*
 is, $\frac{26,591}{17,211}$ of *Baptisms*

More *Burials* than *Baptisms* every Year 9,380!

And what is an additional Misfortune, the *Christenings* *since* that Time, as has been observed, have greatly *decreased*, and do not *now* amount to 15,000.

These Calculations are not offered, as drawn up with *mathematical* Certainty, but only, in a *general* Way, and upon comparing similar Accounts together. And in this Light, the *gross* Evidence, without regarding every minute Circumstance, is very sufficient to prove a *great* Disproportion in the Increase and Decrease of People in the different Cities, as Sobriety and Regularity have respectively greater or less Influence; and give a clear View, what prodigious Resources for *Manufactures* and *Commerce*, for *Fleets* and *Armies*, must continually arise, with great Superiority, where a *prudent* and *prolific* POLICE really takes place!

I desire not to aggravate the Case. I cannot do it, and I forbear to enlarge upon many, very many, most melancholy Particulars; or to compute the short, miserable, useless Lives of those wretched Infants, not in the present black Catalogue, who are brought into the World by Parents, enfeebled by these Spirituous Liquors; and

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and chiefly fed, for the little Time they continue in the World, with inflammatory Spirits, which soon consume a Fabric so very slight and delicate.

But to give a somewhat juster Idea of the dreadful *Havock* of the *Human* Species made by these baneful Spirits, it may not be improper briefly to observe, that besides the before-mentioned important *Annual* Loss to the Nation, since the Prevalence of *Gin*, by the *Decrease* of near 5,000 Christenings in those Parishes *only* that are recounted in the Bills of Mortality, the Number of *Children*, not exceeding *five* Years old, who have annually died since the same most unhappy *Æra*, is *prodigious*, and appears with a dreadful *Disproportion* upon a just Comparison.

The Calculations of the learned and accurate Dr. *Halley*, will enable us with too much Certainty, to form this melancholy Comparison. The City of *Breslaw*, which cannot differ greatly from other Places, furnished the Materials for his Calculations. The annual Births *there* he states at a Medium to be 1,238; of these, it appears by the Tables, there died in the *first* Year 348; and between *one* Year and *six* compleat, 193; so there remained alive, out of 1,238, after six Years, 697.

In LONDON the *Christenings*, at a Medium for the last *ten* Years, have annually amounted to 14,457.

But the annual Number of Children in LONDON, who have died under *five* Years of Age,

Age, at a Medium, amounts to no less than 10,590!

Whereas the Proportion, even at *six* Years of Age, should be no more than 6.317.

So that the Loss to the Public, by the premature Death of weakly, short-lived Children, in *one* District only, without including *those* Children of Gin-Drinkers, who die *unbaptized*, amounts to the astonishing Number of above *Four Thousand two Hundred!*

And, how dreadful is the Thought, *this* Loss is repeated every Year!

It would not be unworthy of the Magistrates of *London*, or of the greatest Assemblies in this Kingdom, strictly and *immediately* to enquire--- Of all that large Number of Parish-Children, who for the last twenty Years have been committed to the Care of Parish-Nurses, how *few*, how extremely few are now alive? And how these Children are *quieted*? — Quieted indeed, poor, innocent, helpless Babes, with Drams of Gin! which soon put an End to their tender Lives, to the *Charge of the Parish*, and the Advantage that would arise to the Nation— The Nation, for whose Safety and Preservation every upright, thoughtful Man will tremble, if ever it comes into that deplorable Condition, that not only the *present* Number of labouring People becomes idle, debauched, profligate, outrageous; if not only the Number of working Hands, our real Strength and Riches, is annually

nually diminished, but the prolific Faculties, which should furnish a Supply, are themselves extinguished; all which may every honest *Englishman* and good Christian, seriously and speedily endeavour to prevent! *Amen.*

In Page 27, Line 6, for 9,130 read 10,130!

A P P E N -

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in numerous Instances, that Part of the human Species, whose Modesty and Gentleness are their proper Guard and chief Ornament, *transform'd* into those frightful Spectacles of *Impudence* and *almost Fury*, which continually in *every Quarter of the Town*, and at *every Hour of the Day*, shock and offend the Sight !

And, if possible, still more dreadful is it to see *Children, young Children, even Babes hanging at the Breast*, with those *pinning, meagre, bagged* Looks that do at once declare *their Misery*, and the horrid Guilt of their unnatural and cruel PARENTS ;—*sad Spectacles indeed !*

Relieve *your Mind*, by turning your Eyes to different Objects ; View *this pleasing Sight*, this fine Collection of modest, *regular* and healthy Children here present *, brought up and educated upon a virtuous Plan. How different the Appearance ! How strong the Contrast ! What humane Delight, what rational Satisfaction, is derived from such a pleasing Sight ? And yet, alas ! every returning Year sees a much larger Number of Poor, innocent, murdered Children ; really murdered ; dreadful to think of ! Most inhumanly murdered, and with *Impunity* too, by *direful Spirituous* Liquors, *administred* or *derived* to the helpless Infants by those Persons, whose peculiar Duty it is to preserve their tender Lives.

How affecting is the Thought ! that these slaughtered Babes, under better Management, might

* The Children of CHRIST-HOSPITAL, &c.

might have grown up and appeared with the same *Health* and *Strength* and *Vigour*,— the same *good Looks* and *good Dispositions* as adorn this agreeable Collection of Children now before you, and might have proved as *useful to their Country*, as from former Experience we have Reason to hope these will do.

What *Heart would not melt*, what *Eyes would not dissolve in Tears* at the moving, melancholy, dreadful Sight of such a *Slaughter, brought into one View*,— a Slaughter much *more cruel*, and far *more extensive* than that of HEROD! for *here PARENTS* themselves commit the horrid Execution upon their *own Children*!

I am not *aggravating* this affecting Subject— God knows it needs no Aggravation—it scarce admits of Aggravation: I speak from Conviction,—I speak from Evidence.

The *prodigious*, dreadful Havock, made by these pernicious Spirits is no less certain, because all the *daily Victims, Men, Women, Children*, do not fall in our Sight, nor are buried together in one, vast, astonishing, and shameful Heap!

Alas! Publick Observation and the Records of Parishes confirm the sad and alarming Truth, with Proofs but too convincing. Many well founded Representations have been made of the pernicious Effects of these Spirituous Liquors, both at Sea and at Land, by vigilant and worthy Magistrates, and other Persons of great Knowledge, Integrity, and Public Spirit. Hear only the honest and disinterested Declaration of those skillful and able Judges the learned *College of Physicians,*

Physicians, in their own Words. " We have,
 " say they, with Concern observed for some
 " Years past, the fatal Effects of the frequent
 " Use of several sorts of Distilled Spirituous
 " Liquors upon great Numbers of both Sexes,
 " rendering them Diseased, not fit for Business,
 " Poor, a Burden to themselves and Neigh-
 " bours, and too often the Cause of Weak, Fee-
 " ble, and Distemper'd Children, who must be,
 " instead of an Advantage and Strength, a
 " Charge to their Country.—This Custom doth
 " every Year increase, notwithstanding our RE-
 " PEATED Advice to the contrary." Thus
 far those learned Gentlemen; and most melan-
 choly it is to consider how much this pernicious
 Vice hath increased since this Representation was
 made, and is increasing EVERY DAY.

My Brethren, these Things ought not so to be.

What then is to be done to stop, to remedy
 the growing Evil?—INATTENTION cannot
 do it; DESPAIR will never do it—Public Com-
 munities and private Persons, every one in his
 respective Station must exert his zealous honest
 Endeavours in this important Cause; the Cause
 of Religion and Humanity, the Cause of our
 Country, and the Cause of God.

Once resolve upon the good Work—and re-
 solve to pursue it—with God's Blessing, it is
 half accomplished.

Let this great and renowned Metropolis and
 its present worthy Magistrates, whose Example
 will have an extensive Influence, immediately be-
 gin the desirable Reformation—Their Wisdom
 will

will suggest the most proper Methods, their
 Zeal and Firmness carry those Methods into just
 Execution.

In such an Undertaking, so *compassionate*, so
pious, so *useful*, and so *absolutely necessary*, the
 Hearts and Hands of all good Men will join
 them—They will want no Credit or Honour,
 no Comfort or Satisfaction in this World, and
 infinitely great will be their Reward in the
 World to come. *Amen!*

HENRY FIELDING, *Esq;* in his late learned
 and seasonable Discourse, entitled, *An ENQUIRY*
into the Causes of the late Increase of Street-
Robbers, &c. makes the following judicious Ob-
 servations.

P. 18. " Now, besides the moral ill Conse-
 " quences occasioned by this Drunkenness, with
 " which, in this Treatise, I profess not to deal;
 " how greatly must this be supposed to contri-
 " bute to those political Mischiefs which this
 " Essay proposes to remedy? This will appear
 " from considering, that however cheap this *vile*
 " *Potion* may be, the *poorer* Sort will not easily
 " be able to supply themselves with the Quan-
 " tities they desire; for the intoxicating Draught
 " itself disqualifies them from using any honest
 " Means to acquire it, at the same time that it
 " removes all Sense of Fear and Shame, and
 " emboldens them to commit every wicked and
 " desperate Enterprize. *Many Instances of this*

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“ I see *daily* : Wretches are *often* brought before
 “ me, charged with Theft and Robbery,
 “ whom I am forced to confine before they are
 “ in a Condition to be examined ; and when
 “ they have afterwards become sober, I have
 “ plainly perceived, from the State of the Case,
 “ that the *Gin* ALONE was the Cause of the
 “ Transgression, and have been sometimes sorry
 “ that I was obliged to commit them to Pri-
 “ son.”

P. 22. “ Tho’ the Encrease of Thieves, and
 “ the Destruction of Morality ; tho’ the Loss of
 “ our Labourers, our Sailors, and our Soldiers,
 “ should not be sufficient Reasons, there is one
 “ which seems to be unanswerable, and that is,
 “ the Loss of our Gin-drinkers : Since, should
 “ the drinking this *Poison* be continued in its
 “ present Height, during the next twenty Years,
 “ there will, by that Time, be very few of the
 “ common People left to drink it.”

There is another Discourse published some
 Years ago, entituled, *Distilled Spirituous Li-
 quors the Bane of the Nation ; the second Edition* :
 Which is also justly recommended by Mr.
Fielding, and contains a thorough Discussion of
 this important Subject with Evidence fully con-
 vincing.

His Majesty by Royal Proclamations, the Le-
 gislature in the Preambles to divers Acts of Par-
 liament, the Magistrates in sundry Places, many
 eminent Prelates and other learned Divines, and
 likewise the learned College of Physicians, have
 3 repro-

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represented in the strongest Terms, the infinite
 Damage that arises to the Health, the Lives,
 the Morals, the Souls of the People, and the
 Increase of the human Species, and to good
 Order and Government, and the Quiet and Safe-
 ty of peaceable Subjects, from the mischievous
 and prevailing Custom of drinking these intoxi-
 cating and inflammatory Spirits *.

The pious and benevolent Dr. HALES of *Ted-
 dington* (Author of, *A friendly Admonition to the
 Drinkers of Brandy and other Spirituous Liquors*)
 whose faithful and skilful Experiments and Ob-
 servations are so well known and approved in the
 learned World, has upon this Occasion favoured
 me, for the Use of the Public, with the fol-
 lowing Dissertation,

*On the Unwholsomeness and Destructiveness of
 fermented distilled, Spirituous Liquors.*

THE Destructiveness of fermented, distilled,
 Spirituous Liquors is now become so flagrantly
 enormous, by spreading their baneful Influence
 far and wide, and making yearly farther and
 farther Devastations, both of the Lives and Mo-
 rals of Mankind ; and even debasing the Breed
 of Man : That it behoves all who have any
 Bowels of Pity for their Fellow-Creatures, to
 do their best to *with-hold* and deter them from
 it.

That eminent Physician Dr. *Hoffman*, in his
 Seven Rules for preserving Health, expressly
 cautions against the Use of fermented, distilled
 Spirituous

* Vide Appendix to the Sermon for a Collection of these
 Papers.

Spirituos Liquors. " Because, he says, they
 " are above all things most unwholsome, be-
 " cause caustick, burning Spirits, by inflaming
 " the Solids, and coagulating and thickening
 " the Fluids, cause Obstructions, which bring
 " on many fatal Diseases, such as Heetick
 " Fevers, Jaundices, Dropsies, &c. whereby
 " Multitudes are daily and yearly destroyed.
 " And also that they rot the Intrails, such as the
 " Liver, Stomach and Bowels, as is evident, as
 " he observes, not only by opening the Bodies
 " of those who are killed by drinking them; but
 " also by what is observed in *Germany*, from the
 " Effects, which the caustick, fiery, remaining
 " Wash of Distillers, has on the Guts of Hogs,
 " which are thereby so rotted, that they cannot
 " make Hogs-Puddings with them. And the
 " Flesh of such Hogs is hereby so much ten-
 " derer, that it will not keep by Salting, so well
 " as the Flesh of other Hogs will do." Dr.
Cheyne, in his Essay of *Health and Long Life*,
 says, " People who have any Regard to their
 " Health and Lives, ought to tremble at the
 " first Cravings for such *poisonous* Liquors.
 " The Maladies begot by them bring forth
 " Necessity upon Necessity of *Drams* and *Gills*,
 " till at last a kind of *Dropsy*, nervous *Convul-*
 " *sions*, a nervous *Consumption*, or a colliquative
 " *Diarrhæa*, or *Flux*, if not a *Fever* or a
 " *Frenzy*, sets the poor Soul free.
 " This bewitching Poison heightens and en-
 " rages all their Symptoms and Sufferings ever
 " after-

" afterwards, excepting the few Moments after
 " the taking it down."

It is the well-known Observation of the
 Dealers in Hair for Wigs, that they can distin-
 guish the Dram-drinkers Hair by the Touch,
 finding it dry, harsh, and dead-ended, and un-
 fit for Use. And in the same Manner these
 Drams spoil the Stomach and Bowels, the Li-
 ver and Lungs, and the whole Body of those
 unhappy Persons addicted to them.

It is also found, that these pernicious Drams
 not only alter the Quality, but also by their dry-
 ing and corrosive Power, lessen the Quantity
 of Hair: And what is a melancholy Proof of
 the great Prevalence of this wicked Practice,
 there is now so much less Hair to be bought
 among the lower People, that our Hair-Dealers
 are obliged to send Money Abroad to purchase
French and other foreign Hair. So surprisngly
 extensive is the Mischief of Gin-drinking.

I have found, by putting raw Flesh into se-
 veral Sorts of distilled Spirits, *viz.* Brandy, Rum,
 Arrack, &c. that they all, in a like manner, har-
 den the Flesh by their pernicious burning caustic
 Salts, which are made such by the Action of Fire
 on them in Distillation, in the same manner as
 Salt-Petre, from a mild, wholesome Substance,
 is, by the Action of Fire in Distillation, made
 one of the rankest Poisons; its Salts being by
 that means formed into subtile Darts and Spears,
 which tear not only all animal Substances in Pie-
 ces, but also the hardest and most solid Metals
 and Minerals. And accordingly, I have been
 informed

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informed by Distillers here, and by Planters in *America*, that the more of the Action of Fire these Spirits have undergone, so much the more fiery they are.

It is pretended that Drams comfort, warm, and defend from the severe Cold to which Men are sometimes exposed, which is probably in a great measure true of those who are much habituated to drink them; the Blood of such being thereby so much impoverished, that many of the habitual Drinkers of Drams are cold and lifeless, even in the midst of Summer, without frequent fresh Draughts of it. But on the other hand, how much abler are sober Persons to endure Cold and Hardships; their vital Heat not being extinguished with Intemperance, does, by its kindly genial Warmth, more effectually secure them from the Inclemency of Weather, than the false Flash of Heat, which a Dram gives. Besides, it is well known, that Men did not perish in the coldest Countries for want of Drams, when they were not to be had.—Of the undoubted Truth of this, Captain *Ellis* gives a full Proof, in the Account of his Voyage to *Hudson's-Bay*, p. 199. where he observes, that the Natives on the very cold Coast of that Bay, to whom the *French* act in a wiser and better Manner, than to sell them distilled Spirituous Liquors, are tall, hardy, robust, and active. Whereas those of them that are supplied with *Drams* from the *English*, are meagre, small, indolent People, hardly equal to the Hardships of the Country, and subject to many Disorders.

It

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It may not be improper here to insert a Panegyric on Temperance, worthy to be recorded in every one's Memory. "O! Temperance! thou Support and Attendant of other
" Virtues! Thou Preserver and Restorer of
" Health, and Protractor of Life! Thou Maintainer of the Dignity and Liberty of rational
" Beings from the wretched inhuman Slavery
" of *Sensuality, Taste, Custom, and Example!*
" Thou Brightner of the Understanding and
" Memory! Thou Sweetner of Life, and all its
" Comforts! Thou Companion of Reason, and
" Guard of the Passions! Thou bountiful Rewarder of thy Admirers and Followers! How
" do thine Excellencies extort the unwilling
" Commendations of thine Enemies! And with
" what rapturous Pleasures can thy Friends raise
" up a Panegyric in thy Praise."

Not only the *Bodies*, but the Minds, of Men are greatly infected by these corrosive inflammatory Spirits, which render them in a remarkable Manner savage and furious, ready for every Violence, and void of all Compassion. The Effect is the same upon Brute Creatures; for

It is very observable, that these pernicious distilled Spirits not only hurt the Flesh, but spoil the Tempers, of Hogs, rendering them remarkably cruel to each other.

This I have upon good Information. As to the Effects of the Flesh of Hogs fed by Distillers upon the Human Body, we have a very authentic Account thereof in a Report from a Committee of the Honourable House of Commons,

G

to

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to whom was referred, in the Year 1745, the Petition of several YEOMEN, FARMERS and GRAZIERS, in the Counties of *Middlesex, Surry,* and *Kent*, concerned in the Growth of CORN, and the Breeding and Fating of CATTLE; also the PETITION of the YEOMEN and FARMERS of *East Kent*.

Mr. *Timothy Child* said, that he had been in the Business of making of Bacon upwards of twenty Years: That he had bought Hogs fatted by Farmers and Distillers; that Pork and Bacon of Distillers Hogs was not near so good as the Farmers, if kept any Time; nor was the Flesh so firm when dressed; that it wasted in the Dressing very much; and that six Pounds of the Bacon, fed in the Country, would do as much Service as eight Pounds of what is fed by the Distillers.

That the Flesh of Distillers Hogs would take Salt, being of a soft Nature; but was unwholesome when kept in Salt or Pickle any Time; and half of it would be rotten, when the Flesh of the Farmers Hogs, killed at the same Time, would be very good.

He said further, That he apprehended the Pork and Bacon of Hogs, fed by Distillers, would not keep good in a Voyage to the *East* or *West-Indies*; and that if the Feeding of Hogs by the Farmers was encouraged, it would cause a great Consumption of Corn.

Mr. *John Jennings* said, that the Commissioners at the Victualling-Office had made an Experiment, by salting some Meat of Hogs fed by
Distillers,

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Distillers, and some of those fed by Farmers; and after each had been barrelled six Months, both were opened, and the Distillers was found to be great Part of it rotten, and the Farmers very good.

These hurtful Spirits greatly tend also to the depraving the Morals of Mankind, by quenching the Spirit of Religion to such a Degree, as to make them profane and abandon'd, as to all Sense of Duty to God or Man; as also wholly regardless of their own either present, or future eternal Welfare and Happiness.

Thus, not only their temporal bodily Health is irreparably depraved to such a Degree, as that, by the concurring Testimony of all Physicians, it cannot be restored; for Medicines have no healing Efficacy in such Cases. But what is infinitely worse, and an astonishing Consideration; their Souls are debas'd and sunk, at so vast a Distance, from all the healing Influences of Religion, that they have no Sense of, nor Longings after the *Fountain of ever-living Waters*.

And since this Evil is become so very epidemical as to debilitate and destroy Multitudes, how fatal must it be to the real Welfare of any Nation, where it rages. Such weighty Considerations ought therefore, in Reason, to rouse the Governors of the Nations, as tender Fathers, to use their utmost Endeavours to deliver the people, committed to their Charge, from this mighty Destroyer. Can there be any Considerations of sufficient Weight to the con-

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trary? And will not this in the end be found a more effectual Means to increase the real Strength and Wealth of a Nation, than to make Drunkenness the cheapest of all Vices.

As the learned Physicians at BATH are in a particular Manner conversant with the Distempers which proceed from excessive Drinking, I was extremely desirous of knowing the Sentiments of that skilful, humane, and religious Physician Dr. HARTLEY; who much for the Benefit of Persons visited with Sickness, has now resided at that Place for some Years. His benevolent Regard to his Fellow-Creatures, prompted him to send me the following very judicious, and very serious Letter. The Opinion and Observations of a Gentleman of so great Skill and Integrity have been thought, by very able Judges, too important and too useful to be suppress'd; however, his Modesty would otherwise have declined the Publication of them.

MY LORD,

I Fear it will not be in my Power to suggest any Thing of Efficacy to stop the Progress of so great an Evil as the present Practice of drinking Spirituous Liquors; however, as your Lordship does me the Honour to desire my Concurrence in so good a Cause; I think myself obliged to use my best Endeavours, and will accordingly

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ingly offer some Remarks upon the two Points proposed by your Lordship, *viz.*

I. The *Nature* and *Certainty* of the ill Effects produced by Gin and other Spirituous Liquors.

II. The most likely and proper Methods of putting an effectual Stop to the pernicious and spreading Vice of drinking them.

The *first*, Of the ill Effects of Spirituous Liquors, which I shall consider, is their *destroying Life* and *Health*. Now in this Respect they may be ranked amongst *Poisons*; for the frequent continued Use of them does as *certainly* destroy Life, though not in so short a Time, as the Bodies termed *poisonous* in a strict Sense. And as *Poisons*, before they extinguish Life, disorder the natural Functions, and occasion exquisite Pains and Torments, so do Spirituous Liquors. They never fail to reduce the unhappy Sufferers to a most deplorable State by a Variety of uneasy and intense Feelings and Maladies, Sickness, Vomitings, Languor, Dejection, Pains of the Stomach and Bowels, Jaundice, Dropsy, Consumption, &c. so that nothing is gained by their being more tedious in their Operation than common *Poisons*. Nay, it is probable that the most malicious Invention could not contrive so great a Degree of Suffering, as *Dram-drinkers* inflict upon themselves in their Way to the Regions of Death and Hell.

A *second* Evil attending these unhappy Persons, is their being reduced to utter Want and Distress in their Fortunes; they spend their Substance and

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and daily Earnings, lead an idle and vagabond Life, and after some Time are rendered incapable, both in Body and Mind, of getting an honest Livelihood. And thus it happens, that some die through the Want of even the most common Necessaries.

The *third* Evil is the intire Subversion of all moral and religious Principles, and the Force which is given to irregular and outrageous Passions; and in this distilled Spirits far exceed all other inebriating Liquors. DRUNKENNESS from them is Frenzy and Madness. Hence Murders, Street-robberies, House-breakings, and all the enormous Mischiefs and Dangers which infest London and other populous Places: Hence the Loss of many precious Souls for which Christ died. It is in Gin-shops and infamous Houses, where Spirituous Liquors are sold, that Youth are first debauched, and entered into Gangs of older Profligates, and of abandoned Ruffians; so that one may call them a kind of *Schools* for teaching the *extremest Vices*, and the Depths of Satan.

If now we consider these Evils as extending every Day more and more to each Age, Sex, and Rank of Life, but especially to the *laborious* Part of Mankind, which make the Bulk of it, and that in every Climate, the hottest as well as the coldest; it will follow that more and more dreadful Havock is likely to be made by distilled Spirits, than by Pestilences, Wars, and Famines, all put together.

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How to prevent this is therefore a Matter of the highest Importance; it is probable that it cannot immediately be done in any great Degree; Reason and Religion cannot take place with any great Effect, except in the *Few*: The *Many*, the head-strong Multitude, are too violently impelled by their Passions to see and hear, and will take the *broad Path*; and yet every Man, whether his Station be public or private, may, by desiring God's Blessing on his Endeavours, and then using them to the utmost of his Power, do something.

And *first*, All Persons ought diligently to watch over themselves, lest they be betrayed insensibly, as it were into the Habit of Dram-drinking. A Dram is supposed a ready Cure for a slight Sickness, or Pain in the Stomach, and for a Fit of Low Spirits; also a proper Defence against Cold in a Journey, &c. and many unwary, and at first innocent Persons of *both* Sexes, are in this Way seduced, and afterwards gradually carried on to the most abandoned and miserable State.

Secondly, All *Masters and Mistresses* of Families, and Superiors of other Kinds, ought to watch over their Servants and Dependants, and by all proper Restraints and Prohibitions, secure their Innocency, as far as lies in their Power. The *Officers* of the *Army* and *Navy* have, perhaps, in this Respect, a harder Task than any other Superiors; but they cannot deserve better of their Country, than by exerting themselves vigorously
in

in the Discharge of a Duty which is of the greatest Importance to its Safety and Welfare.

Thirdly, The Clergy are indispensably bound to guard against the Introduction and Spreading of this pernicious Vice in their Parishes, and to warn their Flocks, by private Admonitions, from House to House, in certain proper Cases, as well as by public Preachings.

Fourthly, Justices of the Peace have considerable Powers intrusted with them, which may serve the good Purposes of preventing and restraining Dram-drinking ; they are therefore obliged to direct and exert their best Endeavours for these Purposes.

Lastly, The Legislative Power of the Nation may undoubtedly find out *some* Method, by which they, as God's Vicegerents, may at least *check* a Vice of so destructive a Nature to the People under their Charge : For He, who has given them a Commission to promote Good and prevent Evil, will certainly support and bless them in the Execution of it. Whatever *present* Inconveniencies may attend the lessening *one* Branch of the public Revenue, whatever Objections and Misconstructions, an opposite political Interest may throw in the Way, all those, who act with a proper Regard to the Almighty and righteous Governor of the World, and Confidence in him, will meet with Success and Reward from him at last, and may for the present expect the Concurrence, Assistance, and Prayers of good and wise Men, as an Earnest and Means thereof. This is a general Truth, of which I cannot

doubt ; but as to the particular Method of putting the desirable Design in Execution, I am not able to suggest any Thing concerning it. I am,

With all Respect,

MY LORD,

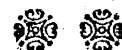
Your Lordship's Most Obedient,

Decr. 4, 1750.

and most Humble Servant,

D. HARLEY.

I find that the inquisitive and skilful Mr. J. T. of BRISTOL, Author of, *A brief Essay on the Advantages and Disadvantages which respectively attend France and Great-Britain, with regard to Trade, &c.* printed for T. Trye, 1750, has collected, from Gentlemen of great Knowledge and Experience in that Place, some Observations, which I hope will soon be laid before the Public, upon distilled *Spirituous Liquors*, and the proper Methods to prevent the excessive Use of them, with particular *Estimates* of the Loss occasioned thereby to *Great-Britain*, in the several Articles of Husbandry, Manufactories, Trade, &c. which amounts in the whole to a prodigious Sum.



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and to be held in a position of trust and confidence
in the office of the Director of the Bureau of
the Department of the Interior. This position is
of great importance and requires a person of
high character and ability.

Very truly yours,

John D. Smith

John D. Smith, Secretary

and Mrs. John D. Smith

D. D. Smith

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your
letter of the 10th inst. and in reply to inform you
that the same has been forwarded to the proper
authorities for their consideration. It is my
hope that you will soon be able to resume your
duties in the office of the Director of the
Bureau of the Department of the Interior. I
am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
John D. Smith, Secretary