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THE  
STANDARD  
OF  
EQUALITIE.  
IN  
Subsidiary Taxes & Payments,  
OR  
A Just and strong Preserver  
OF  
*Publique Liberty.*



London, Printed by D. H. 1647.

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TO THE  
HONORABLE,  
and most worthily accomplish'd  
Sir JOHN D'ANVERS.

SIR,

**I** Have read of a  
Lady, which  
made a sorrow-  
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ittle Infant, which some  
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The Epitile.

Rags) amongst a company of common children. The discovery was the more difficult, because a Babes flesh is too tender for solid signes to bee fastned on it, and the favour thereof too changeable to beare setled markes of distinction from others. At last the Mother found her sonne, only by the direction of his Eye, the sparkling whereof did shine through the cloud of bad Cloaths wherewith it was apparelled.

Fn

The Epitile.

In like manner, This modell, though it bee strangely altered and defaced by the meanenesse of my Expressions, you may perceive therein a vigorous lustre (the Rayes whereof triumph through my dull Language) whereby you may be pleased to owne and acknowledge it, as relating to those Memorials and Expressions, which I have had the Favour to receive from your owne Discourse.

But (Sir) another mo-

A 3 tive

The Epistle.

tive that perswaded me to present this Treatise to your judicious view, is not because I presume that the handling thereof is worthy, but because the subject it self is proper for your patronage. Lighting casually on the Poems of Mr. George Herbert, lately deceased (whose pious Life and Death have converted me to a full beleefe that there is a St. George) and therein perusing the description of a CONSTANT-

MAN,

MAN, it directed my thoughts unto your selfe, having heard that the Author in his life-time had therein designed no other Title then your Character in that Description. And this Discourse, treating of Justice, which hath a marvelous sympathy with Constancy (for nothing grounded on unjust principles can long continue) may therefore most properly addressse it selfe to your Honourable Protection.

J.

*I will Pleade nothing  
in my owne excuse, knowing  
that the Noble Principle  
in your Breast will prevent  
what I would, and exceed  
what I can pleade for my  
selfe. Thus hoping that  
my intentions shall not bee  
condemned for the weak-  
nesse of my performance,  
but rather my performance  
pardoned for the goodnesse  
of my intentions; So rests,*

Your Honours in all

Humble Service,

PHILO-DICÆUS.

**THE STANDARD  
OF  
EQUALITY.**

1. **B**EFORE wee pro-  
ceede to  
the Buil-  
ding, wee  
must cleere the foundation,  
and vindicate the suspicious  
Title of this booke from all  
exception. The rather be-  
cause the offensive sound of  
the word *Equality*, is subject  
B to

*The Standard*

to be falsly rendered by mens jealous apprehensions.

2. By *Equality*, that Anabaptistick parity is not intended, that all men should have Power and State alike, so to lay a leuell Line over all mankinde, sinking the Mountains and raising the Vallies, to make an even *Champaign*. A conceit injurious to mens private property, destructive to the publique State, and no lesse then blasphemous to God himselfe, questioning of and quarreling at his Goodnesse and Wisdome, whose Providence hath ordered such distances in nature. For that  
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*of Equality.*

our Meditations may with the more easie ascent climbe up into the knowledge of an infinite Deity; God hath appointed Vegetable, Sensible, and Rational Creatures, as the stayres whereby wee may mount up into contemplation of him. And amongst reasonable Creatures, some high, some low, some rich, some poore, according to the dispensation of his owne Providence, whence an excellent Harmony doth result. Otherwise they would make strange musick who would have all the Pipes of the Organ Equall in sound  
A 2 length

*The Standard  
length and bignesse.*

3. But by *Equality* in Subsidiary payments is designed a just and impartial dividing of all Taxes, according to mens severall estates. That which the Apostle driveth at in regulating the contributions to the poor in the *Church of Corinth*, 2 *Cor.* 8. 13. *For I meane not that other men be eased, and you burthened but by an equality* tis the desire and endeavor of this Treatise, that no persons bee pressed beyond Justice & Equity, *And that all should beare their due proportions in politique payments.* This Equality

*of Equality.*

lity hath so neere a Sympathy with the *Liberty of the Subject*, That as they unanimously embrace one another; so neither can long subsist (at least not freely flourish) if divided.

4. By *this Liberty* we plead not for that *Licentiousnesse* which many men in all ages have set up as a *Master of misrule*, to justify their extravagancies, and when such their loosenesse is retrenched, presently complain that their liberty is infringed. No, wee neede not lend our Quil, to impethe wings of this wilde

B; Liberty



*The Standard*

*Liberty any longer*, which oft flies too hie of its owne accord. But by Liberty wee meane that Patrimoniall privilege which the poorest Subject in England is borne to, the undoubted inheritance for which the yougest is of full Age at the first instant of his Nativity, beholding it with the light and sucking it in with the Aire, freedome being the breath of the soule, without which it is soone stifled. Our state is no Galley; wherein any Slaves are bound to row at the oares, but it is a ship, wherein all the passengers are free  
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*of Equality.*

merchant adventurers, though according to their different proportions. So that every *English* man may say with *Saint Paul* that he is *free-borne*. No other fine, or fees being paid for this his priveledge, save onely the paines of his Mother when she first brought him forth unto the world.

5 These things premised may I humbly presume to sigh forth the Generall groanes and common complaint of Thousand families in this Land. That all rates and taxes fall intolerably hea-  
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*The Standard*

vie on the midle sort of people, contrary to their Birth-right, Liberty, and the rules of all Equality and Justice. For whereas our Ancestors resolved on the way of subsidies as the fittest and freest meanes to supply the wants of the publique, continuance of time and personall corruptions have so frustrated and defeated their good intents, that Subsidies at this day through the inequality of Sessing them, are almost shrunke to be inconsiderable. And whilst some great ones shift their shoulders from under the publique burden, the  
weight

*of Equality.*

weight thereof falls heavie upon their fellow Subjects, especially on the Yeomanry of the Land : As if the commonwealth in all publique Assesments had played with false Dice, which ran nothing but *Treys* and *Caters*. An injustice which, if not seasonably prevented, will prove the Hectique feaver of our English Liberties, consuming by degrees the radicall moisture thereof.

6. Whereas indeede if any condition of People may pretend to more favor due unto them, the middle ranke of  
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*The Standard*

men seeme best to deserve it, because, I may say, they ly in continuall service, and their labour so beneficiall to the commonwealth, ought to be countenanced, and instead of these unreasonable weights, wings of encouragement should bee given to their industry; whereas now it fareth with them as with the *Bodie-horse* in their Teames, which though drawing most is most lashed, exposed thereunto by the unhappinesse of his posture, being alwaies next to the whip.

7 To remedy and redresse  
this

*of Equality.*

this grievance, no juster and fayrer way doth offer it selfe then by subjecting all comoditys in this Kingdome, by way of Assessement or Excise, to be made contributive to the publique Treasury, and that all Persons whatsoever, partaking of protection in the State, should share likewise equally in their payments thereunto, according to their severall proportions, A rule of such undenyable Justice, that Nature it selfe might seeme to have dictated it, to the capacitys of some bruit Creatures.

It

*The Standard*

8. It is observed of the Beavers in *Virginia*, that when disposed to carry a Beame to the building of their Kennell or Burrough (wherein they are curious Architects) they set such who are most faint and feeble, of their Company, to the lesser and lighter end of the Beame, and order such as are the strongest, amongst them, for the portage of the heaviest part thereof. Mens hats may not only be made of Beavers haire, but their Heads and Hearts may be taught Equity from the example of so small a creature, instructing us that all Burdens of publique concernment ought

*of Equality.*

ought to be impartially born by all Persons which reape benefit in the Commonwealth. For as all men ought to be exempted from the shackles and fetters of servility, so it is just and equall, that they be all tied alike, in the same Girdles and Garters, which are both for the adorning and strengthening of the Commonwealth; wherefore the effect of our ensuing discourse is, to propound the evenest way of setting of rates in the Land, according to justice, and the least grievance of the Subject.

*The Standard*

9 No selfe-end or desire to court the notice of the world hath put me on this designe. But only love of Justice and the good of my country, which every true Patriot ought effectually to advance. Hoping that when divine goodnesse shall restore our land to her former peace and tranquillity and when the King shall be remarried to the State (to which there is a probable and promising forwardnesse, if our sinns in this land forbid not the Banes) all things will be settled and modeled in an excellent method and politike uniformity.

*of Equality.*

mity. According to the wise pattern and platforme established by our Ancestors (in that best comprehending and comprehended Government by Kings Lords and Commons) bettered and improved by experience of our Age, which in few yeares as it had the misery to see many changes, so it hath had advantage to learne and gather much knowledge thereby. Amongst many others I humbly tender this sparke of discovery, prostituting it at the feete of the judicious in authority who if disliking it may tread it out and quench it,

*The Standard*

it, or blow it up in a flame, if it be found usefull for the generall good.

10 Now whereas we lay it for a groundwork that all subsidiary payments may most equally be assessed by way of Excise on Lands, Good, &c. we will first endeavour to vindicate the word Excise from that odiousnesse, it hath generally but unjustly incur'd. Two causes there are make an English stomack disgust the Excise; both because it is novell, and also hath beene abused in the execution thereof. But whilst passionate men  
rend

*of Equality.*

rend out all the Letters which concurre to the spelling of the very word, may the judicious Reader bee requested but to hold his fingers till the matter bee truly stated and then proceede to censure.

11. That the Excise, rightly ordered, is the ready way to raise a Masse of Money, with the least sensible pressure of the People, appears by the practise of our Neighbours in the Low-countries, A Nation so zealous of Liberty, that this Article alone, hath made all o-  
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*The Standard*

other Creeds in their Countrey to agree in a joynt defence against the publique invader of their freedome. Yet even these have pitched upon the Excise, as the surest, speediest, easiest provision for the publique, as in which what hath dropt out of private purses, by un-perceived degrees, flowes in a full and faire streame into the common Banke.

12. Yea come over into *England*, and wee shall soone observe that the Excise, though new and strange in sound, is old and familiar in  
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*of Equality.*

the practise thereof. For all Impositions, Taxes and Customs, formerly imposed upon wares and commodities, were in effect the same with the Excise, though under another name and notion; Only that which made these Taxes so much distast-ed by the Subject, was because many of them were imposed by Arbitrary Power, and exercised in the nature of odious Monopolies, oft times by men of narrow Hearts and wide Hands, meerely minding their owne private interest. For the body of our State will, not only

*The Standard*

patiently but cheerfully undergoe great pecuniary burdens for the publique benefit, provided that her back bee kept whole and unhurt, I meane her Liberty not prejudiced and impayred by the illegality of such impositions. But if once her freedom be infringed, not only to the breaking of her skinne but bruising of her flesh, the least and lowest Rate which can bee demanded, lighting on such a sore or galled place, becoms an intollerable Torture. No wonder therefore if the State not only wincheth at it for the present, but  
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*of Equality.*

for the future, waits the first opportunity to kick it off and cast it downe, not so much because pressed with the weight, as pained with the wrongfullnesse thereof.

13. Wherefore amongst other Regulations of the Excise, these particulars may profitably bee propounded. First, that when God of his gracious goodnesse shall bee pleased to blesse us with Peace, the Excise bee ratified by Act of Parliament, which will instantly alter the shape and complexion thereof in the eyes of the People; for  
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*The Standard*

presently they will looke on it as their owne voluntarie deede, proceeding from such as represent them : And Love to the hand which laid it on (ultimately resolved to bee their owne) will lessen and lighten the burden ; summoning those their Spirits ( hitherto lost and lavisht away in fruitlesse fuming and fretting against the Excise) hereafter to bee better imployed in the cheerefull undergoing thereof.

14. Secondly, that a tender care be had of the fundamentals, as I may terme them, of  
Man's

*of Equality.*

Man's life, namely Bread, Flesh, Salt, Small-beere, &c. That in all matters of Taxes the State lay her Finger on things necessary for mans sustenance, and her Loynes on such things as are meerely superfluous. Otherwise it would be lamentable that the poore Labourer, who hath threshed all day for a livelyhood, should himselfe bee threshed at night with unconscionable payment for things tending to the bare support of Nature.

15. Thirdly, that fauor be shewed to Manufactures, that

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*The Standard*

men be not made to pay Excise for the dropping of their own sweat, and a speciall regard be had to the encouragement of industry in cloathing; For, what is confidently reported of many Houses and Churches built in moist and spungy places, that they are founded on wooll-packs, is certainly true of our English State, whose greatest profit is grounded on that same commodity; where by numberlesse People are fed and maintained: Care therefore must bee taken that Artificers be tenderly used in the Excise, otherwise it will  
cause

*of Equality.*

cause a Crampe or *hand-Gout* in all Manufactures: Yea industry will be left in a worse condition then idlenesse, for though both alike bee sent supperlesse to bed, yet Idlenes shall only be hungry, but Industry hungry & weary too, taking paines without profit, which is swallowed up in the publique Excise.

16. Lastly, if the number & fees of Officers therein employed bee thriftily reduced, not left at large, to share for themselves, as if the kernell were made for the shell, and the Excise only and chiefly  
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*The Standard*

intended to enrich the Receivers and Collectors thereof. And indeed in all ages it hath been observed that Publicans (though they carry much of the Publick in their Names) are of all People, in their practise, most addicted to their private commodity. Here it would be considered of, what competent Terme of time they should hold their places, and at what season such who have lyen long in service at the receipt of *Custom* should have others to relieve them, not so much for their ease, as the ease of the Commonwealth. For, as those who are  
much

*of Equality.*

much employed in telling of Silver, have commonly their fingers coloured and blacked therewith, so even upright Soules, long continuing in such many Offices, gather & contract, by degrees a foyle tincture, growing daily lesse diligent for the publique-Good, and more cunning for their private advantage. Yea, it were to be wished that Offices in the Excise were made of more credit, and lesse profit, more lustre and esteeme being cast upon them, so that the Reputation thereof might passe in part of payment and compensation of their paines  
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*The Standard*

employed herein, which would invite men of quality and known estates to entertaine the Place, rather then to bee entertained by it, only with moderate allowance to discharge and defray the same from being burdensome unto them; Whereas now such Offices are commonly hunted after, by hungry persons (whom wee may call men of *fortune*, in the same sense as others are termed *Souldiers of fortune*, not such as have, but seeke a settled estate, comming with intent to prey on the Common-wealth, under pretence to serve it.

17 These

*of Equality.*

17. These Limitations observed (with reservation of Roome for such additionalls as better judgements may contribute) whereas now the excise-House is beheld of men as the *Bridewell* of the Estates, wherein they are stript and whipt without measure or mercy, they will hereafter bee justly reconciled to a more favourable opinion thereof; And those very Butchers, now ready with their Axes and Knives to knock downe and cut the throat of the Excise, will be converted into a more charitable persuasion thereof, when made sensible

*The Standard*

sensible that it is the most effectually and least offensive meanes to supply the emergent necessities of the Common-wealth.

18. To proceede now to some particulars. All things which are beneficiall to the possessors in this Kingdome, and by consequence ought to be contributive to the publique, fall under the foure heads of Lands, Houses, Goods. and Mony at interest. To begin with the first, lands are easily rated, if six pence in the pound, more or lesse (as the wisdom of the State shall ad-

*of Equality.*

adjudge expedient to be laid on their annual worth through the Kingdom. And in case the owner doth not himselve reside on his Lands, the Occupant or Tenant for the time being, shall make that sum good to the State, with power (according to the nature and condition of his Lease or Bargaine) to deduct the same out of his Rent, when accounting with his Land-lord.

19. Houses cannot bee reduced to so constant a valuation, because subject to more casualties, of fire, vacancy by in-

*The Standard*

infection or otherwise. The best ground wee can give thereby, to take the steddiest ayne at so uncertain a marke is, by rating each House with two chimnies or fire places according to the proportion of two acres of Land. Herein we abate a moiety of what the rigour of the Law requireth, alotting foure acres to every House to bee erected. And according as two acres of Land in those respective places are valued, so to estimate a House with two chimnies, and to increase proportionably as the house shall be found to be greater. If the  
Town

*of Equality.*

Towne, Borough or City wherein this House shall stand, shall have no Land thereto belonging, whereby to make this valuation, then let respect bee had to the worth of two acres of Land in the neereſt place adjacent thereunto, and let the House be rated accordingly.

20. It will bee objected that many of those Houses will fall out to be but bare retiring places of pleasure, returning no profit to their owners. But know that such persons, having plentiful estates, if their Cup run

*The Standard*

over for their private delight, some drops thereof must fall beside to the common good.

21. Goods follow in the third place to bee assessed by way of Excise, of which, thus much in generall. That lesser Taxes (as lowe and little as the necessity of the estate will permit) will bring in the greatest gaine : For where impositions fall extreme hea-  
vie, many will bee disabled, and others disheartned in trading, whereas reasonable rates doe quicken traffique with greater profit to the publique. Those Land-lords  
which

*of Equality.*

which let their Cobby-holds and other Leases cheapest make most money, whose Tenants (like tame Doves which breede eleven times in the yeere) are alwaies bringing in profit to their Masters, whereas the Fines of enhauncing Land-lords (like the byrths of Elephants, many yeeres in perfecting) come seldome and prove not so beneficiall. For it is not alwaies that sheepe which beareth the deepest fleece, but which cometh ofttest to be shorne, which returneth most gaine to the owner.

*The Standard*

22. Mony at interest coms in the last place to bee taxed. Hereon (namely on the increase or confideration Monney) a poundage may bee leaved of ~~three~~ shillings in the pound. So that

On every Bargaine or Contract betwixt Creditor & Debtor.

An hundred pounds let at use for	}	4	}	Pounds, { shall pay yearly to the State	shillings.
		5			
		6			
		7			
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And surely, as Parents presume with uncontrollable confi-

*of Equality.*

confidence more sharply and severely to correct their own children (then the sonnes of strangers) as having a peculiar reference to, & proper dominion over them, so the Common wealth may bee bold to lay a round Taxe on use mony, a Son, a Creature of their owne; owing its byrth and being to the courtesie and sole subsistence, to the connivance and toleration of the State.

23. This in processe of time will prove very beneficiall to Trading, and so by consequence to the Common D; wealth.



*The Standard*

wealth. For we may observe an Innate desire in all men (some few vaine glorious persons excepted) with silence and secrecy to steale into an estate, to growe rich without making noise, which otherwise would giue an Alarm to envie, and expose them to more expence, expected from them. Now cloffe hoorders up of money, being loth to let their coyn lie dead in their Coffers without returning them profit, and unwilling on the other side, in open Contracts to confesse and discover their wealth, will embrace a middle way  
to

*of Equality.*

to reconcile their hope of gaine with their humour of secrecie. This they will doe by finding out some Trademen, of whose ability, industry and honesty, they are well assured, and privily joining stocks with them, on confidence of a proportionable consideration from the improvement of their money by them imployed; relying rather on the private promise of such honest persons, then willing to reveal their estates for the benefit of use money; a thing alwaies doubtfull in Conscience, and made deere in the State, when certaine  
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*The Standard*

poundage is imposed upon it.

24. Here a necessity is implied that it should be poenal for any Person to admit or suffer any under-rating, or fail of payment & discovery of whatever shall be intended and prescribed contributive to the Publique, by Act of Parliament. For strange it is to observe with what confidence men presume to cheate and deceive the publique, spending freely upon the States, as on another mans purse, whether it bee in hope of not being discovered, seeing few graines cannot bee missed

*of Equality.*

missed out of so great a heap, or if discovered, in confidence of easie accounting, presuming perchance on the favour of such as should censure them, as possibly guilty in the same nature themselves. Besides they are bold with the State (the *Shot payer* Generall) as with their publique Parent, with whose goods their children may freely partake. Yea they cheer their Consciences with this weake comfort, that they are injurious to no particular man, seeing a round sum taken from the publique is not considerable to the interest of any

*The Standard*

any private person. These Fallacies so farre perswade them, as without feare to defraud the common Stock which afterwards inclines & enables them to deceive their Neighbours, seeing his conscience, who hath swallowed the doing of a wrong to the publique, will never be choakt with cheating single Persons. The best way therefore to fright men out of this falshood, is by a sharp penalty on such as either shall actually cozen the State, or suffer it to be deceived, by having themselves undervalued out of all reasonable distance, as  
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to a fist of their estates. Provided that none be constrayned by Oath to accuse themselves; the foulest Rape that can bee offered on the chaste Liberty of an English Subject.

25. Great and many benefits would accrue to all sorts of People if this justice were generally observed in all Taxes. For first it would cure the disease of sore eyes, grown Epidemicall amongst the common sort. These doe with bad lookes behold the height and greatnesse of others, almost conceiving themselves

*The Standard*

selves injured by the Honour  
 and wronged by the wealth  
 of the Nobility and Gentry  
 of this Kingdom; either un-  
 willing to consider, or unable  
 to conceive, that divine Pro-  
 vidence, and Princes well  
 grounded bounty, have lifted  
 such men higher, and spread  
 them broader than others.  
 But now meane people will  
 leave off envying and repy-  
 ning at their betters, when  
 such shall pay equall to the  
 meanest in proportion to  
 their estates. None will have  
 cause to begrudge the Beauty  
 or Height of Corner Stones,  
 when beholding them to  
 beare

*of Equality.*

beare a double degree of  
 weight in the building. Yea,  
 hereafter the common sort  
 will behold Noblemen and  
 Gentlemen, with a regardfull  
 delight, not only because  
 their great meanes are respon-  
 sible with the smallest in all  
 publique accounts, but also  
 sensible of the great benefit  
 which vulgar people reape  
 and receive by the naturall  
 parts and acquired accom-  
 plishments of such as are of  
 noble extraction. For whilest  
 such honourable persons are  
 imployed in publique Offices  
 of State, their abilities are ser-  
 viceable to the behoofe of  
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*The Standard*

the meanest, who freely possess what the other hath dearly purchased. Their farre forreigne travels are brought home to their doores, and all the results of their discoveries and observations, which cost expence, paine, danger and long experience, are freely tendered to be usefull and serviceable to their lowest fellow Subject in the Kingdom.

26. Secondly, this equality in bearing or sharing the burden or benefit in all Rates & Taxes for subsidie of lands or Goods, by way of Assessm<sup>t</sup> or Excise, will prevent the im-

*of Equality.*

imposing of needlesse payments on the people; when Parliament men (who are or should bee persons of prime wealth and estate) shall perceive that what they lay on others falls most heavie on themselves, and all pecuniary burthens, light first on the Rasters before they come to the Laths. This I say will make them cautious how they cast needlesse burthens on the Common-wealth, and will make them lay and levie no more Taxes then the absolute exigency of the State doth extort. For it may bee well presumed, that hee who is

*The Standard*

is to strike another through himselfe, will give him but as easie and gentle a blowe as possible he may. And when the greatest part of the stream must flow out from Parliament mens purses, they will bee sure to lavish no more water then what will turne the Mill.

27. Thirdly, It will by degrees repressse Riot, and abate Luxurie in the Land. For such as steere the state will labour as much as they may to ease themselves, by laying the lesse weight on Lands, Houles and things necessary, and

*of Equality.*

and will throw the Bulk of the burden of the Excise of the kingdome, on such forraigne commodities as may best be spared. May we bee sensible of, and thankfull for the goodnesse and bountie of God to this Island, in affording it all absolute necessaries for mans subsistence (especially if industry were used) so that whatsoever is found defective in our Land, may bee concluded superfluous for our Life. But besides these, it is strange to see what a company of *Need-nots* are daily imported into the Kingdome, things which may be wanted  
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*The Standard*

without want; yea, the best that can bee said of some of them is, that they are superfluous, which may bee challenged upon strong suspicion to bee hurtfull and dangerous. Nor is it lesse sad to behold, how the Teeth of the Commonwealth are rotten with feeding on such sweetmeates, as are pleasant to a wanton Palat, but unwholsome to the stomach of the State. All this will bee remedied when such sweet meats shall bee sawced with such sowre payments as shall fright the Rytous into thriftinesse, or make the desperate

*of Equality.*

rate Prodigall pay deare for his pleasure.

28. It will be objected that if Luxurie bee stinted, thousands will bee starved in this Kingdome. For as matters now stand, Riot is the greatest housekeeper in *England*. Charity maintains but some few in Colledges, Hospitals, and at some great mens gates; but Excesse keeps many meniall servants, with more Retayners at large, whose trades and professions meerly depend on the Luxury of this Kingdome. All these with their families will bee at a

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*The Standard*

losse for a lively-hood, if Luxurie ( the Master which hitherto hath set them a worke, and paid them their wages ) should in this Land decay in his estate : It may therefore in some sort seeme thrift to connive at prodigality, and Policie to permit Luxury in this Kingdome.

29. But to this it is answered that such People whose subsistence heretofore was only on referrence to Luxury finding their foundation to faile them, will begin on a better and surer bottom, and seasonably betake themselves  
(for-

*of Equality.*

forced by necessity ) to some more usefull professions, there being latitude enough in this Land for their severall employments. For nature in this Island tenders us the rude materials of many commodities, and makes signes, as I may say, to Art and Industry to perfect what shee hath begunne. Which signes though men hitherto, out of ignorance or idlenesse, could not, or would not understand, yet hereafter they will bee made to marke them : And being cashiered by Luxury, they will list themselves under Industry, as the surer pay master,  
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*The Standard*

and finde out some more certaine and profitabler imployment.

30. Lastly, Equality of Rates, being thus settled all over the Kingdome, it will inspire all Trades with a vigorous cheerfullnesse to prosecute their calling. The husbandman as well as his Land will be in heart, the spinsters wheele would merrily turne round, an edge would bee set on the Cloath workers sheeres, and a fresh colour on the Diers cheekes. None wil regret at the payment of Taxes, when equally proportioned

*of Equality.*

ned amongst all Persons, on all commodities. For the Porters of this City are politicians enough in this point to teach us how easily a burden is borne when equally poizd on the sholders. And this wil constantly supply the State against all emergencies with a plentiful Treasure of money, which is the sinnews of a Commonwealth. For as all the Piety of the Patriarke *Jacob* could not preserve him from halting, when the sinnew in his thigh was shrunk so no Piety or Wisdome can keepe that Commonwealth from heing a Cripple, where.

*The Standard*

in the Nerves of money are wanting, for the lawfull advance whereof all must contribute their utmost endeavours.

31. Here it were to be wished that publique encouragement might be given to such undertakers, who are the discoverers of profitable Projects, not only to such as exactly hit the marke, but even to those that probably misse it, because their aberrations may be directions to others. This would make active braines to beate about for new inventions, wherein  
former

*of Equality.*

former Ages and Nations have beene very fruitfull, and ours, might be presumed, would not be barren. And though many Tympanies, false conceptions, and strange byrths would be produced, and many frustrations, aberrations and miscarriages brought forth, yet amidst these, some pregnant wits would happily be delivered of rare Inventions, especially if the State were pleased to be their Midwife, favourably to encourage them.

32. We see no Nation post with more haste, or crowd in  
more

*The Standard*

more numbers to Lotteries than our English. No people is more contentedly cozened with hope of gaine, in that kinde, no whit disheartened by the disproportion of Blanks to adventure for the Prize. This discovereth in our country men a curious humor to bee tampering with contingencies, and a longing mind and liquorish palat, after novell projects, especially if made luscious with probability of profit. An active humor, which if vented the right way, and directed to the true end, might prove (as now destructive to themselves)

*of Equality.*

(selves) well and beneficiall to themselves and others, in putting them on hard, but honourable Projects, or difficult designes, but sweetned with likelihood of successe, O what *Indies* would they finde in *England*! rescuing Treasure from the jawes of the Sea, or bowels of the Earth, enlarging the dimensions of this Land, not to make it longer or broader, but deeper by their industry.

33 Here we take the boldness to point at a double Injustice. First, many men when they have conquered  
an

*The Standard*

an hard invention, another is crowned with all the credit thereof. As in the fable of the byrds, striving to fly highest, when the Sovereigne Eagle had soared above them all, the small Wren, which covertly had conveyed her selfe upon the Eagles back mounted with her owne wings a little higher, and so got the victory, so many men improving themselves on the discoveries made by the brain and paines of others, and only adding some complementall enlargements of their owne, have plundered the first founders of all the praise and profit

*of Equality.*

fit of their invention. Thus any common-fellow may set fire to a Gunne, and hit the marke, whilest the commendation belongs justly to him who first rightly mounted and levelled the Ordnance.

34. The second is a greater grievance; namely when one on his owne purse and paines, hath compleated a project profitable for the commonwealth, and then some great Person, stepping in by force or favor, ejects the true owner out of the possession of what his industry had acquired. Wee reade in the second

*The Standard*

cond of *Samuel* 23. 16. How those three were accounted amongst  *Davids* worthies, who breaking through the Army of the Philistines fetched water from the well of *Bethlehem*, to satisfie the longing of king *David*, Well then in like manner may that meritorious knight be ranked amongst the Worthies of this Realme, who to quench the thirst of thousands in the populous City of *London*, fetcht water more then foure and twenty mile on his own cost encountring all the way with an Army of Oppositions, grappling with Hills, struggling with

*of Equality.*

with Rocks, fighting with Forrests, and yet with admirable constancy hewed out his passage in defiance of all difficulties, and brought his project to perfection. When a potent Person, and idle spectator strikes in, and by his greatnesse possesseth himselfe of a moiety of the profit, which the unwearied endeavors of the aforesaid Knight had purchased to himselfe. Such injustice for the future may be prevented, that men may quietly reape what their industry hath sowne, not disturbed by the intrusion of others.

35. But

*The Standard*

35. But to returne to the equality of Rates setled over the Land, when the Excise shall bee excised according to the aforesaid restrictions, and all Taxes established in their respective proportions, over all persons and commodities, this will publish and cleere the severall conditions and values of men, as they are estated and intrusted in possessions, that so, if the ability of their mindes and civility of their behaviour bee answerable to their meanes, they may be suited accordingly with places of power and trust in the Commonwealth.

Here

*of Equality.*

36 Here it would be considered of.

1. *What summe of payment to the State should enable a man with a voice or suffrage to choose a Knight or Burgesse in Parliament.*
2. *How much shall qualifie him to serve in petty or grand juries.*
3. *What proportion may render him capable of the Commission of the peace.*
4. *How much may make him eligible to be a Member of Parliament.*

It being to be presumed  
F that

*The Standard*

that such who have best bot-  
tomes of their own are least  
Subject to temptations of in-  
justice, and it being equall  
that such as pay most to the  
State should be honoured  
from the State with most  
credit and imployment.

37 As for necessitous Per-  
sons, un-intressed in the State,  
as obliged thereto by no con-  
siderable fortune (engaged ra-  
ther to their creditors then  
their Country) it hath ever  
beene accounted dangerous  
to imploy them in places of  
high trust. For whilst men of  
meanes are fixed to the free  
hold

*of Equality.*

hold of the Commonwealth,  
therein to runne, or rather to  
stand the hazard thereof; in-  
digent persons like light  
moveables may on any occa-  
sion of danger quickly con-  
vey themselves away, even at  
the windows of the State,  
if the dore be not opened un-  
to them.

38 True it is, some rare  
Precedents may be found of  
men from meane estates, pro-  
moted by convenient degrees  
through severall tryalls, unto  
places of power in most im-  
portant Councells, wherein  
they have acquitted their inte-  
grity

*The Standard*

grity even to admiration. But the generality of mens corruption treads in the footsteps of that Statesman, who from a lowe Fortune, commenced an honourable and great Officer, *per saltum*, and being minded of the publick good, hee bound it with an Oath, *That in the first place hee must and would provide for his owne estate.* Thus though security may be given by their friends, for the truth of such intrusted in money matters; no caution can be put in, no pledge or pawne devised to oblige men of great abilities, with keen, eager and active

*of Equality.*

ctive parts, to be faithfull to the publique, otherwise then what security ariseth from their owne considerable estates in the Commonwealth.

39 But here it will be objected that this will dishearten ingenuous men from accomplishing themselves to serve the publique, when disabled from preferment for want of meanes. It is the *Standard of Inequality* to measure wit by wealth, and the highest injustice to debarre able parts from imployment. How many men have shrunke their



*The Standard*

Portion into their Education, & contracted many Acres of Ground into their own accomplishment. And we read Eccles. 9. 15. of a poore wise man who by his wisdom delivered a City. This man had beene excluded all activity in the State, if riches onely rendred men capeable thereof.

40 But in answere hereunto, bee it known that such order might, and ought to bee taken, that flourishing Parts should not wither, for want of Maintenance, but be watered with the comfortable dew from the publique Treasury

*of Equality.*

Treasury. For when the State shall discover one of extraordinary Education and Abilities (so that Divine Providence seemes to designe him for publique employments, by enabling him above his equals) Earth ought so to concur with Heaven, as to choose and weigh out his merits, and to give him a suteable Fortune to ingage and uphold his integrity to the Common-wealth. That so having breadth of meanes answerable to his height of parts, he may appeare in all dimensions, a person proportionable, to manage a publique

*The Standard*

lique Trust. This would turne men's lives into a Race of vertue wherein the nimble and able parted, spurred on with hope of reward, would lovingly strive to outstrip each other in worthy Accomplishment.

4<sup>1</sup> I know that in this age, wherein men are deafe to any motion which sounds not to their own profit, it will be hard to perswade People freely to contribute to the maintenance of others. But let such seriously consider that their bounty in this kind is the best thrift, and

*of Equality.*

and what herein they give, they save to themselves. For suppose that such able spirits with weake Estates, impatient to be imprisoned in a narrow fortune should by their own undertaking and projecting, (studying and watching the Humours of Times and Princes) gaine trust to themselves, and intrude or insinuate their diligence into places of high importance, hath not their corruption a plausible plea, or at leastwise a probable Temptation, *vix & modis*, in the first place to provide for themselves? We read of king Edward

*The Standard*

*Edward* the first, that he made the length of his owne Arme, the standard of the Yard, to be used in measuring all over *England*; But such men of high honours and hungry Fortunes too often make the graspe of their owne hands, the measure of their moderation, clutching as much as their long fingers are able to conteine, to the great præjudice of the Publique. This hopefully might be prevented, if such Persons might sufficiently be armed against all force and feare of want, out of the Publique Magazine, and proportionable meanes

to

*of Equality.*

to support them provided fitting their eminent Parts with places of Trust, and furnishing their Places with maintenance to support the dignity thereof without endangering them to descend to unworthy wayes for their subsistence.

42 And here a worthy custome long discontinued deserves to be revived and put in practise. Some Hundred yeares since the eminent and promising Witts of either University were picked out, and sent over into forraign parts and there main-

tained

*The Standard*

tained many yeares on the publique Cost: whence these Merchants for experience returning home with their gainfull adventures were preferred according to the improvement of their time to Offices in their owne Country. Sir Thomas *Smith* that learned Secretary to *Queene Elizabeth*, was the last of the Brood which was Hatch'd in this manner. Well it would be if the like Nurserie were now new planted, and the Stocks of young Students grafted with forraigne education, on the common charge. In a word, if where  
God

*of Equality.*

God gives Talents, men would give Pounds, incouraging hopefull Abilities with helpfull maintenance neither neede the necessitous be raised to places of Trust, nor poore men of great parts be excluded the Line of Preferment.

43. But this Subject is of that ample latitude and grand desert, that the copiousnesse thereof cannot be confin'd to this small treatise, nor can it in so little a volum satisfie the particulars of all emergencies. I have red how one having bought a small Map  
of

*The Standard.*

of the world, was afterwards  
 offended therewith as false  
 and defective, because the  
 Map only taking cognizance  
 of great Citties did not, by  
 name, expresse the private  
 place of his habitation. I  
 hope this Treatise shall light  
 on more judicious and cha-  
 ritable Readers, who will  
 not condemne our discourse  
 (wherein onely generall  
 Heads are breifely summed  
 up, and represented as I may  
 say in Lanskip) if therein  
 they finde not an exact speci-  
 fication of all particulars in  
 Assessments or Excise which  
 their expectation promised  
 unto

*of Equality.*

unto themselves. Wherefore I  
 must be forc'd to leave the  
 full and exact prosecution  
 thereof to men of greater po-  
 wer and parts, the Subject be-  
 ing of such receipt as will  
 entertaine and imploy their  
 best abilityes.

44. Lastly when the vast  
 consequence both morall and  
 Divine arising from these  
 and the like notions of Equi-  
 ty and Justice, shall be happi-  
 ly infused into Governing  
 Spirits, and dilated in pra-  
 ctise and execution, by cast-  
 ing the greatest weight of ne-  
 cessary charges from mens  
 recall

*The Standard.*

reall estates upon superflui-  
ties, it will so invite the bles-  
sing of Almighty God upon  
us, that it will promote and  
advance that heaven upon  
earth, and most happy spe-  
ctacle which here can be pre-  
sented to the divine Majesty,  
most delighted, when look-  
ing from his Throne, on earth  
his Foot-stoole, to behold the  
symetry of a well govern'd  
Common-wealth.

*F F N F S.*