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A  
VINDICATION  
OF A  
PAMPHLET

Lately published, Intituled

*The Tryal of the Spirits.*

Together with

Some Observations relating to the *West-India* Trade, and the Encouragement of our Sugar Colonies abroad, and our useful Manufactures at home.

Humbly Inscribed to the Right Honourable  
ARTHUR ONSLOW, Esq; Speaker of the Honourable  
House of Commons.

By ADAM HOLDEN, of *Greenwich*.

*Iustum & tenacem propositi virum,  
Non Civium ardor prava jubentium,  
Non vultus instantis Tyranni,  
Mente quatit solidâ.*

Horat.

LONDON:

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To the Right HONOURABLE

*Arthur Onslow, Esq;*

**A**S several *Essays* have lately appear'd for and against the *Distillery*, I who have been a mere Spectator, intreat your Patience for the Trouble I may give you in the Perusal of some short Observations I have made on that Subject. If you'll indulge me with your *Attention*, I'll not be prodigal of your *Time*.

THAT which rais'd my Curiosity to enquire into the *Controversy*, was a little Pamphlet intituled, *A proper Reply* to another, intituled, *The Tryal of the Spirits, &c.*

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Having turn'd over a few Pages of the *Proper Reply*, I soon found it's *Author* to be the most extraordinary Man, that ever appear'd for a *modest Champion*. I therefore gravely laid the *Thing* down, resolv'd to see what the other Party had said, that could *inflame* this *young Author* with so much *Heat* and *Fire*. Young I am persuaded he must be in *this* sort of *Opposition*; otherwise he would never have given his *Adversary* so much Advantage over him, nor have betray'd such a particular Fondness for his own Production, as to *hire* People to *give* it away, not only in (but some Miles distant from) *London*; by which Conduct one of them dropped into my Hands.

BUT enough of *that Pamphlet*.

I THEN took up the *Tryal of the Spirits*, &c. humbly offered to the Right Honourable Sir *Robert Walpole*, and to the Right Honourable Sir *Joseph Jekyl*, and read it *throughout*. I confess I found nothing but *Argument* in that, founded upon *Facts*; nor could I discover any *scurrilous* Language in it. Perhaps the *Stile* may be too strong for the *Taste* of *some*, or some *Phrases* so poignant for the *Circumstances* of *others*. Be that as it will, as the *Design* in general is *good* and *honest*, and wrote with a  
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*sincere Intention* to serve the *Community*, at least in the *Light* it appears to me; I therefore take Leave to *vindicate* that *Author's Design*, which I flatter myself I can execute with *Decency*, without any *Guilt* of *Immorality*, or a *Violation* of the known Rules of *good Manners*.

To the Point then.

THE TWO *Positions* that he lays down are,

THAT the *Malt-Stillery*, in it's *present Circumstance*, cannot subsist with the *Good* of the *Community*, and with it's *own Well-being*; which he thinks will appear from the *Reason* and *Nature* of the *Thing* itself. And, *è contra*,

THAT the *Importation* of *Rum*, and the *Distillation* of *Melasses* at *home*, is *consistent* with the *Good* of the *Community*, and with the *Reason* of the *Thing* itself.

These are the two *Points*, on which the *Argument* turns; and God forbid, but they should *both* have *fair play*.

As to the *first* of these, Sir, give me Leave to present you with a *short View* of the  
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the *Arguments* the *Author* of the *Trial*, &c. has there *advanced*, and then I'll go on to make some *further* Observations, naturally arising from this *Subject*.

THE *first* is, the *Mischief* it does to our *Artificers*, *Manufacturers*, and *Labourers*, in general: For if these be *disabled*, what will become of the *rest* of the *Society*? That it has *this* Effect, is so plain to every common Observer; that to labour a *Proof* of it, would be spending of Time to no manner of Purpose.

THE *next* Attempt is, to answer that *popular Argument*, that the *Malt-Stillery* is for the *Good* of the *Landed Interest*, which the *Author* (as far as I can judge) with *good reasoning* denies. For as it weakens the *labouring People*, it cannot *really* promote any *Interest* at all. But the *Landed Interest*, particularly suffers upon this Account, in the *Brewery*, the *Bakery*, the *Butchery*, and the *Grasery*; and even in the *Woollen Manufacture*, all which the *Author* thinks are far from being an Equivalent to all the Advantage that *can possibly* result from the *Malt-Stillery*. This, I think, in *Minia- ture*, is *fairly* prov'd, I cannot therefore recede from this, but be of his Opinion, till convinced by *solid Arguments*.

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THE Reason, therefore, that the *Malt-Stillery* cannot subsist with the *Good* of the *Community*, is, that large Quantities *must* be made of these *Spirits*, which *must* be afforded at so low a Rate, as to make 'em the Purchase of the poorest of the People, for their common Tipple. Herein therefore lies the *Mischief* of this Trade to the *Community*, *viz.* that 'tis *adapted* to the *Circumstances* of the *common, labouring, People*, and those *only*: Lay but the *Bait*, the *Temptation*, before these sort of People, all the Laws in being, or that can be made consistent with the natural Right of the Subject, can *never* prevent 'em from being *drunk*, from *ruining* themselves, and, in themselves, *hurting* the *Society* in every *Interest* and *Branch* of it.

'TIS very plain, that the *richer* and *better* Part of the *Society* never taste these *Liquors*, but from mere *Curiosity*. Hence it will appear, therefore, that as a *Malt-Stillery* cannot be erected and carried on without a *very* large Expence, for the Support of which, *great* Quantities of these *Spirits* must be vended,

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and that if these *Spirits* were not bought by the *common* and *poorest* Sort of the *People*, they must *lie upon the Hands of the Maker*; the *Consequence*, I say, *must* be, that either the *Community* must suffer, or it will be worth no Man's While to carry on the Trade in the Shape it now appears.

BEFORE I dismiss this Head, give me Leave, Sir, to make an *Observation* or two.

THE first is, That this *Trade*, namely the *Malt-Stillery*, is calculated for it's own Good *only*, and as it now stands is not consistent with the Good of *any other whatsoever*, nay not even with that of it's necessary *Dependants*, such as Copper-Smiths, Back-makers, Bricklayers, &c. Except their *Artificers* and *Manufacturers* are a great deal more *prudent* and *virtuous* than any others. But this cannot be supposed. Therefore it properly subsists by itself, and for it's own *Emolument*, to the universal *Detriment* of Mankind. The *Proportion* I think is *self-evident*. If those, who are of another Opinion, will give themselves the trouble of enquiring into the

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the State of the *useful Manufactures* carried on in and about this great City, I am persuaded they would find this to be the *Case*, and a very *melancholy* one too. The *Consequences* of it, I leave to your *Honour's Judgment*.

THE next thing I *observe* is, If the *Malt-Distillers* use the *worst* of our Grain, as they say they do, and that *immature* perhaps; then, I say, their *Spirits* must be *worse* and more *unwholesome* in Proportion, and consequently ought to be discouraged. The *fouler* or *cruder* any *Spirit* is, the more *deplegmatizing* or *cleansing* it requires, in what they call *rectifying*. Whatever they do it by, I know in the *Nature* of the thing it must be done by strong *Alkalies*, such as *Quick-Lime*, or the *coarsest Pot-ash*. The *wholesomest Method* is by *calcin'd Tartar*; but that would turn out too dear for the Point in View. The other, indeed, either by *Pot-Ash* or *Lime*, is the *cheapest Way*. But from either of these *Lixivia*, it is easy to imagine how the Stomach must suffer; even after they have been committed to one of their Operations. For all the World knows, that in *Distillation*

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the more subtile Particles of *all* Bodies, whether *good* or *bad*, are brought over the Helm; and I'll venture to add, that there are Mixtures of so poisonous a Nature, that if you were to draw from them *ad infinitum*, they would still communicate their *contagious Effluvia*. Whether *one* or *both* of these *Alkaline* Bodies are not used in *Distillation*, to *divest* their *Malt-Spirits* of their *crude Pblegm*, and to give 'em a lively, brisk Flavour, the Persons *immediately* concern'd are, it must be granted, the best Judges. I shall only add, that if these Gentlemen will undertake to prove that the *Malt-Stillery* is *consistent with the Good of the Community* and with *itself*, they ought to be heard; and for my own Part, I should be glad to be *convinc'd*. But as yet the *Argument* remains where it did; therefore they'll excuse me. And in *this* Respect I, at present, dismiss *these* Gentlemen.

THE second Thing the *Author* has advanced, is, that the *Importation* of *Rum* from our *Sugar-Colonies*, and the *Distillation* of *Melasses*, is consistent in the *Nature* and *Reason* of the thing itself, with the *Good* of the *Community*, and with *itself*.

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As to the *first* of these *Produces*, I believe all Mankind will allow, that scarcely a *wholesomer* Spirit can be distilled than that call'd *Rum*; I mean as it is in itself, *pure* and *unadulterated*: So far then it is preferable as a *Spirit*. A very small Quantity of this *Spirit* can be *imported* in comparison to that made of *Malt*; and therefore the Hurt it is capable of doing, must be in the *same proportion*. This is giving the *Malt-Stillery* the *fairest play*: For nobody can suppose *their* Spirits *near* so good, so *wholesome*, as those produced from *Sugar*.

Now as these *Spirits* are infinitely preferable in their *own Nature* to the *others*, and as their *Quantities imported* stand in a very *trivial* Proportion to those of *Malt-Spirits*, &c. and taking into the Account the *Duties* imposed on 'em by which they are effectually put out of the Reach of the common People, I think it is fully proved, that *this* Trade is consistent with the *reason* and the *nature of the thing itself*. This will yet appear in a stronger Light, when I come to consider its Consistency with the *good of the Society*.

BEFORE

BEFORE I proceed, give me leave to observe, Sir, that the Merchants of GREAT BRITAIN, are indisputably a very useful, if not the most useful, Body of Men we have among us. For it is their Interest to encourage the Exportation of our Manufactures, and to import real Cash, where the Balance is in our Favour. By this Traffick, Riches are made diffusive, the Landed Interest is really supported thereby; the KING has his Duty paid, the Landlord his Rent, and the Subject made easy, so as to have something to go to Market with. This is the way by which a Nation becomes rich and formidable.

HERE, I hope, it will be granted, that the West-India Merchants make no contemptible part of the mercantile Body, and therefore that their Exportations and Importations ought to be considered.

IF it be worth while to continue and support our Sugar Islands and Colonies; then due Encouragement ought to be given to the Planters themselves, and to the Merchants trading to these Colonies.

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If not; I think, they should not be exposed to a lingering Death. This no humane or sensible Man can suppose.

THE Usefulness of this Trade appears in the Extensiveness of it's Navigation. What a vast number of Ships are annually employ'd in the Service of our Sugar Colonies? How many useful Trades and Manufactures are it's immediate Dependents? What a number of Sailors is thereby employ'd, who upon every Emergency have proved of the greatest Service to the Nation?

IF the Enquiry be here, What do the Merchants export to these Colonies? The Answer is in one Word, All the useful Manufactures of GREAT BRITAIN. Therefore to discourage such a Trade as this, would wound the public Interest most dangerously. What are their Imports? Why Sugar and Rum chiefly. If in either of these they are discourag'd, it must necessarily terminate in the Prejudice of our Manufactures at home, and our Sugar Plantations abroad.

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THE *useful Dependencies* upon the *West-India Trade*, (particularly *that* of the *Sugar Colonies*) are almost *innumerable*. It would be too tedious for your Honour to read them over, or for me to recite them. The *Conclusion* then, which I think I have *just Reason* to make is, That the *Rum Trade*, at the Price that *Liquor* now sells for, must in the *Reason* of the Thing support *itself*, and at the same time derive very great Advantages to the *Community*, which, with *great Submission*, I say, cannot be *affirm'd* of the *Malt-Stillers*.

THE next Thing, the *Author* of the *Trial* considers, is, the *Distillation* of *Melasses*. In which the Point to be proved, at first view, seems to be attended with some Difficulties, namely, That it is consistent with itself, and the good of Society.

LET it be *considered* then, That the *Sugars*, which are imported from the *Colonies* aforesaid, *primarily* fall into the Hands of the *Refiners* or *Sugar Bakers*. In this Process *Melasses* are produced, the *Natural Extract* of that noble *Concrete*, matured by the *strong, genial Heat*

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Heat of the Sun, which cannot be affirm'd of any Produce, either of Grain or Fruit in these our *Northern Climates*. As these *Melasses* should some way or other be vend'd for the *Service* of our *Plantations*; so it has been judged that the *Distillation* of them would be the best Method, and the least interfere with any *other Manufacture*.

THE *Observations* I would make on *this Head* are, That the *Spirits* produced from this *Juice* are *wholsome* in themselves, and indeed *must* be so, since they are deriv'd from so *fine* an Original, that they are capable of being improved into exceeding good *Brandy*, probably more *agreeable* or *healthful* to the *Constitutions* of *English Men*, than *that* of *France*; and therefore may be a very good *Ingredient* in *Punch*; far from being *offensive* to the *Palate*, or *hurtful* to the *Stomachs* of those who drink it. Now if *French Brandy*, or that under the Notion of *Flemish*, were entirely prohibited, one may venture to advance, that this Trade would support itself, tho' that *Brandy* should be sold considerably dearer than it now is, without any *Injury* to the *com-*

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mon People, or labouring part of the Society.

IT must again be *observed*, that but a *small* Quantity of this *Liquor* can be produced in comparison to *that* from *Malt-Spirits*. Therefore if any incidental Evils should attend them, yet they would be so few and trivial, that they would scarce be perceived, or taken notice of. Now as a *Duty* is imposed upon this *Spirit* (and probably it would bear more); the *Revenue* will be increased; the *Trade* in the Circumstances *now* recommended will support itself, the *Sugar Colonies* encouraged, and the *Subject* no way injur'd. For this will effectually disable the *common People*, as I observed before, from making it their *constant Tipple*. This then is the real Contrast between this *Trade* and the *Malt-Distillery*.

To illustrate this further, give me leave to suppose to your Honour, That if all *Spirits* were to be sold at the same Price that *Rum* is now sold at; can it be imagin'd that *Malt-Spirits* will ever sell at that Rate? Such an Imagination would indeed be ridiculous. Supposing *Brandy* made from *Melasses* could not be afforded

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afforded under five or six Shillings *per* Gallon, and the *Malt-Spirits* put upon the same footing, the *Case* would be just the same; at least, so far as I can perceive. If the Difference were adjusted upon such a Foundation, as seems in itself equitable, pray what would the *Consequence* be? Why, That you would have all your *Spirits* pure and natural, as they are *in themselves*. For it would not be worth the *Compounder's* trouble to cover *Malt-Spirits* with *Rum*, and so sell them for the *Produce* of the *West-India Trade*. There would be no occasion for these pernicious *Lixivia* abovementioned for *cleansing* and *acuating* their *Spirits*, by which the meaner sort of People are ruin'd and destroy'd. *Rum* and the *Brandy* made from *Melasses*, would *subsist* in a useful Trade, and the other must *subside*.

IN short, Sir, I think it appears, that the *West-India Trade*, so far as it respects our *Sugar Colonies*, cannot *subsist* without the *Importation* of *Rum*; nor can the *Sugar Refiners* at home *subsist* without the Consumption of *Melasses*; and therefore, I hope, the Honourable House of Commons will take this into their *Consideration*.

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tion. For as *these* two are so *inseparately* connected, that *one* cannot fall without the *other*; so I humbly presume it is not below the *Wisdom* of the House to make such *Provision*, that they may *both* subsist; which that it may be done *consistently* with the *good* of the *Community*, I think has been *clearly* demonstrated.

LET it then be *strictly* consider'd, that the Mischiefs done the *Society* by the *Spirit Trade*, have not arose from *Rum* and *Brandy* made from *Melasses*, but from *Malt-Spirits*. That this is true in general, I believe the *Trade* itself will, and must confess. It is from the *cheapness* of this, that our *Labourers* are *lost*, our *Artificers* *debauch'd* to such a degree, that it has justly alarmed the *House of Commons*, and in them the *whole Nation*, and every tender, disinterested Spectator, who has the *Happiness* of his *Country* at heart. Why therefore should *Rum*, *Melasses*, &c. be put into the *Indictment*? 'Tis pity they should be *executed* for being in *bad Company* only; especially considering they were *accidentally* drawn in, and can plead with all the *Justice* in the *World*, NOT GUILTY. On this account

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count the *Malt-Stillery* is a great *Enemy* to our *Woollen Manufacture*, and indeed to all *others* but *itself*; which was proposed to be proved in the beginning of this *Address*; had it not been for this, I dare answer for it, the *Importation* of *Rum* and the *Distillation* of *Melasses* would *never* have been brought into the *Question*, as they ought not to be, in the *Reason*, *Nature*, and *Justice*, of the *Case* itself.

UPON this Account, Sir, (with great Submission) it seems unreasonable, that these *Spirits* should come into the *Bill*, with any other view than to give an *Encouragement* to them in *such* a Method as to put it out of the *Power* of the *common* People to make them their *ordinary Tipple*. This must be done, or the *End* and *Design* of the *Bill* will be lost; and therefore, Sir, I doubt not but the *Honourable House of Commons* will apply the *Remedy* to the *real Grievance*, neither causing the *Innocent* to suffer with the *Guilty*, nor *sinking* so useful and necessary a *Bill* by *over loading* it with such *Articles*, as must *dangerously affect* the most valuable *Branches* of *Merchandise* and *Manufacture*; when the *Design*, as it

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it appears to me, is to *regulate* a *Manufacture* that *manifestly* strikes at the Welfare of the *whole* Community.

As to the *Objections* that may be offer'd in respect to the *Revenue*, from any *Discouragement* the *Legislature* may judge proper to subject the *Malt-Stillery* to, so as to cause a *considerable* *Deficiency* to the *Civil List*; I answer, that the *same* Power can easily *supply* those *Deficiencies*. Let it be considered at the same time too, that no *small* Addition will be made to the said *Revenue* by the Encouragement given to *Rum*, and *Brandy* made from *Melasses*, without any hazard to the good of the *Community*, which is the *Point* principally intended by the *Author* of the *Trial*, &c. were no other *Argument* than the *following* insisted on, I think it would sufficiently answer *that* *Point*, namely, if no *other* Spirits were cultivated in *England*, but *Rum* imported from our *Sugar Colonies*, and *Brandy* made from *Melasses*, the Produce of our *Sugar Manufactures* at home, the *Quantities* that could *honestly* be brought to *Market*, would be very *inconsiderable* in Comparison to that of *Malt-Spirits*; and the Duties thereon imposed in a *moderate* Proportion,

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Proportion, must effectually prevent the *poorer* sort of People from being ruin'd thereby, and yet both the *one* and the *other* would very usefully subsist.

Now then, as I acknowledged before, if the *Malt-Stillery* can make it fairly appear, That their *Trade* as it *now* stands, is consistent with the *universal* good of the *Public*, that it can *subsist* without *Damage* to our *Artificers* and *Manufactures*; then, I think, they ought to *enjoy* it, nay, even to be *encourag'd* in it; and for my own part, I will *readily* and *cheerfully* surrender the *Prize*.

If they should say on *this* Head, that the *Laws* made and provided against *Drunkennes*, and other *public Vices*, are not *duely* *executed*. I answer, That the *frequency* and *universality* of these *Crimes* arising chiefly from *Gin*, makes that *Execution* almost *impracticable*. For at this Rate, *Hundreds* in *some* Towns must be *punish'd* in a Day, and those *Punishments* would be *unavailing*; for it is very manifest they return to their *dear* *Destroyer*, like the *Sow* to the *wallowing* in *Mire*.

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In short; why must the *Magistrates* and *Constables* be made *Tools* and *Slaves* to the *Pleasure* and *Interest* of the merry *Gentlemen*? Why are they to be *exposed* to the *Abuses* and *vile Treatment* of these *intoxicated, mad, dirty Wretches*? Why must they run the hazard of having their *Persons* murder'd, and their *Houses* fir'd by such *Desperadoes*? By the way, I can't well see how it is consistent with the *Oath* the *Magistrate* takes, to grant *Licences* to such *disreputable* Persons, who live in *Holes* and *By-Alleys*; in such Houses as no Man of *Character* would stir into. I say, I cannot see how it can be *justifiable* to grant *such* People *Licences* to sell *Gin*; and yet I have reason to believe, this is *frequently* the Case. For *nothing* in this Conduct can be *intended*; but the *Consumption* of the *noxious Manufacture*; let what *Disorders* or *Irregularities* soever ensue, that's not regarded. I wish I had not reason to complain on *this* Head from my own *Observation*.

If therefore the *reputable* part of the *Malt-Distillers* cannot extricate themselves from these Difficulties, and answer the

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the *Objections* above-mentioned; let them *give up* the Cause. I shall (and I believe all Mankind will) expect fair, cool, Argument, without *railing* Accusation, or *personal* Reflections.

No *Gentleman*, or *Scholar*, or indeed any *other* Person, who has the least *No-tion* of *Decency*, can be guilty of low, vulgar, *Defamation*, or scandalous *In-sinuation*. If they can make a *just and rational* Defence to what has been alledged against them with *that* Temper, I shall be very glad of it. But as the *Scrib-ler* of the *Reply* has chosen a *different* Measure, I won't trouble your *Honour* with him, but leave him to *public* *Chas-tisement* at the Tail of this *Vehicle*, as *un-worthy* any *Gentleman's* Correction.

I HEREBY then *solemnly* declare to your Honour, That I have no *Malice* or *ill-will* against *any* Man, or *body* of Men, in the World; and could safely appeal to the *Omnipotent* and *Omniscient* Being, with a *Nunc dimittis*, on this Account. I shall give myself no Uneasiness at any *Dirt* thrown at me, nor think myself obliged to answer *malicious Innuendoes*, or *little Cavils*. Nothing  
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shall have my Notice, but *genteel* and *candid* Arguments, by which if I am convinced, I will as *generously* acknowledge my Error.

THUS much I thought proper to offer by way of Recapitulation, with regard to the *Malt-Distillery*. I shall be very short in what I have to repeat in regard to the *Merchants* and *Sugar Trade* in general.

I THINK then, that it is as plain, as that two and two are equal to four, that our *West-India Trade*, as it respects *Sugars*, cannot *subsist* without vending the *Rum* thence produced; and then the Question is, *Where* they must find a *Market* for this *Liquor*? It is natural to answer, where they purchase their *useful* and *necessary* Manufactures. If this should be denied them in GREAT BRITAIN, where must they find a *Market*; and how must the *Planters* be supplied with the *Necessaries* of Life? If the Answer be in the *Negative*, then they must be destroyed; which I will venture to say will do more harm to our *Landed Interest* in one Year, than the whole *Malt-Stillery* can do it good in *seven*.

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THE *immediate* Support of our *Sugar-Colonies*, are the *Refiners*, the *Sugars* in general falling into their Hands. But what can these *Gentlemen* do, by way of *Encouragement* to the abovesaid *Colonies*, if they have no *Market* for their *Melasses*? It is almost as impracticable for the *Refiners* to carry on this Trade without a *Vend* for the said *Melasses*, as it is for the *Colonies* to *subsist* without selling their *Rum*. And therefore, Sir, 'tis humbly hop'd, the *Legislature* will take some particular Care in this Affair, that there may be room for the *Consumption* of it, in some Shape or other; for 'tis Pity so noble a Juice should be thrown away. *Distillation* has hitherto been thought a *proper Method* for it's *Consumption*.

AND indeed the *little* Quantity of *Spirit* that can be *thus* produced, as I said before, can do us no *Harm*; and all the *Duty* it pays to the *Crown* must therefore do us *Good*. The importing of *French Brandy* upon us, is certainly so much *Loss* to the *Nation*, tho' *disguis'd* under the Name of *Flemish*. If *Brandy* then made from *Melasses*, can prevent the running the other in upon us, which I humbly presume, may be done with the

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help of an exprefs Prohibition of *French* and *Flemish* Brandies; then I think it must be of very great Service to us, as not only preventing the *Exportation* of our Cash, but by occasioning the *Exportation* of our *valuable Manufactures*.

THUS, Sir, I have done with this Argument. Your Goodness will pardon the many Defects that may appear in this *Address*, of which I am very sensible; but the Hints given may perhaps rouse an *abler* Hand. What I have submitted to your *Honour* is done with great *Sincerity* and *Integrity*, with no other View than the *Good* of my *County*. *Magna est Veritas, & praevalabit.*

EXCUSE the Trouble I have given you, and give me Leave to subscribe myself,

*Right Honourable Sir,*

*Your Honour's*

*Most Humble*

*Most Obedient Servant,*

*Greenwich,*

*April 5.*

*1736.*

ADAM HOLDEN,

THE following is the Letter in the *Daily Journal* of the 1st Instant, referr'd to in the Body of the foregoing Letter.

*To a Friend in the Country.*

*Dear Sir,*

I Know not on which Side of the Question your Judgment determines you, with respect to the *Gin-Controversy* now started amongst us; however I take Liberty to send you this following Account.

ABOUT three Weeks ago was published, a little Pamphlet, entitled, *The Tryal of the Spirits*; tending to shew the pernicious Consequences of the *Gin-Trade*. In which there are two Things principally aimed at. The one is,

That the *Malt-Stillery* cannot subsist, in the Reason and Nature of the Thing itself, consistent with the Good of the Community, and with itself; for, that either the one must be destroyed, or the other cannot succeed, being entirely contradictory to one another. How far the Author has proved this Position, the Readers must judge.

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THE other is, that a due Encouragement given to the Importation of *Rum*, from our *Sugar-Colonies* abroad; and the same to the *Distillation* of *Melasses* at home, under proper Regulations by *Parliament* in that Case made and provided; is not only of great Service to our Country, our *Trade* and *Navigation*, the Consumption of our useful Manufactures, &c. but to the *Publick Revenue*. How far this is made appear, must also be left to impartial Judges.

THE *Author* farther solemnly declares, that he had no Malice in his Heart against any *Man* or *Body* of Men; nor any *private* Interest in View; yet thought himself at Liberty, as an *Englishman*, to declare his Sentiments upon this important Occasion, having no other Design than the Publick Good.

HE moreover acknowledges to all the World; that his Mind is open to Conviction, and ready to own his Mistakes, if they can be made appear to be so, by fair, solid, and calm Argument. Nor will he be ashamed to put his *real* Name to the

Reply,

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*Reply*, provided the *Gentlemen* opposing will do the same.

HE must confess, that as yet he has seen nothing like an Argument advanced in *Opposition* to what he has endeavoured to prove.

HE has indeed seen a Pamphlet entitled, *A proper Reply to the Tryal of, &c.* As this contains nothing but *personal Reflections*, *scandalous*, and absolutely *false* in themselves, not the least Argument, or even the *Shadow* of one, against what the *Author* has submitted to *publick View*; so he has Reason to believe the *Distillery* in general will have no Obligations to this *Brother* of theirs, who is supposed to be the *Author* of *The proper Reply, &c.* Whether he is the *Author*, or some *hireling Zany* of his own procuring, it matters not: Let him be who he will, he has divested himself of every *good* Character. A *common* Spectator may easily perceive that he is no *Merchant*, no *Gentleman*, no *Scholar*, no *Christian*. The most charitable Construction which can be put upon it, is, that some *little Imp* formed out of the *Dregs* of *Gin*, (as you do *Phosphorus* from *Piss*) has inspired him, and

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and formed him into a *Bully* for the *Craft*, and like his *Master* and *Friend* of this *infernal Lethe*, is come down in great *Wrath*, knowing he has but a *short Time*. Such *Treatment* being a *Scandal* to human Nature and Society, the *real Author* of *The Tryal* of, &c. leaves him to his *Imp*, and his *Produce* to the *Necessary-house*, where he is sure it will meet with such *Treatment* as it deserves.

*I am, your humble Servant.*

**F I N I S.**