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SERIOUS THOUGHTS

In Regard to the

PUBLIC DISORDERS, &c.

(Price One Shilling.)

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SERIOUS THOUGHTS

In Regard to the

PUBLICK DISORDERS,

WITH

Several PROPOSALS for Remedying
the Same ;

Particularly in Respect to

GAMING, PUBLICK-HOUSES, PAWN-
BROKERS, and RECEIVERS of Stolen
Goods.

By a COUNTRY Justice of the Peace.

L O N D O N :

Printed for C. CORBETT, in *Fleet-street* ;
and J. BARNES, at *Charing-Cross*.

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To the Right Honourable
Anthony Earl of Shaftsbury.

My Lord,

THE Attention your Lord-
ship has always given to
every Matter that concerns the In-
terest of the Publick, and your
great Knowledge in the Matters
which are the Subject of the fol-
lowing Sheets, has induced me to
desire the Honour of your Lord-
ship's Perusal and Patronage of
them. They are drawn up with a
sincere View to the Good of my
Country, and though *some* of them
may not suit with every political
Measure, I hope there are *others*,
which (bettered by your Lordship's
Correction) may be serviceable at
this

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this Juncture. But whatever be the Event, as my Intentions are sincere, I have this Satisfaction, that I shall, by your Lordship, be treated with Candour, and that you will give me leave to subscribe myself,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most Obedient and

Obliged Servant,

The AUTHOR.

THE

P R E F A C E.

THE Subject of the following Tract has of late much employed the Press, and were it not of the utmost Consequence, the Author would not make an Addition to the many Pamphlets which have been wrote upon this Occasion; but as the industrious Bee seeks its Honey from the most despicable Herbs, and as there are few which do not afford some small Sweetness, he hopes the candid Reader will peruse the following Propositions, and if one or two of them only deserve Approbation, his Time cannot be ill spent.

As to some of them he may be asked, why should they be mentioned when it is known they never will pass? To those who ask the Question, he gives the following Answer, THAT THE PUBLICK MAY JUDGE OF THE EFFICACY OF THEM;—and if they appear probable, the Projector is not to be blamed, but the Objector; for if the general Consent of Mankind shall think them reasonable, there is an End to the old Declamation IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, until they are tried. Try them,—see the Consequence of them;—if their Effects are ill, repeal the Law;—if they are good, enforce it.

But let the Proposal stand upon its own Legs; let it be mixed with no other Considerations; let it be applied only to the Purpose it was intended, and let not Arguments be drawn

drawn for or against it, because it pleases one Set of Men, or is different from the Inclinations of another.

This may be the Case of some of the following Propositions: — It may happen, that the Necessity of Affairs, the Clamour of the People, and the publick Safety itself may demand the Efforts of Government against notorious Outrages; it may also be apparent, that these Outrages cannot be prevented without laying a Restraint upon some favourite Pleasures; the first, Decency, Humanity, and common Prudence make necessary; but the latter may be grievous to depart from. This is no Reason why the Publick should not consider of the Means, and if the Measure cannot be obtained, there will no longer be an Excuse for those who obstruct it. For these Reasons the Author has taken the Liberty to submit his Thoughts to the general Opinion of Mankind; and if it should happen, that they should strike the Minds of those who have the Care of this Matter, in the same Manner he sees them, or if any the least Benefit may accrue to his Country from any one of these Proposals, it will give him Satisfaction. And as to the others which may NOT be thought FIT TO PASS, till he is convinced they are wrong in themselves, he cannot give them up; because this has been the Fate of many EXCELLENT LAWS within this last CENTURY.

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SERIOUS THOUGHTS, &c.

AT a Time when Murder, Robbery, and all kind of Felonies, and Disorders are grown so rife amongst us, it becomes the Duty of every Lover of his Country (who is capable) to give his Assistance to such as shall engage in the most useful Task of putting a Stop to these Enormities.

His Majesty having, at the Opening of this Sessions, recommended it to both Houses of Parliament, to endeavour to restrain these abominable Practices; and some Gentlemen of Learning, Figure, and Reputation, having undertaken the Task, I flatter myself (from the Knowledge I have of some of these Gentlemen) that I shall not be thought impertinent if I venture to give my Thoughts on this Occasion.

The Source of these Evils has been long found out: That Torrent of Gaming, Extravagance,

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vagance, Lewdness, and Irreligion, which has appeared amongst all Ranks of People, has nourished and watered these ill Weeds; and if some Method be not thought of to check their Growth, and root them out, they will destroy Government itself, nor will it be in the Power of any one to hinder it.

For the suppressing of Gaming many Laws have been made; but, from some Defect in the Laws themselves, or in the Execution of them, they have hitherto proved ineffectual.

The making of Laws of this kind gives Reputation to every Part and Member of the Legislature, and Reputation is a Thing which the most profligate is fond of; nay, abandoned as the Generality of Mankind are, they have not the Impudence publicly to descry Virtue, for they would be thought virtuous. This has caused many a Vote to be given for the passing these Laws by Persons (in former Parliaments) who perhaps had beforehand contrived, by some doubtful Words, either to clog or lay a Foundation for evading them.

It has also often happened, when Methods have been proposed which would effectually have answered the Design, Objections have been thrown out as if innocent Liberty was to be invaded; and under that Pretence, (though it has been acknowledged that the Methods are reasonable) they have been opposed under a Tenderness, as they suggest, lest they might

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might be made use of against innocent Persons, although the same Reasons might be urged against every Law which is made. I wish I could not suggest a more plausible Reason. These Methods have been objected to, cause they were effectual, and therefore were not fit to be made use of.

In Cases of this kind, the Remedy must in every Respect be suitable to the Disease, nor must unreasonable and improbable Conjectures be raised against it. Sincerity is a most necessary Qualification for a Man who undertakes a Task of this Nature, and Perseverance is an Ingredient without which he will never attain his End.

I am now going to ask a Question which perhaps some Persons may think extraordinary. Is there a *real* Design to put a Stop to excessive Gaming? If there be, will they give me Leave to recommend the following Clause to the Legislature.

“ And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Person or Persons who shall be convicted of any Offence against the Laws and Statutes for preventing of excessive or deceitful Gaming, shall, from the Time of such Conviction, be deemed and adjudged to be incapable of, and disabled from holding or executing any Office, Place, Trust, or Employment, Civil or Military, within the Kingdom of *Great Britain*, or of

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“ being a Member of, or setting and voting
 “ in either House of Parliament, and also
 “ shall be farther disabled from, and incapa-
 “ ble of voting at the Election of any Knight,
 “ Citizen or Burgeſs, to ſit in the Houſe of
 “ Commons of *Great Britain*, or at the
 “ Election of any Mayor, Magiſtrate or other
 “ Officer of any Corporation within the
 “ ſame.”

These are Privileges more valuable than any temporal Advantages a Man can be poſſeſt of, they are ſuch as without which many Perſons would ſcarce deſire to live, and the Terror of being deprived of theſe cannot but prevail.

That the Example of the Great in this Caſe, has been either of the beſt or worſt Conſequences every one muſt allow, and how neceſſary it is to regulate this Example, let every one with Sincerity conſider.

The Perſon who is deſirous to put a Stop to this Practice cannot have an Objection to the Claufe—the Perſon who is *not*, nor will *not* be guilty of Offences of this Kind, has no Reaſon to be afraid of ill Conſequences from it;—but thoſe who openly and avowedly declare againſt Practices of this Kind, but are *privately* guilty of them every Day, have Reaſon to be afraid. However I am under no Concern for theſe; if they offend let them be puniſhed; the Evil is great, the Remedy muſt be ſtrong, but the Inconvenience can only

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only reach the Offenders themſelves, and if the Offences are legally proved, they deſerve and I hope they will be made to ſuffer.

To ſupport this infamous Practice of Gaming have moſt of the Robberies we have heard of been committed. Destroy the Cauſe, and the Conſequence will ceaſe. It has been always a Maxim, if there were no Receivers there would be no Thieves. If there were no Houſes of Entertainment of theſe Villains they would either leave off their Practices, or leave the Kingdom.

Public-Houſes are neceſſary on many good Accounts I allow, but to theſe good Purpoſes only, they ought to be confined, nor ought any others to be allowed upon any Conſideration.

The original Inſtitution of Public-Houſes was for the Benefit of the Traveller, and Convenience of the Labourer; they are alſo of Uſe for carrying on Buſineſs, and I ſhall never object to their being kept for ſocial Meetings and orderly Aſſemblies, but when they deviate from theſe, they no longer deſerve to be countenanced, but ought to be looked upon as publick Nufancies; for this Reaſon it becomes the Magiſtrate to be very tender in granting Licences to Perſons for keeping of Houſes of this Kind. They ought to be Perſons of known Reputation, Perſons of Subſtance, Perſons of regular Life and Converſation, well known, or at leaſt well recommended, (*not for their political Talents*)

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Talents) and to give Security for their good Behaviour in this their intended Calling.

I know I shall be told that there are Recognizances taken for this Purpose. This I admit, but when I state the Nature of these Recognizances, and the Use made of them, I shall convince my Reader that they are so far from being effectual Remedies against the Evils they are aimed at, that these very Recognizances are Impositions upon the Public, only profitable to the Clerks of the Peace, and most shameful Evasions of the Laws made for that Purpose.

By the Statute 5 and 6 *Edward VI.* * *It is enacted, that none shall keep any common Ale-House or Tippling-House, but such as shall be licensed by two Justices of the Peace, whereof one to be of the Quorum, and the Justices shall take Bond or Security from Time to Time by Recognizance of such as shall be licensed, against the Keepers of unlawful Games, as also for the Maintenance of good Order.*

By Virtue of this Clause on every Day of licensing the Clerk of the Peace or his Deputy attends the Meeting of the Justices of the Peace, and upon a large Roll takes a Recognizance of the Ale-House Keeper, who produces any Sureties without Enquiry being made into their Circumstances upon Oath (which I admit the Statute doth not im-

power

* 5 & 6 *Edward VI.* c. 25.

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power the Justices to do and for this he the Clerk of the Peace receives Twelve-pence, (which I am sorry to say is the only Advantage arises to any one, from these Recognizances) and then the Roll is carried to the Clerk of the Peace's Office and never heard of after, this is the Practice I fear throughout the Kingdom, (I know it to be so in one Part of it) and hereby is this Statute of King *Edward VI.* evaded.

I will now venture to propose a Remedy. That for the future no Person whatever, shall be licensed to keep a Public-House, unless he shall be recommended for that Purpose by a certain Number of the substantial Inhabitants charged in the Parish Rates, (for the Parish wherein such Persons reside toward all and every the Levies of the said Parish, and shall at the Time of his being licensed enter into a Recognizance with two sufficient Sureties, (being Inhabitants rated as aforesaid) for his conforming to the Statute of *Edward VI.* as aforesaid, which Recognizance shall be returned to the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, for the County, City or Place where such Person shall be so licensed; and in Case any Person so licensed shall be convicted before any one or more Justice or Justices of the Peace of such County, City or Place, of any Offence committed or done by such Person or Persons so licensed, contrary to the Tenor of the Recognizance, every such

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such Justice of the Peace shall certify such Conviction to the next General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace, for such County, City or Place, and the said Justices shall immediately make an Order for the levying of the Recognizance upon the Goods, Chattles and Estate of such Persons, and their Sureties which Sum, when levied, shall be brought to the next General Quarter Sessions, and after deducting the Expences of the Prosecution, (to be allowed by the said Justices) the Overplus shall be employed and disposed of for the Benefit of the Poor of the Parish, or Place to which they belong, in such Manner as the Justice of the Peace before whom such Conviction shall be made, shall direct and appoint.

And to this were it to be added, that every such Offender shall be, from the Time of such Conviction, disabled from keeping of a Public-House in any Parish or Place whatever.

I would also propose, that no Justice of the Peace whatever shall grant any Licenses to any Person for keeping a Public-House, unless it be at the annual General Meeting of the Justices of the Peace, for, and resident, or usually acting within the Division where such Parish or Place, where such Person so to be licensed resides, (except upon the Death of any Keeper of such Public-House, any other Person should come to reside in the

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the same House) or if no such Person should come to reside in the same, only one Person so recommended and qualified, and conforming himself as aforesaid, shall be licensed to keep one other Public-House within the same Parish or Place, and all Licences granted by any other Justices of the Peace, or at any other Times or Places shall be null and void, and the Keepers of such Public-Houses so licensed by them shall be liable to all and every the Penalties to be inflicted upon Persons keeping Public-Houses without a Licence.

I would also farther propose, that "the Justices of the Peace should send to the Minister of every Parish within each Division, a List of all such Persons as were licensed at the said Annual Meeting, to be delivered to the Church-Wardens of each Parish, and by them entered in some of the public Parish Books, together with the Names of the Sureties who entered into Recognizance, for the good Behaviour of such Keepers of such Public-Houses; and in Case any Person whose Name is not inserted in such List, shall presume to sell any Beer, Ale, or Cyder, spirituous, or other exciseable Liquors, every such Person shall be deemed to be a Retailer of such Liquors without a License, and liable to the Penalty, of the Statutes against unlicensed Ale-House Keepers."

"No Persons, keeping a Public-House licensed as aforesaid, shall harbour or permit any Person whatever to continue harboured

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boured therein, unless such Person shall be known to such Keeper of such Public-House, or give such an Account of himself as shall be sufficient to satisfy the Keeper of such Public-House, that such Person is a Person of Fame and Reputation; and in Case any Person shall come to harbour or lodge within such Public-House, of whom the Keeper of such Public-House shall have Cause to suspect to be an idle and disorderly Person, the Keeper of such Public-House shall immediately inform the Constable or Tything-Man of the Parish or Place thereof, and the said Constable or Tything-Man shall immediately repair to the said Public-House and secure the same suspected Person, and carry him before some Magistrate, who shall examine the said Person or Persons, and deal with them as the Law directs.

“No Keeper of any such Public-House shall admit any Person *unknown* to such Keeper of such Public-House, unless such Person shall give an Account of his Calling and the Place of his Residence; and the Occasion of his coming thither, and all and every Person refusing to give such Account shall be deemed to be Persons of ill Repute, and liable to be examined.”

The Increase of Public-Houses is owing to several Causes, *viz.*

I. They are said to be profitable to the Revenue.

II.

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II. They promote the Interest of Candidates upon Elections.

III. They are a Means for maintaining poor Persons.

To answer each of these, I shall make an attempt.

I. As to their Increase of the public Revenue, I do readily allow the greater Number of Public-Houses greater is the Produce of the Revenues of Excise, and more Money is returned to the King's Exchequer. But if on the other Hand the Expences occasioned to the Public by the Enormities committed in such Public-Houses, the many useful Subjects debauched and destroyed by frequenting them, the Time spent, misemployed, and lost be considered, it makes such an Increase of the publick Revenue, the greatest Burthen to the Public.

II. It is said they promote the Interest of Candidates at Elections.

This is one of the greatest Reasons for suppressing them, an Interest promoted by a Public-House must depend upon CORRUPTION. These Houses are the Cause of great Expences to every Candidate, and the Interest made by the Owners, or Keepers of them, depends generally upon the Influence they have over poor Voters, on Account of the Ale-Scores they owe to such Keepers of such Houses. I am therefore persuaded were the Keepers of Public-Houses to be DISQUALI-

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FIED from voting or intermeddling in Elections, it would contribute more to the Decrease of such Houses, and putting a Stop to Corruption than any other Thing whatever.

I am convinced the Influence of Persons of this Sort in Corporations has always been very great, and Candidates have been so far awed by them, that they have not dared to refuse to licence them; Candidates of all Denominations have found the Inconvenience, and its equally advantageous to every Candidate, to be free from such Sollicitations. The depriving of them of the Privilege of voting would lessen the Number, and the Candidate as well as the Publick be benefited thereby. What Objection is there then to the Proposal?

The third Reason for licencing Alehouse-Keepers is very frequently urged, but with the least Pretence of any of all of them. *viz.* To provide for old and poor Persons to keep them from the Parish.

Are Persons of this Denomination Persons fit to be licenced? Do these answer the original Design of keeping a Publick-House? Can a poor Person (not able to maintain himself) provide for the Entertainment of others? Their Poverty puts them under a Necessity of running in Debt for Malt, Cyder, &c. and so far from keeping them from the Parish Charge, they often by Means of having their Goods seized, sooner become Objects of Relief.

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But if it proves otherwise: How many do they bring to be burthensome to the Parish? They keep open House for poor Labourers (where such spend their Substance, and idle away their Time) and carry on publick Conveniencies for all Manner of Disorders, which instead of lessening, are the greatest Increase of the Burthens of the Parish.

It were greatly to be wished, that (unless in Market Towns and Places of great Resort) there was not to be above one Publick-House in a Parish; but it frequently happens, that in many Parishes of this Kingdom, through which there is no publick Road or any other Occasion of publick Resort, there are sometimes two, three, or more Publick-Houses.

Having mentioned some Cases in Relation to the licencing and establishing Publick-Houses, I will now proceed to propose a Method of keeping the Publick-Houses, which shall be licenced, from being Nuisances, and preventing the Mischief which may happen from the Resort of evil-disposed Persons to, and being harboured within the same.

The Constables and Tything-Men of every Parish in the Country, and the Constables, Headboroughs, Beadles, Watch, and other Officers in large Cities and Towns, have these Houses under their Inspection; but either for Want of sufficient Powers, or not executing such Powers as they have, the great
Grievance

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Grievance complained of, daily encreases, and crys out loudly for Redress. In order to consider how to remedy this, it will be necessary to take a View of the Nature of these Offices, and enquire into the present Manner of the Execution of them.

In the Country the Constables and Tything-Men are generally substantial Farmers, or Persons for whom they are answerable, who are well known to them; these are very seldom complained of: The Officers of this Sort in Cities and Towns are the Persons upon whom the greatest Dependance is to be had, and of these I am now to consider.

The Office of Constable in those Places ought to be performed by the substantial Tradesmen; but they either think themselves above, or by their Business are prevented from executing them personally; wherefore such Tradesmen seek for a Deputy, who doth the same for Hire, and takes this Opportunity to raise as much Money as he can, either by compounding with Houses of ill Repute, or making *Offenders of Distinction* commute, in order to prevent their being carried before a Magistrate.

The Watchmen in the several Parishes are either infirm, old, or indigent People, who serve their Offices for Hire, are often in Fee with the Public-Houses, who entertain them in such Houses, whilst Persons of

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ill Fame who resort there, take Advantage of their Absence from their Stations, and commit the most notorious Disorders.

Having thus described the Officers and the Manner of Execution of their Offices, I would now suggest a Remedy for these Grievances.

I. That all large Parishes be divided into small Districts, and that the substantial Inhabitants of these Districts *two* every Night by Rotation do take Care to see the subordinate Officers do their Duty.

That these two substantial Inhabitants taking the Constable or Tything-men Watch, or some Peace Officer with them, be empowered to visit all Public-Houses within their Districts, and in Case they find any Persons within the said Public-Houses, at any unseasonable Hour misbehaving themselves, (who they have Cause to suspect to be Persons of ill Fame) that they secure such Persons and send them to the Watch-house for the said District; and in Case the said Persons so secured, do not give Account of themselves, and make it appear that they are Persons who have an Employment, or are capable of providing for themselves, and also to what Place or Parish they belong; they shall the next Morning be carried before the next Justice of the Peace, for the County, City, Town, or Place where they shall be
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so apprehended, who shall be impowered to treat them in the same Manner as Vagrants are to be treated.

That the said Inhabitants keep an Account of all such Persons so apprehended, in a Book for that Purpose; and in Case any such Person should be apprehended a second Time, every such Person shall be liable to be committed to the House of Correction, for such County, City, Town, or Place where so a second Time apprehended, there to remain until the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and the Court shall be impowered either to set such Persons at Work in some public Workhouse, within the said County for the Space of seven Years, or to transport such Offenders to some of his Majesty's Colonies and Plantations beyond the Seas, to be there employed and set to Work for the like Space of seven Years, and in Case any such Person so ordered to be set at Work, or to be transported as aforesaid, shall after such Order escape out of Custody, or be found at large within the Kingdom of *Great Britain*, every such Offender so found at large shall be liable to suffer Death, as in Cases of Felony, without Benefit of Clergy.

The said Inhabitants and Constables also, to be impowered to secure all idle and disorderly Persons, sleeping upon Bulks, or in the public Streets, and all lewd and disorderly Persons known to be common
Street-

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Street-Walkers, or Persons conversing with them, and shall send every and each of these to the public Watch-house to be detained as aforesaid, and examined; and in Case they shall prove to be notorious lewd Persons, to carry them before some Magistrate, who shall commit the said lewd Persons to some House of Correction for the Space of one Month, to be kept to hard Labour and corrected, (if the Magistrate shall so seem fit) or for the Space of two Months without Correction; and in Case any such Offender shall be apprehended a second Time for any Offence of the like Kind, he or she shall be deemed an incorrigible Rogue, and shall be publicly whipped within the Parish or Place where so apprehended four Times in an Year, and be kept confined to hard Labour for any Time not less than four, and not exceeding seven Years. And in Case such Person so committed to hard Labour for any such Time, shall not work, or shall misbehave themselves under Confinement, or shall escape out of such Confinement, every such Person shall be liable to be transported for the Term of Seven Years, and in Case they shall be found at large within *Great Britain* or *Ireland* during the said Term, every such Person shall be liable to suffer Death without Benefit of Clergy.

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But, in order to prevent innocent Persons from Inconveniencies, by being stoppt and carried to the Watch-house, as aforesaid; " in case any such Person so stoppt shall give an Account of his Name and Place of Abode, and send for some substantial Persons of Reputation to attest the same, or the Landlord of the House where such Person lodges, who shall undertake for such Person's going to his Dwelling or Lodging, and coming to such substantial Inhabitant, who apprehended him, the Morning following, that then such Person shall be by such Inhabitant discharged (upon the Condition aforesaid) and not confined in the Watch-house for the Parish or Place where so apprehended."

" Every Person who shall be employed as a Watchman, to continue in his Watch-house or Box, or upon his Rounds, during the whole Time of his Watch, and not to go into any Alehouse or other Public House, unless called upon so to do by such Inhabitants or Constable as aforesaid, or to prevent any Disorders he shall be informed to be committing in the Street, or in any such Public-House; and in every such Case, as soon as he has done his Duty, to return immediately to his Station."

" And, to encourage Watchmen to do their Duty, every Watchman who shall apprehend, or be concerned in apprehending any Street-Robber, Burglar, House-Breaker, or Pick-

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Pick-pocket, or other Felon, for the apprehending of whom any Reward is given by Law, and they shall be convicted, a proper Part of the said Reward shall be allotted out of the same, according to the Direction of the Court before whom such Felon shall be tried and convicted, to be divided amongst all and every such Watchman who contributed towards the apprehending of such Offenders."

Many Disorders of this Kind are committed by Soldiers, or Persons in Soldier's Habits; in order to detect these, every Soldier which shall be either resident or quartered in any Public-House within any Town, City, Parish or Place, shall register the Place of his Habitation or the Public-House where he was quartered, with the Constable of each District, and the Constable of every such District shall once every Night after the Beat of the Night-Drum, be authorised to visit the House or Place where such Soldier is quartered, and in Case such Soldier shall not be within such House or Place where quartered, the Name of such Soldier and Place of his Quarters shall be returned to the Commanding Officer, in order for his being dealt with according to Law. And in Case any Robbery or other Outrages be committed by any Soldier or other Persons in Soldier's Cloathing, upon Application of the Person robbed or injured to the Commanding Officer, every such
D 2 Officer

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‘ Officer shall order the several Persons re-
 ‘ turned by the Constables, to have been absent
 ‘ from their Houses, Lodgings or Quarters to
 ‘ appear and be viewed by the Person robbed
 ‘ or injured, and in Case the said robbed
 ‘ or injured Person shall charge any of the
 ‘ said Soldiers with such Offence, the Com-
 ‘ manding Officers shall deliver up such
 ‘ Soldier to the Constable or Peace Officer,
 ‘ to be carried before the Magistrate, in
 ‘ order to be punished for the same.’

The present Districts for Watchmen are
 generally too large, and the Number of
 Watchmen too few in each Parish, and the
 present Watch-Rates frequently applied to o-
 ther Purposes than those for which they were
 intended: To remedy these Inconveniences,
 I would propose, ‘ that a certain Number of
 ‘ Houses of each District shall be laid to-
 ‘ gether and provide a Watchman for such
 ‘ Houses, who shall be paid by the Inhabi-
 ‘ tants of such Houses, and such Inhabitants
 ‘ not be liable to any other Watch-Rate
 ‘ for the Parish: That no Watchman go
 ‘ out of his District, unless it be in pursuit of
 ‘ any Offender upon an Outcry.—That such
 ‘ two Inhabitants of the District as aforesaid
 ‘ shall have the Regulation of the Watch-
 ‘ man of the District each Night, and take
 ‘ Care he doth his Duty, and the Watch-
 ‘ man shall walk twice at least every Hour
 ‘ through the District, and secure all and
 ‘ every

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‘ every Person loitering round or about any
 ‘ House within his District, and carry them
 ‘ to the public Watch-house, for the Ward
 ‘ or Parish wherein such Person shall be
 ‘ found.’

It frequently happens, that Offenders of
 this Sort shelter themselves in close Courts,
 and there, and in Places adjacent, commit no-
 torious Crimes and Disorders; to prevent
 which, ‘ In Case any Watchman shall disco-
 ‘ ver any Person in any close Court within his
 ‘ District, who shall continue loitering in such
 ‘ Court without knocking at any Door,
 ‘ such Watchman shall secure such Person,
 ‘ (and unless he makes it appear that he is
 ‘ known to some Person inhabiting within
 ‘ such Court, or has some lawful Business
 ‘ there) shall carry him to the public Watch-
 ‘ house, to be dealt with in Manner as al-
 ‘ ready set forth.

‘ No Person to be employed as a Watch-
 ‘ man under twenty, or above fifty Years of
 ‘ Age.’

Thus much of Public-Houses and public
 Officers, I now proceed to consider another
 and the greatest Cause of Felonies and Rob-
 beries, which is the receiving stolen Goods,
 and this is encouraged either by ‘ Pawn-
 ‘ brokers, Shopkeepers, Gin-shops, publick
 ‘ Tippling-houses, or common Brokers of old
 ‘ Cloaths or Furniture.’

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The first of these are *Pawnbrokers*, in whose Favour this Argument has been urged.

That they assist the industrious Poor with small Sums, whereby they gain an honest Livelihood, and therefore deserve to be encouraged; and this they do, (or are ready to do) at a very reasonable Rate of Interest.

This, I own, is a plausible Argument, and in many Cases a very true one; but under this Colour the greatest Oppressions are often carried on, and the greatest Enormities committed; it is therefore of no small Moment to find out a Method to attain the beneficial Part of this Business, and guard against Inconveniencies which might happen therefrom. Many Attempts have been made for this Purpose; but hitherto they have not been effectual: In the Year 1745, a Bill passed the House of Commons for this Purpose; and another in the Year following. This Bill made Provision for regulating the Pawnbrokers and Discovery of stolen Goods; which passed as follows: That the Pawnbroker should be licenced by Quarter Sessions. That before such Licence obtained, he should at the Quarter Sessions preceding the Sessions wherein such Licence should be granted, enter his Name with the Clerk of the Peace of the County, City, Town, or Place where he shall apply for a Licence; and give notice, that he intends to apply to the

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the then next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace for such Licence. That the Name and Notice of such Intention should be hung up publickly in the Clerk of the Peace's Office and published in the *London Gazette*.

That none should be licenced but Persons who had served seven Years Apprenticeships to some Pawnbroker, or had been for two Years before such Quarter Sessions, an House-Keeper in the Calling or Profession of a Pawnbroker in some City, Town, or Place; and had been rated, taxed, and paid towards the several Levies and Taxes of and for the said Parish, and a Person of good Character and Reputation.

Every Person producing a Certificate under the Hands of three or more substantial Inhabitants of the Town, Parish, or Place where he resides, should be entitled to be licenced.

Persons carrying on the Trade or Business of Pawnbrokers without being licenced, were made liable to forfeit every Sum of Money so lent, and to suffer an Year's Imprisonment.

These Persons were to follow the Business of Pawnbrokers and no other Business. They were to keep regular Books, in which were to be inserted the Names of the Parties pledging, the Sum lent, and the Time

' Time when lent; every Page to be signed;
 ' with the Name, and in the proper Hand-
 ' writing of the Pawnbroker; and to give Notes
 ' to the Pledger for any Goods pledged for
 ' above twenty Shillings, and to mention the
 ' Sum lent upon the same, and such Notes
 ' to be deemed a sufficient Charge on the
 ' Pawnbrokers for such Goods: — Farther
 ' the Pawnbroker was to be obliged to pro-
 ' duce and shew the Goods pledged to the
 ' Person pawning the same, in order for its
 ' Redemption, and upon Refusal to forfeit
 ' the Sum lent.' Thus far for regulating the
 ' Pawnbrokers, and keeping the Business in
 ' the Hands of Persons of Substance and Re-
 ' putation.

' In order to find out stolen Goods, Con-
 ' stables by Virtue of a Warrant from a
 ' Justice of the Peace, were to be impowered
 ' to search the Houses and see the Books of
 ' Pawnbrokers; and upon their Refusal to
 ' shew any Goods pawned, or produce
 ' Books, every such Pawnbroker was to be
 ' liable to a Penalty of ten Pounds.

' Pawnbrokers were impowered to exam-
 ' ine Persons who should bring Goods to
 ' be pawned, suspected to be stolen, and to
 ' stop the Persons, and carry them before a
 ' Justice of the Peace.

' There was a Clause against publishing
 ' a Reward for restoring stolen Goods with-
 ' out Questions asked.' This was the ma-
 ' terial

terial Part of that Bill, which, if it had
 passed, would have been greatly contributory
 towards hindering the evil Practice of Pawn-
 broking. I would to these add some other
 Clauses, which I apprehend would be effec-
 tual to hinder every Grievance of this Kind.

' As Pawnbrokers were intended to be au-
 ' thorized to stop suspicious Persons bringing
 ' Goods to pawn, they have it in some Measure
 ' in their Power to hinder Practices of this
 ' Kind; but Cases may happen where stolen
 ' Goods may be brought to Pawnbrokers by
 ' Persons not suspected to have stolen them.
 ' In this Case I would propose: ' If any Rob-
 ' bery or Felony be advertised in the daily
 ' or other publick Papers, and such Goods
 ' pawned or sold to any Person carrying on
 ' the Business of a Pawnbroker, and such
 ' shall not within a certain Time after
 ' such publick Advertisement, give Notice
 ' of such Goods being pawned to, or bought
 ' by such Pawnbroker, and the same shall
 ' be afterwards found in the Custody or
 ' Possession of such Pawnbroker, every such
 ' Pawnbroker shall be deemed a Receiver of
 ' stolen Goods, knowing them to be stolen.

' Every Pawnbroker taking to Pawn any
 ' Goods of any Person UNKNOWN to them,
 ' or who shall not give a satisfactory Account
 ' of the proper Owner of such Goods, by some
 ' credible Person known to such Pawnbroker,
 ' or shall not stop and secure such Person so
 ' unknown

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‘ unknown, on not giving an Account of the
 ‘ Property or Owner of such Goods, shall
 ‘ be liable to be prosecuted as a Receiver of
 ‘ stolen Goods, knowing them to be stolen.

‘ Every Pawnbroker who shall stop any
 ‘ Plate, or other Goods brought to him to
 ‘ be sold or pawned, shall immediately upon
 ‘ the Persons refusing or neglecting to give
 ‘ an Account of the same, or upon giving
 ‘ an unsatisfactory Account, secure the Per-
 ‘ son who brings the same to sell or pawn,
 ‘ and publickly advertise the same, with
 ‘ a Description of the Person who shall offer
 ‘ the same to be so pawned or sold; and in
 ‘ case the Owner of such Plate or Goods
 ‘ shall be found, every such Pawnbroker
 ‘ shall (upon such Owners making out his
 ‘ Property to the said Plate or Goods, and
 ‘ entering into a sufficient Recognizance for
 ‘ prosecuting of such Offender) deliver such
 ‘ Plate and Goods to such Owner after
 ‘ having properly marked the same, so as
 ‘ such Pawnbroker may be able to prove the
 ‘ Identity thereof at the Trial of such Of-
 ‘ fender; and every such Owner shall make
 ‘ such Pawnbroker Satisfaction for the Cost
 ‘ and Trouble of such Pawnbroker in regard
 ‘ to the said Offender.

‘ In case any Pawnbroker shall conceal
 ‘ any Goods, and shall not enter them
 ‘ in his Books, and such Goods shall after-
 ‘ wards be found in his Custody, and proved

‘ to

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‘ to be stolen Goods, every such Pawnbroker
 ‘ shall be deemed guilty of receiving stolen
 ‘ Goods, knowing them to be stolen.

These Provisions I apprehend would be suf-
 ficient to hinder the *evil* Practices of Pawn-
 brokers, and these only would be effective.

I have heard it has been proposed to lay a
 Tax upon Pawnbrokers, thereby to hinder
 poor Persons from carrying on this Business.

What End would this answer?— The
Revenue to the Publick will be but *small*; nor
 would there be one Pawnbroker less; they
 would then think themselves more immedi-
 ately under the Protection of the Govern-
 ment, and if it should happen, that the Re-
 venue should be increased, it will be one
 Reason for enlarging the Number.— Besides
 the Tax will not be upon the Pawnbroker,
 but upon the Person who pledges the Goods;
 he must raise his Interest, and the Argu-
 ment of a Profit to the Revenue will always
 be made use of in Favour of the *Pawnbroker*.
 Nay, should a Magistrate be too scrupulous
 in examining into the Character of a Person
 who is willing to pay a Rent to the Publick
 for a Licence, to carry on the Business of a
 Pawnbroker, he would often run the Risque
 of having his Affection to the Government
 called in Question. For this Reason I am
 afraid that laying a Tax upon Pawnbrokers,
 will be so far from lessening the Number,
 that it will be a Means for increasing it.

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To the already-mentioned Proposals I will add one more: viz. ' That all Good
' pawned or pledged to Pawnbrokers, when
' forfeited for Want of Redemption, shall
' be sold at a publick Auction in a publick
' Place, and printed Catalogues thereof de-
' livered ten Days before such Sale, one
' of which shall be left at the Dwelling-
' House of, or delivered to every Person to
' whom any of the Goods so catalogued, to
' be sold shall belong, or have been pawned
' by; so that the Goods may be sold for
' their full Value, and the Overplus returned
' (if any) after Charges deducted and Debt
' and Interest paid, to the Owner. And in
' case any Goods so exposed to Sale, shall
' prove to be stolen Goods, the Pawnbroker
' shall produce or give Account of the Per-
' son from whom he had the same, or in
' Default, the Owner shall, upon proving his
' Property to the said Goods, be entitled to
' have the same again, and the Pawnbroker
' thenceforth declared incapable of carrying
' on the Business of a Pawnbroker, and also
' forfeit and lose three Times the Value
' thereof. But in case the Pawnbroker
' shall produce the Person who pawned or
' pledged the same, and shall give Evidence
' against such Person or Persons so pawning
' or pledging of the same, every such Pawn-
' broker shall be entitled to the Money lent
' on such Goods, and to such reasonable
' Cost

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' Cost and Charges as such Pawnbroker shall
' be put to in prosecuting the Offender.'

These Regulations will, I apprehend, great-
ly conduce towards hindering the Mischiefs
from Pawnbrokers, and make this Set of
People serviceable to Mankind.

But these Evils do not wholly take their
Rise from Persons of this Sort, Shopkeepers and
Persons of great Circumstances have been
found Guilty of receiving stolen Goods,
though it has been a difficult Matter to con-
vict them; Persons carrying on the Business of
Shopkeeping have frequently bought Plate,
Jewels and other Valuables much under the
Value, and have not thought it worth while
to enquire how the Persons, who brought
them to sell, came by them, nay frequently
of Strangers, whose Aspect give great Sus-
picion of their Character.

To prevent this I would propose, ' in Case
' any Plate, Jewels or Valuables which has
' been stolen, be found in the Custody of
' any Person dealing in Goods of that Sort,
' and such Person cannot produce the Person
' of whom he bought the same, or make it
' appear that he purchased it in his public
' Shop and paid the intrinsick Value thereof,
' every such Person in whose Custody such
' Jewels, Plate or Goods shall be found,
' shall lose the said Jewels, Plate or Goods
' and treble the Value thereof for the first
' Offence, and for the second Offence shall
' be

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'be deemed a Receiver of stolen Goods,
'knowing them to be stolen, and punished
'as such.'

That this is the Case in many Professions, will not be denied, every Day's Experience affords Instances thereof, nor will any reputable Shopkeeper think himself reflected upon by a Prosecution of this Kind, he must be convinced of the Necessity, and ought to rejoice in every Method which shall be found out to free honest Tradesmen from Suspicion.

As to Gin-shops they are commonly Nuisances in themselves, they entertain all Sorts of Persons without enquiring from whence they came, the Nature of their Business requires it, therefore the Public are entitled to the strongest Means of Defence against them, nor can the Laws for this Purpose be too strict.

These cannot have the least Plea in their Behalf, drinking of spirituous Liquors has been always allowed to destroy Health and debauch the Mind, nor can there be the least Pretence for any Shops of this Sort.

The Pleas in their Behalf are various.

I. The Farmer pleads in Behalf of the Consumption of his Corn.

II. It brings in a large Sum to the publick Revenue.

III. Spirituous Liquors are necessary for Medicines.

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IV. They are in several Cases lowered by Water, and made both a pleasant and wholesome Drink for common Use.

Of each of these I shall take some short Notice.

I. As to the FARMER.

There are many other Methods of Consumption of Corn besides distilling it; good and wholesome Bread and Beer are the Staffs of Life, and no one can live without them. The making use of spirituous Liquors checks the Consumption of both these; Drinkers of spirituous Liquors destroy their Appetites, and by one Glass of these hinder their Consumption of double the Quantity of Corn in Bread and Beer.

But the Farmer is mistaken, if he apprehends all spirituous Liquors are drawn from Corn; the common Gin and other of the pernicious Liquors commonly sold in this City and Suburbs are drawn from worse Materials, and I am afraid were the Ingredients of these pernicious Liquors to be known, they would appear very often to be of so filthy a Nature, that Mankind would be shocked when they knew what they had been drinking of. I am therefore sincerely of Opinion, that was a Stop put to the drinking these pernicious Liquors, the Health of Mankind would be better, and double the Quantity of Corn would be consumed in those wholesome Commodities of Bread and

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and Beer than is now made use of in distilling these pernicious Spirits; so that the Farmer will be a Gainer by the entire Suppression of them.

The next Thing to be thought of is the INCREASE OF THE PUBLICK REVENUE.

This *prima facie* appears to be Fact, and I am of Opinion, the Government raise large Sums by this Means, but that upon the whole they are Gainers by it, I must disallow.

Whatever arises to the Government by this Means, may in a great Measure be said to arise from the Sins of the People; most certainly a wrong Method to support Government! I can compare it to nothing more properly than an Highway-man who robs the honest Traveller; it is true, he gets his Money, but it frequently ends in his Ruin. — In this Case the publick Revenues are increased, but this Method increases the publick Disorders; publick Disorders increase the publick Expences; Mankind become debauched in their Manners, insult Magistracy, resist Government, and occasion double the Expence to the Publick that this Revenue brings in.

The third Plea in Behalf of spirituous Liquors is, that they are useful in MEDICINE.

To this I agree: But then as Medicine they ought to be used. Whenever any Thing

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Thing of this Kind is wanted, there are within the City and Suburbs a sufficient Number of Persons who prepare them properly for that Purpose, and to those only the Venders of these Liquors for this Purpose, ought to be confined.

I come now to the last Plea in Behalf of spirituous Liquors, *viz.* Their being WHOLESOME, by being mixed with other Liquors, and made use of as COMMON DRINK.

This last was never pretended to be done in the Gin-shops; they were only sold there in Drams, (sometimes the Glas indeed was pretty large) but they were never lowered with Water, nor made wholesome by any Mixture whatever; so this can never be a Plea for them. The drinking these Liquors mixed in Punch or otherwise, ought to be confined to Taverns and Publick-houses (duly licenced for that Purpose.)

From this it appears, that Gin-shops have not the least Plea for them; nay, the Law has treated them as Nufances, and suppressed them as such; but as all Laws of this Kind have been evaded, and the Grievance still is in some Shape or other carried on, I think the Guard of the Publick against them cannot be too strong. I would therefore propose: If any stolen Goods shall be found in the Custody of any Person or Persons retailing or dealing in spirituous Liquors, and the Person in whose Custody the same shall

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shall be found, shall not produce the Person of whom the said Goods were had or bought, and prosecute the said Person to Conviction for the same; every such Person so retailing or dealing in spirituous Liquors, on whom, or in whose Custody such stolen Goods shall be found, shall be deemed a Receiver of such stolen Goods, knowing them to be stolen, and punished accordingly.

If a Keeper of any Ale-house or other Publick-house shall buy any Plate, Jewels, or other Valuable, take in Pawn, or receive the same into his Custody by Way of Pledge, as a Security for any Money for any Beer, Ale, &c. sold by him, or for any Money due and owing to any such Alehouse-keeper, or Keeper of such Publick-house, of or from any Person whatever *unknown*, to such Alehouse-keeper, or Keeper of such Publick-house, and such Plate, Jewels, or other Valuable shall afterwards appear to be stolen, every such Person taking or receiving the same as aforesaid, shall (unless he produce, prosecute, and convict the Person of whom he bought, had or received the same) be deemed a Receiver of stolen Goods, knowing them to be stolen.

Brokers of old Cloaths and second-hand Furniture are generally Persons of mean Condition, and very seldom make Enquiry con-

concerning Goods they purchase; these are the Occasion of many Felonies, and give the greatest Encouragement to Offenders of this Sort; the Laws cannot be made too strong to guard against them, nor will the honest Trader have the least Reason to complain.

I would therefore propose: That no Person whatever should buy any second-hand Goods of any Person whatever, but of such as they shall well know and be acquainted with; and that all Dealers in second-hand Goods shall keep regular Books of the Goods they buy, the Time when they buy them, and of whom they are bought; which Books shall be produced, to any Constable or chief Officer, who shall by legal Warrant, be authorized to search the House or Houses of such Persons for stolen Goods; and in case any stolen Goods shall be found in the Custody of such Person not entered in such Book, and such Person shall not produce the Person of whom he had the same, every such Person shall be deemed a Receiver of stolen Goods, and punished accordingly.

The Expence of Prosecution of Offenders of this Sort is another Obstruction to the Discovery of such Offenders, to prevent which I would propose: That every Person who shall be bound by Recognizance to give Evidence against any Offender, shall

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shall be allowed his reasonable Expences,
 to be settled by the Court before whom
 such Offender shall be tried, which said
 Expences shall be forthwith paid by the
 Sheriff of the County, City, or Place where
 such Offender shall be tried, and the said
 Sheriff shall be allowed the same in his
 Accounts; but this only in Cases where
 there is no Reward appointed by Law for
 prosecuting and convicting such Offender.

This may perhaps be objected to, as it
 will lay a fresh Expence upon the Publick;
 but if a Fund can be found out for an-
 swering these Expences, and the Publick
 not be injured thereby, the Objection is an-
 swered; for this Purpose I would submit
 the following Proposal to the Reader.

By the many penal Laws now in Force,
 particularly those of the Excise and Customs,
 there are many very large Fines and For-
 feitures given to the King; these I have great
 Reason to fear, the Publick are very little
 the better for; I would therefore propose:
 That all pecuniary Penalties which are
 given to the King, shall for the future
 in every County, be paid to the Sheriff
 of each County, to be by him accounted
 for, and paid for and towards the Ex-
 pence of Prosecution of Murderers and
 Felons, in such Manner as the Judge of
 the Court before whom such Offenders
 shall be tried, shall direct.

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Thus much in Regard to public Offences
 and Offenders, which are so esteemed by
 the general Consent of all Men, as they
 affect immediately the Liberties and Proper-
 ties of Mankind; but these, though much
 wished to be remedied, are not the only
 Cause of Complaint, the Springs from whence
 these and most other Crimes proceed, must
 be attended to, and in Case they cannot be
 made clear, every Stream which runs from
 these Fountains must of consequence be foul
 and loathsome.

The best and greatest Guard against Vice
 is the Encouragement of Virtue and Religion,
 and discouraging every Practice which tends
 to insult or destroy it.

Can any Man be surprized at the enormous
 Crimes daily committed, when the Streets
 resound with Blasphemy and Prophaneness?
 when the Name of God is blasphemed with
 Impunity? when the most audacious Libels
 are published, which call in Question the
 Being of Almighty God, and the Rewards
 and Punishments of a future State? (upon
 which the Security of every valuable Thing
 we possess depends) when the most audaci-
 ous Books recommending Vice and ridiculing
 Virtue, are permitted to be publickly ad-
 vertised, and the Authors escape with Im-
 punity; when we see a Person prosecuted
 with the utmost Rigour for libelling or in-
 sulting a Minister of State, and the Printers
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and Publishers of one of the most lewd and scandalous * Libels ever published, discharged without any Prosecution; when we see public† Advertisements of Assemblies, (said to be promoted by Persons of Distinction) known to be Receptacles of Persons of the worst Fame and Reputation, pass without Notice; when we hear daily the most lewd and obscene Pamphlets and Songs sung and cried about the Street, (frequently in the Ears of the Magistrates) with Impunity.—I must own a Foreigner would have good Reason to think we had no Laws against Crimes of this Sort, or that those who are concerned in Execution of these Laws either approve of, or are afraid to punish the Offenders.

But surely this cannot be the Case, we know it to be otherwise.

That we have Laws against Offences of this Kind. I shall shew the Causes of their not being put in Execution. I shall enquire,

By the common Law of this Land‡.

‘ Blasphemy against God as denying his
‘ Being or Providence, and all contumelious
‘ Reproaches of *Jesus Christ*;

‘ All prophane Scoffing at the Holy Scrip-
‘ ture, or exposing thereof to Contempt or
‘ Ridicule;

‘ All Impostures in Religion as falsely pre-
‘ tending to extraordinary Commissions from

‘ God,

* *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure.*

† *Vide Daily Advertiser, Jan. 31, pag. 2.*

‡ *Hawkins's Pleas of the Crown, 6, 7.*

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‘ God, and terrifying or abusing the People
‘ with false Denunciations of Judgments,
‘ &c.

‘ All open Lewdness grossly scandalous;
‘ All seditious Words or Libels in De-
‘ rogation of the ESTABLISHED Religion;
‘ Are deemed Offences against Govern-
‘ ment itself, and punishable by Imprison-
‘ ment and corporal infamous Punishment.’

And by the Statute * made the ninth and tenth Years of the Reign of the late King *William III.* is the following Clause.

If any Person educated in, or having made Profession of the Christian Religion within this Realm, shall be convicted in the Courts at Westminster, or at the Assizes, of denying any one of the Persons in the Holy Trinity to be God, or maintaining there are more Gods than one, or of denying the Truth of the Christian Religion, or the divine Authority of the Holy Scripture, he shall for the first Offence, be adjudged incapable of any Office, and for the second shall be disabled to sue in any Action, or to be a Guardian, Executor or Administrator, or to take by any Legacy, Deed or Gift, or to bear any Office Civil or Military, or Benefice Ecclesiastical for ever, and shall suffer Imprisonment for three Years, without Bail or Mainprize from the Time of such Conviction.

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* 9 & 10. *William III.* 32.

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Thus stands the Law in these Cases: The next Thing to be enquired of is, how it is observed.

That Prosecutions against Offenders of this Kind, have been publickly carried on, I have not heard; that Offences of this Kind are daily and hourly committed, is notorious.

It is for the Honour, Reputation and Safeguard of every Government, that these Laws be duly executed.

That Power be vested in the Hands of those who have not only Ability, but are inclined to do their Duty.

For this Purpose, Magistrates ought to be such as are neither vicious nor indigent, the first will not punish because he likes, and the latter will let Offenders escape when he finds it is for his Advantage.

A Magistrate should be a Person of good Reputation, skilled in the Laws of his Country, and not take upon him his Office for Hire. If a Man has no other Motives for the Execution of the Magistracy than the Profits of the Office, the same Motive will sometimes prevail on him to forbear it; nor will any Law be put in Execution, but in Cases where the Magistrate may be a Gainer.

It has often been said by Magistrates, they should be ready to punish Offenders, but they have no Information laid before them.

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In many Cases Facts are notorious, and the Justice of the Peace cannot help seeing them. Here there can be no Excuse.

Doth not every Day's Papers afford Advertisements of Theatrical Entertainments in Places not licensed or allowed, by Concerts Vocal and Instrumental, with Comedies between the Act, *Hockley in the Hole, Goodman's-fields, &c.* in direct Opposition to an Act of Parliament. Is it not the duty of the Magistrate to hinder this?

Pamphlet-shops are frequently searched for Libels against the Government, and the Publishers justly punished for the same, upon Advertisements of such Pamphlets being seen in the public Papers.—Is not the same a proper Proceeding in the Case of lewd, prophane, and irreligious Pamphlets; and will it not be as much for the Honour and Reputation of the Government, if Offenders of this last Kind were dealt with in the same Manner.

A Magistrate ought also to be an impartial Person; I agree he ought to be a Friend of the Government, but his Zeal for the Government ought not to make him favour or discountenance any Person, who comes before him as a Party in any Matter relating to his Office.

The Party-Zeal of any Person ought to be no Recommendation for a Trust or Employment, unless he is properly qualified in other Respects; and no greater Injury can be done

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the Public than refusing to employ a Person qualified for any Business, on Account of his political Qualifications; but if a Person is known to be infamous in almost every Scene of Life, publicly declared so by a Magistrate, and for that Reason refused to be licensed to keep a Public-House, should within an Hour after (upon informing the same Magistrate that he had a Vote and Interest in a Borough for the Election of a Member of Parliament) be admitted to take a License by that same Magistrate. If a Case of this Kind should be, I cannot think that Person (let his Zeal be ever so great for any Administration whatever) a proper Person to be intrusted with the Magistracy.

The Government can never be better served than when Persons of Reputation and Fortune are put in the Commission of the Peace; with these every Well-wisher to his Country will join in putting the Laws in Execution.

But if mean and low Persons who have nothing to live upon but their Trades, or who are made Justices of the Peace on Purpose to get a Livelihood, are the Persons to whom the Execution of the Laws are to be entrusted, no Person of Honour or Reputation will be concerned with them. I therefore think were Persons of Fortune and Reputation within the County of *Middlesex*, and City or Liberty of *Westminster* entrusted with this important Commission at this Time (of which

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which there are great Numbers, whose Zeal for their Country and the Protestant Succession hath never been questioned) that they would most heartily join together, and find some Means for putting an End to these notorious Disorders, which are daily complained of; and the doing of which has been so properly and graciously recommended by His Majesty to the Parliament.

F I N I S.

