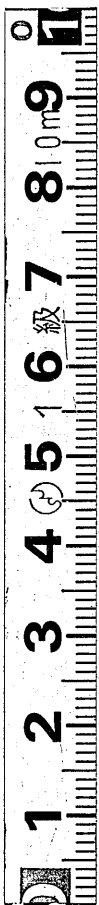


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 P U B L I C K I N D U S T R Y :
 O R A
 S C H E M E

Humbly offered for the Increase
 of our *Manufactures*, the Suppression
 of *Monopolies*, Extending *Trade* and
Commerce, Improvement of *Lands*, and
 Providing for the *Poor* of this Kingdom,
 without Burthening of Parishes.

W I T H

An EXPEDIENT for Answering the
 Exigencies of the Government, without
Publick Lotteries.

And a PROPOSAL for Payment of
 the *National Debts*.

L O N D O N :

Printed for T. CORBETT, at *Addison's*
Head, next the *Rose-Tavern*, without
Temple-Bar. 1724.

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ALL Persons are born to some Employment or other, and it would be ridiculous for any one to pretend to have nothing to do in Life. The Wisdom of the great Creator hath made the whole Race of Mankind dependent on each other; those of the most refin'd Sense, are fitted for the sublimest Employments, and Persons of meaner Understandings, qualified to be subservient to them. If all Men were equally endow'd with the Faculties of Reason, or were we all Rich alike, or
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Rich only, there would be no such thing as a State of Dependency, or any Industry in the World; Mankind would not be accommodated with half their Necessaries, Pride and Luxury would usurp the place of Industry, and the greatest Personages be obliged to be their own Servants.

If the Manufacturers should deny to employ themselves, how should we be furnish'd with Clothes that are fitting? And if our Bakers and Brewers were to desist from the Exercise of their Occupations, how could we enjoy Subsistence to Live? 'Tis therefore necessary we should have some Tradesmen and Poor, as well as Gentry and Rich, to maintain that Dependency which promotes our Prosperity, and notwithstanding Independency is the great Bent of all our Actions.

A numerous Poor is ever a Convenience and Advantage to a Trading Country, where those Poor are employ'd as they ought, in profitable Manufactures: But where there is a Negligence in the Employment of them; they are encouraged in Idleness and Beggary, and not in Industry; they are, in a manner, tolerated in Vagrancy, when they should be laborious
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for the Publick; and are rewarded for their Slothfulness, instead of being punished; then indeed they are a Weight upon a Kingdom, and all Persons suffer from the pernicious Consequences.

I am sorry to say this is too much our Case at present in this Kingdom. Did we conduct the Affairs of our Poor from the Example of *Holland*, we should have no Beggars pestering our Streets, no need of Taxes on Parishes, nor Statutes against Vagabonds. In *Holland* they are all employ'd; they are all obliged to Labour, or Punishment is their Reward; and by this means, no Beggar is to be seen, their Government is strengthen'd, and the *Dutch* grow formidable.

If we follow'd in the Steps of this little, but flourishing State, we should make a much more considerable Figure than we do amongst the Nations of *Europe*. Our Trade at home would be equal to our Commerce abroad, and the highest Prosperity be our Portion; we should be free from the great Imputation we have long lain under, that of being a Mighty Nation, great for the Sense and Valour of its Inhabitants, but weak in its Laws for

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employing the Poor, and rewarding Industry.

To point out these Failings and Defects, shall not be so much my Business, as to offer some Expedients to redress them, and encourage our *Manufactures*. And in pursuance of this great Work, I would humbly propose, that all Silks and Hollands, and other Linnens, now imported from abroad, under such and such Prices, should be entirely prohibited Importation in *England*; so that the Home-Trade of this Kingdom might thereby increase, for the Employment of our Poor: By their Employment they live, and by their living, their Employers prosper. This I expect should alarm certain Trading-Companies, and some of our Merchants; but the Design and Justice of what I propose, is not to be disputed.

If by reason of a Law of this nature, some of our Traders should have less Trade abroad, and consequently the Revenue of the Customs be lessen'd, both may be repaired with very little Trouble. 'Tis the same thing whether a Man grows rich and powerful as a Merchant, or a Weaver; and as one or the other, he may certainly do it; and the Deficiency of the Royal Revenue

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Revenue might be sufficiently supplied, by laying a Tax upon Looms; which every Manufacturer should be obliged to pay, on the Goods I have enumerated being made contraband in *Great Britain*.

If our Home-Trade was under such an Encouragement, thousands of Poor, who now are idle and wandering about the Country, and often exercising themselves in pilfering and stealing, would never want Employment; nor consequently Relief from those Parishes, which they are at present almost an insupportable Burden to: And we have Products sufficient within the Dominions of our King, for the industrious Employment of all our Poor.

To discountenance and punish Idleness, if a Law were enacted, That all Persons of Ability to labour, who should refuse to be employ'd, should be Proclaimed at the Market-Cross, or other most publick Place of the Parish, (like to Prodigals and Spend-thrifts in *France* and *Hollana*) as slothful and idle Persons, and a Disgrace to their Families and Parishes, and then be stripped and lashed round the Town: This Infamy and Severity would be attended with the greatest Promises of a Reformation. And to render a Statute of this

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this kind, of Force and Effect, the Tithing-Man, or other Parish-Officer, neglecting his Duty in executing the Punishment, should be liable to the like corporal Pains as the Person offending, on Conviction before the next Justice of Peace; And if such Justice should be negligent in causing the Tithing-Man to be punish'd, on Complaint being made before a proper Magistrate, or Action commenc'd in a Court of Judicature, he should be liable to the Penalty of 100 l. to the Poor and the Informer.

By these adequate Penalties, such a Law would be made effectual; and without them, it would prove as our Statutes of-
rentimes do, merely a dead Letter. Then after the corporal Punishment was over for the first Offence; if such idle sturdy Poor should still refuse to employ themselves in Work, they would very well merit to be kept lock'd up as Lunatics, with frequent Corrections; and a third time refusing, to be dealt with as Felons, without Benefit of Clergy.

The Justice of this Part of the Law proposed, carries with it a seeming Rigour, and too great Severity; but if we consider our former Laws, it cannot be so construed:
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And as Man, without Employment, is a useless Part of the Creation, and a Burthen to others, who live by their honest Industry; so 'tis no more than necessary that Laws should be fram'd to compel them to be of Service to the Commonwealth, and that we might not rob the Industrious to provide for the Indolent.

For the Employment of these Poor, in our Trade and Manufactures, it would be convenient, that in every Parish of the Kingdom a publick Work-house should be erected and establish'd, under the Conduct of Clothiers, Weavers of Linnen, and other Artificers, who should be enjoined to manage them; and to employ the Poor of their several Parishes. These Work-houses, indeed, should be built at the publick Expence; but afterwards, the Publick be wholly exempted from Taxes and Assessments: And to provide for the Management of these Houses, it might be proper to Enact, that no Clothier, Weaver, &c. should be permitted to set up his Trade, in any Town or Parish, or otherwise to follow his Calling, but such as should be concern'd in such Work-houses; who might be invested with the Power not only to employ, but moderately to correct the Poor under their Care.

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This would be infinitely better than our County Work-houses, or Houses of Correction; which are chiefly under the Government of meer Goalers, who are not so forward or so qualified to employ them as they ought. We have lately had a Statute made for Lodging of poor People in Parishes, and setting them to work for their Relief and Maintenance: But unless a Penalty be added to this Law, leviabie on the Officers of Parishes for their Negligence; and except such Officers were, in some measure, Traders in some of our Manufactures, we are not to expect this Law should take place. Nor in that I have mentioned, as to Work-houses in Parishes, would what I have proposed be of any Avail, if every Parish were not liable to 500*l.* Forfeiture, or some other large Penalty, for every Omission in providing such Houses.

And by the good Management of *Parochial Work-houses*, the young and the lusty Poor would be able to support the impotent and old. Those who were under the Age of forty Years, should be obliged to make Deductions and Allowances out of their Wages, not exceeding a fourth Part, payable to the Churchwardens and
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Overseers of Parishes, for the Subsistence of others, above the Age of Sixty; or under those Years, when visited with Sickness. I take it, this would be a means of relieving all the Poor of this Kingdom, without burthening of Parishes.

The great Objection to this Scheme, I expect will arise from the Clothiers and Weavers; They may be apt to Reason as follows. Shall we be forced to maintain the numerous Poor of the Kingdom, and be also taxed in our Looms? Surely these are Terms very hard and injurious! Such like Arguments, may be started in behalf of our Manufacturers, tho' with little Justice, all things considered.

For as to the Maintenance of the Poor by our Clothiers and Manufacturers, it can be no Grievance or Hardship, because the Clothiers and Manufacturers have the Work and Labour of the Poor for such Maintenance; nay, 'tis so far from being a Hardship upon them, that the maintaining of these Poor is, in consequence, the Maintenance of themselves; for they cannot subsist without Trade, nor can Trade be carried on and supported without Hands: and those Hands of the Poor which are found to be inexpert, and not
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fit even to be Spinners and Carders, or for other Business of the Clothiers, may be resign'd to our Hempen Manufacturers, and the Farmers and Tillers of Lands, to be employ'd in Husbandry, according to the Scheme I shall propose on that Head.

The Taxing of Looms may, at first view, seem to bear hard upon the Weavers; but as the Increase of our Trade at Home, by the Prohibition of the Importation of Silks, Hollands, and other Linnens from abroad, would, in all probability, be exceeding great, the Weaver may submit to a Tax of this kind, sufficient to answer the Deficiency of the Customs, and be no way a Loser by this Scheme; but on the contrary, a Gainer: But, say some Persons, this may be an Occasion of inhancing the Prices of Cloth and Linnen, and by that means be a Grievance to the Publick; tho' these Inconveniencies may be easily prevented, by requiring an Assessment to be made of the Rates of such Goods, under the like Restrictions as the Rates of Bread and Beer are regulated by Justices.

Having solved the principal Objections I apprehend may be made to what I have proposed concerning our Manufactures,
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and the Home-Trade of the Kingdom, by the Prosperity whereof the Poor are employ'd, and our Tradesmen become Purchasers of Landed Estates; I shall next consider how *Estates in Lands* may be Improved in their Value, and thereby also our Poor be employ'd; with what Encouragements may be fitting to be given, and Punishments inflicted, for enforcing the same.

Since the People of *England* have not all of them a Spirit of Industry, nor will they in all Cases take Pains to advance their own Profit; I would propose, to encourage Farmers, and Tenants, and Owners of Estates, that such who should Improve them to five Shillings in twenty Shillings beyond their wonted yearly Value, should be excused, by their Landlords, from all Repairs, and from serving Parish-Offices; and such Persons whose Estates were their own, should be exempted by the Government from Payment of the Land-Tax for seven Years to come, provided at the end of that Term, the same Lands should continue Improved to the same yearly Value: And if any Tenant, or Occupier of an Estate, the Lands whereof were at any time improveable, should neglect to improve such Lands, in the best and most husband-

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husband-like manner, he should incur a Forfeiture of five Shillings per Acre for all those Lands neglected to be Improved, to the Landlord of the Estate, or Lord of the Mannor, and be doubly taxed by the Land-Tax Act.

Were all these Rewards and Penalties annexed to a Law of this kind, in twenty Years space, the Landed-Interest of the Kingdom would amount to at least one third more in Value than it does at present; and I cannot see any material Objection can be made to this Proposal, because we have a Statute in being, for exempting Improvements of barren Lands from Tithes and Church-Duties for the Term of seven Years; and I think that a Remission of the Land-Tax is equally reasonable, especially if at the Expiration of the Term proposed, a Tax was laid on the Lands so Improved, according to their utmost Improved yearly Value, which would soon compensate the Government for the Years of Exemption.

The Tenants and Owners of Lands should be enforced, under Penalties, to accept of all poor Persons able to work, who should offer their Service, or be appointed by the Officers of Parishes; at least, it would

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would be convenient that both Clothiers and Farmers should be compellable to take such a Number of poor Apprentices, and accept of so many poor Servants, in proportion to the Estates and the Stocks they enjoy'd, upon a rational Calculation to be made for their Use and Employment; and the Negligences of Servants should be punish'd, by Whipping in the most publick and exemplary manner. If this were strictly enjoin'd, between our Husband-men, Clothiers, and Weavers, (obliged by Law to be Industrious) all our Poor, not Impotent, would be provided for; or if not, by the Improvement of the National Fishery: And the Aged and Impotent might be Relieved and Subsisted out of the Deductions to be made from the Wages of the Able, by the Conduct of the Overseers of the Poor of Parishes, in manner as I have mentioned; and be kept in separate Apartments of the Parochial Work-houses.

For the Improvement of Wood-Lands and Timber-Estates, it would be well if all Persons cutting Timber, and grubbing up Under-Wood, were requir'd within the space of a Year after the Land was clear'd from such Wood, sufficiently to plant the same Number of Trees, of the same kind,
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or a better Species of Timber, and the like Quantity of Under-Wood, under the Penalty of twenty Shillings for every Tree wanting, and of five Pounds per Acre for every Acre of the Under-Wood; whereby the Pleasure and Profit of these Estates would be very much preserv'd.

Here I am naturally led to what a Noble and Ingenious Author hath lately writ on the Subject of Husbandry, in the Kingdom of *Ireland*; and tho' it be upon Improvements in that Country, may not be improper to be practis'd in this: His Book was printed at *Dublin*, in the Year 1723. and is entitled, *Some Considerations for the Promoting of Agriculture, and Employing the Poor*: In this Treatise, his Lordship has the following Paragraph.

' Now, as to *Agriculture*, I should humbly propose, that a *School for Husbandry* were erected in every County, wherein an expert Master of the Methods of *Agriculture* should teach, at a fix'd yearly Salary; and that *Tusser's* old Book of Husbandry should be taught to the Boys, to read, to copy, and get it by heart; to which end, it might be re-printed and distributed. In these Schools, I would not have any Precepts, Difference,

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rence, or Distinction of Religions taken notice of, and nothing taught but only Husbandry and good Manners; and that the Children should daily serve God, according to their own Religions, this School not being the proper Place to make Profelytes in: I doubt not but some such Method as this would make Husband-men, and prevent the Increase of the Poor.'

In another place, speaking of the Acts of Parliament for encouraging the planting and preserving of Timber, he hath these Observations. ' We shall soon (says this Author) see an end of Tanning and Building, and not so much as a Ship will be upon the Stocks, if very speedy and effectual Care be not taken in this most necessary Point. We must not depend upon the Woods of *Norway*, which upon any Quarrel between Princes, would fail us; and without that, our Timber will be quite consumed in one Generation, being already generally cut down, especially near the Sea-side.'

This the Lord *M* — hath written, with respect to *Ireland*; and his Notions are so excellently good, that they were received with the utmost Applause by the whole

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whole *Irish* Nation; and I dare presume, will be approv'd of by all Persons here, who have any Taste or Knowledge of Husbandry, or are sensible of the declining State of the Woods of this Kingdom.

Now I proceed to *Monopolies* in Trade, which I shall undertake to prove not only pernicious to the Publick, but greatly contributing to the Poor of this Kingdom. That Monopolies are a Bane to Trade in general, and their greatest Use, to advance a few, at the Expence of many, is not very difficult to be made out. When Goods and Merchandize are in the Hands of every honest Trader, who makes it his Business to deal in those Goods, the Publick is sure to be well serv'd, and not to be Impos'd upon either in the Price or Goodness of the Commodities they want; for if some refuse to sell them at a reasonable Rate, there are others that will do it: But where Goods and Merchandize are ingross'd into the Hands of a Company of Men, who have a Grant or Charter for such their Trade, and all others are denied the Benefit of it, they will ever unite in affixing exorbitant Prices, and make the Publick accept of the worst of Goods on the dearest Terms; and the People requiring their Commodities, will be oblig'd,

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as they can go no where else, to submit to the Imposition. The Contract, in these Cases, is Force upon the Buyer, and, as it were, on one side only; which is contrary to the nature of all other Contracts, and against the Laws and Statutes of *England*.

This, I think, sufficiently explains the Consequences of Monopolies. And, indeed, by a Law enacted in the Reign of King *James I.* All Monopolies, and Commissions for the sole buying, selling, and making of Goods and Manufactures, are declared to be void; and Persons griev'd thereby, are entitl'd to recover treble Damages and Costs: But this Act doth not extend to the Inventors of new Manufactures, that have Patents or Grants from the Crown for Terms of Years, nor to any Grant or Privilege for Printing, or to Corporations or Companies of Trade.

By the Statute I have taken notice of, all Monopolies of Goods are declared unlawful, and prohibited; but the great Monopolies of Companies of Trade, are excepted out of the Act, and this Exception hath been Matter of Complaint. As the Sea is open and common to all, so likewise should be our Trade: By this means, *Commerce* would be extended;

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every Merchant would be an Adventurer to the remotest Parts of the World; our Shipping and Navigation would increase; our Poor be Employ'd, and the Trading-Part of the Nation grow equally Rich, Great, and Considerable.

How just and equitable it would be, in a Nation of Liberty, is humbly submitted. Trade ought to be equally free to a free-born People; and the Great should be protected, without swallowing up the Small. The erecting Companies of Trade is, generally speaking, constituting so many Tyrants and Lords over others, who exercise their Authority with an arbitrary Sway, to augment their unreasonable Gains, at the cost of the Publick: They are the Leviathans that devour all others.

If every Subject of *Great Britain* was permitted to trade to the *East Indies*, to the Coasts of *Africa*, and the *South Sea*, what Addition would be made to our Fleets of Merchandize, is not easy to be conjectur'd: Nor is the Number of Hands, collected from our Poor, that would be constantly employ'd in our Trade and Navigation. As it is, I fear a third Part of the Kingdom are excluded from the most profitable Commerce, and obliged to be

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Coasters and Packet-Boat Traders, instead of being Merchants.

But here I expect very formidable Objections: That our Trading-Companies have advanc'd several Millions for the Uses of the Government, and are ever at hand to support the publick Exigencies; for which Reasons they ought to be encourag'd. To answer these Objections, in the most strain'd Sense of them, I shall not pretend: But certainly very large Sums of Money, for the publick Services, could be very well rais'd by a *Trade-Licence*. If all Traders to our Settlements and Plantations abroad, were to pay for a Licence for the Shipping they send thither, which they might reasonably yield to, a great Augmentation would follow to the Royal Revenues, and all Men would be contented and easy, as they would all of them be upon an equal footing.

Though some will say, how shall the Parliament pay off the Debts and Engagements to these Companies, and Redeem the Funds? This would be thought almost impracticable. But might not this General Trade-Licence be mortgag'd for a certain Term of Years? And would not Money

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ney enough be thereby raised, at the usual Interest, to answer this great Purpose? I take it, this might be done with good Success.

As to *Patents* of a private Nature, for inventing of Manufactures, they are undoubtedly well-design'd for promoting Improvements; but, in my humble Opinion, to prevent the Impositions of Patentees, and those who are concern'd with them, whose Avarice is often insatiable, it would be infinitely better for the Government to grant a Reward, suitable to the Trouble and Expence in the Discovery, to the Person who was the Inventor, and lay a moderate Tax on the Productions of the Invention, which all Persons should be at liberty to make, as their Genius and Capacity should incline them.

All Patentees are too apt to Tyrannize; they seldom fail to use those Persons ill, who are not to be served and accommodated by any other Hands than their own: They have the Royal Protection on their side, and all others are, in some measure, at their Mercy. 'Tis therefore highly reasonable, that all private Patents should be under such Restrictions and Penalties, as that the exorbitant Prices of the Patentees should

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should be deemed and punish'd as Extortion, and their Patents be subjected to Forfeiture, on any Neglect or Violation of their Duty.

Persons having a Royal-Licence, assume as it were Regal Authority, in the worst Sense of it, and treat contemptuously all they have Concerns with, contrary to the Intention of their Charters, and derogatory to the common Interests and Freedom of *Englishmen*.

After what I have offer'd for the Benefit of the Publick, I shall consider how the Exigencies of the State (on particular Occasions) may be supplied and answered, without *Publick Lotteries*. I would, in this case, humbly propose, that, as an Encouragement to those who lend Money to the Government, every Person who should advance and bring into the *Exchequer* the Sum of 1000 *l.* should be entitled to and might claim, over and above the Interest of his Money, a Place or Office in the Government, the Business whereof he should be capable of executing, of 100 *l.* *per Annum*, on the next Vacancy arising after the time of the Lending; and so in proportion for all further Sums advanc'd. This would be a means of raising very confide-

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considerable Supplies, for the publick Occasions, and of doubly strengthening the present Administration; for those Persons who were promoted to Offices by these Politicks, would be zealous and indefatigable in their Endeavours to preserve that Government, under which they had Prosperity, if it were only to render safe the Enjoyment of their Places, and Repayment of their Loans, and not out of Principle. And the putting Men of Fortune into Place, would, in a great measure, prevent publick Corruption.

I don't doubt but what I here propose, may be thought a Romantick Scheme by those (if we have any such) whose Grandeur and Magnificence are supported by the Sale of Offices; But with Men of publick Spirit, and publick Virtue, it will not be thus thought of: and I verily believe, a Million of Money a Year might be annually raised by a Project of this kind impartially executed.

If this Scheme should not succeed now, I have known the time when perhaps it would have done it; and I hope no great Personage, who has the Honour to be at the Helm of Affairs, will censure my Conduct in what I have laid down, especially when

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when I assure him, I am so far from being partial to my own Interests, that I am Master of no Sums to advance the Government, and consequently (tho' I should happen to have Capacity) have no Pretensions for Places and Preferments.

I now come to my last Proposal, for Payment of the *National Debts*; wherein I shall take some notice of what a great Statesman, as I have been inform'd, hath lately attempted to accomplish. To regulate the Land Tax of this Kingdom, would be a Glory to the Patriot effecting it, not to be parallel'd; it would merit future Statues and Honours, and its present Reward be the Praises of all Honest Men.

This Tax, the greatest in the World, is at present, and so hath ever been, exceedingly unequal: It is very common for one Person to pay four Shillings in the Pound, (when such a Tax is granted by Parliament) and for another in the same Parish, and contiguous to the Inhabitant thus rated, not to pay two Shillings in the Pound; I have known it not exceed one Shilling and Six-pence, which is a Difference some People will think unjust and intolerable. The Occasion of this great Inequality, hath proceeded from the different Views
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and Principles of Owners of Estates, who, in the beginning of the Reign of King *William*, when the Land-Tax was first commenc'd, rated themselves proportionably to their Zeal, by transmitting to the *Exchequer* such Estimates and Particulars of the Value of their Inheritances, as they in Prudence thought fit; some unthinking Persons judging the Tax to be only occasional, were so very sincere as to give in true Valuations; but others, of greater Penetration, from political Notions that this Cess would be continual, exhibited their Rentals much under Value; by which means, the great Disproportion of this Tax arose from its Infancy, and hath always had Duration.

The Truth of what I here assert is very well known; and why this Tax, which so much affects the Gentry of *Great Britain*, should not be Regulated and made Equal, I don't understand. In my humble Opinion, it ought to be made Equal. For one to pay three Shillings in the Pound for his Estate, and another but one Shilling, is a Grievance too great not to be complain'd of; but for the strongest and justest Complaint, no Remedy is provided by Law, unless a Man's Estate is tax'd exceeding four Shillings in the Pound; and
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this is a very extraordinary Case, that rarely or never happens, and consequently is seldom or never redress'd.

I don't call it unlawful, that I am tax'd beyond my Neighbour, because 'tis the Law that does it; but I must, with great Submission, term it unreasonable: And if this Tax were under due Regulation, it would bring in double the great Sum it does at present, free from all Complaints and publick Clamours.

I see no Reason the Government should not regulate a Tax of such Importance to it: But it is publick Spirit must effect it. If our Legislators should not have the Courage to tax themselves, this great Work must remain to adorn that Age wherein it may be accomplish'd: But I will not despair of its Success, even now; and therefore, shall intimate how it may be effected.

I would propose, that a universal Survey be made of all the Lands in *England*, under the Conduct of Commissioners and Surveyors General of Shires, who should have full Authority to send for Persons and Papers, and of enquiring into the Value of Estates, in every part of the
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Kingdom ; with Power of entering upon Lands for that purpose, administering Oaths to Witnesses, and impanelling of Jurors, if the same should be necessary. These Commissioners and Surveyors should take an Oath faithfully and impartially to execute their Offices ; and being convicted of Perjury, in favouring any Persons, should, instead of the usual Punishment inflicted for this Crime, be render'd infamous Persons, and made liable to a Forfeiture of 500*l.* or otherwise be severely, if not capitally punished. This would sufficiently deter all fraudulent Practices, and effectually discover the great Truth, as to the Value of Estates. And these Commissioners should transmit the Estimates they made of the Lands in the several Counties of *England* into the *Exchequer*, where they should be enter'd and register'd in a modern Book of Survey, in the nature of *Domesday*.

Then might this Tax be levied with the strictest Justice to all the Subjects of this Kingdom ; and this Tax alone, would pay off our Debts and National Incumbrances.

F I N I S.