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THE  
*Landed Interest*  
CONSIDER'D:  
Being SERIOUS ADVICE to  
*Gentlemen, Yeomen, Farmers,*  
And Others,  
CONCERNED IN THE  
Enfuing ELECTION.

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By a YEOMAN of *Kent*.

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*My Son, fear thou the Lord and the King; and  
meddle not with them that are given to change.*  
PROV. XXIV. 21.

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THE  
LANDED INTEREST  
CONSIDER'D.

GENTLEMEN;

**T**HE chief Reasons that have put me upon giving *you* my Thoughts of the present State of Affairs, are the various Representations, and Misrepresentations, that have been given of Things and Men; which have blown up Dissentions to such a Height, as to occasion that hot and furious Zeal, which now remarkably shews itself by the Reception of *Members* into great Towns and Boroughs throughout the whole Kingdom.

You may observe by their little Decorations, Motto's, and Ensigns of Honour, that *they only* are pointed out as worthy to be *chosen*, who voted last Session against the *Excise Bill*; as if *they alone* were the Patriots of their Country, and the true Defenders of *Liberty* and *Property*.— This indeed is their Cry, and this their Boast! But let every true *Englishman* take care that he be not seduced by vain Words.

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It was a very just Observation, made by the great Historian, that in the Beginning of the *Civil Wars*, those that set themselves up against the *King* and his *Ministry*, had got *all the good Words on their Side*, and therewith deluded the People; who, when it was too late, saw the Mischiefs that lay under *them*; and found at last *their* fair and plausible Pretences ended in the entire Subversion of Government, and in all that huge Train of Miseries, that attended, and must ever attend, such Doings.

The Papists and Republicans joined together at that time, till Blood and Confusion overspread the whole Land.—The many Oppressions and Convulsions of State called aloud, as it were with one Voice, for a *Restoration*;—they could find no firm Ground to set their Foot on, till, like the Dove, they returned to this the Ark of their Strength.—The Jacobites expect a favourable Turn of that kind, could they once unsettle the Hinges of the present Constitution: For this they shake Hands with those they must hereafter thro' Principles oppress. And sure the Protestant Dissenters will consider a little, e'er they come into the Clamours against the present *Ministry*, and help to destroy that *Monarchy* under which they enjoy all Ease and Protection, or the *Episcopal* Church Government, which the Wise and Calm among themselves confess to be of so mild and *cool* a Constitution, as not to break out into *Heats* against any.

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Pursuant to this Principle, I should be very unwilling to entertain any harsh or uncharitable Thoughts of any Set of our Fellow-Subjects:—But when an unruly, factious, I cannot stop from calling it *rebellious* Spirit, has so manifestly appear'd of late—when insulting Libels upon Government have been so boldly and industriously spread over the whole Nation, to poison the People and make them discontented and disobedient—when a *crafty* and insidious Paper is weekly publish'd, fraught with Clamours, Insinuations, Accusations, and false Inventions upon the *Ministry*, particularly upon *one Person*; and in so open and daring a manner as not to be parallel'd in any Age—when an Attempt has been on foot by those very Men that set themselves up against the Powers in being, to pull down the Fences of the Church, merely to gain the Dissenting Interest on their Side—when mutinous Petitions and Addresses come from all Parts, dictating to *Parliament*, and peremptorily declaring against every Method they could devise, *in what Shape or Kind soever*, of collecting that *Duty* the Wisdom of Parliament had before thought fit to lay on them—when these Petitions have been seconded by a great Concourse of high-fed Tradesmen, so as to obstruct the Way even to the Parliament-House, and make it dangerous to *some* of its Members to pass thro' them—when such a daring Insult as this was so far from meeting with a proper Discouragement,

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ment, that a Majority of the House, either thro' a *settled* Hatred to the *Ministry*, or thro' the Importunities of the Merchants, or such Gratifications as they were able to make out of *that Money* which should have been paid the *Government*, voted in effect that they should pay none—when by thus doing they have so ingratiated themselves to the *Trading* Part of the Nation, that they are ready to run into outrageous *Mobs* to welcome them Home, and thereby give them Hopes that they shall carry it the next *Election*—when a great many of these *Gentlemen* have declar'd themselves to be of *Republican* Principles; and several *Pamphlets* have of late appear'd in that Cause, which speak their Sentiments; and are sent abroad to *pave* the Way to their mischievous Designs—and when they have shewed no better liking to the other Part of our Constitution, by attempting to deprive the *Church* of all Authority and Power—What dreadful Fears must seize every Breast, that wishes well to our Constitution in Church and State? and what dismal Apprehensions must we have of the fatal Consequences that must follow?

I would not be thought to insinuate, that every individual Person, who is in the Number of what the Tradesmen stile the *glorious* two hundred and four, would strike in with such Measures, or go to such Lengths—yet is it not to be fear'd, that some of the *leading* Men in that Party would pluck up and pull

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pull down, Root and Branch; and stick at nothing to come at their grand Design? Or, if they are not already determined how far they will go; yet, when they are once engaged, one Wickedness must make way for another, and lead them on to the utmost Extent of their Power.

Thus it has been; and thus it may be. Whoever carefully reads and considers the Things that usher'd in the *great Rebellion*, will find such a Resemblance as must make him afraid. How many Persons of Distinction were drawn in by the fair Pretences of the *few leading* Men? When *they* saw into the terrible Mischiefs the *other* were bringing upon the Nation, tho' they had the Honesty to retreat, yet they wanted Power to prevent that Bloodshed and Desolation that covered the whole Land.

I wish the disgusted Gentlemen that are gone into this *Party*, who would not have things come to this Extremity, to be cautious how they give Countenance to them in the beginning, lest the same should be their unhappy Fate.—Upon this Topic, I beg leave to give the Sentiments of an ingenious Author: “ In vain do People think of going to  
“ such a Pitch and no farther; either their  
“ Hopes of gaining some farther Security,  
“ or their Fears of falling into greater Danger, engage them in new Designs, whose  
“ Consequence they attend not to; and when  
“ a Man is gone but half way, he looks  
“ about

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“ about him, and wonders how he got so  
 “ far; but new Necessities arise, and carry  
 “ him on he knows not whither; he commits  
 “ a new Offence to justify a former; and this  
 “ will require another to secure itself. — A  
 “ Man no more knows where to stop in Sin  
 “ and Error, than he can ascertain his Charge  
 “ either in *Law* or *Building* — It is but a *Fool's*  
 “ Excuse, to come off with a *Who would ha'*  
 “ *thought it?* when things follow naturally,  
 “ closely, and easily.”

They that do not see the Connection between those *Principles* and *Practices*, and these *Fears*, must be short-sighted indeed — And yet so wonderfully pleased are the *Trading* Part of the Nation with these *Gentlemen*, that it cannot be expected that their Eyes will be opened: The great Gain which these protect them in, engrosses their whole Thoughts and Affections — nothing can convince them but that *these* have the Interest of their Country, not their own, entirely at their Heart, and are the Glories of the World — How can they tell but that the main Motives that put these Gentlemen upon defending their Frauds in so strenuous a manner, were merely to strengthen their own Party, that they might be powerful enough to dismount those, who, they think, have been too long upon the Saddle, and get into their Room and *ride* the Nation?

It has been an Observation long made, and may be a very true one, that it will always  
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be to the Advantage of a Kingdom to have one Party a *Watch* upon another; and thereby a Check may be put to exorbitant Proceedings. — But then, if the Love of Empire and Dominion be so impetuous and headstrong, that they'll stick at nothing, how unreasonable and mischievous it be to others, so they can but gain their own Point; that they'll throw down every thing that is in their Way, and break in pieces all Order and good Government, unless *they* can have the Management of it — then they act beyond their Province, and, instead of Friends, are to be look'd on as formidable Enemies. These Men's Violence cannot be controuled; they fret, and foam, and spread Sedition in every Breath; their Ambition drives their Malice beyond all *Reason*.

Patriots *out of Place* are in great Agitation of Mind, and it's easy to guess what is the matter with them — all must submit to the restless Fury of a few *ambitious* Men. — To enter into particular *Characters* may give Offence; tho' upon further Provocation it might be possible to point out the very *Reasons* that induce several *great Men* to join in Councils, directed by one of the vilest of *Traytors* — one of so profligate a Character, that they cannot at the same time but have an Abhorrence of him — yet they would do, as old *Hobbes* said he would, if in Difficulty, take hold of the Devil's clubbed Foot to get out by. — What Good can *England* expect from  
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such a *Head*? and from a Body composed of Papists, Jacobites, Republicans, Libertines of every Sort and Sect; all combined against those that are for the present happy Establishment?

The judicious Mr. *Hooker* tells us, “ He that goes about to persuade a Multitude that they are not so well governed as they ought to be, shall never want attentive and favourable Hearers; because they know the manifold Defects whereunto every kind of Regiment is subject; but the secret Lets and Difficulties, which in publick Proceedings are innumerable and inevitable, they have not ordinarily the Judgment to consider: And because such as openly reprove suppos'd Disorders of State, are taken for principal Friends to the common Benefit of all, and for Men that carry singular Freedom of Mind—under this fair and plausible Colour, whatsoever they utter, passeth for good and current—that which wanteth in the Weight of Speech, is supplied by the Aptness of Men's Minds to accept and believe it.—Whereas on the other Side, if we maintain things that are establish'd, we have to strive with a Number of heavy Prejudices, deeply rooted in the Hearts of Men; who think that hereby we serve the Time, and speak in favour of the present State, because thereby we either hold or seek Preferment.”

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I have quoted this Passage at large: It seems in a great measure to hit our present Case; only with this Difference, that the Enemies to Government do not content themselves with exaggerating (snarling Creatures!) the little Grievances they are able to spy out—but out of great Malice invent Falshoods, and lay to the Governors charge things they know nought of; and brand them all, or most of them, with the odious Names of *Pensioners*, *Time-servers*, *Hunters of Preferment*, &c.

It is to be hoped that no Man would be so vile as to sell his *Vote* for Money—this is to make himself a mercenary Wretch indeed.—We will join with them in fixing on such, if such there be, the greatest Opprobrium they please.—If it may be imagined that *Places* or *Preferments* have their Weight to bear down Persons in favour of the Government; is it not equally to be supposed, that a greedy Appetite after them may prejudice others into as unreasonable an *Opposition*? Nay, may we not suspect that the Enemies of our Country and Constitution, underhand bestow ample Rewards to such as are forward to overturn both?—Will no Money pass in the House but *British*? And is it only *English* Money that must enslave us?—We have foreign Powers as well as domestick Enemies to contend with; and if we may judge by *Elections*, we see those who would be stiled the Patriots of their Country, spreading Bribes

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and Corruption with as liberal and undisguised a Hand, as any Courtier of them all can be taxed with.

There must be something of a very binding Nature, that holds these Malecontents together.—Strange, that they should have their Heads so moulded, and their Judgments so exactly formed, that the *same* Bills should please or displease them *all*! Stranger still, that disgusted Persons that go over to them, should be so steady in their Judgment, as to go on regularly with the old habituated *Gain-sayers*!—What a wonderful Illumination falls upon their Minds at once! For the Truth of this, I appeal to the *Votes* in one House, and the *Protests* in the other. Now I mention this, I cannot forbear expressing my Dislike of the Privilege that the *Protesting Few* have over a *Majority* in that House, in being allowed to publish their Reasons; which the other, by the Constitution, are debarred from; confiding in this, that the Honour and Honesty of the Votes in that august House is *Sanction enough*. Nay, it is more to be lamented; when these very *Protests* are drawn up in such a manner, as not so much to *instruct*, as to *inflame* the People; when a *Caleb D'Anvers*, or any *Grubstreet* Author, shall lend, not to say dictate, smart Sentences, to be dispersed under that right honourable Name.

What the Cement is that holds this discontented Party so closely together, is pretty well known—and what mean and base Ways  
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do they take to increase and strengthen their own Side? They vastly applaud themselves for setting on foot the Repeal of the Sacramental Test, thinking themselves sure of Success one way or the other—either to gain Churchmen or Dissenters to their Party.—But sure both will be cautious how they are drawn in by them, as knowing that they would only make use of them as *Tools* to serve their own Turn; to effect which they would give up what ought to be most dear and valuable to us all.

Of the very same sort is their voting against the *Excise Bill*, in order to bring over to themselves the *trading* and flourishing Part of the Nation.—If their *Petitions* had been more unreasonable, they would scarce have met with a Denial, whilst they could have so fair a Prospect that this would turn to their own Advantage.—If the *Bill* had been opposed by the *Ministry*, it is my Opinion that a great many of these *Gentlemen* would have been for it, to try if they could add to their Number the *Landed Men*:—And then how would they have cried up themselves as Friends to their Country, who would not suffer it to continue oppressed under a heavy Load?—To what a Height does Party Zeal, and Party Views, carry Men! What Frauds, what Villanies, will it not protect and applaud!

I need not, I believe, enter into the Particulars of those two Branches of Trade, which  
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were singled out, and their Frauds detected; for the Prevention of which a *Bill* was brought in, that has made so much Noise, and given so much Disturbance to the Nation. — But who, I pray, has occasion'd it? Had there not been an envious Party in the House, ready to listen to any thing that might perplex the Government, their *Petitions* might have lain upon the Table unmolested, and they themselves been under the Censure of the House, for asking a *Permit* to continue their Frauds upon the Government; or what's all one, to continue in the same way they are, and under the Inspection of the same *Officers*; these indeed they know very well, and do not like to scrape a new Acquaintance.

If it was reasonable to lay such and such Duties upon Wine and Tobacco, is it not reasonable that they should be paid? And if the *Officers* now appointed do not take care that they are, but great and palpable Frauds are daily committed, as is evident beyond Contradiction; if those Custom-house *Officers* that *constantly* reside upon a Place can be the better come at, and be more easily bribed and corrupted than *ambulatory* ones, must it not be highly prudent to set them all a going to prevent these Frauds?

Not now to take notice of the great Quantity of Goods of all Sorts that are run by the common *Smuglers*, for whom surely these *Anti-Excise-Men* will not have a Face to stand

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stand up — yet how many of the Ways and Means of Merchants are well known, whereby they defraud the Government? and how many others may be conceal'd, which are called *Mysteries of Trade*? but in truth should be called *Mysteries of Iniquity*. I remember a Clergyman, who was a Minister at one of our Ports, said, That if he was to explain the Eighth Commandment so as to include Customs payable to Government, it would provoke them to that Wrath, that they would quickly say, *away with this Fellow*, and with great Fury *drive him out of their Coast*. This brings to my Mind *Demetrius* and the Silver-smiths, when I consider that *by this Craft they get their Gain*.

I would not charge every Wine-Merchant with this Crime, tho' a great many will not allow it to be a Crime; and general Practice seems to confirm this Notion. — But if this be thought too hard a Charge upon those Dealers, I'll wave it, and go upon a Supposition that they pay for all they import; yet what is that to the great Quantity they sell? What abundance of Mixtures, and some of them base ones, do they use, with which they *sophisticate* the Wines? How many Arts have they, pernicious to human Bodies, in adulterating these Liquors? And what a monstrous Gain must they raise to themselves by such *cheap* Ingredients? Those that allow one half to be *Wine* which is sold as such, are thought to give too great Indulgence. —

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Even the Cyder, which is the best Mixture they have, when got under the *Colour* of Wine, does not pay Duty, which is Ten Shillings a Hoghead; and so the Government is doubly cheated.

Sure the Merchant might well afford to pay Duty for these Home-brew'd Wines, when they can buy the Ingredients at so *low* a Rate, and sell them as Wines imported: — But how can this be better done than by the Method proposed, which is so much clamour'd at? — They pretend indeed that it is not the Duty, but the *Manner* of collecting it that gives the Offence. — But when Persons can put so much clear into their Pockets, and have tasted any while of the Sweets of it, they are unwilling to be depriv'd of this Privilege, and make grievous Outcries lest it be taken from them; and if they can say nothing against the Reasonableness of the Thing, they must beat about the Bush, and see if they can dress it up in hideous Shapes, and thereby render it odious to the People: What Art, what Pains have the late Pamphleteers and Libellers upon Government taken to do this? And yet I *defy* them, with all their Wit and Cunning, to shew one good Reason why the *Malt* Liquors, the Produce of our own Country, should be under an *Excise* and they not.

It is well known that there is an *Excise*-Duty of Four Shillings a Quarter upon *Malt*; and another upon *Ale* sold in publick Houses, of about Ten Shillings more, according to its Strength;

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Strength, which together amount to more than a full Value of a Quarter of Barley, as sold last Year; and therefore it wou'd be highly reasonable that the Lands should be freed from any further Burthen, and that some Pity and Compassion should be shewn to the quiet dutiful Subjects the *Farmers*, who, notwithstanding their great and indefatigable Pains and Drudgery, are *sinking* under the *low* Price that Corn, Cattle, and the Produce of the Ground at present give; and yet had the Wisdom of *Parliament* thought fitting to have added more to their heavy Load, I dare answer for it they would have born it with Submission and Patience, and not have shewn such a *rebellious* Spirit as the others have done; who for their barefac'd and scandalous Insults upon Government, ought, instead of being indulg'd in their *Frauds*, to have had some Check put to their *Impudence*; — and so in all Probability they would have had, if an *Out-of-Place* discontented *Party* had not struck up with them to answer their own Ends the next *Election*.

Such Proceedings as these are so horrid and provoking, that I cannot reflect upon them without feeling some Warmth and Emotion in my Breast — therefore I'll leave that Branch of accumulated Frauds, and see if I can *cool* a little in considering the other Branch of Trade that wants a Regulation.

The *Duty* that is laid on *Tobacco* upon Importation, and the *Drawback* that is allow'd  
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upon Exportation for the Encouragement of our Tobacco-Plantations, are well known; and how far there have been or may be *Frauds* committed in paying the *one* and charging the *other*, I am not able to say—— Only when this was under the Examination of the House great Corruptions were laid to their Charge by those that were for the *Bill*; and some were confess'd by those that were both against it and any Regulations of such Abuses.

If, besides the suspected Practice of bringing in Tobacco without entering it, or when they did enter it, the advantageous manner of doing it from a good Understanding between the Officers and them, which may be allowed to amount to a considerable Sum—— if, over and above these, the Merchants can compress and dry their Tobacco, to make it of less Weight when they import, and by Moisture give an additional Weight to it when they export, and by coming in and going out can make to themselves a handsome Gain, as was reported of one that spake with Fury and *Madness* against the *Bill*—— and well he might, if he could so manage that the same Quantity of Tobacco that made him liable to Ten Thousand Pounds Duty, could be so improved in Weight as to make the *Drawback* Thirteen Thousand Pounds—— a neat Profit! And if the Tobacco by being thus tamper'd with should happen to be damag'd, it would still serve to march thro' the two Elements Water and Fire, and also give  
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a Handle to the Merchants to charge it upon the Tobacco-Planters as not well cured, and so *squeeze* an Allowance out of them for it; thereby a Fraud and Hardship might be put upon them as well as upon the Government, of which there were Complaints lately from the *Plantations* themselves.

But not to lay any Stress upon this, which they can deny with as much Ease as it is affirm'd—— if the Merchants upon Exportation can put Lead and other Things that ought to pay a Duty, into their Hogsheads, and have them surrounded with Tobacco, and pass as such (I come now to Facts) then there would be Cheat upon Cheat, which may arise to a high degree, and require greater Industry and Fidelity to detect and discover, than, it is to be fear'd, can ordinarily be found amongst Custom-house Officers; *these* are so indulgent to the Merchant, that they will enter the *exported* Tobacco to the utmost Weight; this indeed they can justify—— but this needs not be nam'd as a Favour with what they will shew them at *Importation*—— If these and the like Abuses have been, and still can be made, to the great Detriment of the Revenue, then sure they ought to be redress'd—— I'll go no farther into these Corruptions, but leave them to the Discovery of the Commissioners, who are chosen to search and find them out—— Only I must observe one thing upon it, that it will be difficult to find out many Delinquents; they being a-  
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ware of the Scrutiny, would no doubt be cautious how they play'd any Tricks, unless they could do them in so secret a manner that no mortal Eye could spy them out.

There are a great many who believe, and will own, what no Body can deny, that there are great *Frauds* in these Two Branches of Trade; yet they think, and maintain, that those who oppos'd an Extension of the *Excise* Laws have done a brave *Act*, have made a noble Stand for *Liberty* and *Trade*, have well and wisely oppos'd the beginning of *Slavery*; and that if the *Excisemen* had got footing here, they would soon have over-run the rest of Trade.

These Fears were industriously spread among the Tradesmen, which made them rise up and combine together, as if they were certain that the same would fall upon them *all*, which was only at present set on foot against the other. This is their great and popular Cry, which we meet with at every Corner of the Street, and therefore it must not be pass'd by in Silence — I will beg Leave to make a few Remarks upon it, and then let every one judge.

1. I own that *Freedom*, or *Liberty*, is a glorious Thing: A Jewel of inestimable Price; which our Fore-Fathers have bravely stood up in Defence of; and safely handed down this Blessing to us; and every true *Englishman* should defend it to the last drop of his Blood — But what is that to the Case before

before us? We are not, sure, to plead a *Liberty* from paying of Taxes and Customs, (no Government can be supported without them) nor to be *free* from Obedience to Governors — this is not *Liberty*, but Disorder and Confusion —

If Taxes are fit to be laid upon the Subject, some Method should be taken that they be paid: And if the particular manner propos'd in this Case was an Invasion of *Liberty*, and had such a direct Tendency to *Slavery*; Why was it not thought so, when the *Farmers*, and their Lands, were made subject to it? Why was there not a Stand made then? — When any Man's *Liberty* and *Property* (two Words that go well together) are broken into, every By-stander should look upon himself as concerned; because that Man's Case may come to be his own — he himself is wounded in that Person — Therefore we may conclude from the Silence of the Merchants then, and their hideous Uproar now, that the *Liberty* of the Subject is not so much their Concern, as the *Liberty* of continuing these unjust Acquisitions — Whilst they are so zealous for *Liberty* themselves, they should have been careful to have done it in a less *violent* manner, so as not to have taken it away from their *Representatives* — I would advise them not to use this *Liberty* for a Cloak of *Maliciousness*.

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2. When I am speaking of *Trade* in general, it must be confess'd that it is of vast Advantage to the Nation: Serves to so many great and glorious Purposes, that very excellent Things may be spoken of it. *Trade* is the Fountain of Wealth to the Nation, therefore should flow without any Obstruction — No fraudulent Mixtures should come in and pollute its Streams; which if they are permitted to do to any considerable Degree, they will defile and debase it, and render it nothing worth. We can only then look upon them that act fairly and honestly, to be an Honour to their Profession; these deserve our highest Esteem — I would by no means have that *Tenderness* I have shewn for the *Landed Interest* be so understood, as if it carried a Disrespect to the other; only I cannot but think that as they are better able, so they should have had that Fellowship, as to have been willing to ease them of that *Burden* they have long groan'd under; and which is at present too heavy for them to bear.

3. As to the *Excisemen* domineering and lording it over the Substantial Tradesmen; *i. e.* for the *lowest* of the People to be armed with such Power as to insult the *highest*, that would be a sore Evil indeed — But where would *they* have this Power? Or whence would arise this Danger? — Do we find that they have acted

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acted in such a manner, even towards Tradesmen of much *lower* Rank than those concerned in this Bill? How then should they dare to be rude or uncivil to *them*? Or if any one was of so surly and morose a Temper, the Merchants Power would soon bring him to better Manners, or turn him out of his Office — For my Part, I should much sooner fear that the Merchants Grandeur and Riches should overawe or corrupt a poor Officer; so as to make the Method proposed not answer Expectations in paying the Duty. — How little then can there be in all this Noise and Nonsense?

As to Penalties and Prosecutions, I must confess, it might be hard upon Trade to have *Commissioners* appointed *Judges* — But where this is left to the Decision of the *Justices* of the *Peace*, who are generally Gentlemen of Fortune, Understanding, and Probity, I can see no Hardship or Danger — The Reason that leads me to say so is, that I have never yet heard of any Debate brought before them, but the Tradesmen had always *fair* Play; I may venture to call it, *Favour*. — If it should happen that any thought themselves hardly used at the *Sessions*, they may have an Appeal to the Judges, by whom the Rights of the People of the Land are tried; What Reason then can be left for Complaint?

If they will not be content without a *Jury*; they seem to be as unreasonable as the  
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the other Side would be, if Commissioners only were to sit in Judgment— I know not how it happens, yet it is found to be true, that a *Jury* seldom gives a *Verdict* in Favour of either the King or Church— Therefore a middle way was found out, that both Sides might have a fair Hearing— Who can say that this is an Invasion of any Man's Right? Nay, that it is not a proper Security?

4. As to the *Excise* Duties being extended over all the Branches of *Trade*; this, I know, has been with great Confidence given out and maintain'd; notwithstanding Assurances have been given, over and over, to the contrary— The reason why they must have this buzz'd about, and believ'd, was to raise up in Tumult, or at least to throw a Dislike among, *all the Tradesmen— those* concerned in the two Branches, would not serve the *Party's* Turn; therefore Endeavours must be used to inflame the whole Body— It is surprizing that so many of the *lower* Tradesmen should go into a Defence of these *leading* ones, who could never allow themselves to go into their Practices— As to the *Excise* extending it self every-where, this is meer Suggestion and Calumny— it cannot go farther than the Parliament will give it leave; they must set its Bounds— And if with Difficulty it had been admitted, where such notorious Cheats are carried on, how is it likely

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likely to *cover* all the rest? We may as well let our Jealousy rise so high, (and for Jealousy there is no Cure) as to say, when four Shillings are laid upon *Lands*, that this will lead to five; and so on, 'till they have swallow'd the whole.

This puts me in mind of another Suggestion of the like Nature; As by this, they propos'd to prejudice *all* the Tradesmen:— So they have invented a Story to affright the *Farmers*; and that is, that the *Ministry* would only this Year take off the *Land-Tax*, that the next, or very soon, they might bring it on with greater Severity, upon the Northern Parts especially— Some are so sagacious as to tell you how it is to be done— Not only the *Assessors*, but the *Land-Owners*, must give in their Estates upon Oath; and a great Number of *Land-Peepers* must go to and fro the Earth, to seek whom they may devour: What terrible Work must here be!

I would not have mention'd this, but to shew a Masterpiece of Invention— And yet it proves to be egregious Folly, in being a Contradiction to it self— Reasons there are, they say, in the *North*, why they cannot pay up with the *Southern* Counties— But what they are, as I do not well know, I shall not trouble my self at present to enquire— Only it is very odd for any to suggest, and much odder for any *Farmers* to believe, that they that voted

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ted for the *Excise*, should have such frightful Designs upon the *Landed Men*—— It must be strange Perverseness to imagine, when *they* are wholly set upon doing them Good, that they intend them Evil. How should the taking off the *Land Tax* lead to this?—— *That* is but laid for one Year, and may bear an Alteration at any time, as well as after a Cessation—— The present *Ministry* are so far from doing any such Thing, that they are in the Interest of the Country-Gentlemen and Farmers, and think that they are already too sore burthened; and therefore voted to have the Load taken off of their Backs, and laid upon others, much better able to bear it.

The Land Gentlemen and Farmers may make themselves sure, that they shall never be hurt by the present Ministry;—— their great Fears may well arise from the other Side; who as they have voted in Favour of Tradesmen against a Bill, which to me seems reasonable, and would probably have appear'd so to them, if nothing else had been in View but the Thing it self.—— However, as they have voted for, and are look'd upon as Friends to *Trade*, and have in the present Heat, a great Run of *Tradesmen* in their Favour, if by this Means they shall get a Majority chosen, the Consequence is easy to be seen;—— Tradesmen that stood up for them must be counted their Friends;—— every Indulgence, every Fa-  
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your must be shewn to them;—— every Hardship, every Burden must be thrown upon the other.

The Landed Gentlemen, Yeomen and Farmers, whose Substance is fix'd in this particular part of the Globe, are to be esteem'd the most settled Inhabitants, and the Bulk of the Nation; and too long have *Runners* and *Money-Brokers* prey'd upon their very Vitals— If a Scheme for their Ease could be found out, the Proposer, instead of Insults, deserves the *Huzzas* of our Countrymen.—— If a just Collection of those Duties would have removed the Land Tax, and freed the laborious Poor from the many Burthens they groan under, as Soap, Candles, &c. and raised the Money upon those Superfluities, which the Rich, if they'll have them, must pay for; and removed all Duties from the Necessaries of Life; how great and glorious was the Design! The Freeholders, Farmers, and industrious Manufacturers, will soon judge what Thanks they owe to those, who have render'd it Abortive.

For my Part, I would rather extinguish, than kindle any Fire in the Nation; and am heartily sorry that we are got into such Heats and Combustions as forebode some dreadful Evil. But if the Trading Part will go on with that Fury, as not only to exert their whole Interest for them that voted against the Bill, but likewise their whole Malice to those that voted for it; though I would not  
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have us follow them in their Spleen; yet, sure, it's highly prudent for us to *exert* our selves in Favour of *our* Friends.— I am of Opinion that *now* is the proper Time— If we sit still and suffer them to carry their Point; without a Spirit of Prophecy, one may easily foresee the great Miseries that will come upon us.

All People then that wish well to our Constitution both in Church and State, and would have them supported as they now are, must stand up together in their Defence; and shew their Zeal according to the Value they have for them.

Can any Man see the Spirit that runs through the *Anti-Ministerial* Party, and not discern that the House of *Hanover* is so far from having any Share of their Affections, that they are the Subjects of their Ridicule; and as far as they dare do it, of their Contempt.— And in this they go to shameful Lengths?— Can any Man hear the slight and disrespectful Things they say of the Church; how much they want the Bishops to be turned out of the House, as in the great Rebellion; and the Consequence of this, the Clergy out of their Livings, and the Loyal Party out of their Estates?— Can any Man see the whole Body of the *Jacobites* zealously joyning with them, in Hopes that such Disorders and Convulsions may some way or other turn to their Advantage?— Can any Man reflect upon these

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Things, and consider them, and think there is no Danger from an Increase of their Number and Power? I must leave others to re-consider it, whilst I cannot keep from publishing my own Fears.— The more I think on't, the more they increase upon me.

If these Gentlemen that want to be at the Helm, get the better, Who must be their chief Pilots? It's easy to guess: Either such as are known Friends to the *Pretender*, or suspected Enemies to his *Majesty*— I'm thinking of what will follow;— Must *the King* give up *one* to popular Tumult, of whose Fidelity he is well assured? That would not go readily down.— Must He be *forced* to take *one* into his Bosom, that would stab him to the Heart? That's hard.— A *Prince* of Spirit and Resolution would do neither.— Why; what may reasonably be the Consequence? This *Majority* may vote themselves to be the House of Commons; the *Faithful* Commons; may expel those that will not join with them: May quite demolish the other House: May banish, or murder, the King: May prevail with somebody to be *Lord Protector*: (no body knows where a Wickedness will stop, when it's set a going) and may bring upon the Nation, *horresco referens*, all the Miseries and Desolations that must attend such Doings.

I speak my Mind freely; and can assure my Reader that I am no *Hackney*, *Mercenary* Writer to any Party: Am under no farther

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Obligation to the *Ministry*, than what ariseth from their good Management; the Benefit whereof I share, with the rest of my Fellow-Subjects—— It is no Business of mine to *Varnish* over Falshood, but plainly to set forth what I apprehend to be Truth— Nothing has put me upon doing this, but the Good of my Country, and my Well-wishes to the Church of *England*; which I can prefer to other Churches, tho' it has, in my poor Opinion, some Desiderata's and Blemishes— But as a Layman, I am easy.

I have no Hopes indeed of saying any thing that can put a Stop to the high-fed furious Zeal of those who are most concern'd in carrying on these *enormous* Frauds; however, let me in the Spirit of Meekness advise other Tradesmen that would not allow themselves in such Practices, to consider with themselves what they are about to do, or what may be the miserable Consequences of Civil Dissensions and Convulsions in State. — Has not the *King* and his *Ministry* taken due Care of Trade? Is it not at present in a good and flourishing Condition? — Supposing then, Gentlemen, that the *Manner* of collecting these Duties is not agreeable to your Sentiments, yet must this make you quite forget the Blessings you enjoy, and exasperate you so much as to run in direct Opposition to the Government? —— A Man's Loyalty is very low if he shall *Speak Evil*, much more *fly in the*

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*the Face* of Dignities for *small Matters*; —— miserable is that Kingdom where there are no *stronger* Principles of Obedience.

We have an admirable Constitution in State, wisely made up of King, Lords, and Commons; in which we have all that is good in both a Monarchy and Commonwealth, without the Disadvantages of either. — The Crown is well limited, and well guarded, and lineally descends upon such as are qualified to wear it; whereby we are freed from the Broils, Contentions and Miseries of *elective* Monarchies, and from the disorderly *Rabble* of a Commonwealth; — Whoever shall go upon breaking this well order'd Government, must be an Enemy to his Country, a Disturber and Destroyer of the Peace and Happiness of Mankind.

His present *Majesty*, for any thing I could ever see or hear, has not the least Inclination to incroach upon either of the other two Parts of the Legislature, or invade the Property of any Man; would have Taxes, necessary for the Support of Government, levied in a fair manner upon the Subjects, and laid out for their best Advantage; — why then should any one bear an Ill-will towards him? None, but such as think another Person has a *Right* to be in his Place, or such as have the Ambition of being there themselves.

The Clergy of the Church of *England*, to whom we pay Tythes, which are tax'd with our Lands, ought, and if they duly consult their



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their own Interest, will *exert* themselves for his *Majesty* and his *Ministry* — they are sure of his Affection and Favour — It is my firm Belief that He is as truly attach'd to the Interest of the Church and Clergy as ever any *Prince* that sat upon the *English* Throne — this he has shewn upon all Occasions, very remarkably upon two, when Collegiate, Dean and Chapter, and Prebendal Leases were to have been fetter'd down, and the Church's Out-Guard, the Sacramental Test, to have been remov'd; both set on foot or encourag'd by this Party, who are now striving to be uppermost — If *they* have conceiv'd an ill Opinion of the *King*, his prime Minister, and others that oppos'd these pernicious Designs, sure all true Lovers of the establish'd Church, especially the Clergy, whose Income the King would much rather increase than suffer to be diminish'd, should make it up by a steady Adherence to them in Time of *Danger* — Danger, I mean to them all — For as it has been an old Observation, *No Bishop, no King; so I believe it will be found equally true, No King, no Bishop.* We have a religious Queen, whose Piety and Goodness I would recommend to all Ladies; and a large Royal Issue, carefully brought up in the Principles of the *Church of England*, who may in Time become its *Nursing-Fathers* and *Nursing-Mothers*. Let the Clergy, and all that wish well to the Church, with Heart and Resolution bravely stand up for them, as well knowing who are  
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most likely to be the *Defenders* of their Faith.

The *Dissenters*, notwithstanding they may be disgusted, not a little, at a late Denial; yet if they would consider Things well, should not be carry'd away to join the *Enemy*, and forsake their *Old Friends* — How can they tell but what they aim'd at might not be granted, lest greater Numbers might have been thrown into Jealousies and Uneasinesses? Or how know they but a denial of their Request might be the greatest Kindness that could have been done them? If any particular Sect of them was uppermost, they would not be able to defend themselves against the Enemies that lie round about them — Power, like Riches, may be given to the Hurt of the Owners thereof — Or if they could defend themselves, would other Sects be more easy than they now are? I have heard some, reckon'd most judicious amongst the *Dissenters*, say, that they truly wish'd the Church might keep up, because under its Wings they found themselves safe; if so, every thing that is done for the Security of the Church, should be deem'd a Security to them — however, they should dread making Changes and trying Experiments — if in the Scuffle the *Jacobite* Interest should get uppermost, in what a Condition would they then be?

It is my firm Persuasion, that all Persons, of what Denomination soever, may be made easy under this present Administration, if they  
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will — if they will not, they must take what comes; if that proves calamitous, they may say of themselves as the Prophet did of *Israel, Thy Destruction is of thy self.*

The Landed Gentlemen, Yeomen and Farmers, to whom I chiefly address myself, should not only in Point of Interest, but of Gratitude, stand up for the *Ministry*, in Opposition to those that would pull them down — The *Leading* Person in it, whose great Abilities would qualify him to be a *Prime Minister* to any *Prince*, is the peculiar Object of their Hatred, against whom they are perpetually shooting out bitter Words — Pray what is the reason of this Inveteracy? Has he done any thing contrary to Law? Is any Man's *Property* invaded, or *Liberty* infringed? Whose Ox or whose Ass has he taken? — Is any Man's Conscience forc'd, or Privileges as an Englishman broken into? Does not every one sleep under his own Vine, and none make him afraid? — Is this Person lifted up, as too many have been by high Stations, so as to behave himself either undutifully to his *Superiors*, or the least disrespectfully towards *Inferiors*? Nothing of this that I ever yet heard of; — Why — what then is the reason of all this Wrath, Clamour, and Evil-speaking? Well, — since it must come out, he is guilty of a *Crime*, an *unpardonable* one it is, he continues *too long* a *Prime Minister*.

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What a grievous Offence has this Person just now given? which in short is this — Seeing what Hardships Land-Owners and Farmers lay under, and how unfit to bear up under them in their present Circumstances; and thinking it unreasonable that they who get their own Bread, and provide it for others by the Sweat of their Face, should be oppressed and made Slaves of — Seeing likewise a Set of *broccado'd* Tradesmen cloathed in Purple and fine Linnen, and faring sumptuously every Day, raising to themselves immense Wealth, so as to marry their Daughters to the first Rank, and to leave to their Sons such Estates as to enable them to live to the same Degree; and also finding by what Frauds upon the Nation a great deal of this was rais'd — brought in a Bill that *these* should no longer be indulged in this Privilege of cheating the Nation, nor the *other* be any longer made *Pack-Horses* of — Is it not prodigiously surprizing that any should be offended at such a reasonable Scheme as this, excepting them that would be loth to part with their *unjust Gain*?

Let the Freeholders and Labourers remember, that the Money raised was not to go into the *Civil List*, nor thro' any private Ministerial Channel, but was to be employ'd to Publick, National, and Parliamentary Uses, which would save so much to the Landed Interest — the most Insidious do not pretend to insinuate the contrary — But all Means

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Means of supporting the Government must be decry'd; and this *Excise* Scheme, which afforded a fair Prospect of taking off every *Excise* upon Home Commodities, must be painted as a many-headed Monster, that the Republican *Hydra* may have an Opportunity to devour us, and *Anarchy* spread Desolation over the Realm.

Gentlemen, Freeholders, Yeomen, Farmers, and others, let me persuade you to look about you; and as you cannot but see the Trading Part zealously at work to set up *known Enemies* to the Government, who, in my Opinion, will never want *Will*, if they once have a *Power*, to pull it in pieces, and bring in a Civil War and all its dreadful Consequences, let us stand up together and meet our Adversaries in the Way, and endeavour to suppress them — *Now* is the most proper, nay, the only Time, to convince the *opulent* Tradesmen that there is yet *Strength in the Land*: If they are so unanimously and furiously set against *our Friends*, meerly because they are *our Friends*, surely we shall be provoked by them to shew our *Zeal* at the next Election to be *equal* to theirs.

*Consider of it, take Advice, and speak your Minds.*

F I N I S.