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Nam vi quidem regere Patriam, aut Parentes, quamquam & possis, & delicta corrigas, tamen importunum est; cum præsertim omnes rerum mutationes, cædem, fugam, aliaque hostilia portendant.
SALUST.

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OCCASIONAL REMARKS UPON

The ACT for laying a Duty upon the Retalers of Spirituous Liquors, &c.

AS all Societies muſt be ſupported by a Body of Men able to bear Arms, *expert* in *Military Diſcipline*, and ready to appear for the Support of the Government againſt Invaſions from without, or Inſurrections from within, there are therefore but two ways of ſupporting the Government of any Country: The firſt is by Managing and Conducting the *Spirit* of the *People*, and thereby Ingroſſing their *Eſteem* and *Affections*; for the Generality of the People will be always ready to *appear* in *Arms* for the Support and Protection of thoſe they *Love* and *Eſteem*; therefore it is the *Intereſt* as well as the *Duty* of the Government to *cultivate Military Diſcipline*, and the uſe of Arms, among the *People*, and conſequently ſuch a Government can have no occaſion for Numerous *Mercenary* Armies.

The other way of Supporting a Government is by making it the *Intereſt* of *a few* to Support the Government even *in Spite* of the Generality of the People; in which Caſe the Governors of the Society are under a *fatal* neceſſity

ceſſity of *Diſcouraging Military Diſcipline* and the uſe of Arms among the *People*, and conſequently muſt *always* keep up Numerous *Mercenary* Armies.

A Government ſupported by the *former* of theſe Methods is always *a juſt Government*, under whatever form it may be eſtabliſhed; and a Government ſupported by the *latter* Method, muſt be *Tyrannical*, let it be Monarchy, Republick, or whatever other form of Government.

In Arbitrary Governments, where the People have no Power to *puniſh* or *turn out* any of their Governors, it is not abſolutely neceſſary for the Governors to obſerve the *firſt* Method of Government, but if they have any Prudence, they will aim at it as much as they can; for a juſt Government, a Government founded upon the affections of the People, is the only Government which can properly be compared to a Pyramid eſtabliſhed upon it's Baſe, the only Eſtabliſhment which can be ſolid, ſecure and laſting.

But in limited and free Governments, where the People have a Power to *Puniſh* or *Turn out* any of their Governors, the Governors muſt either obſerve the *firſt* Method of Government, or entirely alter the form of Government, *by rendring it Abſolute and Arbitrary*; for while the People retain a Power of *Puniſhing* or *Turning out* any of their Governors, they will certainly make uſe of that Power *againſt* thoſe they *neither love nor eſteem*, by *puniſhing* them for their *Maleverſations*, or at leaſt by *turning them out* becauſe of their *Incapacity*.

As the Government happily Eſtabliſhed in this Kingdom is, with reſpect to Miniſters of State, and other Officers of all degrees and denominations, a limited and free Government; As the People have a Power of *Puniſhing* any of them for their *Maleverſations*, or *Removing* them from the *King's Councils*, becauſe of their *Incapacity*, therefore it is *abſolutely* neceſſary for our Miniſters of State, and other Officers of all degrees and denominations, to *Manage* and *Conduct* the *Spirit* of the *People*, ſo as to Ingroſs the *Eſteem* and *Affections* of the Generality; And as every Man will *avoid Puniſhment* and *retain Power* as long as he can, therefore, if ever any Miniſter, or other Officer, ſhould *loſe* the *Eſteem* and *Affections* of the *People* in General, we may depend on it that ſuch a Miniſter, or other Officer, will endeavour to alter the form of our Government, *by rendering it Abſolute and Arbitrary*.

But as this cannot be done without the Concurrence of the *Prince* upon the *Throne*, if any Miniſter, or Royal Favou-

Favourite, in this Kingdom ſhould find, that he begins to be *hated* and *deſpiſed* by the *Generality* of the *People*, we may depend on it that he will endeavour as much as he can to have the *ſole* Direction of his Sovereign, in order to prevent his Sovereign's freeing himſelf from the *Hatred* and *Contempt* of the *People*, by giving up his *Guilty* Favourite to their *Juſt* Reſentment; and he will likewiſe *endeavour as much as he can* to bring his *Maſter* into the *ſame Hatred and Contempt with himſelf*, in order thereby to lay his *Prince* under a *Neceſſity* of *Concurring* with him in *altering* the *form* of our *Government*; for tho' no Man ought upon any account to loſe the *Reſpect* and *Reverence* which is due to his *King*, or to *Involve* him in the *Guilt* of any of his *Miniſters* or *Favourites*, yet Experience has taught us, that by *a long* Series of *weak* or oppreſſive Meaſures, and by a *long* continued and *obſtinate* Protecting of *guilty* or *weak* Favourites, the *Prince* himſelf has unhappily at laſt become the *Object* not only of the *Hatred* and *Contempt*, but even of the *Reſentment* of the *People*.

For this Reaſon it is *the Duty of every Man* who has a *due* regard for his King, and for the Conſtitution of his Country, to *endeavour* to remove from the King and Royal Family the *Imputation* of any Meaſure which may raiſe *Hatred* or *Contempt* among the *People*, and to *fix* that *Imputation* upon thoſe who *really* deſerve it, and who, *only*, ought to be *loaded* with it.

With this view *chiefly* I deſign to conſider the *Act for Laying a Duty upon the Retalers of Spirituous Liquors, and for Licenſing the Retalers thereof*: And as my deſign proceeds from a *ſincere* Affection to his Majeſty and his Illuſtrious Family, *without any ſelfiſh Byaſs to his Miniſters*; from a *real* Deſire to ſee the Conſtitution, the Peace, and the Quiet of this Kingdom *inviolably* preſerved; and from a *Compaſſionate* Regard for the Sufferings of the Innocent, in order to *recommend* their Caſe to the Conſideration of the next Seſſion of Parliament, and in order to *prevail*, in the mean time, upon them, to wait *with Patience* for that Relief which they may *with certainty* expect from the juſtice and wiſdom of Parliament, I hope any Faults I may find with the ſaid Act will be forgiven by thoſe who gave their Conſent to its being paſſed; for I ſhall take all poſſible Care to make my Obſervations with that *Decency* and *Reſpect* which is *due* to the *Legiſlative Power* of the Kingdom, but at the ſame time with that *Freedom* which *becometh* a *Subject* of *Great Britain*.

It is certain there is nothing more true than what is ſet forth in the Preamble of this Act; The *Conſtant* and *Exceſſive* uſe of ſuch Spirituous Liquors, amongſt the *People* of *inferior Rank*, was become *a Nuſance* which every Man was ſenſible of; therefore a Law for the preventing this *conſtant* and *exceſſive* uſe of ſuch Liquors amongſt *ſuch* ſort of *People*, was much deſired by every honeſt Man in the Kingdom, and *proper Care* had been taken by ſeveral *worthy Magiſtrates* to *expoſe* this *Nuſance*, and to *incite* a *General deſire* to ſee it *removed*, which is a Method ought *always* to be taken before the propoſing of *any new Law in a free Country*. Such a Law therefore would have been very far from being *Unpopular*, or from raiſing any *diſaffection* to his Majeſty, or any of his Miniſters. But there never had been any *Publick* Complaints, and I believe very few *Private*, againſt the *Conſtant* and *Exceſſive* Drinking of Brandy and Rum, either in *Punch* or otherwiſe; and the fact really was, that by the Duty of theſe two Spirits, the Price was raiſed ſo high, that none of the *Lower* and *Inferior* Rank of People could make a *Conſtant* and *Exceſſive* uſe of them. In like manner it had *never* been complained of, or ſo much as thought, that the Drinking *a Dram* of Home Brewed Spirits of any kind was a Nuſance, or tended to the *Deſtruction* of the *Health*, or *Debauching* the *Morals* of the People, the *Conſtant* and *Exceſſive* uſe of ſuch Spirits amongſt the People of *Inferior* Rank was the *only Nuſance* complained of; and as this Nuſance proceeded from the *Low Price* of ſuch Spirits, and from the *Number* of *Retalers* Shops, the Effect of the *High Duty* upon Brandy and Rum, plainly pointed out *a Cure* with reſpect to the *Price*, and a *ſmall Duty* upon *Licences* would have been a *certain* Cure with reſpect to the *Number* of *Retalers* Shops, if proper Regulations had been made for preventing any Perſon's *retaling* Spirits *without* a Licence.

I ſhall grant that the People of this Kingdom might have lived, perhaps more happily, and more healthfully, if there never had been a Drop of Diſtill'd Spirituous Liquors made or imported into the Kingdom, and I am perſwaded, that the uſe of them would *never* have been *allowed* to have become ſo *general*, or ſo *frequent*, if the Government had *never* got any thing by the *Conſumption*; but on the other hand it muſt be granted, that *Cuſtom is a ſecond Nature*, and may at laſt become as *Neceſſary*, both for our *Happineſs* and *Health* as the *Common Nouriſhment neceſſarily* required for the *Support* of *Nature*.

The *Old Britons*, in their Painted Natural Skins were, I believe, *as happy*, and *as healthy*, as our *Modern Britons* in their Silks and Brocades, or in their *Yorkſhire* Drabs; yet I cannot think it would contribute either to the *Health* or the *Happineſs* of the People, to make a Law for reducing us all at once to our *Primitive Condition*, and ſtripping us of thoſe *Coverings* which we have been *accuſtomed* to from our *Infancy*.

Beſides the Cuſtom which many, even of our *ſober People*, have not only been allowed, but *encouraged* to lead themſelves into, of Drinking *a Dram* or two, to chear up the Spirits, as they call it, there was another Conſideration which certainly was of great weight with thoſe who *duly* conſidered this Affair, and that was the *vaſt Number* of Families that are now ſupported by the Brewing, Compounding, and Sale of Diſtilled Spirituous Liquors; for it is not the Diſtillers and Brandy Shops only that are ſupported by this Retale Trade; but the greateſt part, I believe, of the Inn's, Coffee-houſes, and Alehouſes, owe the *Chief* of their Support to the *Retale* of Diſtilled Spirituous Liquors in *Punch*, or otherwiſe: So that I may almoſt venture to ſay, there are near 100000 Families now in this Kingdom who owe the *whole* or the *chief* Part of their *Support* to the Manufacture and Sale of ſuch Liquors. Every Body knows how difficult it is for a Man advanced in Years, and eſtabliſhed in any Sort of Buſineſs, to betake himſelf *with Succeſs* to a new Sort of Employment. It is eaſy for the *Tool* of a *Miniſter* to jump from the Admiralty to the Treaſury, from the Treaſury to the War-Office, or from the *Exciſe*-Office perhaps into the *Pulpit*; but for a Man who has paſt the flower of his Age in the Study of one Buſineſs, and in procuring Correſpondents and Cuſtomers in that Buſineſs, and has laid out the Little Stock of Money he had in Materials proper for that Buſineſs, it is not eaſy for ſuch a one, I ſay, to find out and turn himſelf all at once to a new Employment, by which *he may hope* to ſupport his Family; from whence we may conclude, that a vaſt Number of Families will, at *Michaelmas* next, be reduced to a *melancholy Situation*; and the *Multitude* that is then to be *turned* out of their *former Buſineſs* will *augment* the *Diſtreſs* of every *Particular Man*, and will make it the *more Difficult* for him to put himſelf into *a new Method*, by which he may *Support* his *Family*.

This, I am told, was *fully* conſidered, and *moſt pathetically* urged, by an Honourable Gentleman, when this Affair

Affair was first brought into the House of Commons: He represented to them the *great* Encouragement that had been given for *many* Years to the *Distillers* and the *Retalers* of Distilled Liquors: He represented to them the *vast Numbers* of Families that were Supported by that once *darling Trade:* He represented to them the *Danger* of putting a Stop to it *all at once*; and therefore he proposed the *Reviving* of the last *Gin Act*, extending it to all Sorts of Home Brewed Spirits, and adding some Clauses for preventing the Retaling of any Spirits without a Licence; and if it should be afterwards found that the Duties to be laid on by the *Revival* of that Act should not prove Effectual for Remedying the Evil complained of, he said they might be raised *by Degrees*, so as at last to make them equal to a Prohibition, which was what seemed then to be intended. But *unhappily* for many Families, as well as for the Nation in General, this Gentleman's Health did not allow him to attend *all the Steps* of this famous Bill, otherwise *when People's Eyes were a little opened*, his Reasons might perhaps have prevailed, and the Remedy might have been softned, and better adapted to the Disease; for his Reasons must always have great weight when they are delivered to Understandings clear and unbiassed by any *specious Pretences*, or *deceitful Appearances*. *

There was likewise a *particular* Consideration with respect to *Rum*, which, without doubt, had great weight with all those who considered the *Declining* State of our *Sugar Colonies*, and the great Consequence those *Colonies* are of to the *Trade* and *Naval Power* of *Great Britain*; for as *Rum* is not only Manufactured, but *wholly* produced within our *own* Dominions, and by the Labour and Industry of our *own* Subjects, instead of Prohibiting we ought to Encourage the Consumption of it *as much* as that of *any* other Home Produce: Nay, we ought to Encourage the Consumption of *Rum rather* than the Consumption of most Sorts of Home Brewed Spirits, because in the Composition of the Latter, there is *a Mixture* of *French* Brandy, whereas *Rum* is, as I have said, *wholly* our own Produce, as well as Manufacture.

I know it was urged, that all Sorts of Distilled Spirituous Liquors, when drank *unmixed*, and taken *to Excess*, were *Poisonous*, and brought as certain and as immediate

* W-----m. P-----y, *Esq*;

Death

Death as any other Poison: That by taking a *small* quantity People were almost *in an Instant* rendered so much Intoxicated as to lose the use of their Reason, and all Command over themselves: That when People met *promiscuously* together in a Brandy or Gin-shop, or in any other Place where such Liquors were publickly retaled, they *encouraged* one another to Drink to *Excess*, by which many had been actually killed upon the Spot, or induced to commit the most wicked or extravagant Enormities; *and that it was impossible to prevent the Drinking of such Liquors to Excess, as long as any such publick Places for Retale were allowed.* For this Reason it was said, that *every* publick Place for the Retale of Distilled Spirituous Liquors was a *publick Nusance*, and ought to be *entirely* removed; and that then was the *only* time for doing it, because, by the late great Abuse of such Liquors, the Spirit of Resentment was raised *so high* against that Nusance, that they believed they would be able to get a Law passed for that Purpose; whereas if they then laid on a small Duty so as to remove the Nusance *in Part only*, the Nusance, tho' not so great as formerly, would continue, and the Spirit of Resentment against it would subside *so much*, that they would *never* be able afterwards to get a Law Passed for increasing that Duty, considering the *Multitudes* of People that would find it their Interest to sollicite against and oppose the Passing of such a Law. This was the *only* tolerable Reason I ever heard, and I am perswaded the *Chief* Reason with the *Members of both Houses of Parliament*, for Laying on such a *Heavy Duty at once* upon the Retale of Distilled Spirituous Liquors, and upon Licences for such Retale, as will *certainly* amount, if *duly* executed, to a *Total Prohibition.* The rest was all Declamations against the Fatal Effects attending the Drinking of such Liquors to Excess.

Now I shall readily admit, that all Distilled Spirituous Liquors, when drank *unmixed*, and taken *to Excess*, are *Poisonous:* That People are *speedily*, and with a *small* quantity of *such* Liquors, rendered *so much* intoxicated as to lose the use of their Reason, and all Command over themselves; and that People meeting *promiscuously* at the Places where such Liquors are publickly retaled, do *encourage* one another to Drink of them *to Excess*; *but I cannot admit that it was impossible to prevent this Excess as long as any such publick Place of Retale was allowed.* Experience has shewn the contrary; there was *never* any *great* Complaints against Drinking *Brandy* or *Rum to Excess:*

cess: What was the Reason? *Brandy* and *Rum* are certainly *as* intoxicating, and *as* tempting to the *Vulgar* as *Gin*: The Reason then, and the *only* Reason, must certainly have been the *High Price?* Is it not then apparent, that the Laying a Duty of *four* or *five* Shillings *per* Gallon on Home Brewed Spirits, would have prevented that *Constant* and *Excessive* use of them amongst the *Lower* and *Inferior* Rank of People, which was then the *only* Subject of Complaint? But let us suppose that even *Brandy* and *Rum* are too often drank *to Excess*, and that, notwithstanding this *High Duty* upon Home Brewed Spirits, they likewise would have been drank *to Excess*: Might not a *new* Law against Drunkenness, and *greater* Caution in granting Licences, have in a great Measure prevented this Evil, without putting it out of the Power of a *Poor Labouring* Man or Woman to get *one single* Dram in a Case of the *greatest* Necessity, unless he has where-with-all to purchase *Two Gallons*, or a *Recipe* from a *Graduate* Doctor? For I will aver, that if an Apothecary Sells *a Dram* without such a *Recipe*, he runs a *great* Risque of Incurring the Penalties inflicted by this *new* Act.

But supposing it true, that it was impossible to prevent the Drinking of Distilled Spirituous Liquors *to Excess*, as as long as any publick Places for Retale were allowed: In the first Place, I must say, that such an Allegation is a great Impeachment of the Prudence and Conduct of our Government for *many* Years past; for it is certain that ever since *Excises* have been brought upon this Nation, the *wise Maxim* of our Ancestors has been *quite* neglected, and an *unbounded* Liberty of setting up Inns, Alehouses, and Brandy-shops, granted to every Man who would *pay* the *Justices* for a *Licence*. Our wise Ancestors knew *all such* Houses would become *Nusances*, if there were *more* of them in any Place or Parish than were *absolutely* necessary for the Accommodation of the Neighbourhood and Travellers passing that way; therefore the Law or Custom of Granting Licences was introduced, and these Licences were *never* granted but upon Enquiry into the Character of the Person suing for it, and into the Place where the Alehouse or Brandy-shop was to be set up; and they were generally granted *only* to *Decayed* Farmers or Tradesmen, who might have *otherwise* become a Burthen upon their respective Parishes; which Custom is observed, I am told, to this Day, in the Parish of *Lewisham*, with respect to the Huts set up at *Dulwich-Wells*.

In the next Place, considering the *Numbers* of Families that have set up, not only by the Connivance, but by the *Encouragement* of our late Governors, and are now supported by this Retale Trade, Nusance as it is, a *very tender* Regard ought to be had for them: They ought not to be *all at once* set a-drift, and *turned out* of the *only* Means they have *at present* for supporting their Families; for which Reason the Trade ought not to be *altogether* and *at once* totally Prohibited; for it is certainly inconsistent with Prudence and good Policy, for a Government to render *at once* a *great* Multitude of their Subjects *Desperate*, if there be any possible way to prevent it.

I shall grant, that if the *General* Resentment which prevailed last Winter, had been allowed to *subside*, or the Evil *palliated* a little by *a Half Cure*, it would have been *difficult* to have obtained a *new* Act for applying any *further* Cure: But might not a *thorough* Cure have been applied by an Act *then* passed, to have taken Place *at different Terms*? Might it not have been enacted that a Duty of *Two Shillings* a Gallon and 40*s*. a Licence should take place at *next Michaelmas*, and these Duties *Doubled* at *every Michaelmas* after, till they had amounted to what they are *now* fixed at? This would *not* have rendered *any great* Number of our Subjects *Desperate*, it would *not* have brought on any *General Calamity*; for People would have *had time* to have looked about them, and to have provided for the Support of their Families *in some other way*; and there would have been no occasion for any *new* Act to have made the Remedy *Total* and *Effectual*.

Lastly, as great Care ought upon such Occasions to be taken to *manage* and *direct* the *Spirit* of the *People*, in order to prevent its being in the Power of Men whose *Private* Interest may suffer by a *Good* Law, to *sow Sedition* among the People; great Care ought to have been taken to have *raised* a *Spirit against* the *Numbers* of our *Punch* Houses, and the many *fatal* Effects flowing from an *immoderate* use of that Liquor; as also against the *immoderate* Drinking of *Brandy* and *Rum*; for since the Retale of these too was to be Prohibited, the *Spirit* of Resentment ought to have been *raised against* the Retale of them, as well as *against* the Retale of Home Brewed Spirits; for in such Cases, when the Remedy is carried *further* than the Evil *Complained of*, it will always produce *Murmurings* among the People, and will probably, *in a free Country*, disappoint the Effect of the Remedy, *even* with respect to the

Evil *Complained of*, which I am much afraid will be the Consequence of the *present Case*.

Having now examined this Law with the *Freedom* which a *British Subject* is *intitled* to, I shall with the *same Freedom* proceed to enquire into the *Secret Views* and *Designs* of those who were the *Original* Contrivers, and the *under-hand* Promoters of this Bill, *neither* of whom can *possibly* have the Honour of having a Seat in *either* House of Parliament, and in a particular Manner I must do Justice to that Honourable, Learned and worthy Gentleman, who *openly* appear'd as its *Chief* Patron, by declaring that I am *fully* convinced he had *no Share* in, *nor* knew any thing of the *Views* or *Designs* I am going to Mention; and therefore those who may suffer by this Law, mistake their aim most egregiously, if they direct any Part of their Resentment against him. A Man of true Honour and Sincerity is never Jealous or Suspicious, and therefore is the *more liable* to be Imposed on; and that worthy Gentleman's *known Regard* for the publick Good, and for the Happiness and Health of the People, as well as his *Great Aversion* to all Sorts of Vice and Immorality, gave some People Grounds to believe, that they might prevail upon him to Patronize a Law against the Retalers of Spirituous Liquors, *in terms as general and extensive as they found were necessary for their Secret Views and Designs*: This, I say, gave them Hopes of prevailing upon him to Patronize such a Law as they intended; and they knew that his *Great Character* for Honour and Integrity would contribute to its Success in both Houses, and would prevent all Suspicion of *a Snake in the Grass*.

In like Manner I must do so much Justice to *all* those Members of *either* House of Parliament, who gave their Consent to the Passing of this Bill, as to declare that I am *fully* convinced that *neither* of them had *any share* in, nor knew *any thing* of the *Views* and *Designs* I am going to mention. They were certainly directed *entirely* by that Honest, Just, and Necessary Intention of putting an End to the *Constant* and *Excessive* use of Distilled Spirituous Liquors amongst the *Lower* and *Inferior* Rank of our People, which Nusance was got to such a height as to threaten this Kingdom with almost an *absolute* Cessation of all Labour and Industry, and a *Total* Deprivation of all Virtue, Religion and Morality. We know that the Bills brought into Parliament are *Generally* contrived and concerted by Persons *without* Doors, and are *often* drawn up, perhaps before any Step is taken *in either* House towards the

the bringing in of any such Bill: This I am perswaded was the Case of this Bill *now* under my Consideration: It was *certainly* contrived and concerted, if not fully drawn up, by some Gentlemen *without Doors*; and after it was brought in, tho' the Members foresaw that the Bill *as it then stood*, would be attended with *great* Hardships upon *many* of his Majesty's faithful and Innocent Subjects, *yet as the Evil stood in need of an immediate Remedy*, most of them thought it was better to pass the Bill, *as it then stood*, than to *allow* such a *Desperate Disease* to take *deeper* Root by continuing *for a Year longer*; and they were the more easily Induced to come into this Measure, because they made no doubt but that some Method would be found out *before next Session of Parliament*, for *relieving* the *Innocent* Part of Mankind from the Hardships they might suffer by the Bill *as it then stood*: This I am convinced was the *only prevailing* Motive with *all* those who have the Honour of having Seats in *either* House of Parliament; but there were some *without Doors* who had *other Views and Designs*, and they *certainly* were the *Original* Contrivers and the *under-hand* Promoters of this Bill: Who they were I shall not take upon me to Mention; but it is to be hoped the *next* Session of Parliament will discover who they were, and to them *only* we ought to *Impute* all the *Hardships* the *Innocent* may *suffer*, by the *too great* Extension, or *too sudden* Effect of this *new* Law.

Every Man knows that the *Civil List* settled upon his present Majesty is 800000 *l.* a Year, for the Payment of which *several Excises* and *Duties* are appropriated, with this Extraordinary *Proviso*, that if these Duties produce any *Surplus* it shall belong to his Majesty, but if there be any *Deficiency*, the Nation is obliged to *make* it *Good*; and tho' there was once 115000 *l.* granted by the Parliament for *making good* a *Deficiency or Arrear*, yet it is generally supposed, the *Excises* and *Duties* appropriated to the *Civil List* produce *a great deal more* than 800000 *l.* Yearly. It is likewise generally known, that a part of the Duty upon Home Brewed Spirits is one of those Duties appropriated to the *Civil List*, and consequently, if the *Consumption* of Home Brewed Spirits should be *diminished*, the *Civil-List* Revenue would of Course be *diminished*, if not *made good* in some other way. The *Consumption* of these Spirits, and the *Excessive use* of them had become so *General* before last Session of Parliament, that it was become *necessary* to make some Law for putting a Stop to this *Excess*, especially among our *Inferior* Sort of People; and as any

 such

such Law would of course *diminish* the *Civil-List* Revenue, in case the *Decrease* in *that Branch* should not be *made up* by the *Increase* of *another*, it gave the *alarm* to those who have *a greater* Veneration for *that Revenue* than they have for his Majesty, for his Ministers, or for the Health and Happiness of his People.

These Gentlemen having *thus* taken the *alarm*, they naturally set themselves about Enquiring what were the *Effects* of the *late Gin-Act*, with respect to the *Civil List* Revenue? And as they have all *publick Accounts* at Command, we must suppose they discovered that the *Civil List* Revenue was *a great Gainer* by the *late Gin-Act*, because the *diminishing* the *Consumption* of Spirits *encreased* the *Consumption* of Beer and Ale, so that the *Decrease* that was occasioned by that Law in the Duties upon Home Brewed Spirits, was much more than *made good* by the *Increase* of the *Excise* upon Beer and Ale; for from Accounts laid before Parliament upon that occasion, it appeared, that in the Year ending at *Midsummer* 1725, the *Excise* on Beer and Ale amounted to 1,094,953 *l.* but as the *Consumption* of Spirits *increased*, this *Excise decreased*, so that at *Midsummer* 1729, which was half a Year before the *late Gin-Act* took Place, this *Excise* produced but 963,763 *l.* which was 131,190 *l.* less than it had produced in 1725; and from the time the *late Gin-Act* took place, the *Excise* on Beer and Ale began to *Increase*, so that at *Midsummer* 1732, it produced 1,071,240 *l.* which was 107,477 *l.* more than it was in the Year 1729, when the *Gin-Act* was passed. It likewise appeared, that notwithstanding this *great Increase* in the Produce of the *Excise* on Beer and Ale, the *Decrease* in the Duties on Home Brewed Spirits occasioned by that Act was but very *inconsiderable*, viz. 4348 *l.* * And as the *Civil List* has a much *greater* Proportion of the *Excise* on Beer and Ale than it has of the *Duties* on Home Brewed Spirits, it was apparent, that the *Civil List* was a *great Gainer* by that Act, that it would be a *great Gainer* by any such Act, and that the more generally, the more effectually, and the more quickly, the Consumption of all Sorts of Spirits was prevented, the *greater Gainer* the *Civil List* would be.

* See a Letter from a Member of Parliament to his Friend in the Country, &c. Page 6.

For

For the *same Reason*, these Gentlemen began to conceive a *mortal aversion* to the Drinking of *Punch*; for every one knows that a Bottle of *real* good *Brandy* or *Rum* made into *Punch*, will go as far as *four* Bottles of *Wine*; and those who are well acquainted with our Taxes, and the several uses to which they are appropriated know, that the *Civil List* gets *more* by the *Consumption* of *four* Bottles of *Wine*, than it gets by the *Consumption* of *a Bottle* of *Brandy* or *Rum*; and consequently, if *four* Bottles of *Wine* were to be drank instead of *a Bottle* of *Brandy* or *Rum* made into *Punch*, the *Civil List* would get *a great deal more* by the *Consumption*. To this let us add, that by the *Prohibition* of *Punch* a *vast* Number of *new* Wine Licences will of Course be taken out, *every Farthing* of which goes to the *Civil List*; from all which it is apparent, that the *Civil List* will be *greatly* Increased by the *Prohibition* of *Punch*, and therefore the *Death* of *Punch*, as well as the *Death* of *Gin* was resolved on by *these Gentlemen*, tho' *no Complaint* was ever made against the *Excessive* use of the *former*.

Notwithstanding the *Excessive* fondness these Gentlemen have for the *Civil List* Revenue, and the great desire to Increase it, one might have expected, that they would have rested satisfied with the *great* Advantage they were to reap by *a general* Prohibition of *all Sorts* of Spirits by Retale: But this was not the Case: The Spirit of Resentment against the *Excessive* use of some of these Liquors amongst the *Lower* and *Inferior* Rank of People was raised *so High*, that they foresaw any thing they could propose would be agreed to, *rather* than not put an end to that *Terrible* Nusance; and as at *first View*, especially to those who have not leisure or opportunity to look into and consider our *publick Accounts*, and the Produce of our *several* Taxes, with the *Variations* that happen in them, it might appear, that the *Civil List* would be a *Loser* instead of a *Gainer*, by preventing or lessening the Consumption of Spirituous Liquors, they resolved to take advantage of this *deceitful Appearance*, in order from thence to draw a *further* Increase to the *Civil List*: In pursuance of this Resolution they *positively* affirmed, and *endeavoured* to Convince every *Member* they could have any Access to, that the *Loss* the *Civil List* was to *sustain*, could not be *made good* by the *Increase* in any of the *other* Branches of that Revenue, and that therefore it ought to be *made good* out of the *sinking Fund*.

This, without doubt, had great weight with those who had not an opportunity to enquire into the Truth of Facts; and as for those who had, the Resentment of many of them against the *late Excessive* use of Spirituous Liquors amongst People of *Inferior* Rank, was *justly* raised to a very high Pitch; therefore *rather* than not put an *immediate* Stop to the *Excessive* use of such Liquors among the People of *Inferior* Rank, they agreed to that *Clause* for giving and paying to his Majesty, during his natural Life, the Sum of 70,000 *l. per Annum*, out of the *Sinking Fund*, towards the Service of his Majesty's Houshold and Family, in order to make up the *supposed Loss*, the *Civil List* was to *sustain* by *preventing* the *Retale*, or *lessening* the *Consumption* of Spirituous Liquors.

This new Grant of such a *large Annual* Sum to the *Civil List* was the *chief*, tho' the *secret* and *concealed* Reason, why these Gentlemen *without Doors* were *so Sollicitous* about getting that *Proposition* rejected, which was made for *Reviving* and *Extending* the *former Gin-Act*, because upon a *Revival* of that *Act*, tho' *further* Extended, these *Lovers* of the *Civil List* Revenue could not with any Countenance have desired such an *additional* Grant to *that* Revenue, since there was *no such* Grant made, nor *so much* as desired, when *that Law* was *first* Passed; and as *no such* Grant was then desired, it was judged *absolutely* necessary, in order now to give *some Countenance* to *such* a demand, to get that *Proposition* rejected, and to get the *Prohibition* made *General*; from all which it is evident, that those Gentlemen *without Doors* who have a *greater* Veneration for the *Civil List* than they have for his Majesty, for his Ministers, or for the Health or Happiness of his People, were the *first* Contrivers, and *under-hand* the Principal Authors and Promoters of this Bill; and that if it had not been for them, *and them only*, the *Immoderate* use of Home Brewed Spirits amongst People of *Inferior* Rank, as it was the *only* thing complained of, would have been the *only* thing prevented, which might have been done without raising *any Disaffection*, or *any general Clamour* either in *this Nation*, or in the *West-Indies*.

I think I have now made it clear to a Demonstration, that the *Increasing* of the *Civil List* was the *Principal* and the *sole* Motive with some Persons *without Doors* for getting this Bill made *so General*, and for proposing a *Duty* which would amount to a *Prohibition*; and that the Gentlemen *without Doors* who were the *first* Contrivers and *under-hand* Promoters of this Bill, had a *greater Regard* for *Increasing* the *Civil List* than they had for his Majesty, is plain; for no Man that had *a Regard* for his Majesty's Person or Government would, *wilfully, and with his Eyes open*, have made a Handle of *such* a Bill, for obtaining in *such* a Manner, and out of the *sinking Fund too*, a *new Grant* of 70,000 *l. additional* Revenue to the *Civil List*; because, as it was evident that *many Thousands* would be turned out of the present way of supporting their Families, as it was to be apprehended that the Bill would breed *great Discontents* in the Nation, the Proposing to obtain a *new* Grant to the *Civil List* by *such* a Bill, was doing *as much as in them lay*, to have *all* the *Murmurings* and *Discontents* the *Bill* might *occasion*, *pointed directly against* his Majesty's Person and Government.

This Reflection gives me *a very great*, and I think *a most Reasonable alarm*: It makes me suspect that there are *some Persons* concerned in the *under-hand* Management of the *Civil List* Revenue (for no suspicion can possibly arise against those who are *visibly* and *openly* concerned in the Management of that Revenue) who finding themselves *subjected* to the *Hatred* and *Contempt* of the *People* of *Great Britain*, are therefore *contriving* Schemes for *over-turning* our *Constitution*; and for that Purpose are *endeavouring* to *expose* the *sacred Person* of their *Sovereign* to the *same* Misfortune with themselves; but it is to be hoped their *secret* and *treasonable* Views will be discovered and frustrated by a *Parliamentary Enquiry*, before they have proceeded *too far*; and in the mean time, in order to *Disappoint* them in their *wicked Aim*, (which was one of my *chief Reasons* for *Publishing* these *Remarks*) Let us consider that the *Civil List* is intended *only* for the better Support of his Majesty's Houshold, and the Honour and Dignity of the Crown of *Great-Britain*, and therefore it is *impossible* the King should ever desire *any more* than what is *absolutely* necessary for *that Purpose*; Nay, if *any more* had been granted by Parliament than what his Majesty should find *necessary* for *that Purpose*, he would *certainly*, if he could discover it, follow the Example of *his most Gracious Predecessor Queen Anne*, he would restore it to Parliament, and desire it might be applied towards *some publick use*, in order to *Ease* his *Subjects* of *some* of those *heavy* Taxes they *Groan* under: And if what was granted by Parliament at the *Beginning* of his Reign had been found *not* to be *sufficient*,

ent, his Majesty would *openly* and *freely* have Communicated the same to his Parliament by a *solemn Message*; and would *certainly* have obtained *such* an addition as they should have found *necessary*. Now as his Majesty has *never* desired any *Addition*, we must suppose that he thinks what was granted by Parliament *sufficient* for the *Purpose intended*, from whence we must *necessarily* conclude, that his Majesty *neither desired nor knew* that any *Addition* was to be made to the *Civil List* by *this* Law; and that therefore he had *no Interest* nor *Concern* in making it *so Extensive*, or *so quick* in its Effect. Indeed if it were possible for his Majesty to look into the Disposal of *every Shilling* of the *Civil List* Revenue, no *new* Grant or *Addition* could give us any Uneasiness, because it would *certainly* be restored to Parliament, and applied to the use of the Publick; but it is *altogether* impossible for his Majesty to look *so Minutely* into the Disposal of *that Revenue*; and as *no Account* of it is to be *laid* before *Parliament*, the Nation ought always to be jealous lest *some Part* of it should be applied to the *private use* of those who have the *under-hand* Management of it, or perhaps to *Uses* which may be of *dangerous* Consequence to the Royal Family, as well as to the *Liberties* of the People.

I think it is likewise plain, that the Gentlemen *without Doors*, who were the *Original* Contrivers of this Bill, had *a greater* Regard for the *Civil List* than they had for his Majesty's Ministers; for first to sollicite and get the Bill made *so unpopular*, and then to sollicite and get introduced, *in such a Bill*, a *new* Grant to the *Civil List* Revenue, which the *Ministry* have *to all outward appearance* the Management and Disposal of, was taking the *most Effectual* Method for making them *forfeit* the *Esteem* and *Affections* of the *People*, so as to make it *absolutely* necessary for his Majesty to *dismiss* them from their *Employments*; for, as I have said, in a *limited* and *free* Government, whenever a *Minister* or *Ministry* have *forfeited* the *Esteem* and *Affections* of the *People*, their *Prince* must either *Dismiss* them, in order to *Remove* from himself the *Hatred* and *Contempt* of the *People*, or he must *Join* with them, in *endeavouring* to *render* the Government *Absolute* and *Tyrannical*; the last of which we are *certain* his Majesty will *never* do for the Preservation of *any Man* that ever was Born, or for the *Support* of *any Minister* that ever was, or ever may be *Exalted*. Indeed if we had at present a Set of Ministers who had already *forfeited* and *lost all Affections* and *Esteem* among the *People*, I should then

then think that they *themselves* had been the *Original* Contrivers and the *under-hand* Promoters of this Law, and hat they had *designedly* got *this Grant* to the *Civil List* inserted, in order to *Involve* his *Majesty* in the *same* Misfortune with themselves, and thereby to make it *absolutely* necessary for him *to Join* with them in *endeavouring* to render our Government *Absolute* and *Tyrannical*; but as it is certain (*whatever may be the Case of any Underling in Power or Favour*) that our Ministry *in General* are *as Popular*, and possess the *Affections* and *Esteem* of the *People* of this Nation, and of the Generality of Mankind, *as much* as any Ministry ever did; therefore it is not to be presumed or believed, that they would contrive or promote any Scheme which *they thought* would raise the least *Disaffection* to his Majesty's Person or Government.

That the Gentlemen *without Doors*, who were the *Original* Contrivers and the *under-hand* Promoters of this Bill, had *a greater* Regard for the *Civil List* than they had for the Health and Happiness of his Majesty's Subjects, is I think not to be in the least questioned; for there never was any Complaint *against* the *Excessive* Drinking of *Punch*, or of *Brandy* or *Rum*, among *any Degrees* of Men, and *much less* among the *Inferior* Rank of People: In these Liquors there were, without doubt, *some* Debauches committed, and so there were in Wine, Strong Beer, and Ale: So that there was the *same* Reason to prohibit the Retale of the last, as that of the first Sort of strong or Spirituous Liquors, and I believe the Race of Mankind might be supported, if the use of *all strong Liquors* were *as strictly* prohibited among *Christians*, as it is among *Mahometans*; but I do not hear that this was ever intended; and why we should be *such* Friends to *Wine*, which is a *Foreign* Produce, and *such* Enemies to *Rum*, which is a *Native* Produce, I can find no true Reason, except that the *Civil List* gets *more* by the Consumption of the Former, than it gets by the Consumption of the Latter, which I am sure *never* could, *nor ever* will be a Reason of the *least weight* with *any Branch* of the Legislative Power of this Kingdom.

The only Evil complained of was the *Constant* and *Excessive* use of Distilled Spirituous Liquors among the *Lower* and *Inferior* Rank of People; and, I believe, it will *now* be granted, that this Evil might have been *Effectually* cured by *Reviving* the *late Act* against *Geneva*, and Extending it to *all Sorts* of Home Brewed Spirits:

Nay, I believe, a Duty of *four Shillings* per *Gallon* upon *all* Home Brewed Spirits, without *any* Duty upon Licences, would have *effectually* cured the Evil complained of, if proper Clauſes had been inſerted, to prevent any Perſon's Retaling Spirits without a Licence, and proper Care taken not to grant Licences, but to Perſons of *Character* and *Reputation*. Therefore to ſollicit and promote a Bill for Prohibiting *in ſome Manner* the Retale of *Brandy*, *Rum*, *Punch*, and all other Sorts of Diſtilled Spirituous Liquors, was truly the ſame, as if a Surgeon ſhould ſay to a Man who has got a Hurt in his Leg, Sir, I could cure your Leg, but I find *I ſhall get more* by Cutting it off, and therefore it muſt be done: Or as if a Phyſician called to a Man in a Fever ſhould ſay, 'Tis true, I could cure this Man of his Fever by an *Experienced* Remedy; but *I ſhall get more* by uſing an *Extraordinary* Remedy, which I know will make him *run Diſtracted*; and tho' I ſhould never be able to bring him to his Senſes again, *ſince I am to get by it*, I'll do it, let the Conſequence be what it will.

Having now ſhewn that the *Original* Contrivers and *under-hand* Promoters of this Bill were ſuch as have *a greater Regard* for Increaſing the *Civil Liſt*, than they have either for the King, the Miniſtry, or the People, it is from thence evident, that *none* of the Members of *either* Houſe of Parliament could be *Originally* concerned in the Projecting or Contriving of this Bill; for, *whatever may happen in after times*, it is certain that *at preſent* none of the Members of *either* Houſe have any *private* Concern in the Management, or any *Hidden* ſhare of the *Civil Liſt* Revenue; and their Duty to his Majeſty, their Reſpect for his Miniſters, and their Regard for the People, have been *ſo evidently* manifeſted upon *ſo many* Occaſions, as leaves no Room to ſuſpect that they would, for any Conſideration, or for any private Advantage, have been the *Original* Projectors or Contrivers of it; nor can we ſuppoſe that they would have agreed to it, if they had not been induced thereto, and in ſome manner *ſurpriſed* into it, by the *ſpecious Pretence* that there was *no other effectual* Method of putting an End to the *Conſtant* and *exceſſive* uſe of Spirituous Liquors amongſt the People of *Inferior* Rank. This pretence was, I believe, the *only Motive* that induced the Majority to agree to thoſe Reſolutions which made the Foundation of the Bill; and after the Bill was *once* brought in, they were then under *a Neceſſity* of agreeing to it, or of leaving the Healths,

the Conſtitutions, and even the Lives of *many* expoſed to that *dangerous* Nuſance which had been *ſo loudly* and *ſo juſtly* complained of.

It was never yet, nor can it be ſuppoſed that our Parliaments are Infallible; but our Advantage is, that when a Law is paſſed, which is afterwards by Experience found to be a Grievance upon the People, they have *an eaſy* Opportunity of laying their Caſe before their *ſeveral Repreſentatives*, and *ſuch a Law* has always been repealed or altered in the next Seſſion: This the People may expect *in the preſent Caſe*, if it be poſſible, and therefore it is hoped they will not fly out into any Violence, but *patiently* wait for that Relief, which the wiſdom of Parliament may think proper to give them.

Upon this Occaſion I cannot omit mentioning *an Inſinuation* that has been made, but I hope without any Foundation. As the keeping up *numerous* ſtanding Armies *in Time of Peace*, is admitted by all to be *Inconſiſtent* with our *Conſtitution*, and as it was expected that a moſt profound Peace and Tranquillity would be eſtabliſhed before *this next Winter*, it is *inſinuated* that ſome Gentlemen *without Doors*, (for I never heard of any ſuch *within Doors*) who are for our keeping up *always* the Number of Forces we have *at Preſent*, were apprehenſive they would not be able to find any arguments for prevailing with the Parliament *this next Seſſion* to keep up the *ſame Number* of Forces we have *now* on Foot, and that therefore they wanted to have *Diſturbances* of ſome kind or other, in Order to furniſh them with Arguments for that Purpoſe againſt *this next Seſſion*: They ſaw it was the General Opinion, that *ſome* Law ought to be paſſed for preventing the *Conſtant* and *Exceſſive* Uſe of Diſtilled Spirituous Liquors amongſt People of *Inferior* Rank, and this they reſolved to take Advantage of, and under that Pretence, to get ſuch a Law paſſed as might *probably* produce ſome *Diſturbances* at home before *this next Winter*.

They ſaw, that if the Remedy ſhould be carried no further than the Evil complained of, it would not anſwer their Intent: Some People might ſuffer thereby, but their Numbers would be few, and as every One would be convinced that their Suffering was become neceſſary for the ſake of Publick Good, the Complaints they might make would have no Weight with the Generality of the People: But at the ſame Time *theſe Gentlemen* were fully ſenſible what *a vaſt additional* Number of Perſons would ſuffer by Prohibiting the Retale of *Brandy*, *Rum*, and *Punch*;

 and

and that as making them ſuffer was unneceſſary, their Complaints would have *an Influence* upon the People; and might *Raiſe ſuch a General Madneſs*, as to produce *Mobs* and *Riots* before *this next Winter*, which would furniſh them with an Argument for keeping up the *ſame Number* of Forces for *one* Year longer, *or at leaſt till the Minds of the People ſhould be a little Pacified.*

This, I ſay, has been *Inſinuated*, but I hope there is not the leaſt Ground for *ſuch* an *Inſinuation*; at leaſt I am ſure, there was not a Man in *either* Houſe of Parliament who harboured *ſuch* a Thought; and if there were any *without Doors ſo Wicked*, it is to be hoped the People will be *ſo Wiſe* and *Prudent*, as to *Diſappoint* them; for the People ought never to have Recourſe to *any ſuch* violent Meaſures, as long as they have *a Parliament* ſubſiſting which *is ready* and *willing* to *hear* their *Complaints*, and will *never Refuſe* to Repeal or Alter any Law that ſhall be found by Experience to be an *unneceſſary* Grievance or Loſs to *any Part* of His Majeſty's faithful Subjects.

I ſhall conclude my Remarks upon this Act of Parliament with this General Obſervation, that tho' we ought always to preſer the *Publick Good* to our *Private Advantage*, yet the Judgment of moſt Men is ſo weak, that there is no Convincing them of the *Publick Utility* of any Meaſure, if it be inconſiſtent with their *Private Intereſt*; and the Inclinations of many are ſo perverſe, that when they are *in their Conſciences* convinced, they arm their *Countenances* with Aſſurance, and obſtinately refuſe to acknowledge the *Conviction.* Another Weakneſs of Human-Nature is, that moſt Men judge of an Opinion by the *Multitudes* that Embrace it, ſo that their Aſſent is always to be gained, not by the *Multitude* or *Power* of *Arguments* for any Opinion, but by the *Multitude* and *Power* of its *Advocates.* For this Reaſon the Governors of a People ought to Introduce *by Degrees* ſuch Regulations as they may think *Neceſſary* for the Publick Good, and not to extend any One of Them too far *at Once*; for as there are *always* ſome People that ſuffer by *every new* Regulation, by Introducing *too many at Once*, or making any one Extend *too Far*, they may unite *ſuch Multitudes* againſt their Meaſures, as may turn the *Spirit* of the *People* againſt the *moſt Uſeful* and *moſt Neceſſary* Regulations. The Truth of this Obſervation has been fully manifeſted by the Effect of this *New* Act of Parliament; for, tho' the Law has not yet taken Place, the *Voice of Complaint* againſt the *Exceſſive* Uſe of Spirituous Liquors amongſt the *Inferior* Rank of People,

People, is already *quite* ſilenced by the *Clamours* of thoſe who are like to *Suffer* by the *too Sudden* and *too Great* Extent of this *New Regulation.*

To this I muſt add, that conſidering *how fully and clearly* it has been made appear by ſome *late Writings*, that the *Power* of the *Crown*, or rather the *Power* of *Miniſters*, is already *too Extenſive*, it will certainly be an Argument of *great Weight* for Repealing or Altering *this Law*, when we conſider, that by the Law, *as it ſtands at Preſent*, the *Civil Liſt* will be greatly increaſed, and the *Power* of the *Crown* thereby conſiderably augmented in that Article which is of the *moſt dangerous* Conſequence to the *Virtue* and the *Independency of Parliament*; for as the *late Gin Act*, *ineffectual* as it was found to be, produced an *Increaſe* of 107,477 *l.* a Year in the *Exciſe* upon Beer and Ale, we may preſume that a *Total* Prohibition of all Spirituous Liquors will produce a *Yearly Increaſe* of *thrice* that Sum, *viz.* 322,431 *l.* and as *one half* of the *Exciſe* upon theſe Liquors belongs to the *Civil Liſt*, we muſt Compute that by *this Article alone* a Revenue of 161,215 *l.* will *be added* to the *Civil Liſt.* Then by the Prohibition of *Punch*, we muſt reckon that there will be a *vaſt Increaſe* in the Produce of the *Duties* upon *Wine* and *Wine Licences*, which will be a *New Additional* Revenue to the *Civil Liſt*, beſides the *New Grant* of 70000 *l* a Year made Payable out of the *Sinking Fund*, both which we may reckon at leaſt 100,000 *l.* a Year *more*, which in the whole is 261,215 *l.*

Now let us ſee how much the *Civil Liſt* will *loſe* by the Diſappropriation of the Duties upon Spirituous Liquors. It is certain that this Computation ought to be made by the *Eight Years* Produce of thoſe Duties next *Preceding* the Commencement of his Majeſty's Reign, becauſe when the Parliament in the firſt Year of his Reign, were conſidering *how much* would be *Neceſſary* for the Support of his Majeſty's Family, Crown and Dignity, and what Duties it would be *Neceſſary* to Appropriate for *that Uſe*, they muſt have had under their Conſideration *only* the Produce of thoſe Duties *for Years paſt*; It was impoſſible they could have under their Conſideration the Produce of thoſe Duties *for Years to come*, and much leſs the Produce that might happen by an *Abuſe which ought to have been Nipt in the very Bud*: And if the Computation be made in this Manner, I am convinced the *Loſs* to be *ſuſtained* by the *Civil Liſt* will be found not to amount, at a *Medium*, to 50000 *l.* a Year.

But

But even admitting that the Computation ought to be made by the *Eight Years next after* the Commencement of his Majesty's Reign, surely the *Extroardinary* and *Occasional* Produce of those Duties for the Year 1733, ought not to be reckoned in this Computation. * In which Case, I believe, it will appear that the Loss the Crown may sustain by this Bill cannot amount, at a *Medium*, to 60000*l.* a Year; and as we must suppose that the *Excise* upon Beer and Ale was *very near* as low at his Majesty's Accession to the Crown, as it was in the Year 1729, we must from the whole Conclude, that by this Bill *a Revenue* of near 200,000*l.* a Year will be added to his Majesty's Civil List, *more* than what was thought *Sufficient* for *Supporting* his Majesty's Family, Crown and Dignity, by that *Loyal* Parliament which established the *present Civil List*, and granted to his Majesty a *much larger Civil List* than ever was Granted to *any* of his Royal Predecessors.

That no bad Use will be made of this *Additional* Revenue during his Majesty's Reign, we have the *strongest* Reason to be convinced of; but as the *same* Revenue may probably be continued to *all* his Majesty's Successors, we do not know what use may be made of it by *some future* Minister, especially as *no Account* of the Disposal of the Revenue belonging to the *Civil List* is, by its *late happy Construction*, to be *laid* before *Parliament*; and if ever *any future* Minister should find it *Necessary* for his own Support or Protection, to apply as much of this *Civil List* Revenue as can possibly be spared from the Uses for which it is designed by the Legislature, towards *Influencing the Elections for a new Parliament*, I must beg of Gentlemen to consider, what a *vast* Sum this *new Addition only* will amount to in *seven Years?* And how *effectual* a Sum of 1,400,000 *l.* in *Ready Money*, or *Bank Notes*, may be, towards *procuring such a Parliament as he may stand in need of.* This surely may be of the most *dangerous* Consequence to the *Freedom* and *Independency* of *Parliament*; but this too will, I hope, be provided against by the next Session, or at least before the *Poison* has taken *such Effect* as *not* to *Admit* of any *Legal Cure.*

Having now, I hope, convinced *every Man* that he ought to wait with *Patience* and *Submission* for that *Relief* which he may *Expect* from the *Wisdom* of *Parliament*, I must, in the *most earnest* Manner *recommend* it to the *People*

* See a Letter from a Member of Parliament. Page 7, & 8.

of

of Great-Britain, *not to allow themselves to be directed in their Voting for Members of Parliament by any Selfish and Corrupt Views*; for if they should ever make a *Market* of their *Votes* at *Elections*, they may depend on it, that their *Purchasers* will make a *Market* of their *Seats* in *Parliament*: As our *Drovers* go to the Country to buy *Cattle*, *only* to Sell them again in *Smithfield*, so the *Election Mongers* will go to the Country to Buy *a much more Stupid Sort of Cattle*, *only* to Sell them at the *new Market* which will then be *Established* in *Westminster*; and *those Cattle* which are to be Sold in this *new Market*, will have *less* Reason to Complain of *ill Usage* from their *Purchasers*, than the *Cattle* have which are now every Day sold in *Smithfield:* A *poor Horse*, or *Ass* would *deserve Pity*, if a *greater* Load should be laid upon his *Back* than he was *able* to *bear*; but *a People* who *sell themselves* would *deserve no Pity*, if their *Backs* should be *broke* by the *Loads* their *Purchasers* lay upon them; *and if ever the People of* Great-Britain *should allow themselves to be directed in their Voting for Members of Parliament, by the little Posts or Employments they may be made to Expect, or by the little Bribes in ready Money they may receive from the Tools of Power, they will deserve, and they may expect to be Loaded with Taxes without End, and to see severe Laws made, and Mercenary Armies kept up, for Collecting those Taxes without Mercy.*

FINIS.