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F U L L  
A N S W E R S  
T O  
Mr. *M---y's* Q U E R I E S  
In D E F E N C E of the  
M A L T-D I S T I L L E R Y;  
Shewing it to be  
Both a R E L I G I O U S and P O L I T I C A L Sin  
T O  
D i s t i l l S P I R I T S from C O R N.  
Intended to save M I L L I O N S.  
*He that hath Pity upon the Poor lendeth unto the  
Lord.* P R O V.  
L O N D O N:  
Printed for J. S C O T T, at the *Black Swan*, in  
*Pater-Noster-Row*, M D C C L X.  
[Price *One Shilling*.]

FULL

# ANSWERS

TO

## Mr. M---y's Queries.

M---y.

**A**LL spirituous liquors, in excess, are prejudicial to the human frame.

**ANSWER.** All liquors are more or less so according to the nature and quality of the spirit contain'd therein; therefore that sort alone should be allowed, which is most innocent and least noxious to the *constitution*.

**QUERY I.** Whether *Geneva* be not as wholesome, certainly as little prejudicial, as any other kind of dram?

**B** ANSWER

AN. I. Real Geneva made with the juniper-berry, may be as wholesome, and as little prejudicial as any other kind of spirit whatever, but that cannot be asserted of the simple malt spirit.

Qu. II. Whether physicians do not acknowledge this, who frequently recommend the moderate use of it in many disorders, particularly in the gravel?

AN. II. Physicians do acknowledge the real juniper Geneva to have a diuretic quality, and as such recommend the use of it for opening secretions, and removing obstructions in the reins and kidneys, and other such like disorders; but I never yet heard that the common malt spirit was prescribed or recommended for its physical virtues, in preference, or as an efficacious and answerable substitute to the real Geneva.

Qu. III. Whether it be not pleasant to observe, that the same persons who declaim loudly against this liquor, are often warm and eager advocates for the use of Rum and Brandy, tho' they are, if not more pernicious, at least equally hurtful?

AN. III. It is as pleasant to observe, how ingeniously the author labours to elucidate the

the truth, by setting up his own *ipse dixit* as the standard of public judgment.—It is universally said and believed, that malt spirit is more pernicious and insalutary to the body than either real Brandy, Geneva, or Rum, and therefore it behoves Mr. M—y to prove the contrary, before he draws such conclusive and absolute inferences from sinister and (at least) doubtful principles.

Qu. IV. From whence can this arise, but from a particular attention to their own interest?

AN. IV. It is manifestly true, that the malt-distillers have long paid an extraordinary attention to their own interests, in opposition to every social, humane, and virtuous duty.—It ought to be a very moving reflection to these gentlemen who have accumulated affluence at the expence of numberless lives, as useful and as valuable as their own; and withal endanger'd the salvation of so many immortal souls. And yet they proceed to treasure up wrath against the day of wrath without remorse or shame.

Qu. V. Whether the most sanguine declaimer wishes to abolish dram-drinking in general? If they do, the malt-distiller has no right to complain.

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AN. V. It is the *wish*, it is the *duty*, of every *good* man to declaim against whatsoever is bad, and wheresoever, and in whomsoever found. There is no doubt, but dram-drinking in general is *pernicious*; but as it is admitted on all hands, that spirits must be had and made of some sort or kind; it remains, that such which is most so, ought to be entirely abolished, (both the manufactory and use) and such alone that is least so, to be tolerated under prudent regulations and restrictions.

QU. VI. But if spirits from grain are only to be prohibited, and vast quantities of sugar are to be made into a spirit, perhaps less salutary, shall we not aggrandize a few planters at the expence of the whole landed interest of the kingdoms of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*?

AN. VI. It is becoming the Wisdom of the legislature to enquire (and not Mr. *M——y* to assert) whether the spirit from malt or sugar is most or least salutary; and then to *determine* and *resolve*, whether the interest of the sugar-planters is incompatible with the landed interest at home; and how far the lives, health, and manners of individuals, and the public welfare, ought to

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fway and take place in opposition to the private and boundless emolument of a few malt distillers, or of any other set or body of men or business whatsoever.

QU. VII. Will not this landed interest be still more sensibly hurt, by paying extravagantly for sugar, which is now become an essential article in housekeeping, and indeed, from the universality of tea-drinking, one of the necessaries of life?

AN. VII. The universality of tea-drinking amongst the lower class of people is a growing evil, not much inferior to dram-drinking, and tho' more slow in its operation, is no less injurious to society, and as certain and fatal in its effects: But this is an evil which the high price of sugars should tend to reduce; and if (as Mr. *M——y* admits) it is from the great use of tea, that sugar is become one of the necessaries of life, therefore it is not from the use of the still that sugars are become so dear. And if so, all due encouragement ought to be given to the employ and consumption of sugars, to stop the progress and increase of such a national depravity as tea-drinking is become amongst the poor, who alone can feel the trifling difference of the prices of sugars, and who, from such a necessi-

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tous abridgement of that darling gratification, instead of impairing their constitutions, and wasting their time in sipping the nauseous extract of a poisonous weed, would soon be driven to the antient and laudable custom of drinking *beer*, by which the landed interest would be sensibly and *truely* benefited.

Qu. VIII. Whether, as a proof of this, raw sugar has not been advanced, since the distillers used such quantities in making spirits, from 25s. and 30s. per hundred weight, to 45s. and 50s. per hundred?

An. VIII. That raw and all sugars have been advanced since the commencement of the war, is true, but that is not owing altogether to the *still*, nor does it prove (as Mr. M——y would have it) that tea, or sugars are become the necessaries of life. They are just the reverse, they are the luxuries of life, and such luxuries as want to be lopt and curtail'd in their *abuse*: but not to the prejudice of our *American* plantations (the source of all our wealth and honours) an ounce of which, in my humble opinion, deserves more respect and regard than a ton of *Chinese* earth.

Qu. IX. Whether, by the same means, treacle, or melasses, has not been raised from

12s. and 15s. per hundred weight, to 30s. and 38s. per hundred?

An. IX. It is not only from the distillery, but from other obvious means, and very different causes, that the price of treacle has been raised to so unusual a price. This is, in some measure, occasion'd by the natural consequences of the war; but it is more owing to these very gentlemen, who would now *seem* to lament the exorbitancy of the price; and why? Because it is not in their power to acquire so large a profit from the use of melasses as of malt. And it is worthy publick notice, that though they pretend to be great losers by the business, yet they continue (as it were for sport) to forge the instrument of lingring, torturing deaths, and deal out their poison to the infatuated and ignorant, at their own extravagant price.

Qu. X. Whether treacle was not, before this advance, of singular service in the families of the poor? and whether they have not, by this means, been entirely deprived of the use of it?

An. X. *Treacle*, at its old, and even at its present price, may be very useful to poor families as a cheap, innocent, and assistant food; but it may be said, with equal justice and

and propriety, that the poor have been deprived of the use of bread, as much as treacle. The former has been as extravagantly dear as the latter: so meat and provisions of all kinds are dearer, in common, than they were formerly; all which (like other temporary expedients) may at present seem to serve the landed interest. — What then? — The price of labour of all kinds is proportionably dearer; and it will require a far more extensive exertion of legislative power, than the reducing the price of treacle to reach the latent and lamented cause. — Besides, the quantity of treacle used by the poor bears no Degree of proportion or consequence to that of bread and beer. And were the poor entirely and forever denied the use of both sugar and treacle, on the condition of having bread and malt at a low and reasonable price; I will take up on me to say, that not only the poor, but the rich also, would reap satisfactory advantages from the exchange.

Qu. XI. Whether the reformation amongst the manners of the people, since the stoppage of the malt distillery, may not, in part, be owing to the dispersion of many drunken people beyond Sea, by means of the war?

An. XI. This proposition of Mr. M——y's is singular and contrary to the nicest observations

and avowed calculations made on the Subject, and ought (in good policy) to have been the last refuge for a defender of dram-drinking. 'Tis certain great numbers of idle dissolute people are sent abroad, which hath somewhat diminished the number as well of those who fall a victim to gin, as those falling a sacrifice to the more, more merciful executioner at Tyburn, who only hurts the body. But is the reformation less apparent in those who remain behind? No, any parish precinct, street, or alley, affords people and matter enough to discover an interesting and alarming difference in the morals, health, and manners of the people since the distillery of malt was suppressed.

Qu. XII. Whether great quantities of sugar spirits, have not been drank since that stoppage?

An. XII. Mr. M——y, need not have asked this question, since he himself amongst others, hath, since the stoppage, made and sold great quantities of spirits from melasses, and though he is so warm and violent an advocate against the sugar; and for the malt-distillery, even now, as far and fully as he is able, continues so to do. From whence it may be foreseen, what a conscientious use

the malt-distillers will make of any temporary indulgence.

Qu. XIII. Whether the reformation, with regard to the morals of the people, would not have been the same, if the spirits they have drank for near three years past, had been made from grain, instead of sugar and treacle?

An. XIII. The reformation, with regard (*only*) to the morals of the people, might perhaps have been the same. If the spirits they have drank for three years past, had been made from grain, in lieu of sugar and treacle. But there were, and are two other cogent reasons against the malt-distillery, *viz.* The dearness of corn (one grand support of the poor; and the health of the poor, one grand support of the state;) both which will be consider'd and defended hereafter.

Qu. XIV. Whether the encouragement given to agriculture from the consumption of grain in the malt-distillery, has not been great reason of its cheapness, in general, for sixty years past?

An. XIV. Agriculture ought (undeniably) to be encourag'd, but, it is a trite and true

true saying, "Of two evils chuse the least". For supposing Mr. M——y's suggestion to be true, (which is most untrue) shall a nation sacrifice the health, lives, and morals of her people, to the indulgence of a vice, because it *may be* productive of a suppos'd national virtue? Hath not the malt-distillery been the apparent and accursed cause of the late dearness of corn? Hath not the distillery been the like deplorable cause of the scarcity of corn? And what hath been the consequence? Famine, poverty, decay of trade, and every evil work.

Qu. XV. Whether the failure of one year's crop may not occasion the scarcity of corn in the kingdom?

An. XV. The failure of one years crop, may (with the assistance of the malt-distillery) occasion a scarcity of corn in the kingdom. For, if *they* are again suffered to work, the farmers will be ready enough to join in their old artifices to raise the markets, under the pretence of a natural scarcity, occasion'd by the demands from the *still*, which let our crops be ever so plentiful, will soon subject us to the same bad effects, by the dearness, as tho' we had a real scarcity. Shall we then, causelessly, wantonly, and rashly lay ourselves open to an inconvenience

and an evil, we have so lately and severely felt the direful effects of, to gratify the fallacious hopes and views of a few discontented, clamorous, hungry misers?

Qu. XVI. Whether the stopping the malt distillery in such a time would not have, at once, a very salutary effect, and answer the same end as the importation of the quantity of grain it generally consumes?

AN. XVI. Mr. M——y hath, in this Query, out of his wonted zeal and affection for the interest of *his country*, proposed us a *real* evil as a remedy for an uncertain and improbable one, and which is not to be feared or to be supposed can happen, but from the pretended remedy itself; like a man who, for fear of taking cold, swallows preventive medicines, that open his pores, relax his solids, and prove the efficient cause of a *real* and dangerous disease, which can only be cured by discontinuing the use of the intended remedy: such a salutary and alluring effect would the pretended expedient of a temporary distillation of corn have.

Qu. XVII. Whether the last harvest was not a plentiful one? And whether there is not great reason to believe the price of grain will

will be low and moderate for the year to come?

AN. XVII. The last harvest (glory be to God for the same) was a plentiful one, but shall we, in return for his bounty, dedicate what may seem to us a redundant superfluity (and which Providence may have intended for a year of jubilee for the poor, or to supply that havock and destruction of the growth of grain in *Germany*) to the service of sin and Satan?—God forbid—The seasons are uncertain, and the good or bad use we make of this late relief, and so signal a blessing may, according to the good or bad use make of it, be the cause of future plenty or speedy want. Let us but reflect how the scene is reversed since the distillation of corn has ceased, and perhaps, as a blessed reward for such a *national act of charity*, the Almighty ruler of the earth hath crowned our fleets and armies with success in every quarter of the globe: He hath not only honour'd us with conquests abroad, but blessed us with *peace* and *plenty* at home. From a by-word and reproach, we are become a terror to the nations round about us.—Shall we then, in return and in despite and defiance of God's manifold mercies, and such signal marks of his favour and approbation of our *late* conduct, dare



dare his power *again*, to avenge himself with *pestilence* and with *famine*,—the dreadful ministers of heavenly wrath? No, let the rich remember that the cries of the poor are heard in the *house* of the Lord, whose ears are open to their prayers, that “He who pitieth (or giveth any aid or relief to) the poor, lendeth to the Lord:” That he who pleadeth the cause and defendeth the poor on earth, shall have his reward in heaven.

Qu. XVIII. Whether, in such a case, the gentleman, the farmer, and the variety of trades dependant on the malt distillery as well as the landed interest in general, have not reason to hope and expect, that what spirits are permitted to be drank should be made from our produce at home and not altogether from the produce of our sugar colonies?

An. XVIII. False arguments naturally follow false principles: it may appear (*prima facie*) to narrow minds the interest of land-owners and land-holders, to encourage the malt distillery for the sake of keeping up the price of corn, and in consequence (as they may think) the value of their estates; but let the tenants consider, that the

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more profits can (*communibus annis*) be made out of their farms from the general dearness of grain. The greater and higher rents will they be expected and obliged to pay for their tenures. And this has been experienced on numberless estates both in *England* and *Ireland* since the late universal increase of the price of provisions in general. And hence, to the landlords it may appear a plausible and necessary point to encourage the malt-distillery, in order thereby to support the present value and income of their new raised estates. But let such landlords, reflect, and well consider, whether the morals of the poor, the cheapness of labour, (necessarily following the cheapness of provisions,) the prosperity of our manufactories, the cheapness of goods to send to foreign markets, the encouragement of navigation by the exportation of corn, (when the same can be spared for the relief of our necessitous brethren, and the beneficial and national consequences attending a flourishing trade at home and abroad) will not counterballance and outweigh every sinister short-sighted present advantage, that may accrue to the landed gentlemen, from the extravagant price of grain.

Qu. XIX. Whether it be true that the farmers in general are an opulent set of people,

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people, and do gentlemen find them so, from the regular and certain payments of their rents?

AN. XIX. It is notoriously true, that the farmers in general, are become a very opulent set of people, and so much so, as to be enabled to monopolize the business of farming, contrary to the wise laws and policy of the kingdom. And tho' Mr. M—y would insinuate a disagreeable reflection upon his own tenants, I dare say, those very gentlemen, who were the objects of his prejudice, can see thro' such a thin shadowy veil of disguised truth.

QU. XX. Whether many of them, tho' abstemious in their mode of living, and laborious in the highest degree in their business, are not now incapable of paying their rents; and whether they will not be still more incapable of doing it, if agriculture be discouraged at this time, when we are burthen'd with taxes in support of a necessary, but expensive war?

AN. XX. Some farmers, always were, now are, and ever will be incapable of paying their rents so well as others, and such who thrive not in this *their* golden-age, cannot be supposed to prosper better in an iron one,

one, when grain of all kinds is much cheaper, and the harvest less plentiful. But is this any reason? Because *some few* have been unfortunate, or indolent; or, because others, elate with a sudden gust of prosperity, have enter'd into an expensive gentleman-like life, (unknown to their forefathers) which the common accustomed profits of farming will not support. Let Mr. M—y say, whether these are justifiable reasons? Why the high price of corn should be continued or increased by an artificial and calamitous dearth?

QU. XXI. Whether the proprietors of our sugar colonies, are taxed in an equal degree with the landed interest of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, towards the support of government?

AN. XXI. Whether our sugar colonies aid, serve, and assist as much and in an equal degree with the landed interest here, towards the support of government, is a matter entirely unconnected with the grand primary question, whether *Corn ought or ought not to be distilled*; or, in other words, whether *Corn ought or ought not to be at a high or low price*. For the dispute *ought not to be*, nor is it, in fact, or in reason, between *this* or *that* trade, party, or interest. (Which will be considered hereafter)—

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However, I can safely answer Mr. M——y's last Query in the *affirmative*. For it is the highest insult and reflection on the state, to suppose that a *true* system of policy, and an equal distribution of *political* justice, does not take place throughout *all* his majesty's dominions. But suppose our colonies, or the produce of our colonies, do not pay pecuniary duties and taxes in proportion to our lands at home, I would ask Mr. M——y, to what is owing the increase and irresistible strength of our navy,—the support of our trade,—the increase of our *private* wealth,—the increase of our public credit—the defence and peaceable enjoyment of our *lands*, liberties, and lives? to what are all these things owing? but to our *American* navigation and treasures—the real *causa sine qua non*.

Qu. XXII. Whether, on the contrary, they have not been raising immense estates since the stoppage of the malt distillery? And are they not using all their interest to continue their exorbitant gains?

An. XXII. Such is the variable event of war, trade, and all sublunary things, that some private men, and some bodies of men will be successful and acquire fortunes, whilst others spend or lose them.—It is, how-

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however, impossible that the sugar planters (whom Mr. M——y endeavours to paint in so avaritious a light) can have rais'd estates more immense or *more* unworthily, since the war began, than the malt distillers did before their just sentence of prohibition passed.—The difference of *freight* and *insurance* between peace and war, is a matter Mr. M——y would not mention, because that would lessen the exalted and aggravated odium levelled at the sugar importers, of selling their goods so extravagantly dear.—Cannot Mr. M——y find out any other goods of foreign growth, whose price is enhanced greatly by the war? Have not the ancient gains of the malt-distillers been *more* exorbitant than the planters ever were? Are not the malt-distillers (*also*) using and exerting all their efforts and interest with every *art* that envy, jealousy, and avarice can inspire and invent, to renew their trade?—Let Mr. M——y tell the world—who, in breach of all honour, trust, and justice, is now raising a *new* trade out of the diligence, expence, and labour, of an injur'd and unrewarded friend

*Quid non mortalia pectora coges, auri sacra fames?*

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Qu.

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Qu. XXIII. Whether there can be any reason why spirits should be obliged to be made from sugar and melasses only, when a scarcity of corn is out of the question?

An. XXIII. A scarcity of corn can never be out of the question in *England*, especially if (as Mr. M——y says) one year's failure may occasion it.—It ought always to be guarded against, and it was for want of a timely foresight and interposition of parliament that we so lately felt one. If spirits are and must be made for necessary and limited uses, they ought, surely, to be drawn from the luxuries of life (which sugars are) sooner than from corn, which renders us both wholesome food and liquor; and is (independent of all other productions of the earth) a substantial and comfortable subsistence of life.

Qu. XXIV. Whether every gentleman (not interested in the question) does not wish, however an enemy to dram-drinking, that if the people must have spirituous liquors, they were, at least in a certain degree, to be made from grain the produce of our mother country, instead of sugar the growth of our colonies?

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An. XXIV. I declare I am not directly or especially interested or concerned in either the sugar or distillery business; that I am an enemy to dram-drinking in general; and that my opinion is, no spirits should be made in *England*, but under very cautious restrictions. As our colonies are limbs and members of our body politic, and serve to cherish and support us, I think there ought to be a reciprocal regard, duty and affection from the mother (country) towards her obedient children.—All distinctions or reflections of climate or country are odious.—The gentlemen who, it is alledged, are getting such large estates are spending the same among us with spirit and honour; nay more,—are risking their lives in the service and defence of their country:—But, I humbly think, the question ought not to be, who shall, or, who are most deserving, to get fortunes by the distillery of spirits? But which branch of business, whether the extraordinary large consumption of corn or sugar, will be most useful, or least prejudicial to the *Nation*? Without consulting the private interest of *this, that, or any other* set of men whatsoever:—And if so,—all that Mr. M——y labours for so strenuously, whether the cane planter or corn planter shall be encouraged or preferred, is only stirring up a dust, to darken truth, to create prejudices, to warp the  
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the will of the unwary, and to influence the minds of the public.

Qu. XXV. Whether there be any difference in the effects, between that species of drunkenness, which arises from spirits made from grain; and that which is owing to spirits made from sugar, rum, or brandy; and whether any disinterested person will assert in the affirmative?

An. XXV. If Mr. M——y will give me leave to dissect and fairly restate this Query, it is very easily answered *affirmatively*. There may be no difference in the present effects of liquor, as to the actions of vice or vanity, or the passions displaying themselves in that identical drunkenness, whether it be with malt or other spirit; but (with great deference to the gentlemen of the faculty I speak it) the consequences or effects would, in process of time, be most fatally different. In some particular parts of our own coasts, brandy is as frequently and constantly drunk as gin ever was in the hundreds of *Drury* or *St. Giles's*: by the poor, yet it does not produce that loss of appetite, dejection of spirits, decay of the vitals, and shortness of life, which we frequently see take place in the poor dram-drinkers; and though this is a matter which perhaps may not be better,  
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or otherwise determined than by observation: I think it of so much importance, as to deserve the consideration of the college of physicians, in whose province the dispute properly lies.

Qu. XXVI. Whether to change the mode only of dram-drinking, from malt spirits to those of sugar, be a likely method to cure the evils complained of from the abuse of spirituous liquors; and whether like causes will always produce similar effects?

An. XXVI. Here again Mr. M——y begs the question, lays down false principles as true ones, and then deduces such unlogical reasonings, as he thinks will best answer his own deceptive views.—Thus (he was too sensible) it is, that prejudices are instilled into the minds of the unletter'd multitude.—Mr. M——y should first have proved that spirit extracted from sugar is as destructive to the human constitution as malt spirit; and then, with respect to *one* of the *many* evils attending the malt-distillery, viz. the health of the subject,—the query would have some weight. But *argumenti gentia* (and to fight Mr. M——y with his own weapons) let it be admitted, (what he would have the world believe is true)  
that

that all spirits are equally innocent and fatal, as to the health and longivity of the drinker. —And still there remains the question to be discussed, whether it is national prudence or policy that corn shall be distilled at all:—Now, if we apply Mr. M——y's learned maxim, that "like causes will *always* produce similar effects"; it follows, and we stand convinced of its truth by dear-bought experience, that no other restriction but a total prohibition will avail us; that, otherwise, we must soon experience another artificial (and perhaps, in the end, a real) *famine*, as the resulting and necessary effect of the malt-distillers succeeding in their present application to parliament.

Qu. XXVII. Whether, notwithstanding any assertions to the contrary, the hogs fed in the malt-distillery were not cheaper than any other, and, at the same time, as good and wholesome; and whether the gentlemen concerned in victualling his majesty's navy, do not know this to be true?

An. XXVII. I am assur'd by several gentlemen (at least of equal credit with Mr. M——y) in the swine trade, that the extravagant price, as well as *scarcity* of pork and hogs, we have so long felt, hath been entirely caused by the malt-distillers having engrossed

engrossed the principal part of the business of hog-feeding into their own hands to the manifest detriment of the farmers, who, from the high price of grain and every other feeding (occasioned by the malt distillery) were disabled to bring them fat to market so soon or so cheap as the malt distillers, who tempted the breeders with such prices, as store pigs were never, till latterly, known to be sold at; and which the distillers were enabled to give, because, by monopolizing the trade, they secured their own terms on the contract.—These are laid down to me as simple and undeniable facts which Mr. M——y himself has very beneficially experienced.—As to the goodness and wholesomeness of the bacon fatted with spirits.—This is the first time I ever heard it would bear a comparison with the bacon fatted with corn.—But this is a suggestion grounded on avarice, and advanced against the testimony of his own knowledge.—However, if Mr. M——y (who I am informed hath, within these few days, sent 500 hogs to the Victualling-Office, and *ought* to be a judge of swine meat) should still persevere in an obstinate disbelief of such an obvious truth, I will undertake to convince him (at a proper season) by a *physical* disquisition and experiment. In the mean time, I appeal for judgment against the spirituous bacon

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to the court and decree of \_\_\_\_\_ Common Sense.

QU. XXVIII. Whether any disinterested person will join in desiring, that the people may get intoxicated with sugar spirits and rum, instead of spirits from grain; and whether his dislike to dram-drinking arises from the quality, or quantity of the spirits drank?

AN. XXVIII. Every *Englishman* is consequentially concerned in the dreadful Effects the distillation of corn will produce.—All spirits partake of different qualities and portions of power, according to the nature of the component parts, from which the spirit is drawn, and the manner of the distiller's or rectifier's operation.—Now (as I have before said) my desire, as a lover of my country, is, that the people may be prevented, as far as may be, from frequent intoxication by sugar, malt, and every other spirit; nevertheless my dislike to dram-drinking arises both from the quality and from the quantity.—From the latter, because when taken in excess, it debilitates the powers of body and mind, and renders men useless to society, loathsome to themselves, and odious to their Creator,—From the former, when made with corn, because I prefer the public welfare,

welfare, to private emolument; humanity and tenderness to the poor and indigent; to the specious, but fallacious murmurs, about disproportioned taxes and landed oppressions, because sugar is a superfluous and unessential part of the paupers diet, because corn, which is the chief food and support of the poor, can never be cheap, whilst it is suffered to be distilled; because labour can never be cheap, when grain, and all other provisions are dear; and, lastly, because where the necessaries of life, and labour of a certain consequence, are dear, *Trade* must be hurt, decay, and be lost; the result of which to this nation is so important as to demand the attention and zealous endeavours of every loyal subject and true patriot to oppose and guard against it with his *Tongue*, with his *Pen*, with his *Purse*, and with his *Blood*.

QU. XXIX. Whether, if his dislike arises, as certainly it must, from the quantity, that quantity cannot be restrained, without cramming the full pockets of the sugar planter, to the impoverishing of every private family of the kingdom?

AN. XXIX. This Query is sufficiently answered before: But I would remind Mr. M——y, that it is impossible to give a direct and full answer to any question that's unfairly

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or falsely stated. Now as a proof of the justness of this frank intimation of his disingenuity; I submit to the decision of the impartial reader, whether this Query of Mr. M——y's (who enjoys a very capital fortune acquired by the malt distillery) when applied to, and interrogated of himself, does not carry with it that confession and self-conviction of truth, that Mr. M——y must blush to read.

*Query.* If Mr. M——y's dislike to the distilling of spirits from sugar and melasses only, arises, as it most certainly must, from the quality: Whether that quality can be altered without cramming the full pockets of the malt distiller (who already wallows in wealth, purchased with the blood of his fellow-creatures) without impoverishing every poor family in the kingdom by the dearth of corn and labour, and the destruction of trade?

*Qu. XXX.* Whether every land owner, who desires a continuance of the act for prohibiting the malt distillery, does not, from the consequences attending it, desire his own estate may be lessened in value, while he raises excessively that of the sugar planter? and whether every private family does not now feel the extravagant price of sugar?

AN.

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*AN. XXX.* From what hath been already said, it is manifestly clear, that every landowner who, with the short-sighted view of a little present gain from the high price of corn, abets and promotes the malt-distillery; does, nevertheless, from the certain and inevitable consequences attending and flowing therefrom, subject his own landed estate to be greatly lessened and diminished in its value, that is to say, By *greater rates* to support a more numerous and burthensome poor, by *heavier wages* that must, from the dearth of grain, and other provisions, be paid to all labourers and artificers; By the failure of tenants, who, flushed with THE PRESENT extraordinary profits, and from a vain ambition to support it, become luxurious, debauched, and bankrupt, and lastly (what is least thought of) by extraordinary taxes, to support the exigencies of state to counterbalance that deficiency in the revenues, which a stagnation and loss of trade and commerce would of course occasion.

*Qu. XXXI.* Whether before the prohibition of malt spirits the compound distiller did not make *English* brandy from thence very little inferior in goodness, to that imported from abroad?

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AN. XXXI. It is very true, that the *art* of making malt spirit, as well as compounding it, is brought to a very great degree of perfection; but the best approaches no nearer to the grape or tartar brandy, or to the juice of the *cane*, than in proportion to the quantity that is mixed with the malt spirit. The goodness, which consists in its flavour and purity as a spirit, is so far prevailing and distinguishable in the foreign spirit, that the hardest and most insensible palate must relish the grateful difference.

Qu. XXXII. Whether large sums of money have not, since the prohibition aforesaid, been sent out of the kingdom to purchase great quantities of *French* brandy; and whether, by this means, we have not been strengthening the hands of our enemies against us?

AN. XXXII. It does not appear to the *public*, that any very considerable sums of money have, during the present war, been sent to *France* to purchase brandies, nor is it probable, since some of our own colonies produce a common spirit much preferable to our own malt spirit, as useful for the navy, and much cheaper than the *French* brandy. Besides our ships have been abundantly well supplied by their frequent captures,

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tures, and other *extra* means: it is true, we import a great deal of *French* brandy from *Holland*, and so we should (such is the infatuation of the *English*) if our own island produced really as good as theirs.—As to our strengthening their hands with the monies laid out in spirits, I am inclined to believe, when the tobacco we have sold and supplied them with, (since the war also) is put into the scale—(and paid for)—the ballance will turn out in our favour against the brandy.

Qu. XXXIII. Whether there was not before the stoppage, a considerable exportation of malt spirits to *Africa*; whether *French* brandy hath not since been sent thither; and whether the government have not been obliged to buy *French* brandy for the use of the sailors, instead of what they formerly had, *English* brandy from grain?

AN. XXXIII. The latter part of this question is already asked and answered. If Mr. M—y means the stoppage of the malt-distillery, there hath both before and since been a considerable exportation of spirits to *Africa*. And what matters it, in a confined and abstracted view, to the government, whether the spirit we export and exchange there for slaves, and are made from

from malt, sugar, or the grape; or whether the produce of *England, Jamaica, Barbadoes*, or the *Continent*; and, as to the dispute between the *interested* in corn and the *interested* in sugar. It is beneath the dignity of that august house, before whom the grand consideration is, to enter into it, nor is there any doubt, but that wise assembly of senators will wave all private and popular *prejudices*, and that the weight of *things*, and not of *men*, will prevail.

Qu. XXXIV. Whether the quantity of malt spirits, made before the stoppage, was not inconsiderable, in comparison of what were formerly made; and whether an act of parliament, which passed about seven years ago, prohibiting the compound distillers from selling in less quantities than two gallons, did not remove great part of the evils arising from dram-drinking?

An. XXXIV. The first part of this question may be answered *affirmatively* and the latter *negatively*. For though the quantity of malt spirit made before the stoppage was not so considerable as it had before been; (and which might be owing to the large stock that the trade then had in hand) and though there appeared a sensible decrease of the use of this spirit, and (of consequence)

a visible amendment in the health and morals of the poorest of the poor; and so far a small part of the evil arising from gin-drinking was removed: *still* there remained an evil which that act of parliament could not reach, and nothing less, at that time, (*or ever*) but an absolute prohibition (or stoppage, as Mr. M——y calls it) could have cured it. Thus, we see, we have experienced, that it is impossible to suffer those insatiable engines and devourers of corn to expand their voracious jaws, under any limitations, without incurring the like judgment and deserved punishment of beggary and famine. The malt-distillers are a set of very opulent people, and from their manner of becoming so, are rather the objects of *compassion* than *envy*. In general, they are enabled to live upon their fortunes, and they who are not, may be indulged the liberty of following any other employ.

Qu. XXXV. Whether the proprietors of our sugar colonies have not been advantaged in the sum of eight hundred thousand pounds sterling annually *since* the stoppage of the malt-distillery?

An. XXXV. I could wish myself under no necessity to explain and settle the *meaning* of the author's questions, before I can proceed to answer them. He certainly cannot  
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intend to puzzle and confound that very doctrine he would seem and endeavour to display and establish.—To this query, as it now stands, I answer, *Yes*: if he will change the word *since* to either of the words *by* or *from*, I answer, *No*. Or if Mr. M——y would ask, whether the sugar-planters or proprietors have reap'd greater benefits from the working of the *malt* distillery, I answer *Yes*: this may seem a paradox to Mr. M——y, but it is *experimentally* true.—For it is the dearness of corn, occasioned by the distillery; it is the dearness of all other provisions occasioned by the dearness of corn; it is the load of levies, occasioned by the extraordinary number of poor, which such dearness of provisions has occasioned; it is an extraordinary weight of taxes, which the dearness of provisions for our fleets and armies occasions; and lastly, the war itself, perhaps, inflamed and pursued by a desperate enemy from the hope and prospect of a late approaching famine, occasioned also from the distillation of corn, that have all caused and contributed to increase the high price of sugars and treacle.

Qu. XXXVI. Whether for several years past great quantities of gin and brandy have not been smuggled, (particularly before the war) as well as imported into the kingdom from *Holland* and *France*? And whether

whether from this consideration, as well as all the foregoing ones, the continuance of the malt-distillery, while spirits of any kind are permitted to be drank, be not absolutely necessary for the good of the publick?

AN. XXXVI. The geneva that has been either imported or smuggled into *England* for a number of years past, is very inconsiderable, and the brandy now smuggled is very trifling when compar'd to former times. The laws made to prevent that practice, have nearly effectuated their intention, and I can assure Mr. M——y he hath my consent (as an *Antigallican*) for a total prohibition. It is the exorbitant produce and drug of an enemy's country, and our own plantations can supply us and our wants with either spirit or materials for spirit, very sufficient both in quantity and quality.—And surely, that trade, which must be carried on by a long and constant navigation, is, in time of peace, an object of great attention, far out-weighing the temporary service and increase of the *Excise* revenues.

Upon the whole, as it is universally allow'd, that the spirits of some sort or kind, must be necessarily wanted, and to a considerable consumption, not only for our own domestick use, but for exportation; and as our strength and wealth (as islanders) depends upon our navigation and commerce, and

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and as the strength and safety of both depends upon the enjoyment and prosperity of our *American vineyards*, I humbly think it is the duty of every *honest* man, instead of joining in a cabal or popular struggle between two jealous parties or interested factions, to plan, propose, and approve the *best ways and means* totally to prevent the smuggling of foreign spirit—totally to prevent the importation of *French* spirits—totally to prohibit the distillation of grain—cautiously to permit the making of *any* spirits in *England*; and lastly, to establish the spirit-trade in our colonies in *America*, under such proper regulations as will most effectually answer the useful and necessary requisites and purposes of the state, the trader and the publick.

It is owing to Mr. M——y's confident assertions, *That his Queries were unanswerable*, that I have taken this trouble. If he persists in his pursuit, and chuses to enter into a further controversy on this subject, I hope that some gentleman more capable will think it his duty to defend the cause of the poor and the publick, and consequently to oppose the malt-distillery.

*B.*  
*F I N I S.*