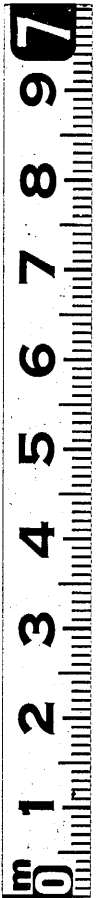


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A  
 SUPPLEMENT  
 TO THE  
 IMPARTIAL ENQUIRY  
 INTO THE  
 PRESENT STATE of the  
**BRITISH DISTILLERY.**

In Answer to the Second Edition of a  
 Pamphlet, intituled, *Spirituous Liquors the Bane  
 of the Nation.*

WHEREIN

The notorious Untruths and scandalous Inventions  
 introduced in this Pamphlet are fully detected and exposed,  
 and the Landed Interest is truly stated, and recommended to  
 the serious Consideration of all true Lovers of their  
 Country.

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In a Letter to the Reverend AUTHOR.

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LONDON

Printed for J. ROBERTS, in *Warwick-Lane.*

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A  
**SUPPLEMENT**  
 TO THE  
**IMPARTIAL ENQUIRY**  
 INTO THE  
 PRESENT STATE of the  
**BRITISH DISTILLERY.**

REV. SIR,

**I** MOST readily agree you have an advantage in writing on the popular side of the Question, relating to the *British Distillery*, and that the Passions of the People in general seem to be artfully worked up, and prepared to receive favourably any thing that is wrote against Distillers without distinction, and at the same time they are equally prejudiced against what may very justifiably be said, on behalf of the reputable part of the Trade; the consequence of which is, that slender proofs, or indeed bare assertions, will serve your purpose, and at the same time undeniable Facts must be the support of any thing wrote in opposition.

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This Situation I don't doubt, Sir, but you have fully considered, and craftily endeavoured to make the advantage of, tho' I think you have something over-acted your part, and trusted too far to the effects of heat and prejudice, in advancing several things, in your first Edition, as fact, to support your Project for the utter destruction of the *British Distillery*, which you have been since evidently detected in, by the Pamphlet to which this Letter is designed as a Supplement.

As the Itch of writing still remains on you, I expected in a Dispute of so much Importance, which you are pleased to say, is no less than the Welfare and Preservation of the whole Kingdom, that you would have condescended fully and fairly to answer the Charge against you.

But this, Sir, it seems, is below your Dignity, you are of too much Consequence, your labours are too precious to be drawn into a Vindication of your Argument by Facts, and rather expect to be credited, *in Verbum Sacerdotis*, an authority not generally received in this age, especially in a Controversy of this nature.

Altho' Modesty is a Character you appear something awkward in, yet I will allow, you have shewn some symptoms of it, in silently sinking in this second Edition several Facts asserted in your first.

And as for the Complement you are so kind to make me, of 100,000 Gin-drinkers (half your  
first

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first army raised for this service); it is a favour, Sir, I receive with much thankfulness; and if at the same time, you had but owned your Assertion was first detected, and the Computation made appear to be false and impossible: I should have esteem'd it, such an instance of your Candor and Sincerity as the World must naturally expect from you.

However, Sir, from this and several other instances of the like nature, I am not without hopes of engaging you to a farther Amendment, which this last performance much wants; for I must, to lay aside all Ceremony, take the freedom of saying you have in several of your Corrections and Additions asserted so many notorious untruths, so many scandalous Calumnies on the Distillers in general, that any Man, who has not absolutely renounced both common sense and common honesty, must have been ashamed to publish.

Some of these Assertions only, Sir, which are most material, I shall fully detect and answer; altho', were it necessary, I would undertake to make it appear, that there is not one single computation or account, either in your first or second Edition of this notable Performance, that is true as laid down, but, on the contrary, may be falsified by indisputable testimony.

An affected tenderness for Mankind, a concern for Religion, is what you often employ to bespeak the credibility of your Arguments, and insinuate yourself to the belief of your Reader; they are,  
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no doubt, (when real) engaging Motives to all thinking Men; but they happen so often to be used as a Cloak for the worst purposes, that very few will draw any Conclusions from Professions of that kind only; and in this case they seem to be greatly misapplied in a Project for ruining or starving many thousands of industrious Men, whose trade is no ways inconsistent with the publick utility, were a thorough Reformation, and not an entire Destruction, the point in question: Such a project I can hardly think the fruit of that tenderness and regard, every honest Man ought to preserve for the Society of which he is a Member.

For these Reasons I shall take the freedom of stripping your Arguments of all this solemn Hypocrisy and Disguise, being convinced from the nature of your Scheme, and the method you take to support it, that you prostitute this seeming Sanctity and Religion to your own Prejudices or particular Views; making your self a meer Tool in aiming at the destruction of one trade, that another may rise on its ruins, altho' the latter is capable of almost all the ill effects you attribute to the former.

As this, Sir, is a task that every one would not willingly have made his choice; so I take it for granted, there must be some powerful Motive or Temptation to make it your's; and as I am not willing to allow what you ascribe your Zeal to in this Case, I am under a necessity of pointing out to you what I substitute in its place; I am rather of opinion, that your own insuperable  
Pride

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Pride and Vanity, that officious ill-nature and inclination to be busy at any expence, so well known to govern you in every past Station of your Life, a false pursuit of popularity, fame, and applause, has caused you running so great lengths, and making so wanton and shameful a sacrifice of Truth and Justice, publick Faith and private Property.

But whatever may be your Motives, the Argument is the same. It is that I undertake to answer, if I succeed therein, to the satisfaction of the impartial Reader; I give my self little trouble to think what will become of your Piety, Religion, and love to Mankind, no doubt, but they may be otherwise employed on more useful Subjects, and more suitable to your Function; and I shall only consider what weight your Arguments will have, what strength they will retain when the Foundations are thus destroyed.

To set this matter in a clear light, I shall first consider the nature of Spirituous Liquors in general, and particularly the Composition of home made Spirits.

You are pleased for this purpose to rely on a Quotation from Dr *Cheyne's Essay of Health and long Life.*

How applicable that Gentlemen's Thoughts are to the present purpose, may be determined by any one who will read the Doctor's Preface, where, speaking of the weak and tender, he says,  
" And it is for these, and these only, the following  
" Treatise

“ Treatise is designed, the robust, the luxurious,  
“ the pot Companions, the loose, and the abandoned,  
“ have here no Business, but the sickly, the aged, the  
“ studious, and the sedentary Persons of weak  
“ Nerves, and the Gentlemen of the learned Pro-  
“ fessions.

The Prescriptions of this Doctor in these Cases are what you lay down as an universal Rule and infallible Authority for all Cases whatever; and contrary to the Doctor's own positive Declaration, which you artfully conceal, apply them to the common People, to the laborious part of the Kingdom.

Your dishonesty in the Quotation, is another thing equally to your Credit: The Doctor, who was much in love with Water in p. 42. speaking of Drink, as Malt Liquors, Wine, or Mixtures, which, in contradistinction to Water, he in general calls strong Liquors: Says afterwards, “ Strong Liquors were formerly kept in Apothecary's Shops as Medicine; and that it is as reasonable to set down to a dish of Laudanum, &c. as Crawfish Soop, Ox-cheeck, Tockay, Hermitage, or Punch.

So that you see, it is not Spirituous Liquors alone which the Doctor singles out as pernicious, he says the same things of other Drinks, and of Meats also, which neither his Learning or your Zeal will persuade the People to part with.

However, Water may be useful in some Constitutions, the universal drinking of it, and rejecting all other Drinks, or strong Food, is a mecr

mere Utopian Scheme no ways adapted to human Nature, or consistent with Trade or Wealth, nor do I believe it medicinally to have the effects pretended.

Malt Liquor itself, which you are so very fond to promote the Consumption of, as wholesome and generally suited to the Constitutions of the People, is particularly condemned by your own Authority, the Doctor just mention'd, who says, “ Yorkshire and Nottingham Ales make excellent Birdlime and Plaisters for other Strains — even Small Beer (he says) for want of being well boiled ferments again in the alimentary Channels; and fills the Cavity of the Body with windy Fumes and Vapours.

In short, this Doctor has taken a great deal of Pains to destroy most Part of the Meat and Drink in the Nation; cramm'd Fowls, Stall-fed Meat, rich Soops, high Sauces, baking, smoaking, salting, pickling, are all to be rejected, Pork and Fish of all kind he treats as a sort of Poison, Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate, he owns some Doctors condemn by Bell, Book, and Candle; smoaking and other Uses of Tobacco are as little in his Favour; but he has the good Nature to leave some Equivalent for so extensive a Prohibition, he would supply eating and drinking with the Use of a Cordial Dram of his own prescribing, and purging once a Week, which Remedy most People think of as pernicious a Tendency as any thing the Doctor condemns. In short, he is for making Mankind a mighty regular Machine; they must eat and drink

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drink but of a very few Things, and that by Weight and Measure, less than eight Ounces of Meat, is what he calls a great Meal to be used once a Day, accompanied with three Glasses of Water, and a Spoonful of Wine.

This, Sir, is the Water-Doctor's fine Project, and this is the Authority you so much rely on for amending the Morals of the People, altho' in the very same Book he reserves to himself another Dyet: He says he likes the warm Reception of a Friend, the *dulce furere* of *Horace*. It is for the sake of his Patients only, that the World is indebted to him for this new Method of Dieting.

For my own Part I am very little attached to the Opinions of Physicians, and do not quote these Instances as what I give any Credit to in the extensive manner laid down, there is hardly any one Thing Gentlemen of that Profession agree in; what Cures their Regulations produce is uncertain, they cannot distinguish when the natural Constitution of a Patient, or their own Prescriptions, produce any good Effect, Death they generally bestow on the former, but Recovery is wholly owing to the latter. The most certain Truth I know is, that they kill many in trying Projects: And if this Water-Doctor's Scheme is to be applied in the manner you use it, it would soon reduce the People to a poor starved emaciated Race, they would be like *Pharaoh's* lean Kine, not as I would insist that Abstinence may not be useful in many Cases. The only  
Thing

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Thing I condemn is universal Propositions of this Nature, not believing there is any Difference in the Choice of Extremes of any sort: And upon the same Principle that I think the excessive Use of rich Wines or Strong Liquors pernicious, so I think the total disuse of them to have as bad Effects; a Man's own Discretion and the Knowledge of his own Constitution and Temperament of Body, is to govern him in these Cases. There is nothing we can eat or drink, but may be either Poison or Physic according to the Quantity used, and the particular Constitution of the Party, but the excessive Use of Spirituous Liquors, or indeed Beer, Ale, or Wine, either by the common People or better Sort, is what I never attempted to justify, but would heartily rejoice to see some reasonable Restraint in. And this Distinction I desire, Sir, may always be remembered to govern every thing I shall trouble you with on this Subject.

The Assertion of Spirituous Liquors in any Degree being so very pernicious and dangerous in their own Nature, is sufficiently falsify'd by the known Use of them in other Parts of the World, Experience of that kind is more certain Evidence than the Conjectures of a whole Tribe of Doctors.

In *Holland* the Use is far greater than in *England*, it serves for Meat and Drink in many Cases, the very Children steep their Bread in it; the constant Consumption is to be observed among them at all Times, in all Places, and  
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among all Ranks and Degrees of People of different Ages and both Sexes, and yet we never heard of any ill Effects it produced amongst them; nor can it be supposed, were that the Case, it would be tolerated on any Terms, the Wisdom of their Government, and the great Care they take in preserving the common People and rendering them useful to the State, is too well known to admit of any Doubt, whether Spirituous Liquors in the Manner they use them, are hurtful or not, they are known to be otherwise, and that the common People enjoy as great a Share of Health, and live to as great an Age as any People in *Europe*, altho' their Soil and Climate are what Physicians describe in the worst Manner.

I readily agree that notwithstanding this great Consumption in *Holland*, the scandalous Abuse and Disorders in drinking among the common People, do not appear as in *England*, there are no Instances of half starved ragged Vagabonds intoxicating themselves with these Liquors, as is often seen in *England*, or of People heated with drinking excessive Quantities, dying in a miserable manner. The Cause of this Difference, Sir, I apprehend to be very material for explaining the main Question, and therefore I shall give you my Thoughts fully thereon.

As to the many frightful Stories which have been published in the News Papers, I am able to tell you upon a strict Enquiry, they are generally exaggerated far beyond the Truth, and oftentimes

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tentimes invented by those whose Interest it is to inflame the Nation against all Degrees of this Manufacture, or by the Runners employed to pick up Domestick News, who are obliged to bring every Day a Number of fresh Paragraphs, and coin and adapt these to the prejudiced Belief and Opinion of the Public; such of them as have any Foundation, are purposely contrived by a Set of Men who have been long working in the Dark, to render the Distilling Trade odious to the Nation. I could here give several Instances of this Sort, but I shall content myself with mentioning two, which you have laid a great Stress upon. The first Instance is that of a Sign said to be at a Distiller's Shop in *Southwark*. "Drunk for a Penny, Dead Drunk for Two Pence; the other is that of a Man dropping down dead on drinking eighteen Quarterns of Gin.

As to the first Story, on the most diligent Enquiry I have made, I cannot find any Reason to believe there ever was such a Sign, nor indeed considering the Vigilance and Integrity of many Magistrates in those Parts; can any rational Man suppose they would suffer so scandalous and wicked an Invitation to Debauchery to be set up in so publick a Manner.

As to the other Instance, it had some Foundation of Truth, so far as that the Cause of the profligate Wretch's Death was drinking, but not in the Manner represented: He was publickly

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ly known for a notorious Sot of many Years standing, came into the House quite drunk before he called for any Spirituous Liquors, in which Condition, it is no Wonder that eighteen Quarters of Spirits might have the Effect which followed; but that is not an Evidence of the pernicious Nature of the Liquor, the ill Consequence arose from the excessive Quantity used by a Man already drunk, and Quantity will make any Liquor dangerous: We have had many Instances of Men of another Station or Degree of Life, killing themselves by drinking unfitly too great a Quantity of Small Beer or Cyder, but it does not therefore follow either of those Liquors ought to be esteemed Poison in their own Nature, or what ought to be prohibited.

This Distinction is so very plain, that I shall not trouble myself or the Reader with other Instances to support it.

In all the Instances I ever heard mentioned, of Persons killed by drinking *Geneva*, there are none which in the ill natur'd way they are related, appear to be owing to the natural voluntary Consumption of the People; but rather that poor indigent Creatures, by wagers laid, money directly given, or other means of the like nature, have been hired to drink excessive Quantities, which would probably have had the like Effect in any other Liquor.

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It is a very hard Censure to charge any particular Man, or Sett of Men, with being the Author or Promoters of so inhuman and barbarous an Experiment; nor am I willing to publish all the particulars I have heard by credible report: But this I will venture to say, there must be some body at the Bottom of these Practices, and to what end or purpose let the World judge, they seem to me to be designed purposely at this time to render the Distilling Trade odious, by these shocking Instances inflaming the whole Kingdom against a Trade they want to destroy; imagining another may increase in proportion; but it is to be hoped the useful part of the Trade will not be condemned for Abuses of this Nature artfully contrived: It were to be wished that the Monsters who employ their time in seducing poor Creatures to so infamous a Debauch, as well as the Persons who sell Liquors for so wicked a Purpose, were brought to exemplary Punishment.

These Instances show the absolute Necessity of entirely prohibiting Brandy Shops, without Reserve, a Regulation the Distillers earnestly desire, and which would distinguish the moderate and useful Consumption of their Manufacture from what is scandalous and pernicious, which has given so just Offence to all good Men.

It may seem very strange, that in *Holland*, where there is so much greater Consumption of Malt Spirits, that we should never hear of such scandalous Abuses among them, for which Reason

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son many People have been drawn in to believe the Spirits manufactured there, are of a more wholesome Nature than what is made in *England*. But this is a very great Mistake, the different Effect is not owing to the Malt Spirits in *Holland* being wholesomer than in *England*.

It is wholly owing to the Difference of our Laws, the Corruption of inferior Officers of Justice, and the want of regulating the common People, and suffering them to lead the Lives of Vagabonds, a Defect peculiar to *England*, and unknown to all other Foreign Nations in the World.

Drunkeness in our own miserable idle Wretches may well appear hideous and terrible, and if at the same time an equal quantity of Spirituous Liquors consumed among the same Class of People in *Holland* has quite another Effect, there they are Strangers to Idleness, they have proper Laws to enforce Labour and Industry, Laws intelligible to common Understanding; they have Magistrates of the best Rank and Figure, who think it no Dishonour to act in their Stations, and effectually put the Laws in Execution, in which they have no Ends to propose but the good of Society; not depending on Perquisites arising from the Discharge of their Trust for a Subsistence, and their Duty is render'd easy to them by the Plainness and Simplicity of their Laws, and not an insupportable Burthen as many worthy Magistrates complain, is the Case in *England*; their inferior Officers are generally People of some Credit and Reputation, whose Trade is not to propagate those Evils the Duty of their

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their Office obliges them to detect; this Harmony in the Nature of their Government, is the great Means of regulating the common People, and enforcing Labour and Industry, which, from constant Use, becomes natural to them, and altho' the Use of Spirituous Liquors is so frequent among them, Drunkeness in a high Degree is generally esteemed infamous, and severely punished.

No Wonder then, that the Effects of using Spirituous Liquors in *Holland*, are so very different from what they are in *England*, but that this Difference is owing to the Quality of Spirits in *England* being more pernicious than in *Holland*, or the Constitutions of our People being more unfit for any Use of them is too ridiculous and absurd a Proposition to require any farther Explanation.

This Manufacture in *Holland*, under these Regulations so useful to the Common People and so beneficial to the State, by the great Number of industrious Subjects it employs, and the Wealth it consequently acquires, is cherished in *Holland*, and as carefully preserved as any one Manufacture among them. They have Reason to look upon it of consequence so to do; for altho' they are computed to import from *France* yearly more than half of all the Brandies made there: Yet their Distillery from Malt Spirits alone, not accounting Melasses and Cyder, which is very considerable, amounts to much more than

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than what is manufactured of the like kind by any Nation in *Europe*; it being certainly known, that two Towns in *Holland*, viz. *Scheidam* and *Rotterdam* make near 500 Ton of Malt Spirits *per Week*, which is near 100 Ton more than is allowed to be made in the same time in all *England*.

If Examples are to be allowed as any Evidence in this Case, we need not rest on *Holland* only; the quantity of Spirituous Liquors manufactured there, added to the *French* Brandies, is altogether so prodigiously great, that it cannot be supposed the Numbers of their own People under the prudent Regulations I mention, capable of consuming it: No, 'tis well known they drive a great foreign Trade with it, they vend a great deal in several Parts of *Germany*, and in the North, as well as in *Africa*, and in the Fishing Trade, in none of which Places have we ever heard of any pernicious Effects to distinguish it from other Liquors.

The great Distilleries of Malt Spirits in *Sweden* and *Poland* are farther Proofs of this kind; It is observed by Mr *Savery de Bruslons*, a *French* Author, Inspector-General of Manufactures in the Customs of *Paris*, "That  
" *Poland and Sweden are not to be reckoned*  
" *among the Northern Countries who consume*  
" *French Brandies, not that those people are*  
" *more reserved or temperate than others, but*  
" *because they prefer Malt Spirits to French*  
*Brandy,*

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" *Brandy, the one being made from their own*  
" *Materials, and more agreeable to them, as*  
" *well as much cheaper than the other.*"

But these are not the only Instances of the kind: Is not Arrack the common Liquor of the *East Indies*, Rum in our own Colonies, Rum, Anniseed-water, and other compound Liquors in the *French* Colonies, Aqua Vitæ or Malt Spirits in *Scotland*, Usquebaugh in *Ireland*, and spirituous Liquors of one kind or other, or at least very strong Wines in their stead in every Nation in the World: Can such universal Usage, founded on long Experience, be supposed of Liquors in their own Nature destructive to the whole animal Oeconomy, the usage of Malt Spirits in *Scotland* among the Highlanders, is more remarkable than any of the other Instances I have quoted. In that Country, for want of a more perfect knowledge of Distillation, the Spirit they draw is foul, and consequently not so wholesome as our's in *England*; yet notwithstanding they use it as their chief Support, serving them oftentimes instead of meat and drink, and yet their state of Health was never called in question, but, on the contrary they are remarkable for their Strength, agility of Body, and long Life.

As to the particular Composition of *British* Spirits, whether that is in a different manner from what is practised abroad, is a point very fit to be considered, you have

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been pleased to insinuate in support of your Argument that the *British* Distillery is of no Advantage to the Landed Interest. *That spirituous Liquors are not so much extracted from Malt, as rotten Fruit, Urine, Lime, human Ordure, and any other Filthiness from whence a Fermentation may be raised, and by throwing in Cochylus Indice, and other hot poisonous Drugs, that intoxicate and often make these unhappy Creatures mad.* Your Conclusion from this Assertion is, that the Millions of Gallons of these pernicious Compositions, made and uttered in and about this great City cannot be guessed at, but by the multitudes that crowd these infamous Shops, and with an unaccountable Greediness are continually swallowing down their own destruction.

This, Sir, is a material Charge of more moment in it's own Nature than any thing you have otherwise said: If it has any Foundation of Truth, if it be made appear that such is the Composition of spirituous Liquors, I will readily agree with you, that the Trade is an Abuse on the whole Nation, and ought immediately to be destroyed root and branch: but if it should appear there is no Foundation for this Charge, that it is a malicious Aspersion, contrived to prejudice People against the Trade in general, how must the Author be covered with shame and confusion, ought he not to be treated as an Impostor? and what Credit ought Arguments founded on such scandalous Inventions to have, with the unprejudic'd Part of mankind?

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The Malt Spirits distilled in *England* are, by Computation, four Fifths of the whole Distillery; Melasses are about four thousand Ton of the remaining fifth part, and the Residue is drawn from Cyder, decayed Wines, &c. these are the publick and known methods of Distillations, the Trade is of such a nature, as cannot be carried on in secret, the Work-houses are open, and all the Ingredients Distillers use, known to the Excise-men, whose business it is to distinguish them by reason of the different Duties laid on this manufacture.

The Distillery of Melasses, Sugars, and Cyder, are of the same nature; there is no possibility of using any unwholesome Ingredient by the first maker, whose business, as to the Malt Spirit, is only first to brew it in a wholesome method as Common Brewers generally do, and as the Act of Parliament directs, and from thence after a proper Fermentation by several Operations to extract the Spirit, in which there is no manner of necessity or use for any Ingredient whatsoever, the natural Fermentation doing all that is requisite for that purpose, Melasses and Cyder Spirits are also extracted in like manner from a natural Fermentation.

When these Spirits come into the hands of the Compounder, it is impossible he should use any unwholesome Ingredient, or any hot or poisonous Drugs to heighten the Spirit; his

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his business is quite the reverse, to abate the Heat and Fire, these Spirits retain from the Still by sweet and softening Juices, as Cherries, Raspberries, &c. or by impregnating them with Spices or Juniper-berries, which make them more wholesome, and give them an agreeable Flavour suitable to the Palate. And as to *English* Spirits impregnated with Juniper-berries, which is called *Holland Geneva*; it would be endless to quote the many Authors who have described its salutiferous Qualities, and it is well known we now make it to as great perfection here as they do in *Holland*, great quantities of it being sold in *England* as if imported from abroad, from whence we may see the Effects of Prejudice. Those who buy it in this method are well satisfied with its medicinal Virtues: but were they to be told they bought *English* Spirits, many might probably think, Sir, with you that they were drinking so much Poison.

As I put the whole Argument on the Issue of this Fact, I must call upon you, Sir, to show upon what Authority you have advanced so injurious and scandalous a Calumny, who is the Distiller you mean, that uses these poisonous Ingredients you mention, and what Proof, nay, what Probability have you to believe what you so hardily assert is true?

If you fail in this Proof, what will become of your Millions of Gallons of pernicious

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icious Compositions, and of the Multitudes that swallow down their own Destruction?

Thus, Sir, I have considered your Arguments to prove the pernicious Nature of Spiritous Liquors in General; and if what I have offered for that Purpose is but duly considered, by those who are not previously determined on the other Side of the Question, I believe no doubt will be made, but that what I first proposed appears manifestly true, that spiritous Liquors are not in their own nature what you are pleased to call them — *the Bane of the Nation*—what may be the consequence of an immoderate Use of them shall be my next Consideration.

That there are numbers of idle, loose, disorderly People, who frequent Brandy-shops, and commit many scandalous and immoral actions, is a Fact I never knew contradicted, but that this is a Charge upon the Manufacture in general, or a reason for its entire destruction is what I absolutely deny; If it is a charge on particular persons only who follow the Trade, it is no more than what may be generally made to most Trades in the Kingdom, the abuse of a part can never be a reason for destroying the whole.

This I shall more fully explain by considering how these Abuses were first introduced.

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The Acts of Parliament for encouraging the Distillery, laid no restriction on those who followed the Trade, and, in fact, not only repealed the Charter of the Corporation, established under very wise and prudent regulations by the advice of Physicians, but also all other Charters and Laws which stood in the way of the Encouragement given by these Acts. A Trade thus laid open in the power of all sorts of people to follow, and differing in that respect from all other Trades in the Kingdom, must of course be liable to many abuses, when under no Power to correct or reform them; and from that Cause it is, that many people of low Circumstances and scandalous Characters, have taken on themselves, under the Name of Act of Parliament Distillers, to keep disorderly Houses for retailing Spirituous Liquors, where they have given too much countenance to the most abandon'd, vitious, and profligate People, to consume their Liquors, in a manner that has given just Offence to all sober People; but it must be observed this never came to so great a height, as after the Act for laying a Duty of 5 s. a Gallon, and establishing Licences for Sale of all Compound Liquors.

The Consequence of which was, that the worst sort of People sometimes took out Licences, and paid Duty for a very trifling quantity of Compound Liquors, and made such Licences a Protection for selling a greater

greater quantity, for which they paid no Duty at all; and at the same time the reputable part of the Trade, Men of Fortune and Character, were wholly at a stand, they could not condescend to so scandalous an Evasion of an Act of Parliament, and suffered by it accordingly, whilst those who scrupled not to run all risques reapt the advantage; the Corporation of Distillers did all that was possible to prevent these abuses, they were divested by Parliament of all power and authority as a Company, and they could only apply as private Men to the Magistrates not to grant Licences to disorderly People. This indeed has been much better guarded against within the Walls of the City than elsewhere, to the Honour and Reputation of the Magistrates; but in the Suburbs the Perquisites on Licences, or other private Motives, have proved too powerful for any Application of this nature; Licences have been easily obtained by all sorts of People; and the same Reasons which probably induced the granting them, has been the cause why the Security or Recognizance on taking out Licences given as required by Law, for the good behaviour of the Parties have hardly ever been put in Suit. Thus they have continued these scandalous practices with impunity, and all the Evils arising from thence have been imputed to the Manufacture.

I know the Gentlemen intrusted with the Commission of the Peace, as an excuse for themselves

felves in this Case, urge the great Difficulty and Expencc in convicting Offenders retailing Spirituous Liquors without Licences, or keeping disorderly houfes.

Whether the difficulty arifes from the Corruption of under-officers, in informing against people without foundation, which is known often times to have happened, or whether it is owing to the obscure wording of the Acts of Parliament, on which Prosecutions ought to be made, I know not; but in either Case, the remedy is easy; some farther explanatory Law would cure the Evil, without destroying the Manufacture in general for abuses, the most considerable part of the Trade are utter Strangers to; that this is the Case, may evidently appear by the Distillers within the Walls, the greatest part of whom carry on their Trade in a creditable manner, and suffer no tipping in their Shops, on any pretence whatever, and therefore ought not to be confounded with desperate People, who for a small advantage would run any risque, or bid defiance to any Act of Parliament, under the cover of a Licence which the Magistrates may think fit to entrust with such sort of Wretches.

It was therefore on this experience (of Licences or heavy Duties, not being the proper Remedies) that the former Acts was repealed by the Act of the VIth of King George, the preamble whereof recites, "That  
" the

" the former Act had not answered the good  
" purposes thereby intended, and had been a discouragement to the distilling of Spirits from  
" Corn in Great Britain.

The Trade thus set at large, the disorderly houfes increased, and now require some effectual restraint; but it must be a severe and hard Construction to say, the whole Manufacture in general ought to be destroyed for the abuses committed by a few, and which the rest of the Trade, both the Makers of Spirits and Compounders of any Credit or Reputation, would gladly contribute every thing in their power to put an effectual stop to.

There can no doubt be made, but that, under a proper Regulation, Spirituous Liquors are a great Relief and Support to the common working People. In Paris, it is observed by the French Author, I before quoted, " That the better sort of People use great quantities of Compound Spirituous Liquors of different sorts, which are sold in all parts of the Town; and Geneva, or what they call Eau de Geniévre, amongst the rest," and the Grocers, and other Shops sell Brandy very near as cheap as our Spirits to all Comers; altho' by the Regulation of their Government, their Policy is such, as to prevent the open Disorders complained of in England; nay, there is nothing more common than to

see in a Morning early at almost every corner of a Street, when the Artificers go out to their daily Labour, People with Bottles of Spirituous Liquors in Baskets, with which these Artificers refresh and recruits their Spirits in a moderate manner, without producing any ill effects.

The Distilleries in *France* are very great; for besides their natural Brandies made of Wine, they also distil great quantities of Melasses Spirits at *Orleans*, *Diepe*, *Roüen*, and other places where there are Sugar Refiners: and also distil great quantities of Cyder Spirits in *Normandy*.

They also draw a Malt Spirit in several places where Corn is cheap, but the great plenty of other Ingredients occasions this latter not to be so commonly used as any of the former.

These Spirits from Melasses and Cyder, &c. are generally consumed in the Provinces where they are manufactured, or mixed with their Wine Brandies for Exportation. They are prohibited coming into *Paris* indeed, in favour of the Wine Brandy, which is a Manufacture of more consequence to the Kingdom, but there is no restraint on the Consumption in other parts. All the Sea-Port Towns in *Normandy*, the Sailors, Fishermen, &c. and such sort of People hardly use

use any Brandy, but what is made of Cyder; from which no inconvenience was ever yet found.

Considering that Wine is the chief Staple Commodity of *France*, and the great quantities they yearly make of small or course Wines wholly unfit for Exportation; and sufficient to supply all the occasions of the common People for strong Liquors; one would imagine that if Brandy or Spirits were either pernicious in their own nature, or prejudicial to the Consumption of Wines, (which in that Country I must call the Landed Interest) that the known good Policy of that Government in all things, where the prerogative of the Crown is not immediately concerned, would before this time have laid a Prohibition, or heavy Duties amounting to it; but the Case is just otherwise, the Duty on Consumption by retail in *Paris*, is as near as possible to the Duties imposed on *British* Spirits here, that is about 6 *d.* per Gallon; the Duties in other parts by wholesale a 20th part of the price, and by retail about 2 *d.* a Gallon. And those who retail to Artificers about the Streets pay about the same Duty.

This is the present State of Poison in *France*, and yet that Kingdom not having the advantage of those wise Instructions you are pleased, Sir, to bestow on the Legislature, here

here have thought fit to continue this Manufacture amongst them, and to give it all reasonable Encouragement, tho' I dare say not only the *French*, but our good Friends the *Dutch* do not desire us to follow their Example, they would no doubt gladly hear of our destroying any Manufacture they can supply us with, which Conveniency a long Experience shows high Duties rather encourage than prevent.

There is nothing, Sir, more extraordinary in your Performance than your solemn manner of introducing habitual Drunkenness among the Ladies. You indeed very feelingly describe them as the softer and more delicate Part of the Creation; but if your Discovery is the Result of your own Experience, I cannot help observing that you keep very bad Company. That there may be Instances of Women as well as Men, addicting themselves not only to drinking, but to other Vices is admitted; but I believe, Sir, you are the first Author who has attempted to brand the better sort of the Fair Sex in general in so scandalous a Manner. A Scandal entirely inconsistent with the fine Taste, good Sense, Polite Behaviour, and useful Knowledge the Ladies in this Kingdom are known so remarkably to excel in.

As to your two Instances of this sort which you quote, if literally true in the manner you

you mention, it is a monstrous Conclusion from thence to brand the whole Sex with the Character of habitual Drunkards. But, for my own Part, I see no Cause to think so well of your Veracity, as to give Credit to these Stories, because you relate them. There are many Circumstances quite incredible; and as to the Physical Part absurd and ridiculous, and until you think fit to state the Facts on a better Foundation, in a manner that the whole Truth may be come at, and the Cause of the Party, and what other Distempers they might be subject to, fully known; I think there is little occasion to give any farther Answer to a Story appearing wholly fictitious, and calculated to serve a present Turn.

This puts me in mind of a Clamour of another kind, which is, that the Soldiers, by the immoderate Use of these Liquors, are so far enervated as to be oftentimes unfit to perform their usual Exercise; and that Complaints of this kind have been made by a certain noble Officer, who I doubt not fully believed the Cause as before supposed.

I happened to be in Company with a Surgeon of a Regiment, which lay under the same Imputation; and inquiring into the Truth of the Report, my Friend answered me thus: "Our Colonel, says he, does not know the Condition of his Regiment so well as I do, if he did, he would attribute the Weakness



“ Weakness and Disorder of his Men to another Cause, to a Distemper of another kind, which devours the common People, particularly the Soldiery, in which Condition all strong Liquors are universally allowed to be hurtful.” Every one may judge how true and useful this Remark is: A Man who takes Mercury one Hour, and drinks Brandy the next, is an unfair Instance to shew the Nature and Quality of Spirituous Liquors; or to demonstrate that they are Poison to all Ranks and Degrees of People.

The next Instance you give of the pernicious Consequence of Spirituous Liquors; is in what you are pleased to call that Heathenish Liquor Punch, which you entirely condemn as of a poisonous Quality, on the Authority of your Water-Doctor, who finds fault with the Oranges or Lemons in the Composition, as well as the Spirits, and makes the Use of it in the *West-Indies* as fatal as the Plague. In answer to this I think, that learned Author should have given some demonstrative Proof of what he lays down with so much Authority: But alas! Sir, that is not the Case. Like many other things asserted by you, it stands on his bare word, and were there any Proof of the Fact, the Consequence, of what is done in so hot a Climate as the *West-Indies*, is not sufficient for our Regulation here. The Parallel is not equal.

However

However I cannot pass over your notorious Misrepresentation of the Fact, a Misfortune you often fall under, that the Sailors and New-comers in the *West-Indies* are often affected with the Nervous Distempers you mention, may be admitted; but what is this owing to? not their drinking Spirituous Liquors; but on the contrary it is notorious that *Madeira Wine*, which I believe is the strongest in the World, is the wholesomest Liquor that can be drank, and the best suited to the Climate of any other; but it is the Water and the Limes they use in Punch instead of Oranges that are unwholesome, and Limes are known to produce the same Effects in *Europe*, as you are pleased to describe in the *West-Indies*.

You seem, Sir, in a very moving Strain to lament that the People in a midling Life, particularly the Tradesmen in this City, are running more than ever into the drinking of Punch, and that new Houses for propagating it are every Day erected.

But you have forgot to mention the Cause of this Increase. You have not, good Sir, had the Honesty to own that the Tradesmen of the City whom you pretend to take so much Care of, have been long tired with the nauseous unwholesome Compositions sold by some Vintners under the Name of good old Port, wherein *English Spirits*, *English Cyder* and Sugar are the only wholesome Ingredients; the Residue of the Com-

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positions

positions these Gentlemen sell for Port, being the filthy Lees of a Wine-Cellar; and a Mixture of ill digested heady black Wines, four Wines, and new sweet Wines.

What Method of refining this Composition may be used, I will not venture to affirm in prejudice to a Trade; in which I know many worthy Gentlemen who scorn and detest any Practices of this kind; but if the Evidence, Sir, you are pleased to furnish for the Destruction of the Distillery, common Fame was to prevail, I should tell you that they refine these strange Compositions with unwholesome Ingredients, and throw in dead Dogs, and other Carrion, for it to feed on; but this is a Discovery no ways suitable to the Task you have undertaken to make appear, your pious Endeavours are only levelled at another Body of Men. The pernicious Liquor they make, and their exorbitant Gains are what you wholly dedicate your Thoughts to: So that you have not found Leisure either to remember your self, or inform your Reader, that a Vintner sells his Beverage at 47 l. a Pipe, and his own Trade, who best know the Ingredients, seldom value a Vintner's Stock at above 12 l. a Pipe, if so high, this I do not mention as the Case of every Vintner, tho' a Case which often happens.

There is a little Inconsistency in what you assert in the first Edition of your Book. There you complain the Drinking of Malt Spirits destroys Virility; and in the Preface to this Second Edition, you have found out a new Evil: You say the Unhappy Offspring of

of Gin-drinkers suffer in their Constitutions for the Sins of their Parents; and therefore you become their Advocate; but as both these Objections cannot be well founded, but are quite repugnant; I shall leave one to answer the other; and proceed to consider another evil Consequence you attribute to Spirituous Liquors, which is, *'That a Deluge of Vice and Immorality has thereby within a few Years overspread the Nation, and that the frequent and barbarous Murders and Robberies are owing to that Practice.'*

This, Sir, I have given some answer to, in what I formerly wrote on this Subject; which, to avoid Repetition, I refer my self to, and think instead of repeating the Objection, you would have done well to take some notice of the Answer given; it would indeed have been a fair Method of treating the Dispute, tho' not so well have answered your Purpose of running down the Distillery, right or wrong, at any Rate.

You seem to treat Vice and Immorality as a new Production, as the immediate Consequence of the Consumption of Spirituous Liquors, and what therefore within a few Years only has overspread the Nation.

What! was Vice and Immorality unknown before Distilling was practised in *England*? or would it abate if the Manufacture was destroyed? Were not Murders and Robberies as frequent before the Encouragement given to the Distillery in King *William's* Time as since? I believe if you look into the Sessions Paper, you will find

Crimes of this nature as frequently committed as of late Years; but suppose the Fact otherwise, that they have lately increased; I am very far from attributing such Increase to the disorderly Use of Spirituous Liquors. On the contrary, I think both the one and the other may be justly imputed to a want of due Execution of the Laws in force; to the Neglect of Magistrates, and the scandalous Corruption of inferior Officers, which is become a National Grievance, and much wants a proper and suitable Remedy; the most probable Means of stopping this Deluge you describe in so terrible a manner.

Your next Complaint is of Chandlers Shops debauching Servants, and occasioning their exposing the private Affairs of the Family they live in. But why must this be imputed to the drinking of Gin? it is, as probably, owing to drinking Tea, a fashionable Regale amongst Servants in general, and often used in those Places; and even that I could wish remedy'd, tho' I am far from thinking it a general Grievance; because, I believe, Sir, by whatever Method you may provide Necessaries for your own Family, yet those who live in any repute have a better Economy than to deal with People who are suppos'd to get 20 per Cent. by all they sell, besides short Weight and Measure.

You are pleas'd, Sir, to treat the British Distillery as *'an upstart Trade, introduced up-  
' on the Luxury and Depravity of the Age;*  
' and

*' and therefore that serving a Time, or lay-  
' ing out Fortunes in that Business, can be of no  
' Consideration.'*

I own, Sir, I am at a loss to think what you can mean by by an *upstart Trade*. Is that a Name for a Trade founded on a Royal Charter, and extended by several Acts of Parliament, declaring the great Use and Benefit of it to the national Interest. The Act of the 2d of *William and Mary*, recites in the Preamble, that *' Good and  
' Wholesome Brandies, Aqua Vitæ, and  
' Spirits may be drawn and made from  
' malted Corn; for the Encouragement there-  
' fore of the making of Brandy, Strong Waters,  
' and Spirits from malted Corn, and for the  
' Consumption of Corn, and Encouragement of  
' Tillage in this Kingdom it was enacted, &c.* This Act was farther continued by another Act of the 7th Year of King *William*.

In the 4th Year of King *William* there was a great Scarcity of Corn, the price of Bread was such that it could hardly be purchased by the common People, which occasioned an Act of Parliament to restrain the Distilling of Malt Spirits for one Year to half the usual Quantity. This Act, which contained also several Regulations of this Manufacture, recites to this effect, *' that it was found by Ex-  
' perience the Distilling Brandies or Spirits  
' from Malt was one Cause of the then Dearness  
' of Corn, and must needs enhance the Price.*

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The same Cause occasioned another Act of Parliament in the 8th of Queen Anne, which prohibited the Exportation of Corn, or any Manufacture from Corn, for about a Year, with some few Exceptions; and which was farther explained by another Act of the same Sessions.

In the 12th Year of Queen Anne another Act of Parliament recites, *That several Distillers of Brandy or Spirits made from British Malt or Cyder stood indicted on the Statute of Elizabeth concerning Apprentices, to the great Discouragement of the Consumption of malted Corn and Cyder, and Destructive of her Majesty's Revenue of Excise—* and therefore prohibits any such Prosecutions.

This, Sir, is the *upstart Trade* you labour to destroy; and this is the Sense the Legislature with so much Deliberation have so often expressed of this Manufacture, and the Encouragement they have given to it for the sake of the landed Interest.

The only step taken to its prejudice was in the second Year of his present Majesty, which laid the Duty of 5 s. per Gallon, and obliged the Retailer to take a 20 l. Licence.

But the Act four Years afterwards recites, *That the former Act, laying the Duty, &c. had not answered the good Purposes thereby intended, and had been a Discouragement to the Distilling of Spirits from Corn in Great Britain.* The

The Preamble of the Act of the 2d of his present Majesty, you have thought fit to quote at large, to show a Sense of the Legislature against this Manufacture; but you did not think it for your Purpose to mention either the last or any of the preceding Acts; which Defect I therefore have thought proper to supply, that the whole may be impartially stated to the Reader.

You are pleased to state a Plea for the Distillers, tho' a small part of what they have to say for their own Preservation; *That they have served their Times to a Trade, which it will be hard to hinder them pursuing—* This ingenious Defence you answer with what you call a parallel Argument of prohibiting the sending Wool to France, because it would be a national Evil—you have shown as much Justice in this Parallel as the rest of your Arguments: Is the destroying of a home Manufacture, and thereby increasing the Temptation of Smuggling a foreign one, a parallel Case to prohibiting the Exportation of Wool to support a foreign Manufacture, which Prohibition preserves our own Trade, and the Labour and Employment of our own People?

Although I disagree with you in this Point, yet I am entirely of Opinion with you in what you afterwards state, *That in a Mortification a Limb is to be parted with rather than the whole Body should suffer. And that in a Plague it is lawful to confine* a

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‘ a few within a certain District, tho’ it be  
 ‘ almost certain Death, rather than hazard  
 ‘ the Infection being spread through a whole  
 ‘ Country.——I also agree with you that  
 ‘ in a Fire it’s never disputed, whether a few  
 ‘ Houses should be blown up to prevent the  
 ‘ Flames spreading through a whole Town.

These, Sir, are no doubt received Maxims before either you or I were born; but the Application is what we shall differ about: Neither of them ought to be apply’d to the Distillery, which is not a parallel Case; you should first have proved that, and these Maxims would have been pertinent to the Argument.

I own I am not fond of Amputation without absolute Necessity, and think a Surgeon shows his Skill much better by curing a Sore with proper Medicines. Where that can be done, the Body is as safe as by more violent Methods.

As to your Instance of the Plague, the Advice of a skilful Doctor is always taken in such Cases; and it is very seldom seen that an ignorant Quack shall govern a Nation in the Judgment of this Distemper, and call that a Plague, which perhaps is an accidental Heat or Disorder in the Blood; a common Fever, which may be easily cured without shutting People up to certain Death, a Remedy never used till all others have been tryed and found ineffectual.

As to your Example of Fire, no doubt where it is so far spread as to endanger its Neighbours, that is a safe and proper Remedy; but then the Case must be evident  
 and

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and uncontradicted. You would make a very strange Engineer, to blow up a Street of Houses because a Chimney is on fire in one of them; which I take to be a more parallel Case to the general Abuses in the Consumption of Malt Spirits, than any you have mentioned.

The mentioning of Fires in this Case reminds me of an Assertion in the Second Edition of your Pamphlet, ‘ That many Fires  
 ‘ have of late Years happen’d by the Heads of  
 ‘ Stills flying off, which you have stated as  
 ‘ one of the enumerated Evils of the British  
 ‘ Distillery.

This Charge I have taken pains particularly to enquire after at the Insurance Offices in London, where I am positively assured (and doubt not of the Truth of it) that there has happen’d but one Accident of that kind in London within these five and forty Years, tho’ every one knows several Fires have begun at Taverns and Brewhouses; but it does not from thence follow those Trades are a common Nuisance.

I shall conclude these Observations on your pretended State of the pernicious destructive Quality of Spirituous Liquors, which you describe as a sort of Pestilence, by referring you to an Account of Christnings and Burials within the Bills of Mortality for twenty Years mentioned in the Appendix; by which your idle Suppositions of want of Virility, or a visible decrease of the  
 F People

People are plainly demonstrated to be false and Groundless.

This Account shows that there have not died so many People from 1729 to 1733 Inclusive, as died either from 1719, to 1723 Inclusive, or from 1724 to 1728 Inclusive. And at the same time it is universally known, that about the time the Burials thus demonstrably appear to have decreased the Consumption of Spirituous Liquors was at the highest.

The next Argument I proceed, Sir, to consider in relation to the Revenue, and to the Landed Interest, neither of which you say would suffer by the entire Execution of your Project.

As to the Revenue, Sir, you happen to be unfortunate in your Judgment, as well as in many other Things you have advanced on this Subject. It is a Point given up by those who ought to be allowed better Judges than yourself; the Loss to the Revenue by this favourite Scheme of your's, accounting the Gross Duties, amounts to near half a Million of Money *per Annum*; three fifths of which is computed the neat Revenue, the remaining two fifths is the Charge of Collecting, and the Maintenance of Officers, Excisemen, &c. This Revenue is appropriated on several Funds for Payment of Interest of some of the Publick Debts, and some goes to the Civil List.

It has been acknowledg'd that the Duty proposed on all Spirituous Liquors in general will amount to a Prohibition; so that there must be means found out for replacing the Appropriations to support publick Credit. If the Sinking Fund is the Resource, I take it for granted, it is not by Choice but Necessity, no other Method being to be found. And if this Deficiency of near half a Million is to be replaced by the Sinking Fund, accounting Money worth *3 per Cent.* it amounts to near 15 Millions of Money——About a third Part of the National Debt — How that is to be replaced, and how the Debts of the Nation are to be paid, happens not to be part of your Project, at least does not become me to inquire into. It is not the Thing I propose to answer; the Necessity of the Case has drawn so much from me to shew the Absurdity of your Argument, that the Publick is no ways the Sufferer; which I shall leave to the Judgment of the Reader, and proceed to consider (what is more within my Province, and the Right and Freedom of the Subject to debate,) the Concern the Landed Interest has in this Dispute, not being willing to rely on your gracious Assurance, that it shall no ways be a Sufferer: Or that on the contrary, it would be an inexpressible Gainer —— inexpressible indeed!

The landed Interest in *England* is the natural Strength and Riches of the Kingdom;

it is the Consumption of their Product that doubles the Value of all our Manufactures, which in different Proportions consist of that Product with the Addition of the Price of the Labour of the People. It is the Landed Interest which preserves our happy Constitution and the Liberties of our Country, and generally pays the Reckoning where either's at stake. It is that (and indeed what else could have done it?) which bore the Burthen of the late War, and yet bears so great a share of the Expence of Government in Times of Peace. This Interest has always been the Favourite Object of the Legislature, who of late Years have endeavoured to give it some Relief. All our Acts of Parliament have ever expressed the most tender Regard for it. The Acts I have quoted relating to the Distillery sufficiently show the Sense of the Legislature in this Case. And from these Examples I am persuaded it will not give offence to those who have the Interest of their Country at heart, to consider fully how far the Landed Interest is really concern'd in the present Question: And if I can make it appear, that the Scheme proposed for destroying entirely the *British* Distillery, is destructive to the Landed Interest, I am persuaded that Gentlemen will think coolly, whether some more practicable Method cannot be found out, to remedy the Evil intended, without making so dear a Purchase.

It

It is, I think, universally agreed, that the Grain of different Sorts consumed in the Distillery may be computed to amount to 400,000 Quarters yearly, valuing the whole at twenty Shillings a Quarter, the immediate Advantage to the Landed Interest is 400,000*l.* besides the Advantage of Straw to the Farmer, which, at ten Shillings a Load, may be computed at 40,000*l.* making in the whole the Sum of 440,000*l.* which is about equal to the Land-Tax when at one Shilling *per* Pound.

There is not any one Acquisition in the Kingdom more diffusive than this is; the Market of *Bear-Key*, where the Distiller buys his Grain, is a Ready-Money Market at all Times of the Year: a Farmer, who has Grain, by this means is sure to relieve himself under any Distress, and he is enabled at a short Warning always to answer his Landlord's Demands for Rent, or to pay his Taxes: He is enabled to carry on the Improvement of his Farm by plowing up poor Land, which he oftentimes prepares for Grain, by sowing Turneps; which he feeds off with Sheep; by this Method he increases the Quantity of his Stock, and consequently his own Gains, although not at the Expence of the Publick, who are better supply'd at a cheaper Price than could otherwise be afforded. He employs a great many Hands in the Culture of the Ground, his Utensils in Husbandry employ many Artificers, as Wheelrights, Smiths, &c. good Horses are bred

bred by this means; the Exercise of the Plow is what very young Horses are often employed in, without Prejudice, and at the same time the Labour pays the Farmer for keeping: In short, both the immediate and consequential Advantages are so many, that it would be too tedious to enumerate them.

Of these Advantages the Farmer will in great measure be deprived, by the entire Destruction of the *British* Distillery; the Loss is not only the Want of Vent for the Grain Distillers consume; but it may probably turn the Scales of the Farmers Gains so far, that he may be disabled from paying his Rent, or holding his Farm; the Consequence of which will be the Discouragement of Tillage, and turning Farms to other Uses. As has been observed on another Occasion; *a Horse may be so loaded, that the Key of the Stable Door may be too much for him to carry.*

What will become of those who have taken long Leases at advanced Rents; I shall not consider that they and their Families may probably be ruined, as that may be the Case only of a few Thousands so circumstanced, and many of them may, in all probability, be relieved by the Generosity of their Landlords; I shall mention that Hardship no farther.

It may be difficult to come at any Computation of the Account of all the Grain produced in the Kingdom; but as the Rents of *England* are computed at twenty Millions, suppose one fifth part thereof is annually raised by Grain, whether that be a just Computation I know not, nor is it very material

material for the purpose I design it: On this Supposition the Value of Grain is four Million, suppose one half of this to be annually exported, (which I believe never happens) the Grain the Distillers use is then in proportion to the Grain exported as one to four; now let any Man consider what the Consequence is of glutting the Market for Exportation with a fifth part more Grain than there is a Demand for, which will directly be the Case, if the Distillery is entirely destroy'd: the Consequence is plain it must lower the Price of the whole; and supposing it lowers the Price of what is exported but one tenth, the Loss to the Nation is by this means 200,000 *l.* upon the Corn exported only; and this will farther load the Farmer, and affect the Landlord.

It may seem something strange, that in *England* any Attempt should be made to discourage Tillage, at a time when almost all Nations in the World are taking quite opposite Measures.

We have already many Rivals in the Corn Trade; they find the Sweets of it abroad, *Poland* and *Sicily* have always been Corn Countries, and have of late Years much increased in Tillage. *France* does the same, and exports great Quantities. *New York* and *Pensylvania* run so much into Tillage, that they supplant us in many of our foreign Markets; even on the Coast of *Barbary*, they have had the Wisdom to increase their Tillage, in which they supplant our Markets in like manner. And in *Ireland*



land the great Encouragement they have of late Years given to Tillage, has greatly lessened their Demand on *England* for this Commodity.

And shall we in this Situation, when Rents are raised so high, and all manner of Taxes become burthensome to the Farmer, discourage Tillage in any Instance, when so many foreign Nations are doing every thing in their Power to increase it?

The Objection is so plain and obvious, that I do not in the least wonder you set up your fraudulent Computations to show the Landed Interest would not be the Loser by the Scheme proposed, which you pretend to make appear by a Supposition the People, who now consume Spirituous Liquors, will eat as much more Bread as the Grain employed by Distillers amounts to— If they do, you are right; the Landed Interest will not be the Loser—But if they do not, where are we then? what a fine Project are you propagating? what Remedy can you propose in that Case?— what Satisfaction can you make for the Injury done your Country?—why, you may own you were mistaken, (or perhaps be too stubborn for that) I know nothing else in your Power to do.

I hope therefore Gentlemen will consider the great Importance of this Matter, and not be led by Prejudice or Warmth to the Destruction of so valuable and useful a Manufacture, for the sake of destroying an Abuse among the

the common People, which undoubtedly may be effectually remedied by more reasonable Methods.

The Legislature have always been very tender in this Case, as appears by the Acts of Parliament I have quoted. The common Law of the Land has that Regard to Tillage, that no Man is thereby restrained from it, deeming Tillage a publick Good; and therefore we see in common Leases, when a Tenant is to be restrained, in this Case it is not by Covenant that he will not plow, but by a farther Reservation of Rent beyond the Value which is lawful to do; and therefore binding on the Tenant. I could trace out many other Evils that would ensue the Destruction of the Distillery, as the great prejudice to the Garden Grounds, as well as to the Farmer, in depriving them of the Consumption of Cherries and other Fruits used by the Compound Distillers; the Prejudice to the Colleges who are supported by Reservations of Grain; and the immediate Ruin it would bring on *Scotland*, where Corn is their chief or indeed only Dependance in the Low Lands. It is that which brings Money into their Country, their Fishery is not so considerable as formerly, their Linnen Manufacture is supplanted very much by *Irish* Linnen; and as the Consumption of Corn is of so much Concern to them, what a Misfortune will it be to deprive them of one of the best Markets they have, which is *Beer-Key*, where great Quantities of *Scots*  
G Bare

Bare or Big are constantly sold, with which they pay their Rents to their Landlords in *London*, as the Northern Parts of that Kingdom do by the Returns of their Cattle.

I have indeed heard of an idle Project to remedy this Loss as to *Scotland*; which is that as in the former Act there was an Exception for *Scotland*, so the same Exception may be expected, if the Distillery should be destroyed in *England*; and then, as no Account is taken of the Stock in hand of Malt Spirits in that Kingdom, they may very easily pour in great Quantities as manufactured there, or by mixing it with foreign Brandies, and by that means replace the Consumption of Grain in *England* more to their own Advantage.

This is so ridiculous and absurd in its own Nature, so idle a Project that needs no Argument to confute it: Besides, can any one imagine, if the Use of spirituous Liquors is prohibited in *England*, on the Foundation of their being direct Poison, that *Scotland* will be trusted with such a Weapon of Destruction, or that the Preservation of one Part of the Island is not as dear to all honest Men as the other.

I could more fully explain this Point of the Landed Interest; but the Compass of a Letter obliges me, Sir, to think of a Conclusion. I shall therefore make good my Promise to you in proceeding to detect several new Assertions you have advanced in

in your second Edition, in support of your Arguments against the Distillery.

You make a stupid Calculation of the loss to the Crown, in respect to the Peoples Labour, who you pretend are disabled by drinking spirituous Liquors. This Consequence has been already fully spoke to, what I would only take notice of in this Place, is, a Supposition on which you found the Argument, 'That there are eight Millions of People in *England*, seven Millions of whom are without Property, and who, you say, would consume 6 d. a Day in Provisions, did not spirituous Liquors vitiate their Stomachs, and reduce half the Consumption.'

I cannot imagine by what political Arithmetick you form'd this Computation. If the Value of all the Lands in *England* is to be the Guide, and if it contains the number of People you suppose. As the whole Rents are computed at 20 Millions, there can be only allow'd from thence 2 l. 10 s. yearly for each Man's share, when you are pleas'd to bestow 9 l. 2 s. 6 d. on those who have no Property, for Provision only, Cloaths and other Necessaries you take no notice of.

You pretend that the low price of Provisions as Meat, Cheese, and Butter is directly owing to the Distillery, and from thence infer, if the Distillery is destroyed, the Price of Provisions will rise accordingly, and replace the Loss to the Farmer.

But what Proof, good Sir, have you offered for so material an Assertion, on which the whole Scheme depends? The imagined Equivalent you propose to the Farmer is the only Reason that can make your Project supportable in respect to the landed Interest, and that is one of those Points you particularly fail in the Proof of; it hangs wholly on your Judgment and Honesty, which I can hardly think fit to bear so great a Burthen as the landed Interest of the whole Kingdom; and I think by this time it is evident how fallacious your Conjectures are. Corn is now at a very good Price, Wheat selling at *Glocester* for above 6s. a Bushel, Meat of all kinds sells well, and indeed, rather too dear for poor Artificers to purchase, and yet the Consumption of spirituous Liquors remains on the same footing.

The use I make of this is to falsify your general Assertion, that the Consumption of spirituous Liquors does not affect the Price of Provisions, and that the destroying of one does not raise the Price of the other; there are more rational and natural Causes to ascribe the rising or falling the Price to, as the Goodness of Crops, the Plenty or Scarcity, or the foreign Demand.

There is also another of your Calculations which requires that which you are very rarely provided with——Proof—— You say there is distilled in *London* 12 Millions of Gallons of all sorts of Spirits, besides

fides many Tuns of Spirits paying no Duty at all, and that a Quarter of Malt makes 20 Gallons of proof Spirits or 40 of Geneva, or other compound Liquors.

But how does this appear? You have thought fit to assert it—— the Distillers absolutely deny it—— the Acts of Parliament in force state the Proportion, and contradict you almost one half; the Officers of Excise are known to be too diligent to suffer Spirits to be made, and the King defrauded of his Duty. But this, Sir, is not the only Calumny you deal in, strict Truth would be a very useless Assistant to your Scheme—— the Facts in this Case are so well known, that I need take little Pains to confute your Assertions, if 500 Tun of Spirits are made in a Week in all *England*, which is the highest Calculation I ever heard suppos'd, and what every one will not allow, it does not amount to above 6,240,000 Gallons in a Year, when you assert there are 12 Millions of Gallons made in *London* only: as to Frauds in weakening Spirits without paying Duty, that is impossible in its own nature, the Acts of Parliament in force have sufficiently prevented such a Practice were the Distillers capable of it, and therefore, Sir, this Computation of yours was not overlooked as you very gravely affirm in a Remark in your 2d Edition, the falsity of the Thing in general, was shown by more authentick Calculations, tho' I must own, I did not think it necessary to explain so particularly such a known manifest Absurdity, which is the softest Name I can bestow on it.

The

The Foundation of these Computations being thus falsify'd, I think it quite necessary to take notice, of what Conclusions you draw from them.

As to your Estimate of the Malt Distillers Expence in this Manufacture, ballanced with the common Brewer; I own I cannot see how the Competition between two Trades can be the National Interest; the Labour you have bestowed on this Point sufficiently discovers the End you pursue, and the true Source of all these Calumnies on the Distillers without Distinction, although it's an ill founded Policy, with respect to the Brewers; who would never find this Scheme answer their Ends; and this many eminent Men of that Trade are by this Time fully convinced of.

But however, Sir, that your Veracity may always stand in a right Light, I must take the Liberty to acquaint you that your Computation of the Distillers Expence, is much of the same Standard of your other Computations — Not true, Sir — They do not draw the Quantity of Spirits from the different Grains you mention; their Expences are far beyond what you allow, you have omitted several material Instances; nor is five *per Cent.* which your great Generosity bestows on them as a return for their Capital, any thing near an adequate Satisfaction; you have allowed nothing for Rent, Utensils, and other dead Stock; wear and tear, which stands

stands them in at least 10 *per Cent.* on the Prime Cost. Nor do you make any Allowance for the Hazards of Trade, the bad Debts they are known to contract, which upon a moderate Computation if the Distillery is destroyed, will occasion a Loss to the whole Trade, few People expect or believe, that is a small Matter, an inconsiderable thing to fall among so great a number of People, and which you have never yet had Humanity enough to consider; if you did, I believe it would have but little effect with you, since according to your Doctrine *Delenda est Carthago.*

Having falsify'd this Estimate, a whole String of Arguments fall with it to the Ground.

You next spend much Labour, and take up several Pages in this delicate Performance, to shew Frauds in the Distillers, as to the Revenue, and again deal pretty free with those Gentlemen who are entrusted with the Collecting the Duties, which like the rest, stand singly on your Word.

It would be endless to answer every idle Conjecture of this Nature; therefore I shall content my self with telling you that the Account of the Duties is taken, and the Charge made on the Distillers in the very Manner prescribed by the several Acts of Parliament: And as to the Valuation of Spirits from the Gaging of the Wash, that is as certain a Method as any you would propose,

pose; and were any other to be used it would be infinite Trouble as well as Charge to the Distiller, because it's well known that they draw the Spirit off directly from the Wash. A Manufacture of that kind must not stand still. Much of the same Nature is your Computation, that they make four Barrels and a Firkin of Wash *per* Quarter, when it is notoriously known, they generally make only three.

As to your Objection to the Compounder, that he takes the Advantage in being allowed to reduce his Proof Spirits by one fifth common Water, to the prejudice of the Revenue, *20 per Cent.* My Answer is, that such a Reduction is never practised. There are indeed many Instances where it becomes necessary to mix common Water in Proof Spirits: I hope you, who have introduced the Water Doctor as your Oracle in this Dispute, will hardly call this an unwholesome Mixture; and when ever it is practised, it does not follow, that it is a prejudice to the Revenue: if they were to mix Water with Spirits above Proof, not paid for as such, there might be some Colour for the Accusation; but as Proof Spirits are the Standard by which the Duty is laid, however they are multiply'd below that, the Revenue is out of the Question; nor is the Retailer injured by this means; for where Spirits want of the due Proof, they are sold at a Price accordingly—— Besides, if you were to give yourself the Trouble to read any Act of Parliament now in Force, other than that of the second of his present Majesty,

Majesty, the only Act you seem willing to take any notice of, you would not find, that in regulating the Distillery, the Legislature any ways prohibited mixing Proof Spirits with common Water.

The Calculation you make of the Price of Malt Spirits, in order to infer the Gain of the Distiller, is made with equal Truth; you say, he sells Proof Spirits at two Shillings and Six Pence a Gallon, whereas the Prices are known to be about one Shilling and Eight Pence on a Medium; and your supposed Price of the Grain used by Distillers is much of the same Nature.

I don't know, Sir, how you may like the feeding on Pork or Bacon; but you seem very ignorant of the Method of fattening Hogs, or of the Expence it is to a Farmer.

You desire to know, "*if an equal Quantity of Malt will not make a Hog as soon fat as the same Proportion of Pease.*" If you mean by the Question, whether Malt will fat as soon and as well; I answer, on behalf of the Farmer, in the Negative. No Feed in the world is equal to Pease and Beans; and this is well known by every Farmer in *England*, that ever try'd one and the other.

You are here pleas'd also to bestow some Assurance on me, for saying, in what I before wrote on this Subject, "*that a Farmer can't fat his Bacon under 5 d. a Pound.*"

H This,

This, Sir, is another Specimen of your Honesty, and the Faithfulness of your Quotations—If I may be allowed to know my own Words, they were these, ‘ It is well known that the best Bacon cannot be made by fattening Hogs with any thing but Peas and Beans, and that such Bacon made in the Country, will stand in *little less* than 5 *d.* a Pound,’——which is materially different from what you quote.

And however unwilling you may be to believe my Computation, I again repeat it to you, as I before mentioned it; the Fact is known to be true. Fresh Pork is to be valued at 3 *d.* or 3 *d.*  $\frac{1}{2}$  per Pound, when fattened with Peas and Beans, and every Body knows the Curing and Loss of Weight by drying in the Country, is at least Three-halfpence a Pound, especially those Places which supply Bear-Key with Corn, (the Case then under Consideration.) And therefore your Instances of the best *Westmoreland* and *Yorkshire* Hams being bought at the Retailers in *London* for 4 *d.*  $\frac{1}{2}$  or 5 *d.* a Pound, does no way prove your Assertion——those remote Counties were not under Consideration——Hams are cheaper than Bacon, as not being so much wasted in drying——besides the Fact is otherwise as to the Price, the best being sold by Retail in *London* for near 6 *d.* a Pound.

This Subject is so extensive that I could enlarge on many other important Points as the pernicious Consequence of your Scheme

Scheme to the Sugar Colonies, which, if it takes effect as you propose, will be effectually destroyed at one stroke, to the Ruin of the Planter, the infinite prejudice of the Merchant, the Trade and Navigation, as well as of the Manufacturers of the Kingdom, which centers at last in the Ruin of the Landed Interest; but as the Gentlemen more immediately concerned in those particular Branches, have sufficiently demonstrated the Hardships of their Case, I shall not here repeat any thing they have said on that Subject.

Thus, Sir, I have endeavoured to detect some of the notorious Falsehoods you have in so scandalous a Manner imposed on the Publick, and to trace the Fallacy of your Argument, so ill founded; and doubt not but the Case in question will be coolly and impartially consider'd in the proper Place, where it cannot be supposed ill founded Prejudices direct their Judgments, or that they ever will have it in View to raise one Trade at the Expence of another. And that if it appears all the real Abuses complained of may be remedy'd, without destroying a Manufacture of so much Consequence to the landed Interest, that such a Method will be pursued preferably to any other——There can be little delight in generous Minds to occasion the direct Ruin of thousands of Families; absolute Necessity indeed may make such a Step necessary, but there ought to be the utmost Certainty of that absolute Necessity, and that all other Remedies are ineffectual

ineffectual, which is a hard Determination before they are try'd.

But were the Case to happen, that the British Distillery must be destroyed, to re-place Morality and Sobriety among the People, on a Supposition that adulterated Wines and heady Beer may be receiv'd as harmless Liquors ; I believe there is no Instance of any Trade or Manufacture establish'd by the Countenance and Encouragement, or rather Authority and Direction of a Royal Charter, and repeated Acts of Parliament, for so long a Series of Time, being blown up at one stroke, without making some Compensation to unhappy Sufferers, who on the Faith of the Authorities I mention, have laid out their whole Substance, many of whom will be utterly incapable of getting their Bread any other Way ; and those who have Capacity or Knowledge for that Purpose will, in a great Measure, want the necessary Means, after so manifest a Loss as they must of course sustain in this Case.

These, Sir, are my Thoughts on this Subject, and if they set the Controversy in a true clear Light, and work any thing towards your Correction and Amendment, and engage you to employ your Thoughts in search of Truth, and the more immediate Business of your Function, which I heartily recommend to you, it will entirely answer the Design of

Your faithful Adviser.

A P P E N -

# A P P E N D I X,

Containing an Account of the Births and Burials within the Bills of Mortality, for twenty Years, from 1714 to 1733 inclusive.

	Births.	Burials.
1714	17495	26569
1715	17234	22232
1716	17421	24436
1717	18475	23446
1718	18307	26523
	88932	123206
1719	18413	28347
1720	17479	25454
1721	18370	26142
1722	18339	25750
1723	19203	29197
	91804	134890
1724	19370	25952
1725	18859	25523
1726	18808	29647
1727	18252	28418
1728	16652	27810
	91941	137350
1729	17060	29722
1730	17118	26761
1731	17830	25262
1732	17788	23358
1733	17465	29233
	87261	134336
1718	17786	24641
1723	18360	26978
1728	18388	27470
1733	17452	26867

Medium of 5 Years

Note, It must be observed that the Decrease of Burials on the last Medium is less than the second 111, and less than the third by 603, when at the same time the last Medium might have increased without proving the People died faster in Proportion ; because there cannot be supposed near the Number of People within the Bills of Mortality in 1714, as in 1733, in the Space of 20 Years. The known Flux of People, as well Foreigners as from all Parts of the Country, to reside within the Bills of Mortality, must needs occasion a greater Proportion of Burials than what could happen from a lesser Number of Inhabitants, and yet we see a Demonstration of Decrease instead of Increase — How this Proof confits with the Positions of the Reverend Author of destroying the Race of Mankind, is submitted to the impartial Reader.

F I N I S

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