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AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

ORIGIN AND EFFECTS

OF A

P O L I C E

Set on Foot by

His Grace the DUKE of NEWCASTLE in the Year 1753, upon a Plan presented to his Grace by the late *Henry Fielding*, Esq.

To which is added

A PLAN for preserving those deserted Girls in this Town, who become Prostitutes from Necessity.

By JOHN FIELDING, Efq;

L O N D O N:
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(iii)

To His GRACE the

DUKE of NEWCASTLE,

Custos Rotulorum of the County of Middlesex.

My Lord,

S the following Sheets contain an Account of some Advantages that have arose to the Public in general, and to this Metropolis in particular, from an Institution which owes its Birth to your Goodness, and its Continuance to your Care, I think that they have a special Claim to your Patronage; and the more so, as they reward you at the same time as they solicit your Countenance: For whenever Benevolence exerts itself for the Good of A 2 others,

iv DEDICATION.
others, Success is its most acceptable
Reward.

Indeed, conquering Countries, fighting Battles, and fuch like extraordinary Atchievements, are the Actions that make the greatest Eclat among Mankind; and seem the only Ones that intitle a Man to the Appellation of Great: But he who preserves the Lives, Property, and the Peace of thousands, by encouraging the Execution of a Police adequate to these Purposes, as far exceeds the Conqueror, as the preserving surpasses the destroying Mankind.

An Attention to domestic Quiet, especially in a Metropolis, which is the Seat of Government, is, to the last Degree, praise-worthy, as it is productive of the happiest Effects; and when such a Police is brought

DEDICATION.

to due Perfection, it will not only prevent common Acts of Violence between Man and Man, but such a Vigilance will ever defeat any Attempts that Malice, Extravagance, or disappointed Ambition, may contrive against the Government itself.

That this Police, now in its Infancy, so happily begun, and so warmly encouraged by your Grace, may answer the good Ends you proposed by it, is the sincere Wish of him whose highest Ambition is to deserve well of his Country, and whose singular Pleasure it will ever be to approve himself,

My Lord,

Your Grace's no less respectful,

Than grateful Humble Servant,

JOHN FIELDING.

vii]

INTRODUCTION.

N large and populous Cities, especially in the Metropolis of a flourishing Kingdom, Artificers, Servants and Labourers, compose the Bulk of the People, and keeping them in good Order is the Object of the Police, the Care of the Legislature, and the Duty of the Magistrates, and all other Peace-Officers. The Restraints on the Conduct of Mankind in general, especially that Part of them who are happy enough to be Christians, are the Laws of the Gospel, and the Laws of their Country. Indeed fuch a Compliance with the former, as lays a Foundution for a well-grounded Hope in the Life to come, makes their Restraints by human Institutions unnecessary; but Experience teaches us that those Objects act the strongest on our Fears and our Hopes that promise immediate Advantages, or threaten immediate Punishments: Hence it is, that the common People stand more in Awe of the Laws made by Men, than of those which come from the Fountain of all Laws; and the Prison, Whipping-Post, Pillory, and Gallows, make

viii INTRODUCTION.
more Men honest than may at first be imagined.

Religion, Education, and Good-breeding, preserve good Order and Decency among the superior Rank of Mankind, and prevent those Disturbances, Irregularities and Injuries to our Fellow-Creatures, that happen among the illiterate and lower Order of the People: Good Laws, therefore, are necessary to supply the Place of Education among the Populace; and sure no Nation in the World can boast of better for this Purpose than England.

The common People, when compared to those of a higher Rank, are as the Necessaries of Life, when compared to the Conveniences or ornamental Part of it. The Riches and Strength of a Nation are the Number of its Inhabitants; the Happiness of that Nation, their being usefully and constantly employed. Time is the Labourer's Stock in Trade; and he that makes most of it by Industry and Application is a valuable Subject. A Journeyman can no more afford to give or throw away his Time than the Tradesman can his Commodity; and the best Way of preventing this useful Body of Men from this Species of Extravagancy, is

INTRODUCTION.

to remove from their Sight all Temptation to Idleness: And however Diversions may be necessary to fill up the dismal Chasms of burdensome Time among People of Fortune, too frequent Relaxations of this Kind among the Populace enervate Industry.

In the Country, the Plowman, the Labourer, and the Artificer, are fatisfied withtheir Holydays at Easter, Whitsuntide and Christmas. At the two former they enjoy their innocent Sports, such as a Cricket-Match, or a Game at Cudgels, or fome other laudable Trial of Manhood to the Improvement of English Courage. At Christmas, they partake of the good Cheer of that Season, and return satisfied to their Labour: But in this Town, Diversions calculated to flacken the Industry of the useful Hands are innumerable: To lessen therefore the Number of these is the Business of the Magistrate. Bull-baitings, Bear-baitings, Cock-matches, and fuch Races as are contrary to Law, are in the Number of out door Diversions that call for Redress. The first indeed are inhuman, and, for that Reason, it is to be hop'd, are less frequent; but the Amusements of the greatest Consequence are those that are carried on in the Public-Houses in Town; fuch as Cards, Dice, Draughts, Shuffleboards,

X INTRODUCTION.

boards, Missisppi Tables, Billiards, and cover'd Skittle-Grounds. These are the Thieves that rob the Journeymen and Labourers of their precious Time, their little Property, and their less Morals. And it is very certain, that these Evils are in the Power of the Publican to prevent. At least it is to be hoped, that the Act pass'd last Sessions for preventing gaming in Publick Houses, will induce them, for their own Sakes, to put an entire Stop to this Inlet of general Corruption of the common People. And tho' Habit makes many things appear necessary, that are not only in themselves superfluous, but injurious, I am persuaded, that the putting down entirely of the above Species of Gaming would foon be found to be a confiderable Advantage as well to the Publican as his Customers.

Among the various Trusts reposed in the Magistrates of this City, there is none, in my Opinion, of greater Importance than that of granting Licenses to Ale-Houses; for it is on their Care, in this Respect, that the Peace and good Order of this Town absolutely depends. At the Ale-House the Idle meet to game and quarrel; here the Gamblers form their Stratagems; here the Pick-pockets hide themselves till Dusk, and Gangs

INTRODUCTION.

Gangs of Thieves form their Plots and Routs; here Conspirators contrive their hellish Devices; and here the Combinations of Journeymen are made to execute their silly Schemes. Cannot the Publican then, who knows his Guests, prevent these Mischiess? Is it not therefore his Interest to preserve the Credit of his House; and is it not the Duty of the Justice to examine well to whom he grants a Licence? For when that is in good Hands, every Ale-House-Keeper becomes an honest and watchful Centinel over the Peace, Sasety and Regularity of the City.

For my own Part, I think no Man should have a Licence who is not a Protestant, nor any one who has been bred to a Trade, unless he is disabled; for the Moment the healthy Artificer gets a Public House, he generally becomes a Sot himself; he is a Decoy-Duck to his old Shop-Mates of the same Trade, and one useful Hand at least is lopt off from that Trade. There is a large Body of Men who, when they marry and have Families, have scarce any other Resource for Livelihood but keeping an Ale-house; I mean Servants of all kinds, who have never been bred to any Trade; perhaps disabled Soldiers and Mariners may be proper Objects of this Trust; but it is certain that the good Order of this Town,

xii INTRODUCTION.

Town, and Happiness of the common People and their Families, must arise from the good Order observed in Public Houses. And here I cannot omit taking Notice of an unobserved, tho' considerable Advantage to the Populace, arifing from the late Regulations to prevent the Use of Corn among the Distillers, which has answered two Ends, first, by lowering the Price of the Staff of Life; and, secondly, by raising the Price of Poison; for Gin is now so dear, or else so very bad, that good Porter gains the preeminence, and I doubt not, but at the Year's End, there will be found a confiderable Increase in the Consumption of that Commodity, a Liquor not only more wholesome in itself, but when drank to Excess, does not inflame the Passions to that violently Degree as Spirituous Liquor do, which rather enrages than inebriates, and makes Men mad and mischievous rather than merry. And I am firmly perfuaded, that most of the hasty and precipitate Murders that have been committed among the Common People, in Family Quarrels, have arose from the direful Effects of this Liquid Fire.

And when these Evils in Public Houses are corrected, Hops, illegal Assemblies and Gaming Houses suppressed, the next Care of

INTRODUCTION. xiii the Magistrate should be to put in vigorous Execution those Laws calculated to remove the Evils and Nusances in our Streets, viz. Beggars, the Insolence of Coachmen, Carmen, Porters, &c. Carters riding on their Carts; Obstructions by Carriages, Casks, Goods, Stalls, Bulks, &c. and lastly Street-Walkers.

This will be the Means of making these Laws known to the common People; and every good Subject ought to be ashamed to offend against the Laws of his Country. And it is certain that by suppressing the smaller Evils in Society you will prevent the greater; for it is much easier to check Disorders in their infant State, than to conquer them when they are suffered to rise to a troublesome Height; and Prevention must always be a more eligible Object of the Mind than Punishment or Severity.

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HISTORY and EFFECTS

Of the Late

HENRY FIELDING'S POLICE,

From the latter End of the Year 1753, to this present Time.

BOUT the latter End of the Year 1753, a most notorious Gang of Street-Robbers, in Number about fourteen, who divided themselves in Parties, committed such daring Robberies, and at the same Time such Barbarities, by cutting and wounding those they robbed, in every Part of this Metropolis, as spread a general Alarm through the Town, and deterred his Majesty's Subjects from passing and repassing on their lawful Occasions after Night. These Outrages induced his Majesty to issue a Proclamation,

clamation, and offer a hundred Pounds Reward for apprehending each of these Violaters of the public Peace. And though this was humanely intended as a Remedy for this dreadful Evil, instead of answering the End proposed, it soon begat a greater, by inducing a Set of Villains to decoy unwary and ignorant Wretches to commit Robberies, and then to make a Sacrifice of them for the Sake of the Reward; while the real Offenders not only escaped Justice, but encreased their Barbarities even to Murder. Upon which his Grace the Duke of Newcastle sent to the late Henry Fielding to defire him to. form some Plan in Order to bring these desperate Villains to Justice. A Plan was immediately formed, approved of, and encouraged by his Grace, which being put in vigorous Execution, very foon brought this Gang to condign Punishment. But it did not deter others from following the same wicked Practices; and a fresh Gang, as desperate, tho' not fo numerous as the former, foon made its Appearance.

About this Time the late Henry Fielding's want of Health totally disqualified him from continuing the fatiguing Office of Acting Magistrate in this Metropolis; he therefore resigned the Office to his Brother John

(17)

Fielding, who had been an affiffing Magiftrate to him for three or four Years.

Upon this Plan the following Resolutions were formed, viz.

1st, To break the great Gang of Robbers which then infested the Streets, and spread Terror throughout this Metropolis.

2dly, To bring to Justice the several Gangs of House-breakers, Lead-stealers, &c. which consisted chiefly of young Fellows who were Thieves from their Cradles, and were at this Time about eighteen or nineteen Years of Age, and very numerous.

3dly, It was proposed to remove the Shoals of Shop-listers, Pilserers, and Pick-pockets, who, being the deserted Children of Porters, Chairmen, and low Mechanics, were obliged to steal for their Subsistance.

4thly, The Gamblers and common Cheats were to be the next Object of Attention, which were likewife very numerous.

5thly, It was proposed to put down Hops, illegal Music-Meetings, and to prevent Gaming in Public Houses.

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And how far this extensive Plan has been successful the following Review will shew.

1st, About the Beginning of the Year 1754, the then reigning Gangs of desperate Street-robbers were attacked, and in the Space of three Months no less than nine Capital Offenders were brought to Justice, though not without Bloodshed, for one of Mr. Fielding's People was killed, and one of the Robbers cut to Pieces; among which were the famous Birk, Gill, Armstrong, and Courtney: nor has any considerable Gang of Street-robbers appeared since, till lately, when a Gang of Journeymen and Apprentices were brought to Justice.

adly, The next Set of Villains, viz. the Highwaymen that robbed near Town, were by this new Method of Persuit brought to Justice in such a Manner, that scarce one has escaped from that Time to this.

(19)

3dly, The numerous Gangs of House-breakers, Lead and Iron stealers were perfued and harrassed till they were totally dispersed and sent to Tyburn and to the Colonies abroad. The Numbers of these may be seen in the Sessions Papers of the Years 1754 and 1755.

4thly, These more considerable Objects being removed, the vast Shoals of Shoplifters, Pilferers, and Pickpockets appeared distinct, and were every Day taken up in Numbers; many of whom were transported. These consisted chiefly of Boys from twelve to fixteen Years of Age, either the Children of Thieves or the deferted Offspring of idle and profligate Parents; many of whom, especially Mothers, shamefully subsisted from their Robberies: And what was very remarkable, four infant Thieves, the oldest of which was but five Years of Age, were brought before John Fielding, which appeared to be Children of different Persons, collected together by one Woman to beg and steal to furnish that Beast with Gin.

At this Time, which was about the latter End of the Year fifty-five, there was no less than 300 of these wretched Boys, ragged as B 2 Colts,

(20)

Colts, abandoned, Strangers to Beds, and who lay about under Bulks and in ruinous empty Houses. This Evil seemed at first insuperable, until Heaven inspired the Thought of their Preservation by sending them to Sea, and cloathing them by public Subscription; which has not only remedied the Mischief, but will remain an everlasting Provision for such Objects.

And as this Scheme may in future Times be again made use of as an immediate Refource for supplying the Navy with Boys in Time of War, I shall here stop a Moment in order to give a succinct Account of the Origin and Utility of the Scheme itself. And as to the Sanction it met with, let the Honourable Names printed at the End of these Sheets testify.

In the Month of January, 1756, his Majesty's Ship the Barsleur of 90 Guns, being in want of Captains Servants, that is to say, Boys; for every Man of War is allowed four Boys to every hundred Men on Board, whose Pay the Captain receives, allowing them forty Shillings a Year for Cloaths; so that the Boys Pay is absolutely a Part of the Captain's Pay, and was intended to be so, in Order that the Captains might take Care to have

21)

have fuch a Number of Boys on Board, by Way of Nursery for Seamen; and these Boys are therefore called Captains Servants: Befides which, every other Officer on board is allowed one or more of these Boys, according to his Rank, on the same Footing with those belonging to the Captain. And as long as this Regulation is duly regarded there never will be wanting a Succession of Seamen to Supply the Navy. The Barfleur was at this Time commanded by Lord Harry Pawlett, who wrote to Mr. Fielding to procure him thirty Boys, which his Lordship cloathed at his own Expence. And as Mr. Fielding had been at Sea himself, and was well acquainted with the Station of Captains Servants abovementioned, he began to think that this would be an excellent Provision for the numberless miserable, deserted, ragged, and iniquitous pilfering Boys that at this Time shamefully infested the Streets of London: But the great Difficulty was to get them cloathed and cured of the various Distempers which are the constant Consequences of Poverty and Nastiness. To effect this, Mr. Fielding put a Paragraph into the Papers, which struck so strongly on the fenfible Minds and generous Hearts of the English, that in the Space of fix Months the Sum of 600l. and upwards was paid into the Hands of that Magistrate, by Persons whose Names

(22

are hereunto annexed, for the above Purpose; by which Means the Navy was at once supplied with near four hundred young Recruits from fourteen to eighteen Years of Age, and our Streets were cleared from Swarms of Boys whose Situations made them Thieves from Necessity; though many of them were unhappy enough in Parents, who subsisted from the Felonies their Children committed, not only by their Consent, but, what is still more shocking, by their Tuition.

About July, 1756, the ingenious Mr. Hanway, struck with the great Utility of this Scheme for providing for Boys, collected a Number of Merchants and other Persons of Rank together, and, to use his own Fx-pression, adopted this Plan under the Name and Title of the Marine Society, with Intention to cloath Men and Boys for the Sea.

This Society foon increased in its Members and in its Subscriptions. And Mr. Fielding's Subscriptions being now exhausted in this Service, and there being still a great Demand for Boys for the Navy, he applied to the Marine Society for Assistance, and was immediately most nobly supplied with the

23)

the Sum of fixty Pounds. And from that Time all the little Interest Mr. Fielding had with his Friends, Acquaintance, or the Public, he employed to promote the Success of those worthy Gentlemen's Endeavour's who were engaged in this valuable Undertaking; which foon became fo much the Object of universal Attention and Encouragement, that from February 1756, to December 1757, there has not been less Money subscribed, including the 6101. Mr. Fielding received while he carried on the Scheme of Boys himself, than 121101. 2s. by Means of which generous Subscriptions no less than 2405 Boys, including the 400 first sent by Mr. Fielding, have been cloathed and fent on Board his Majesty's Ships. Besides which they have cloathed 3072 young Fellows to go on Board the Fleet.

Who can behold this Supply, and not be pleafed with the Prospect of this everlasting Fountain the Marine Society? which, so long as it is supported by Generosity, and managed with Honour and Oeconomy, promises Strength to our Fleets, Security to our Country, and Protection to our Commerce.

Having thus shipped a Number of Recruits on Board our Fleet, and thrown many B 4 Boys

And as it is the Schoolmaster's Province to instruct these Boys in Navigation, the Boatswain in his Turn might make them good Seamen, and teach them the Art of Rigging. And if the Chaplain were to take a little Pains on a Sunday Asternoon, to inculcate the first Principles of Christianity into these Boys, by expounding the Catechism to them, it would have a Tendency to improve their Morals, and be no Disadvantage to their Courage, as it might teach them where to place Dependence for Success.

(25

And as it was observed by an Officer of high Rank in the Navy, that in Case of a sudden Peace many of these Boys would fall into Distress, Mr. Fielding was desired to form some Plan that might prevent this Evil; and the following Observations are submitted to the Public on that Account; which may, with such Improvements as they may meet with, be productive of a Plan which may fully answer the End proposed.

Whereas a great Number of Boys are discharged whenever any of his Majesty's Ships are paid off, and returned to their Parents, who are generally poor, after they have been one, two, or more Years on board Ship, and have then no visible Way of getting a Livelihood, and are rejected as Apprentices or domestic Servants, merely because they have been at Sea; by which Means they are too often drove, if not to wicked, to the meanest Courses of Life; and thereby Numbers of good Sailors are lost.

In order therefore to continue them long enough at Sea, or in that kind of Occupation till they become Sailors, it is proposed, that whenever any of his Majesty's Ships are paid off, all the Boys belonging to the said Ships,

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Ships, under the Age of eighteen, should be continued on Board, when in ordinary, on the common Allowance, under the Direction of the Commissioners of the Yard or Dock where the faid Ships shall be paid off; to whom any Master or Owner of any Ship, Vessel, Lighter, Fishing-boat, &c. may, by applying, have one or more of the faid Boys (the Whale-fishery especially ought to be confidered, as it will take a Number of Boys and certainly make them good Sea-men) on entering into a Covenant with the faid Commissioners, to employ in the Seafaring Way, cloath, and maintain such Boy or Boys, until they arrive at the Age of Twenty, and allow them forty Shillings a Year, to be paid at the Expiration of the said Time; when they shall be discharged, unless the said Master or Owner chuse to give them Seamens Wages.

It is presumed that this Proposal will be equally agreeable to both Parties; for the one may, by this Means, obtain several useful Hands at an easy Rate, and the other will have the Advantage of becoming established Sailors, instead of Vagrants, to their own Happiness and the Benefit of their Country.

(27)

And if this Scheme should not be thought extensive enough to provide for such a Number of Boys as will be discharged should our Ships be paid off, it might be useful to oblige every Waterman who has either Badge or Protection to take one of these Boys on the Terms above-mentioned; though, I must confess, the Plan that strikes me most is what follows, viz.

Suppose our Merchants, who are both benevolent and beneficent, were to receive all Boys thus discharged from his Majesty's Ships into one common Yard, supported by a general Subscription of their own, by Way of a rigging Academy, fettled under proper Regulations, where they would be constantly and usefully employed in making Ropes, &c. and might be transplanted from thence into their Ships as they were wanted; (this might perhaps be a very proper Object for the Marine Society:) and as, even in Times of Peace, there are some Men of War in Commission, many of these Boys, that are eighteen Years of Age, and have ferved faithfully during the War, might be admitted on Board these Ships as ordinary Seamen, by Way of Encouragement.

It is certain that if the present Fleets were to be discharged, above two thousand Boys would be upon their own Hands. The material Point therefore seems to me to be the selecting and keeping together these Boys when discharged.

5thly, Acts of Violence, Theft, and Robbery being thus reduced, a Body of artful, defigning Men, called Gamblers, stood in Need of Reformation. The first Step towards which, was the feparating of them from the Nobility, with whom, by Means of rich, hired Dreffes, they had infolently mixed themselves. And this was done by the following Plan: A Man perfectly well acquainted with all their Persons agreed with Mr. Fielding to point them out to the Peace Officers. He was therefore furnished with a rich Suit of Cloaths hired from the same Shop that had supplied most of these Gamblers with their rich Dreffes, and being thus equipped with Dress and Ticket, he went to the Ridotto; by which Stratagem nine of thefe sham Gentlemen were apprehended, and so exposed to public View as to prevent 1 their ever appearing again in public Assemblies without being known.

(29)

The Gamblers being thus prevented from preying on the Nobility and Gentry, they fell immediately on Tradefmen and Shop-keepers, many of whom they ruined by obtaining great Quantities of their Goods under false Colours and Pretences.

Trade being alarmed, complained to the above Magistrate, who apprehended many of these Cheats. But as the Laws then in Being were insufficient to bring them to Justice, they mostly escaped Punishment; and the Tradesmen, besides the Loss of their Goods, were put to additional, fruitless Expences. In order therefore to prevent these Mischiefs in some Measure, till a new and more effectual Law could be made for their Punishment, Mr. Fielding published, in a large Sheet of Paper, the numberless Artifices used by these Cheats to impose on Tradesmen, and gave them away to Shopkeepers as Cautions to themselves and Servants, to avoid the Inroads of these Harpies. But in order to eradicate the Evil, he framed a Bill to supply the Deficiencies of former Laws, which has fince passed into an Act, and must inevitably bring every Cheat to Justice, and prevent some other Constitution and considerable suitable and

(30)

great Evils provided for in the faid Bill; especially Gaming in Public Houses.

Felonies and Frauds being thus retrench'd, Diforders and Irregularities, as they are the Sources of them both, became the particular Objects of Attention, as the next necessary Step for the Completion of this Plan.

Lastly, therefore, he set about that Work, and soon found that it was more difficult to discover where these Disorders were carried on, than to suppress them when discover'd.

To remove therefore this Difficulty, he fettled an anonymous Correspondence with the Public; inviting all Persons who knew of any Gaming-house, Hops, Dancing-bouts, illegal Music-meetings, and other illegal Assemblies, to give immediate Notice by penny-post Letter, without Name, mentioning only the Place where the Disorder was carried on, and leave the Magistrate to inquire into the Truth of the same by proper Peace-officers, and to suppress it by legal Means.

This was so effectual that, by Virtue of these Notices, many of these Disorders have been reduced with the greatest Ease, and Notice from the Magistrate has generally

(31)

been sufficient to remove the Evil, without the Execution of any penal Law; and by this Means it is hoped Numbers of young Women have preserved their Characters, and young Men their Morals. Apprentices and Servants of both Sexes, together with Whores, usually made up these Balls and Assemblies: And such an Attention is now paid to this Correspondence (as every Writer finds his End immediately answer'd) that the Moment the Neighbour, Father, Master, or Missress, discover the Haunts of their Children, Servants, or Apprentices, a Letter immediately goes to the Justice, and they are taken in Surprize. These Offences are punishable by penal Statutes, all of which make an Informer necessary to execute them. The Name of an Informer is odious. These anonymous Letters take away this Odium, as it is not necessary to know from whence the Letter comes; so that the most delicate Lady may with Safety give Notice to the Justice of any Hop, Gaming-House, &c. where her Servants waste their Time, lose their Money, and debauch their Morals.

Frauds, Felonies and Disorders being thus consider'd, Nusances, which without Attention, must arise in this populous City, came next in Order to be redressed, the principal

(32)

cipal of which, that fall under the Power of the Magistrate, are Beggars, Carmen, Coachmen, Swearers, and Throwers of Squibs.

As for the first of these, viz. Beggars, Mr. Fielding has lately formed and executed a Plan in Conjunction with the Justices of St. Clements, St. Mary le Strand, St. Paul's Covent-Garden, and St. Martin's in the Fields, which effectually answers the End to those Parishes; for within the Space of six Weeks, no more than sive Beggars could be found in one whole Week together in the four Parishes; and if the Justices of the other Parishes were to do the same, it would be as uncommon to see a Beggar in this Town in the Streets as a wild Beast.

Tho' perhaps the Execution of this Plan throughout this Metropolis would at first create a considerable Expence to the County of Middlesex; yet as this Expence would lessen with the Evil, it would, in my Opinion, be Money extremely well laid out; but unless the Scheme be generally and diligently executed by all the Magistrates, it would answer no other End, than driving a Nusance from one Part of the Town to another; and when one considers how disagreeable it is to be attack'd at every Corner of

(33)

the Streets by Beggars, most of whom make a Trade of it; and how disadvantageous it is to Shop-keepers to have every Customer that stops in a Coach at their Door, to be importuned by these artful Petitioners; one should imagine they would all cry out with one Voice, Free us from the Nusance of Beggars. But what shocks one more, is, that such Numbers of frightful Objects should be suffered to infest the Streets, so dismember'd and dissigur'd, as must often occasion the most irretriveable Injuries to Ladies, when in the tender and delicate Situation of Pregnancy.

The Removal of the remaining Nusances above-mentioned, must depend on the Vigilance of the acting Magistrate, and the Diligence of the Peace-Officers under him: Tho' any Person may apprehend a Man for riding on his Cart, for swearing, and begging, and carry them before a Justice of the Peace without a Warrant.

If this Police should surprise the Reader, he cannot be less pleased, when he hears the the annual Expence of it to the Government, by the Execution of all the above Plans and Pursuits, has never exceeded four hundred Pounds. Indeed double this Sum would be D a Trifle

(34 .)

a Trifle, should it lessen the Payment of of Rewards given by Act of Parliament for apprehending Highwaymen, House-breakers, &c. and the Object of the Expence would be most agreeably changed from the destroying to the preserving of his Majesty's Subjects.

Proin the above Transactions, which are most strictly true, and so very recent, that it is scarce possible to call any indifferent Perfon from the mix'd Multitude in this Town who could not give full Testimony of the Truth hereof, it appears that the Public has the greatest Share in the Execution of this Police; for without its hearty Concurrence and constant Assistance, little Progress could be made towards the Peace and good Order of this Metropolis: For what Good can the most active Magistrate do, unless he receives Informations? In Frauds and Felonies, which are Attacks on our Lives and Properties, not a Moment's Time should be lost in giving Notice to the Magistrate. These are Evils of a violent Nature, their Increase quick and dangerous, and require immediate Remedy.

In this Case the Morals are already corrupted and the Mind abandoned; so that if this corrup(35

corrupted Member is not instantaneously separated from the Body, it gathers Strength every Minute; and Success and Impunity in Villainy never fail to increase Villains.

As to other Offences, which have a Tendency to corrupt the Morals, such as Gaming, Hops, &c. they ought equally to be complain'd of to the Magistrate, but require not that quick Notice as higher Offences do. A Letter, therefore, will answer this Purpose: But even here Delays are dangerous; for the Omission of one Day may ruin many; at Gaming especially, where one Quarter of an Hour may destroy more than the Industry of a Year, nay, a whole Life, can gain.

And such indeed is the absolute Necessity of the Countenance and Assistance of the Public to the acting Magistrate, that it is the chief Motive of exposing these Sheets to their View: Hoping that the Advantages that have already accrued to this Town from the Execution of this Police, will be a sufficient Encouragement to every Person that shall be injured for the suture to complain early; for sure it is much better to prevent even one Man from being a Rogue, than from apprehending and bringing forty to Justice.

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On the other hand, it is apprehended, that the Government will ever find it useful to encourage some principal acting Magistrate, to take this laborious Task upon him; and if fuch a one be bred to the Bar the better; for he ought to have a competent Knowledge as well of the common, as the Crown Law: The former to affift the Poor with his Advice, and the latter to bring Offenders to Justice, to give Notice to the Legiflature of the Defects of any penal Law (which is easier to be discovered in the Execution than in the framing that Law) and prevent himself and Officers from falling a Prey to that swarm of low and hungry Sollicitors who are always laying wait to take an Advantage of their Errors; and the more Knowledge he has of human Nature the better, as it will enable him to detect Art and unravel the dark Clues of Guilt.

His being handsomely subsisted will take away the Temptation of making Gain of the paltry Quarrels of the Poor, and thereby encreasing the Poor's Rates. And indeed it ought to remove every Temptation that dishonours Magistracy, and must in Time free such Men from the scandalous Imputation of Trading Justice, raise the Dignity of the Em-

(37)

Employment, and make it an Object worthy the Acceptance, nay, meriting the Study of the best of Men. For to root out Fraud, prevent Violence and Oppression, and to preferve Peace and good Order, are the most grateful Pursuits of a good Heart and an ingenuous Mind.

He should keep the civil Power alive; that is to say, the Constables; constantly instructing them in their Duty, and paying them for extraordinary and dangerous Enterprizes; and above all, promote Harmony amongst them; for when the civil Power is divided it is nothing; but when Constables are collected together, known to each other, and bound by the Connections of good Fellowship, Friendship, and the Bonds of Society, they become sensible of their Office, stand by one another, and are a formidable Body.

And that the Public may know how they are likely to be affisted when they complain, I take this Opportunity of informing them, that there are two Pursuit-Horses, and proper Pursuers paid by the Government, and always ready to pursue and protect their Fellow-Subjects; which is of excellent Use

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in Robberies on the Highway near London, where the Notice is quick.

2dly, There is always one or more orderly Men on Duty to enquire into the Truth of Informations.

3dly, A Register-Clerk to keep an exact Register of all Robberies committed; Descriptions of all Goods lost; the Names and Descriptions of all Persons brought before the said Magistrate who stand accused either of Fraud or Felony, or suspected of either; of the Houses that harbour them and receive their stolen Goods.

Besides these Methods there are many others that ought to be known to none but the Justice himself, as the Publication of them would defeat their Effects. But with the above it was necessary the Public should be acquainted.

And if all Informations of this kind be brought to this Point by his Register, he will soon be able to fix on the Offender; and by quick Persuit seldom fail to apprehend him.

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This Plan honestly, actively, and carefully executed, tho' it cannot intirely prevent Frauds and Felonies, must necessarily produce such good Order in this Town as has yet never been known, and tend greatly to the Sasety of the State; as no dangerous Assemblies or Conspiracies can be carried on without the Knowledge of this useful Officer of Police.

And as there is no Evil in this Town of any Size, for which there is not some wholfome Law provided, the Continuation of that Evil must be owing either to the Silence of the Sufferer or the Neglect of the Magistrate, not the Legislature.

And what adds much to the Efficacy of this Police, there is a Correspondence settled with many of the active Magistrates in the Country, at all Distances, who constantly give Notice to Mr. Fielding when they have committed any desperate Rogue, or suspicious Man, especially, if a Stranger in that Country; by which Means they are often furnished with Materials to bring such Offenders to Justice.

Having now mentioned every Thing that appeared to me useful to be known for the D 4 Con-

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Continuation and Execution of the Police above described (which I flatter myself the Public will receive with Candour as my Motive is good, however erroneous my Opinion may be) I cannot conclude without taking this public Opportunity of returning my fincere Thanks to all those Magistrates who have from Time to Time afforded me Leisure and Refreshment, by their kind Attendance for me on public Bufiness; nor must I forget to acknowledge myself greatly indebted to the general good Behaviour, Diligence, and Activity of the Constables of the County of Middlesex, and City and Liberty of Westminster, who have never been backward in their Duty, however hazardous the Occasion.

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INTRODUCTION

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PLAN for preserving deserted GIRLS.

Hoever has long acted as a Magistrate in this Metropolis, must have obferved, that the Body of the neglected Sons of the Poor, Gaming in Public-Houses, and the very low Bawdy-Houses are the constant Fountains that furnish the Courts of Justice with Offenders, and the Place of Execution with Victims.

Enough has been faid of the former of these, and the Evil being considerably lessened, the latter is proposed to be the Subject of what follows; as it seems to be as material an Object of the Police as any whatever; for, in these Brothels, the Apprentice and Journeyman first broach their Morals, and are soon taught to change their Fidelity and Integrity for Fraud and Felony; here the Tradesman, overcome with Liquor, is decoyed into a Snare, injurious to his Property, fatal to his Constitution, destructive to his Family, and which frequently puts a Period to his Peace of Mind.

INTRO-

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Relieving Industry in Distress, preserving the Deserted, and reforming the Wicked and the Penitent, are the acceptable Employments, the favourite and advantageous Delights of those Minds, which are happy enough to have a good Heart for their Prompter. There is indeed abundant Reason to believe, that these Pleasures have been fully enjoyed by those who have subscribed towards cloathing friendless and deserted Boys to go to Sea. And it is to be hoped, that the Public in general, as well as the particular Objects of that Charity, have reaped some Advantages from those Subscriptions.

And I shall now beg Leave to present to the Public a Body of Fellow-Creatures, equally distressed with those who have been the Objects of the abovementioned Benevolence; and which may, and will, I hope, be made of equal Use to their Country.

The Preservation of the common People, in all States, is highly deserving Attention; for, from this Fountain, your Manusactures, Fleets, Armies, and domestic Servants, are supplied: And in Country Villages this Task is easy, as Temptations to Vice are more rare, and most Parishes employ their Inhabitants.

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bitants. But in such a populous City as is the Metropolis of this Kingdom, numbers of Persons may be idle, numbers of Children may be deserted who are capable of Employment, without ever being perceived by the Public, till their Crimes have made them the unhappy Objects of public Justice.

For the Truth of which Affertion I refer to the Seffions-Paper, and Kalendars for the Years 1755, and 1756, when Gangs of friendless Boys, from 14 to 18 Years of Age, were transported, indeed, I may say by wholesale, for picking of Pockets and pilfering from Shops.

And as these deserted Boys were Thieves from Necessity, their Sisters are Whores from the same Cause; and, having the same Education with their wretched Brothers, generally join the Thief to the Prostitute.

This brings me to that completely wretched, distempered, deserted, pitiable Body of whom I mean to speak; whose Sufferings have so often made my Heart ach, and whose Preservation I now so ardently wish to accomplish. And indeed, I think, I have great Reason to indulge these my Wishes, as I statter myself I have hit upon a Plan that will

as effectually preserve these deserted Girls from Infamy and Distress, and make them happy in themselves and useful Subjects at Home, as that which has preserved so many of their Brothers, and made them useful Abroad.

But before I speak of my Plan I will endeavour to shew from what Fountain it is, our low and infamous Bawdy-Houses, which furnish our Streets with thieving, distempered Prostitutes, are supplied.

Infinite are the Number of Chairmen, Porters, Labourers, and drunken Mechanics in this Town, whose Families are generally too large to receive even Maintenance, much less Education from the Labour of their Parents; and the Lives of their Fathers being often shortened by their Intemperance, a Mother is left with many helpless Children, to be supplied by her Industry; whose Refource for Maintenance is either the Wash-Tub, Green-Stall, or Barrow. What must then become of the Daughters of fuch Women, where Poverty and Illiterateness conspire to expose them to every Temptation? And they often become Prostitutes from Necessity, even before their Passions can have any Share in their Guilt.

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(45)

And as Beauty is not the particular Lot of the Rich more than the Poor, many of the abovementioned Girls have often great Advantages of Person; and whoever will look amongst them will frequently see the sweetest Features disguised by Filth and Dirt.

These are the Girls that the Bawds clean and cloath for their wicked Purposes. And this is done to such a Degree, that on a search Night, when the Constables have taken up near forty Prostitutes, it has appeared on their Examination, that the major Part of them have been of this Kind, under the Age of Eighteen, many not more than Twelve, and those, though so young, half eat up with the foul Distemper.

Who can fay that one of these poor Children had been Prostitutes through Viciousness? No. They are young, unprotected, and of the semale Sex; therefore become the Prey of the Bawd and Debauchee.

Here I cannot help mentioning a Misfortune; nay, I may fay, a Cruelty, that often happens to these deserted Children, and I believe the Offenders as often go unpunished; for the maternal Tenderness of their Mothers (46)

either starved by their Necessities, or drowned in Gin; and, for a Trifle, conceal and forgive an Offence which our Laws have made Capital. And I have sometimes seen Mothers, but indeed they ill deserve that Name, who have trepanned their Children into Bawdy-Houses, and shared with the Bawd the Gain of their own Infant's Prostitutions. And scarce a Sessions passes without Indictments being found against Porters, and fuch low Sort of Men, for ravishing the Infants of the Poor. But, as I faid before, I am afraid more of these Offences are concealed from the Magistrate than are brought to light. Who can behold this Havock on Youth and Innocence, and not be shocked with their pitiable Case? And who can feel for them without being warmed with a Defire of affording them Protection, and rescuing these helpless Lambs from the hungry Jaws of fuch ravenous Wolves?

To preserve these Objects, and to reform others, who having been decoyed into Vice, and from the Miseries they suffer, are desirous to withdraw from that dreadful State, is my principal View in what I shall hereaster propose; though I am persuaded, if I can succeed in the former, there will be at least fewer to repent; for Evils of all Kinds in pub-

(47)

publick Societies are only to be cured by being prevented: Remove the Cause, and the Effect must cease. The skilful Surgeon, indeed, when applied to too late, finds Amputation of a Limb absolutely necessary to preserve the whole Body; which very Limb might itself have been preserved, had the same Skill been earlier applied: and Venienti occurrite Morbo, is as good a Maxim in Politics as in Physic.

The only Difficulty I see in putting this Plan in Execution, is, the first Expence; for, I hope, in a very sew Years, it will not only support itself, but prove a constant Nursery for a Body of useful Domestics, much wanted in this Town.

And as the Evil it proposes to remedy, is grown to a most obnoxious Height, and the Wretches that occasion it are the Objects of universal Compassion, I doubt not, but it will receive an Encouragement proportionable to the Public's Opinion of its Utility; nor do I fear, but that in these my Endeavours, I shall be honoured with the kind Attention, the friendly Approbation, and the generous Assistance of the Ladies, whose tender Feelings will give them a much juster

(48)

Idea of the Sufferings of these poor Creatures than anything the warmest Imagination can suggest; for really some of their Cases, as Shakespeare says, beggar all Description.

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PLAN

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Preservatory and Reformatory.

Being a public Laundry, intended to employ, breed up, and preferve the deferted Girls of the Poor of this Metropolis; and also to reform those Prostitutes whom Necesfity has drove into the Streets, and who are willing to return to Virtue and obtain an honest Livelihood by severe Industry.

I. The Situation and Building.

THE Building for the Public Laundry should be situated as near as possible to the Centre of the Town, but in the Fields; and should consist of one large Quadrangle; the front Building of which should have a large Lodge in the Centre, divided into two Rooms; one for the receiving Secretary, and the other for the receiving Matron. Over these two Rooms should be a spacious Committee-Room, for the Meeting of the Fathers

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thers of this Charity. The remaining Part of the Front, on each Side, should be wall'd. The two Sides of the Quadrangle should be divided into Schools; and Bedchambers over them. The Bottom of the Building to be divided into Washing Rooms and Ironing Rooms over them. In the Centre, the Kitchen, Brewhouse, &c. Over it a Chapel. Behind this Quadrangle should be a large Piece of Ground or Outlet, walled round for the Conveniency of drying Cloaths, Exercise, &c. In one Part of which should be built a small Insirmary,

II. The Objects to be taken in.

Those Girls that are to be received in this Laundry, ought to be the Daughters of the industrious Poor, viz. Porters, Labourers, Servants, low Mechanics, Soldiers, Sailors, &cc. from seven Years of Age to sisteen, un-corrupted, and free from Blemish of Constitution and Intellects.

Proflitutes to be reformed, to be taken in to the Age of Twenty-three, and recoverable as to Conflitution.

Poor Girls put out Apprentice by Parish-Officers from Workhouses, may be received in this Laundry, as they are generally placed in the worst of Families, and seldom escape Destruction.

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III. The Manner of taking them in.

The Girls all to be bound Apprentice either for feven Years, or 'till they are twenty-one, to the grand Matron.

The Indentures of the Prostitutes to be dated back, so that they might remain about three or four Years in the Laundry.

IV. The Manner of their being employed.

All the Girls, under twelve Years of Age, to be employed in the Reading-School, under a Head-Matron, and proper Affiftants, for that immediate Purpose; who are to teach them to read and learn them the first Principles of Plain-work; such as Hemming, &c. and Knitting.

The Girls from twelve to fixteen Years of Age, to be in the real plain-work School, under a Matron, and proper Affiftants, for that immediate Purpose; who are to complete them in the plain and houswifely Knowledge of Plain-work, Knitting, and every other Use of the Needle, that may be necessary in a common useful Servant; teaching them still to read, and instructing them in the Principles of Religion.

From Sixteen, to the Expiration of their Apprenticeships, to be employed in the wash-

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(52)

ing and ironing Schools, under Matrons and Affistants for that immediate Purpose.

Out of these Schools, a Number of Girls are daily to attend in the Kitchen, under Matrons and proper Assistants for that Purpose, to instruct them in the Knowledge of plain Cookery; to roast, boil, brew and bake.

The reformed Prostitutes to be employed, separate from the rest, according to their Ages, in the severer Offices of the Household.

And when any of these Girls have served their Time, to be cloathed and fixed in reputable Families, as domestic Servants; and reformed Prostitutes, in more inserior Families.

V. The Manner of furnishing this Laundry with Work.

As many Families have not the Convenience of washing their Linen at Home, it is to be hoped they will send it to the public Laundry; where it will be got up in the greatest Persection, at a reasonable Price, and returned with Sasety and Regularity.

Linen, likewise to be made up, may be done with the same Degree of Care and Exactness; for which Purpose there must be a receiving Secretary, and a receiving Matron;

(53)

he latter to take in the Linen, and the former to take an exact Account of it according to a Method to be fixed on.

VI. The Method of putting this Scheme in Execution.

A Number of Persons of Rank and Fortune to be fixed on, and to be called *Fathers*; under whose Patronage, a Subscription should be raised, to build a proper Place for this Undertaking.

The Subscriptions to be paid into the Hands of one or more Bankers to be fixed on; and to be subject to the Draughts only of such a Number of Fathers as shall be appointed *Treasurer* by the rest.

And as this public Laundry, if encouraged, will, in all Probability, more than maintain itself, an Interest, after a certain Time, may be paid for the Money sirst subscribed to raise the Building; and the said Subscriptions made transferable, until it succeeds so far as to pay the Principal.

VII. Proper Visitors.

Twenty-fix Ladies of Rank to be appointed yearly Visitors. Two to visit every Week by Rotation; to make the Reports in Writing, and to leave them in the Secretary's Office to the Committee, sealed up, and directed

(54)

rected to the Committee of the Fathers of the public Laundry, proposing any Amendment or Alteration that their respective Visits shall suggest. The Number of the Committee to be fixed on, and no Subscriber to be admitted to the Committee, but on the Death or Removal of one of the first appointed.

The Chairman of the Committee to be by Rotation; and those who are absent to lose their Turn till it comes round again.

Notice always to be fent to the Person whose Turn it is to be in the Chair.

The first Committee to appoint Officers, Matrons, and Affistants; and to fix Rules and Orders for the receiving of Objects, and other Things necessary for the Execution of this Plan; by which, it is to be hoped, the numberless deserted Wretches that now shock the Eye of the Benevolent with their Distresses, and wound the Ear of the Decent by their abandoned Behaviour, may be put in a Method of gaining a useful Education, obtaining an honest Livelihood by their own Hand-Labour, preserving their own Innocence, and become useful Members to Society, without really putting the Public to one Shilling Expence.

Servants bred in this Laundry must exceed all others, as they will have a general Know-

(55)

edge of Housewisery, and will set out in the World free from the Prejudices of evil Habits.

And who will not rejoice to see this happy Change of Barrow Women, miserable Prostitutes, &c. converted into modest, decent, happy Women, and useful domestic Servants.

I shall now conclude these Sheets with the Words of an ingenious Gentleman on another Occasion; Si quid recte dixi, hoc est quod volui; si non, hoc est quod potui.

HAVING mentioned the Want of Employment for poor Boys and Girls, and Gaming in Public-Houses, as the Sources of most of the Disorders in this Town; I cannot better conclude these Sheets, than by taking Notice of a useful Body of Men, the Regulation of whom, would, perhaps, more effectually conduce to the perfecting the Police of this Town, than any other; I mean the Pawnbroker's; a Sett of men, who have it infinitely in their Power to prevent the higher Offences of Fraud and Felony. The Laws have laid them under certain Restrictions for this Purpose; and the following Rules have also been very strongly recommended to their Practice, as a farther Affistance to nose Laws. And I must here do them the Tustice E 4

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Justice to acknowledge, that a select Number of the principal among them, unanimously approved of the said Rules, and chearfully subscribed their Names to the Observance of them, as being sensible, that they have a direct Tendency to promote the Ease and Security of their Trade, and the Sasety of the Public. I shall therefore, without farther Apology, annex them to this Pamphlet, not doubing, but that these Cautions will meet with universal Approbation, as they are intended to prevent all Persons from pawning, exchanging, or otherwise unlawfully disposing of the Property of others, without their Consent or Authority.

(57)

RULES proposed by Mr. Fielding, and unanimously assented to by a select Body of PAWNBROKERS, for their suture Observance, as a farther Prevention of Frauds and Felonies.

I. S O M E one Public News Paper to be fixed on by them, to be taken in, and publick Notice to be given of the fame. This will fave Expences to the Pawnbrokers of different Papers; and shew the Publick where to advertise Things lost, stolen, or fraudulently obtained.

II. A correct List of the Pawnbroker's Names and Places of abode, to be given to Mr. Fielding, and Hand-bills may be sent; which as they make no noise, may often detect in Cases of Consequence. These Bills may be numbered; so, that if any Pawnbroker finds himself neglected by their not being brought regularly, he may complain to that Magistrate.

III. It would be useful to distinguish the time of Day, in which every Pledge is received. Ex. gr. For the Morning write M. for the Asternoon, A. for this may often prove material Evidence.

(58)

IV. To advertise at the Pawnbroker's Expence, the Clauses relating to the Punishment of Persons pawning Goods without the Confent of the Owners; and the Pawnbroker's Power of stopping Persons fuspected with impunity.

V. Pawnbrokers to shut up Shop at nine, from Michaelmas to Lady-Day, and at ten from Lady-Day to Michaelmas, Saturday excepted: and to exclude them from their felect Society, that will not comply therewith.

VI. This select Body to use their best Endeavours to convict Offenders against the Sabbath; and likewise, to convict Persons offending against the late Act of Parliament, in not making proper Inquiries, and fuch Entries in their Book or Books as is thereby required. This vigorously executed, will destroy Petty-Pawnbrokers, who keep Chandler's Shops and Ale-houses.

VII. To take nothing in of a strange Messenger, that may not be supposed to be their own, unless you take down the Name of the real Owner, their Place of abode, &c. and in Pledges of Consequence, such as Plate, Jewels, &c. to fend to the Owner.

VIII. To keep a Book on purpose for Watches; in which all Watches advertised to be lost or stolen, should be entered.

(59)

IX. To take no Goods whatfoever of any Soldier in his Regimentals.

X. No Person to be admitted a Member of the Select Body, who has not ferved a regular Apprenticeship to the Business; unless ballotted in by the Society.

XI. Never to fend a Boy before a Magistrate, or Court of Justice, when the Master can attend, and give the fame Evidence.

XII. To be particularly careful in receiving Piece Goods; as an Error or Mistake of that Kind may bring a stronger Imputation.

XIII. To receive no Pledges from Children, unless their Parents or Masters or Mistresses are well known to the Pawnbroker; and in general, to avoid so doing as much as possible.

XIV. Great Care should be taken to keep Books with the utmost Regularity; as they may come under the Cognizance of the

Magistrates.

XV. That every Member of the Society should have the Name of the nearest Constable to him; and that his Servants should know the same, and to have a By-word to his Servants to go for the Constable.

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(61) Sam. Vandewall, Esq; Thomas Wood, Efg; The Rev. Mr. Payne OF THE Mr. Fielding Hall, Esq; ORIGINAL SUBSCRIBERS Lewis Mendez Thomas Brown - Windham, Efq; Towards Cloathing friendless and deserted Capt. Moore Boys to go on Board his Majesty's Ships; Mess. Johnson and Browne begun Feb. 1756. Sir John Heathcote FROM the Right Hon. the Heathcote, Efq; his Son Ray, Efq; 1. s. d. Lords of the Admiralty 15 15 0 John Simonds, Esq; From the Nobility at the Cocoa Richard Weddle, Esq; Tree, by the Hands of Lord William Lloyd, Esq; Windfor 100 00 0 Wm. Henry Bernard, Esq; From the Nobility at Arthur's 210 10 0 William Fitzherbert, Esq; From the Nobility at George's Capt. Townsend Coffee House, Pall Mall, by The Rev. Mr. Young the Hands of Lord Windsor Peter Delme, Esq; The Right Hon. the Earl of William Fellows, Efq; Hardwicke 5 0 - Whiston, Esq; The Right Hon. Lord Royston 60 Charles Crockatt, The Hon. Charles Stanhope, Esq; 10 0 John Nutt Sir Thomas Drury 10 Col. Rich 2 0 --- Nettleton, Esq; Mrs. Mead - Wogan, Esq; 1 O Thomas Vassal, Esq; Sam. Mrs. Emerley

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