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SECOND

Thoughts are best:

OR, A

Further Improvement

OF A LATE

SCHEME

TOPREVENT

Street Robberies:

BYWHICH

Our Streets will be fo strongly guarded, and so gloriously illuminated, that any part of London will be as safe and pleasant at Midnight as at Noonday; and Burglary totally impracticable:

WITH

Some Thoughts for suppressing Robberies in all the publick Roads of England, &c.

HUMBLY

Offered for the good of his Country, submitted to the Confideration of the Parliament, and dedicated to his sacred MAIESTY KING GEORGE IId.

By Andrew Moreton, Efq;

LONDON:

Printed for W. Meadows, at the Angel in Cornbil; and fold by J. Roberts in Warmick-Lane, 1729. Price Six-Pence.



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Our State will be to standing maneas,

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र्वे कार्य को एकतार्वहीं करेंद्र हु जेक्केन समुद्रांत करेंद्र राज्येपुरावकीय कार्याक्ष

. O fra gril in thouse simple sets

TO THE

KING's

MOST EXCELLENT

MAJESTY.

SACRED, and most August!



ERMIT a Loyal P Subject in the Sincerity of his Heart

to press through the Crouds of Courtiers who furround Your Your Royal Person, and lay his little mite (humbly offered for the Publick Welfare) at your MAJESTY's Feet.

HAPPY is it for me, as well as the whole Kingdom, we have a King of such Humanity and Affability; a King naturaliz'd to us, a King who loves us, a King, in whose Person as well as Mind, the whole Hero appears: The King of our Hearts; the King of our Wishes!

THOSE

DEDICATION.

THOSE who are diffatiffied with such a Monarch,
deserve to be abandon'd of
God, and have the Devil
sent to reign over 'em.
Yet such there are, (pity
they should wear Human
Forms, or breath the free
Air of Britain!) who are
so scandalously sickle, that
if God himself was to
reign, they would hone
after their darling Monarch
the Prince of Darkness.

THESE

VI DEDICATION.

THESE are they who fly in the Face of Majesty, who so abuse the Liberty of the Press, that from a Benefit it becomes an Evil, and demands immediate Regulation.

Not against Your MA-JESTY only, but against many of your Loyal Subjects, are Arrows shot in the Dark, by lurking Villains who wound the Reputations DEDICATION. vii tions of the Innocent in Sport. Our Publick News-Papers, which ought to contain nothing but what is Instructive and Communicative, being now become Publick Nusances, Vehicles of Personal, Private Slander, and scandalous Pasquins.

Let the Glory be Yours, most Gracious Sovereign! to suppress this growing Evil; and if any Hints from your most faithful Subject, can be of the least Use, I live but

viii DEDICATION. but to serve, to admire, and pray for Your MAJESTY Who am,

Most Gracious Sovereign,

Tour Majesty's

Most Loyal,

Most Dutiful,

Most Obedient

Subject and Servant,



THE

PREFACE.



OTHING is more easy than to discover a Thing already found out. This is verified in Me and that anonimous

Gentleman, whom the publick Prints have lately complemented with a Discovery to prevent Street-Robberies; tho by-the-by we have only his vain Ipse dixit, and

ii PREFACE.

the oftentatious Outcry of Venal NewsWriters, in his behalf.

Plumes, these are to remind the Publick, that about six Months ago, in a Treatise, intituled, Augusta Triumphans, or the Way to make London the most flourishing City in the Universe, I laid down a plain and practicable Scheme, for the total Suppression and Prevention of Street Robberies; which Scheme has been approved of by several learned and judicious Persons.

OH! but say the Advocates of this second-hand Schemist, our Project is to be laid before the Parliament: Does that make his better, or mine worse? Have not many silly Projects been laid before Parliaments e'er now? Admit it be not the

the same, (as I have but too much reason to fear it is) Cannot the Members of both Houses read Print as well as Writtenhand? Or does he think they are so prejudic'd to dislike a Thing the worse for being offer'd without view of Gain? I trust Andrew Moreton's Scheme, generously offer'd for the Publick Good, will meet with as fair a Reception as that of this hireling Projector.

MINE is already published; let him generously follow my Example, and no doubt, if his Scheme be preferred, the Government will reward him.

IF my Antagonist be necessitous, where is the Merit? he does it for his own sake, not for the Publick: If he be not necessitous, what a sordid Wretch is he to withold his Scheme for Lucre? putting it B 2 up

iv PREFACE.

up at Publick Sale; So that if you don't give him his Price you shan't have it.

SOME People indeed are so fond of Mysteries, they run down every thing that is plain and intelligible; they love Darkness, Whispers, and Free-Masonry; despising whatever comes in the Shape of a Pamphlet, be it never so useful or commendable: But in spight of Prejudice, Truth is the Standard, by which I hope all honest and impartial Men will judge me.

THOUGH, I must confess, I am not a little piqued to be jocky'd out of my Labours: Yet not to be behind-hand with my Gentleman in the Clouds, who would have the Parliament buy his Pig-in-a-Poke, and build up his Fortune at my Expence; I have so amply enlarged and amended my Scheme,

Scheme, that it is now scarce like the same. I have taken in every thing possible of Comprehension or Practice: Nor have I left him room to edge in one single Hint. I have debated the Objections of divers Wise and Learned Men, and corrected my Project accordingly: So that on comparison my first Thoughts will appear but as a Rude and Imperfect Sketch, only valuable in that it gave the Idea of this more labour'd and finish'd Performance, on which I pledge my whole Reputation, being ready to stand or fall by its Success.

In order to which I have prefented Copies of this Book to the King and Queen's most Excellent Majesties, to several of the Lords Spiritual, and divers Honourable and Worthy Members of both Houses; and Time must shew whose Scheme shall have the Precedence.

vi PREFACE.

In the mean time I stand prepared for the Sneers of those who despise every thing and every body but their own dear selves; as also the Objections of the Puzzle Causes, who will turry-lugg a thing out of all Sense and Meaning; and by the cloudiness of their Explanations darken what is most plain and obvious. My Business is to go straight forward, and let the End crown the Work. If Men of Sense approve me, I need not value the Laughter of Fools, whose very Approbation is scandal: For if a thinking Man is to be laugh'd out of every good Intention or Invention, nothing will ever be done for the Publick Good.



SECOND

THOUGHTS, &c.



HE principal Encouragement and Opportunity given to Street-Robbers is, that our Streets are so poorly watch'd; the Watchmen,

for the most Part, being decripid, superanuated Wretches, with one Foot in the Grave, and t'other ready to follow; so feeble, that a Puff of Breath can blow 'em bown: Poor crazy Mortals! Much sitter for an Alms-house than a Watchhouse. A City watch'd and guarded by such

SECOND

(2)

fuch Animals, is wretchedly watch'd indicated.

Nay, fo little Terror do they carry with them, that hardy Thieves make a mere Jest of 'em, and oftentimes oblige even the very Watchman, who should apprehend, to light 'em in their Roguery: And what can a poor Creature do, in Terror of his Life, surrounded by a Pack of Russians, and no Assistance near?

'Add to this, that our Rogues are grown more wicked than ever, and Vice in all Kinds is so much wink'd at, that Robbery is accounted a petty Crime. We take Pains to puff 'em up in their Villainy, and Thieves are set out in so aimable a Light in the Beggar's Opera, it has taught them to value themselves on their Profession, rather than to be asham'd of it.

There was some Cessation of Street-Robberies, from the Time of Bunworth and Blewit's Execution, 'till the Introduction of this pious Opera. Now we find the Cartouchian Villainies revived,

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and London, that us'd to be the most safe and peaceful City in the Universe, is now become a Scene of Rapine and Danger. If some of Cartouch's Gang be not come over hither to instruct our Thieves, we have, doubtless, a Cartouch of our own, and a Gang, which, if not suppress'd, may be full as pernicious as was ever Cartouch's, and London may be as dangerous as Paris, if due Care be not taken.

Not content with the Mischief done by the Beggar's Opera, we must have a Quaker's Opera forfooth of much more evil Tendency than the Former; for in this Fack Shepherd is made the Hero of the Drama, and runs through fuch a Scene of Riot and Success, that but too many weak Minds have been drawn away, and many unwary Persons so charm'd with his Appearance on the Stage, drest in that elegant Manner, and his Pockets fo well lin'd, they have forthwith commenc'd Street-Robbers or House-breakers; fo that every idle Fellow, weary of honest Labour, need but fancy himself a Macheath or a Shepherd, and there's a Rogue

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Rogue made at once. Since therefore Example has fuch Force, the Stage ought to be reformed, and nothing exhibited but what might be represented before a Bishop: They may be merry and wise: Let them take the Provok'd Husband for a Pattern.

A good Physician seeks the Cause, and weighs the Symptoms, before he proceeds to prescribe; and if we trace this Evil from its Radix, we shall find a Cause antecedent to the two Operas aforesaid: Namely, accursed Geneva, the Bane and Ruin of our lower Class of People.

Those who deny an inserior Class of People to be necessary in a Body Politick, contradict Reason and Experience itself; since they are most useful when Industrious, and equally pernicious when lazy: By their Industry our Manusactures, Trade, and Commerce are carried on, The Merchant in his Compting-House, and the Captain in his Cabbin would find but little Employment were it not that many Hands carried on the different Branches of the Concerns they superintended.

But

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But now so far are our common People infatuated with Geneva, that half the Work is not done now as formerly. It debilitates and enervates them, nor are they near so strong and healthy as formerly.

So that if this Abuse of Geneva be not stopt, we may go whoop for Husbandmen, Labourers, &c. Trade must consequently stand still, and the Credit of the Nation sink: Nor is the Abatement of the Excise, tho' very considerable, and most worthy Notice, any ways comparable to the Corruption of Manners, Destruction of Health, and all the Train of Evils we are threaten'd with from pernicious Geneva.

We will suppose a Man able to maintain himself and Family by his Trade, and at the same time to be a Geneva-drinker: This Fellow first makes himself incapable of working, by being continually drunk; which runs him behind-hand, so that he either pawns or neglects his Work, for which Reason no Body will employ him:

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At last, sear of Arrests, his own Hunger, the Cries of a Family for Bread, his natural Desire to support an irregular Life, and a propense Hatred to Labour, turn but too many an honest Tradesman into an arrant desperate Rogue: And these are commonly the Means that surnish us with Thieves and Villains in general.

Thus is a Man, who might be useful in a Body Politick, render'd obnoxious to the same: So that if this Trade of Wickedness goes on, they will increase upon us so much that we shall not dare to stir out of our Habitations; nay, it will be well if they arrive not to the Impudence of plundering our Houses at Noonday.

Where is the Courage of the English Nation, that a Gentleman, with fix or feven Servants, shall be robb'd by one fingle Highwayman? Yet we have lately had Instances of this; and for this we may thank our Essiminacy, our Toupee Wigs, and powder'd Pates, our Tea, and other scandalous Fopperies; and above all, the Dissufe

(7)

Disuse of noble and manly Sports, so no cessary to a brave People, once in Vogue, but now totally lost amongst us.

Let not the Reader think I run from my Subject, if I fearch the Bottom of the Distemper before I propose a Cure, which having done, though indeed but slightly, for this is an Argument could be carried to a much greater Length, I proceed to the Purpose in manner following.

Let the Watch be composed of stout able bodied Men, and of those a sufficient Number, that is to say, a Watchman to every forty Houses, twenty on one side of the way, and twenty on the other; for it is observable, that a Man cannot well see distinctly beyond the Extent of twenty Houses in a Row; if 'tis a single Row, and no opposite Houses, the Charge must be greater, or their Safety less.

This Man should be elected, and paid by the House-keepers themselves, to prevent Misapplication and Abuse, so much complain'd complain'd of in the Distribution of Publick Money.

He should be allowed 10 s. per Annum, by each House-keeper, which at Forty Houses, as above specify'd, amounts to 201. per Annum; almost treble to what is at present allowed; and yet most Househeepers are charg'd at least 25. 6 d. a Quarter to the Watch, whose Beat is, generally speaking, little less than the Compass of half a Mile.

What a Shame it is, that at least one hundred Pounds should be collected in fome Beats, and the poor Watchman should not have the one tenth Part of the Money? And this I leave to the Consideration of any House-keeper, who will take the Pains to enquire into the Extent of a Watchman's Beat, and after that cast up what is collected in the faid Beat: (as they fay for the Watch) But this is a small Abuse in Comparison of other Parochial Misapplications; for a Proof of which I refer my Reader to a Treatife of mine, Entituled, Parochial Tyranny.

This

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This Salary of 201. per Annum, is fomething of Encouragement, and a pretty Settlement for a poor Man, who, with Frugality, may live decently thereon, and, by due Rest, be enabled to give due and vigilant Attendance; that is to fay, from Evening Dusk, to Morning Light.

... If a House-keeper break, or a House is empty, the poor Watchman ought not to fuffer, the Deficiency should be made up by the House-keepers remaining.

The Watch thus station'd, strengthen'd, and enconraged, let every Watchman be arm'd with Fire-Arms and Sword; and let no Watchman stand above Twenty Doors distant from his Fellow.

This has already been put in Practice in the Parish of St. Giles's in the Fields, and has had fo good an Effect, that 'tis hop'd other Parishes will follow their Example, which redounds not a little to the Credit of our Project. r particular en partici. La 1891 de la cyanella l'Armedia del Indistroy de la **Lei**

Let each Watchman be provided with a Horn, to found an Alarm, or in Time of Danger; and let it be made penal, if not Felony, for any but a Watchman to found a Horn in and about the City, from the Time of their going on, to that of their going off.

Iknow an Objection will be here made on account of the Post-Boys, to obviate which, I had Thoughts of a Bell, but that would be too ponderous and troublesome for a Watchman to carry, besides his Arms and Lanthorn; whereas a Horn is portable, always ready, and most alarming.

Let the Post-Boys, therefore, use some other Signal, since this is most convenient to this more material Purpose. They may carry a Bell in a Holster, with Ease, and give Notice by that, as well as those who collect the Letters.

That the Watchmen may see from one End of their Walks to the other, let a convenient Number of Lamps be set up, (11)

and those not of the Convex Kind, which blind the Eyes, and are of no manner of Use; they dazzle, but give no distinct Light, and further, rather than prevent Robberies. Many Persons deceived and blinded by these Ignes fatui, have been run over by Coaches, Carts, &c. People stumbling more, even under these very Lamps, than in the Dark. In short, they are most unprofitable Lights, and, in my Opinion, rather Abuses than Benefits.

Besides, I see no Reason why every ten House-keepers can't find a Lamp among themselves, which would be sour Lamps in a Beat, and let their Watchman dress it, rather than satten a Crew of Directors:

But we are so fond of Companies, 'tis a Wonder we have not our Shoes black'd by one, and a set of Directors made rich at the Expence of our very Black-guards.

The Watch ought to be in View, as well as in the Hearing of each other, or they

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they may be over-power'd, and much Danger may happen.

The Streets being thus gloriously illuminated, and so strongly guarded by stout and able Fellows well arm'd and well pay'd, all within the View of one another, proceed we to secure all bye-Turnings, Courts, Alleys, Lanes, &c. which may favour a Street-Robber's Escape and make our Project inessectual.

A Street, Court, Lane, Alley, or other Place, where the Number of Houses or Poverty of the Inhabitants will not afford a Watchman on the Terms afore-mention'd, should be gated in, and the Inhabitants let in and out by the Watchman of the Street.

Where there are even but twelve Houfes in a Court, and the Inhabitants People of Credit, they may have a feparate Watch to themfelves, as it practifed in Boswel-Court by Lincolns-Inn-Fields, Angel-Court in Throckmorton-Street, and many other Places in London. gildrot of the (is).

This I think an unexceptionable way to secure the Cities and Suburbs of London and Westminster. The only Dissiculty I can conceive is, that Persons after dark may now and then go a little Way round about by keeping the Street Way; but the Pleasantness and Sasety occasion d by the Lights and Watch aforesaid, make ample amends. Let those go through bye-Ways and in the dark, whose Deeds are so: I am for providing Security for Honest Men, and Obstacles for Rogues.

And now we have put a stop to their Roguery, let us endeavour to suppress the Rogues themselves: In order to which I shall begin with their Harlots, who are generally speaking, the first Motives to their Villainy; and egg them on to all manner of Mischies.

And these are generally Servant Wenches, who stroll from Place to Place, and at last weary of working, throw themselves on the Publick: To maintain these Creatures many a Man turns Rogue. It beloves

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hoves the Government therefore to oblige all young Wenches to keep in Service. Masters and Mistresses ought likewise to see that Servants of both Sexes go not a rambling, when sent to Church; but that they keep good Hours; for many have been ruin'd by junketing and staying out, instead of being at Church or at home.

Our Common Women ought to be restrain'd in the Liberties they have lately taken: They openly swear and talk so obscenely, 'tis a Shame to a Christian Country.

Having fully handled this Topick in two foregoing Treatifes, viz. Every-Body's Bufiness is No-Body's Business, and Parochial Tyranny, I shall not tire my Readers with Repetition, but referring 'em to the Treatises themselves, return to my Subject, which is,

After we have reformed the Ladies, let us take their Sparks in hand.
And first let all Shoe-Cleaners, I mean
Boys

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Boys and sturdy Vagrants be suppress'd, according to my Scheme in Every-Body's Business, &c. As for Link-boys, alias. Thieves with Lights, there will be no need of 'em, when the Streets are illuminated, according to my Project.

That Sailors as well as Soldiers may not give cause of Suspicion, 'tis fit they should also be quarter'd after the same Nature; and more to enforce it, Surveyors of Quarters should have Rounds allotted them.

These Surveyors should call at the Quarters of every Soldier or Sailor at a limited Hour, to see if they are there or no, and register em at home or absent accordingly: Absence to be penal.

Every Soldier or Sailor leaving his Quarters 'till Morning after he has been found at home and register'd, should be punished.

I must be excused if I ward every Obstacle, my Design being to break up Street-Robbers Nest and Egg.

And

All Publick-Houses and Gin-Shops, if they should be tolerated, should be shut up at ten.

Work-house, of which there is great need.

And of which more hereafter.

If the Government should think fit to tolerate Gin-Shops, I see no Reason why they may not be subject to Licences, and come into the Pot-Act as well as Ale-Houses; especially considering there is as much Gin as Ale consumed now-a-days.

Night-

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Night-Houses and Cellars above all should be totally suppress'd: These are the Harbours and Resuge of Villains and Strumpets: These are their Houses of Call, where their hellish Trade is carried on: It is here they wait for the Signal of their Scouts: Here they cast their Schemes, and bring in Advices: Here they encourage and initiate young Thieves: Here they barter and sell their stolen Goods: These are their Exchanges and Asylums after Mischies.

Hackney Coach-Drivers next require our Care: They are the Scum of the People and generally speaking the work of Rogues.

So many and such frequent Robberies can never be committed without the Connivance of these Villains; and 'tis but too much to be seared, that at the same time they take up a Fare they take up a Robber, who is ready to mark his Prey, and gets up either on the Box or behind; and alights at a convenient Place to perpetrate his hellish

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hellish Design. As for a Snack of the Coal (as they term it) no doubt but the Coachman and he have proper understanding and Rendezvous.

Many who go to the Coach-Office now-a-days, may be mistaken in their hopes of Redress, not but the Commissioners to a Man treat Complainants with the utmost Civility; but the Penalty, which used to be on the Renter, being now on the Driver, the Renter or Owner of that Figure is clear, and the Driver has nothing to do but to be absent and laugh at the Complainant, an Instance of which take in the following Case.

A Hackney Coach-man took eighteen Pence of a Gentleman for a twelve Penny Fare: The Gentleman took his Number, and complain'd; the Driver appear'd and was fin'd fifteen Shillings, but the Renter escap'd: What was the Result? the Driver absconded, the Gentleman sits down at his loss of Attendance and Money: Had Robbery or Assault been the Complaint, the Consequence had been the same, the Gentleman sits down at his loss of Attendance and Money: Had Robbery or Assault been the Complaint, the Consequence had been the same, the

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Gentleman is but where he was. He has fince called feveral Times at the Office, but to no purpose; all the Answer he can get is, the Fellow can't be found. I write this therefore to undeceive those Persons, who think when they have taken the Number of a Coach they can punish the Driver for Insolence or Extortion.

The Law in this Case ought to be turned into its old Channel, that is to say, the Owner of the Figure should be answerable: He ought to employ a Driver he can answer for, or drive himself.

Every Renter therefore should be obliged to Register and Respond for his Driver; or Commissioners, Figures, and all other Forms are to little purpose.

Beggars should next be suppressed, who lounge about all Day, to see where they can steal at Night. It is a shame we should suffer real Objects of Charity to beg; and for those who are not so its a shame but they should work.

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I shall close all with this Observation.

That the Extortions and Cabals of Tradesmen, by enhaunsing the Prices of Provisions, is most detrimental to a State, and worthy the Notice of its Legislature: For Men not being able to support their Families by honest Labour, and being made Beggars by reason of the Dearness of Provisions, of times grow desperate and turn Rogues. This Assertion is but too true, to prove which I appeal to the late Conduct of

The Coal-Merchants,
The Bakers,
The Butchers,
And above all the Tallow-Chandlers.

The Cabals of Coal-Traders have for many Years jocky'd us in the Price of Coals; they have raifed and fell them at pleasure, and made meer stock-jobbing Work of it; but never so much as in his late Majesty's Reign; on a great Impress for Seamen, they in less than a Fortnight rais'd

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rais'd the Price of Coals from twenty three Shillings to almost fifty. What a Pinch must this be on the Poor, who live only from Hand to Mouth, and buy their Coals (poor Souls!) some by the half Peck.

The Bakers are yet more flagrant and vile; they turn Plenty to Famine, and push up the Price of Bread without Rule or Reason; they have already been detected in one Bite, i.e. procuring some of the Fraternity to buy a small Quantity of Corn much above the Market Price, and then by making oath thereof, abuse a well intended Law, and raise the Price of Bread accordingly.

Thus are the Poor ground to Dust, in order to satten a Pack of Misers, who know no Mercy. But I hope the Government will make 'em honest, even against their Will.

The Butchers are now fo extravagant in their way of living, that usual and mode-rate

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rate Profit won't content 'em; they can't drink Malt Liquor, and the Poor must pay for the Wine which they swill down at an unmerciful rate.

The Price of Meat should therefore be regulated according to the Price of Cattle, but not according to the Baker's Rule afore-mention'd.

But as for the Tallow-Chandlers, their Oppressions call aloud for Redress: To what an exorbitant Pitch have they raised the Price of Candles; just double what it was some Years ago: Nay, they threaten to have them at ten Pence per Pound. How can the Poor work when Candles are so dear. But we may thank our own Luxury for these Impositions. I see no reason why we should not humble these Upstarts by making our own Candles; ay, and our own Bread too, as our Foresathers have done before us.

The Tallow-Chandlers, to excuse themfelves, lay the Fault on the Melters. The Melters shift it from themselves to the (23)

the Butchers: And fo the Game goes round.

Oh but say they the Government will lose Part of its Revenue: To which I answer, that rather than they shall raise Candles to double their Value, on pretence of paying a Penny per Pound Excise, in case the Parliament will take off the Duty on Candles for the ease of the Poor, I will present 'em with a Project gratis, which shall bring in almost double the Money now levied by Candles; and that without the least Hardship on the Subject.

Having, I hope, taken sufficient care of Street-Robbers, I proceed now to clear the Roads from Highway-men, Foot-pads, &c.

Let Parties of Horse be station'd at all the Outgoings from the City of London; so that if a Coach, Waggon, &c. want a Convoy, two, three, or more may be detach'd by the commanding Officer; these shall be register'd, and answerable

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for their Charge; and for Encouragement shall receive so much per Mile, or in the Whole; Convoy Money.

This may be likewise practised from Town to Town all over England, so that the Roads will be as safe as the Streets: And they who will scruple the Trisse of Convoy Money above proposed, merit not Safety.

For those who walk on Foot to the adjacent Villages, Parties of Foot may be station'd in like manner; so that not only the Subject will be free from Danger, but the Soldier employ'd and prevented from corrupt Measures by this additional Perquisite to his Pay.

Nothing remains, but that Robbers be profecuted at the Publick Charge; the Trials fix'd to respective Days, that Profecutors may not lose so much time; and the Rewards paid in Court without Deduction or Delay: Nor should any Robber be admitted an Evidence after he is taken, or pardon'd after Conviction.

FINIS.



Books written by Andrew Moreton, Esq; and printed for W. Meadows, at the Angel in Cornhil.

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