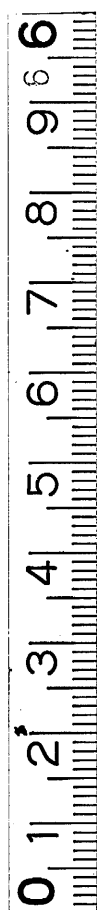


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SOME
METHODS

PROPOSED
Towards putting a STOP
TO THE
FLAGRANT CRIMES
OF
Murder, Robbery, and Perjury;

AND FOR
The more effectually preventing the
pernicious Consequences of Gaming
among the lower Clafs of People.

In a LETTER to
A Right Honourable Member
Of PARLIAMENT.

By Mr. CHARLES JONES.

Immedicabile Vulnus
Ense recidendum, nè pars Sinera trahatur.
Hor.

To which is added,
A Letter wrote to the late Duke of
Perth, in the Year 1745.

LONDON:

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SOME
METHODS
 PROPOSED
 Towards putting a STOP
 TO THE
FLAGRANT CRIMES
 OF
MURDER, &c.

— *In Publica commoda peccem;*
Si longo sermone morer tua Tempora P——m!

S I R,

A S no Man has the Welfare
 of his King and Country
 more religiously at Heart
 than you, so there is no
 Man that I could more properly ad-
 dress myself to than Mr. P——m,
 B with

with an Offer of some Means, which if rightly improved, might impede the Career of the present reigning, and almost epidemical Crimes of Murder, Robbery, Perjury, and Gaming, that cry aloud for the severest Check from the Wisdom and Power of a British High Court of Parliament.

Without making any farther Apology, therefore, for my presuming thus publicly to address a Person in your exalted Station, I humbly propose, that a Law be made expressly to forbid any Persons carrying about them secreted Weapons, or even wearing Swords, Hangers, &c. without a Licence first obtained from an Office, to be hereafter erected for that Purpose; and for which, an annual Sum is to be paid: Which Money might be made use of as a Fund for the Payment of Rewards for the apprehending and bringing notorious

torious Offenders to condign Pnnishment.

By this Means no one under the Degree of a Gentleman, will, I presume, apply for a Toleration to go armed, lest some very disagreeable Questions might be asked them. Besides, Sir, if this Proposal should not be relished, what Reason is there for Gentlemen's wearing Swords, when they are full dressed in *London*, more than at *Bath*, *Scarborough*, *Tunbridge*? &c. Where, should any Man appear with a Sword, he would be looked upon as an odd Creature, little acquainted with the polite People of the World. How many are there that wear Swords that dare not use them, unless against the unarmed, or else to flourish them in public Assemblies, to make a Show of their little Valour, where they are almost sure of being hindred from do-

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ing what they have no Stomach to go through with, were they to meet with a resolute Opponent? I never knew one of these Coffee-House-Hectors, that was not a Dunghil at the Bottom.

I propose likewise that Orders should be constantly given out, prohibiting the non-commissioned Officers and private Soldiers from wearing their Swords or Bayonets, unless going to, upon, or immediately coming off their Duty.

This would be one Means of preventing the many Quarrels that frequently happen in the Streets, which are often attended with bloody Consequences: Nothing being more common than for a Soldier, hot with the Spirit of Gin, and high in Blood, to draw his Toledo and hack away, without considering the defenceless Situation of the Object of his drunken Fury.

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Moreover, whilst he is inflamed with Liquor, and having his Sword about him, he falls out and makes War upon the Lives and Properties of his Fellow-Subjects, which, if he had been unarmed, he never would have ventured to attempt.

The next Thing I beg Leave to mention, is our present Punishments. Almost all Nations but ours, adapt their Punishments to the Nature of the Offence. We make no Difference in the Sentence of our Laws, between a poor Sheepstealer that takes wherewith to feed his wretched Family, and the most inhuman and bloody-mangling Highwayman or Murderer. What Nation is there in the World but ours, that would not have inflicted a Punishment in some Manner adequate to the Crimes of those Monsters of Barbarity that
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were tried by a special Commission at
Chichester?

What signifies hanging in Chains after the Breath is out of the Body? As it gives no Pain, it gives but very little Concern. *Terret condignior Pœna* is a Maxim observed to have great Effect in other Countries, where Executions are less frequent than with us; because when they punish, they do it with great Severity. I have heard it affirmed, that there are more Persons executed in the British Dominions, than in all *Europe* besides.

I am no Stranger to your great Humanity, and should not be surprized to hear you say, in the Words of Mr. *Addison* in his *Cato*,

*See they suffer Death,
But in their Deaths remember they
are Men.*

Sir,

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Sir, Lenity, in some Cases, may occasion Cruelty; for the Mildness of our Punishments is the chief Reason why our weekly News-Papers are filled with such black Catalogues of horrid Crimes.

In *Ireland* Murder is High-Treason; and if it were made so here, and the Sentence speedily executed, according to the strictest Letter of the Law, upon those who murder with concomitant Circumstances of Barbarity, we should not so often have a full and true Account of a most horrid, barbarous, and bloody Murder, &c. hawked about our Streets.

And here give me Leave to observe, how necessary it is that some thorough Reformation be made in our Gaols, where Prisoners that have any Friends

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or Money, spend the Time of their Confinement in riotous Drunkenness, and all Manner of Debauchery; which is connived at by the Keepers, for the Sake of the Profit that arises from the Liquor that is swallowed: And it has been often remarked, that many of those who had often visited their Acquaintance in Prison, soon became Prisoners themselves, being encouraged to undertake any Villany, from their Knowledge of the Jollity in which they have a Prospect of passing away their Time, should they happen to be taken and committed.

In order therefore to deter People from running thus, headlong as it were, into a Goal, all Prisoners that are charged with capital Crimes, and appear to be Offenders of the first Magnitude, ought to be kept a-part, and not permitted to converse with one another:

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The Reflection of which close Constraint will carry a Terror with it, surpassing even their Apprehension of Death itself. Another Thing that I would recommend, is the separating the Debtors from the Felons in all County-Goals, so that they may have no Intercourse whatsoever: An unhappy Debtor may be an honest well-meaning Man; but, as evil Communications corrupt good Manners, his Morals may soon be tainted, inasmuch as never to be reclaimed; and then he is lost for ever to his Country.

I have heard there is a Scheme upon the Tapis for obliging Criminals to work in our Dock-Yards, instead of hanging them for certain Offences, or burthening the Plantations with them. Pray, Sir, would not this be extremely dangerous? Might not a Body of these Desperadoes do the Government

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an irreparable Damage in an Instant, by burning, or otherwise destroying, our Naval-Stores and Magazines? In Time of War especially, might not our Enemies make Use of such abandoned Villains as Instruments of their Vengeance? And is it not reasonable to suppose, but that Malefactors, who have little Hopes of extricating themselves out of a laborious Confinement, would readily embrace every Proposal that can give them the least flattering Prospect of changing their irksome Situation?

The *Jews* inflicted severe Whippings upon their Malefactors, previous to their Executions; and why should not we do the same, when the Atrociousness of the Crime demands Severity.

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The *Romans* made no Law for Parricide, as supposing none would be so wicked as to commit so great a Crime; 'till *L. Ostius*, about five Hundred Years after the Death of *Numa*, killed his Father; upon which they ordered, that so flagitious a Malefactor should, upon his being apprehended, have wooden Shoes put on him, and so hauled to Goal, where he was to continue one Year, during which Time his Feet were not to touch the common Parent of Mankind, the Earth: After that he was severely scourged, and then tied up in a Leather Sack, together with a Dog, an Ape, a Cock, and a Viper, and so thrown into the next deep Water: And farther, if a Child was ungracious enough as but to strike his Parents, he was to have his Hands cut off.

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The old *Egyptians* used to run sharp Reeds into every Part of the Bodies of Parricides; and, after having thus wounded and tormented every Part, threw them upon a Heap of Thorns, and burnt them to Ashes.

Torturing Men, in order to extort Confessions, has, with the greatest Reason and Prudence, been laid aside for many Years in *England*; but there can be no Reason assigned, why an Offender legally and plainly convicted of a Crime that carried Horror in its Perpetration, should not suffer most acutely in the Flesh, to caution others from following his dreadful Example.

All Prosecutions for Felony should be carried on at the Expence of the Public; many notorious Villains now escape the just Chastisement of their
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Misdeeds, because those that ought to be their Prosecutors, either cannot or do not care to be at the Cost of bringing them to Justice: And whatever Rewards are due to those who are instrumental in apprehending Highwaymen, &c. should be paid directly upon their Conviction in Court, without any Fee or Deduction whatsoever.

The next Thing I shall mention is the Crime of Perjury, which robs the Innocent of their Lives, and by which every Man's Property is in Danger. Is standing an Hour on a Pillory in a public Street or Market-Place, or a few Months Incarceration, a sufficient Atonement for this Offence, the most dangerous of any? Certainly it is not; the numerous Instances we have of the trifling Regard that is paid by many, to the calling upon the sacred Name of God to be Witness of the
Truth

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Truth in our Courts of Justice, demonstrates the Necessity of making some salutary Law to prevent so shocking an Evil. With the Assistance of a Petty-fogging Attorney, or Newgate Sollicitor, a Villain may at any Time be furnished, at a small Expence, with a Set of Miscreants that will swear any Thing, and who are known to get their Bread by, what is stiled in their cant Language, *Rapping*.

Is Death, even the most painful one, too severe a Punishment for a Crime of so heinous a Nature? Where is the Equity or Reasonableness to hang a poor Wretch that steals a few Shillings, and not the Perjurer that does a thousand Times more Mischief?

The *Romans* at first punished those that were found guilty of Perjury, by throwing them headlong from the

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Tarpeian Precipice; but this Punishment was afterwards not put in Practice, upon a Supposition that the Gods would vindicate their own Honour, by some remarkable Judgment upon the Offenders.

The *Greeks* set a Mark of Infamy upon them; and after the Empire became Christian, if any one swore falsely upon the Gospels, he was to have his Tongue cut out. The *Jews* punished this Crime very exemplarily; and the Canons of the primitive Church enjoin eleven Years rigid Penance for it.

Among the *Turks* a Person convicted of Perjury is led through the City in his Shirt, riding on an Ass with his Face to the Tail, which he holds in his Hands, having his Face daubed, and on his Shoulders a Parcel of Guts and other

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other Garbage, and afterwards branded in the Cheek and Forehead, and for ever rendered incapable of giving Testimony in any Cause whatever.

The last Thing I humbly propose, is putting a proper Restraint to the bewitching and prevailing Vice of Gaming.

Play is frequently made use of by the Great as a Relaxation of the Mind, after it has been fatigued with Study or Business; and as long as they play with Men of Honour and their Equals, the Danger is not so terrible as it may appear to be in those that never play at all. But even among the greatest, some Reformation may be made in regard to Play. It were to be wished, that some Method was found out to prevent playing upon Tick. The Estate and Fortune of a Man of large Possessions, can never

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never be demolished at a Sitting, without Ticking: People cannot carry their Parchments, their Sheep and Oxen, Bulls, Cows, and Horses with them when they play; as for their ready Money it will circulate, it will change its Owner every Minute; but when once the Score is commenced, no one knows how far their Passions may hurry them, or what Lengths they may be tempted to run: And it is commonly remarked, that People play infinitely deeper upon Tick, than when they game for ready Money only. In order, therefore, to secure Lands and Tenements from changing their Masters, the next Heir ought to be properly empowered to put a Bar to the Rapidity of his Relation's Race to Ruin.

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I shall forbear saying any more relating to the Foibles of Persons in high Life, lest it might be thought, impertinent in me to presume to dictate, or prescribe Rules to those that are so vastly my Superiors, and so much wiser than myself; but shall proceed to the main Spring and Origin of most of the Robberies, &c. that have been committed for some Years past, namely the Vices and Extravagances of the common People, particularly those in and about the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*.

Before the Magistrates exerted their Authority in suppressing those infamous Places, that were the public Rendezvous of *Gentlemen, Tradesmen, Servants of all Degrees, Journeymen Taylors, Barbers, Butchers, Bullies, Highwaymen,*

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waymen, common Sharpers, and common Pickpockets, nay sometimes common Whores too, with a long Train of Etcætera's too tedious to enumerate; I mean those public Gaming-Houses, that were for many Years supported by the scandalous Prostitution of the Privileges of an indigent Person of Quality in the Purlieu of *Covent-Garden*; what Scenes of Iniquity were therein continually exhibited! *Merchants and Lawyers Clerks, Tavern Drawers, Valets de Chambre, Footmen, &c.* throwing away the Money which some of them had procured even at the Hazard of their Necks.

Upon the Suppression of these Houses, the Remnants of the unhang'd were dispersed all over the Town; and the Billiard - Tables, Skittle-Grounds, &c. were crowded with these

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additional Troops, where they have occasionally traded ever since. This Trade, I am certain, demands an immediate *Noli Prosequi* from the legislative Authority; and 'till this is completed, the Evils so much complained of will never cease.

If the Magistrates are not already invested with a sufficient Power to crush this *Hydra*, they ought to be, and the Conduct of every Ale-House Keeper to be inspected, and his Licence to be, *ipso facto*, taken from him, and he rendered incapable of ever having another granted him, if it should appear he permitted Gaming in his House; Journeymen often squandering away their whole Week's Wages at an Ale-house in two or three Hours, by their beginning only to play for a Pot of Beer, by which they are induced to
rob

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rob and steal to support their Wives and Children,

Every public Billiard-Table ought to pay at least ten Pounds per Annum to the Crown: This would not be detrimental to those who keep Tables for the Amusement of Persons of Distinction only, because no Man of Fortune would scruple to pay an advanced Price to the Owners of such Tables, upon the Commencement of a Tax merely calculated for the Utility of the Public.

This would give a suppressing Blow to all Billiard-Tables which are frequented by the common People only, because the little they play for (though a very material Sum to them), could
not

not support the Expence of this Taxation. When a Man of Fortune loses, the Public are not much affected by it; but when the poor Man lavishes away his Time, and the Little that should supply them with the Necessaries of Life, he becomes desperate, and has Recourse to every Species of Iniquity to repair his Loss.

If the Ordinary of Newgate's Account be true, there is scarce an Execution that does not furnish us with Examples of Wretches, who place the principal Cause of their Calamities to Gaming and bad Company: And where can possibly worse Company be found, than where low-liv'd Gamesters are assembled?

By the Laws already in Force, a Person convicted of winning any Sum frau-

fraudulently at play, is to forfeit five times the Sum so won, and likewise to suffer the Punishment that is, at present, inflicted in Cases of Perjury: But why not Death? A Man is hanged that takes a Penny upon the Highway: Does the Man that cheats another premeditatedly at play, merit a less Penalty, when it is evidently proved?

Oderunt peccare mali formidine Pœnæ

is an old Adage, therefore no good Man can be affected by greater Punishments being ordained for Evil-doers; Rogues only will be terrified therewith, and it will be a prevailing Means of turning them away from the Wickedness of their Intentions, and, it is to be hoped, of saving them from Infamy in this World, and from eternal

eternal Damnation in the World to
come.

I am, Sir,

With the greatest Respect,

Your most Obedient,

March 2, 1752.

Humble Servant,

CHARLES JONES.

Between eleven and twelve Years ago,
I became known to the Person that
stiled himself Duke of *Perth*; and
on Account of some Discourse we
had together afterwards, I wrote
him the following Letter from *Tun-*
bridge-Wells, in the Year 1745, on
reading in the News, that he had
erected his Standard in Behalf of the
Pretender.

Several Gentlemen having desired me
to let them have a Copy, I take this
Opportunity of giving it to the
Public.

My Lord,

The many Favours I received from
your Grace at *York* and *Scarborough* in
the Year 1740, and the Conversation
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that frequently passed between us at that Time, occasions my writing this Epistle to your Grace; which as it is honestly meant, *viz.* to endeavour to save you from impending Destruction, will not, I hope, be accepted with Scorn, or Indignation.

My Lord; when I read in the public Papers, that the D—— of P——, had erected his Standard in Behalf of the Pretender, Words could not express the Concern I was under on your Account. How often did I curse your enthusiastic Priests, by whose diabolical Persuasions you have been spurr'd on to this *Phaetonic* Undertaking! For believe me, my Lord,

Periculosa plenum Opus aleæ

Tractas,

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Tractas, & incedis per Ignes

Supposito Cineri doloso.

How can a Man, who has the least Share of Understanding, flatter himself with Hopes of succeeding in an Enterprize, wherein he is sure of being opposed by all the thinking Men of Property, and Lovers of Liberty in the Three Kingdoms! How must the unhappy misled Wretches now in Arms against their august Sovereign tremble, on their reading in the *Gazette* the powerful List of 732 Loyal *London* Merchants, who have unanimously devoted their Lives and vast Fortunes to the Defence of his Majesty King *George*, and his Royal Family! — A firmer Bulwark than the

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fickle Turn-serving Promises of any Prince in *Christendom*. — If, therefore, you have the least Regard for your Life and Fortune, desist in Time from this unnatural Rebellion: Throw yourself at his Majesty's Royal Feet, and trust to his known Clemency for Mercy, before Matters are gone to such a Head, as to render Pardon inconsistent with the Wisdom and Policy of Government: Let not a Torrent of Popish Zeal transport you thus beyond the Bounds of Reason! A black Cloud is gathering, that soon will burst in Thunder on Rebellious Heads, which all the Power of *France*, assisted by the Blessings of his Holiness, cannot possibly avert.

Be-

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Beseeching the Almighty to grant your Grace a right Way of thinking, before the Day of Salvation be expired, I remain your Grace's,

Sincere Well-Wisher,

In every Thing but your present Undertaking,

And Most Obedient,

Tunbridge-Wells,
Sept. 17, 1745.

Humble Servant,

CHARLES JONES.

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The first thing I noticed
 when I stepped out of the car
 was the smell of fresh air.
 It was a relief after being
 stuck in traffic for hours.
 The sun was shining brightly
 and the birds were singing.
 I took a deep breath and
 felt a sense of freedom.
 The world seemed so much
 better when I was finally
 out of the city.
 I had been stuck in traffic
 for so long that I had
 almost forgotten how good
 it felt to be on the road.
 The wind was blowing in my
 face and I felt like I was
 flying.
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 for so long that I had
 almost forgotten how good
 it felt to be on the road.
 The wind was blowing in my
 face and I felt like I was
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CHARLES JONES