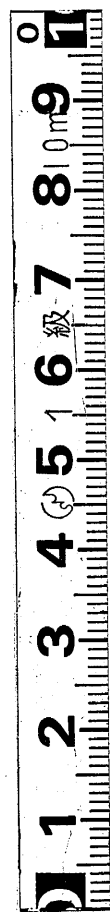


65-9



# EXCISE: X

Being a

COLLECTION

OF

LETTERS, &c.

CONTAINING,

The SENTIMENTS and INSTRUCTIONS  
of the Merchants, Traders, Gentry,  
and Inhabitants of the principal Cities,  
Counties, Towns, and Boroughs, in  
*England*, to their Representatives in  
Parliament, against a *New Excise*, or  
any Extension of *Excise Laws*, in what  
Shape soever.

The Whole

Alphabetically digested, with the NAMES of  
the MEMBERS who represent the said  
Cities and Counties, &c.

L O N D O N:

Printed for W. MEARS, at the *Lamb*, on *Ludgate-  
Hill*; and sold at all the Pamphlet-Shops in *London* and  
*Westminster*. MDCCXXIII.

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# EXCISE:

Being a

## COLLECTION

OF

## LETTERS, &c.

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St. ALBANS.

*Instructions given by the Corporation of St. Albans,  
under their Common Seal, to their Representatives  
in Parliament, at the late Election of a Member  
for that Borough.*

LONDON, Feb. 3.

SIR,

WE have chosen you to be our Representative in Parliament; which is the highest trust we can repose in you; and in return for so good a Confidence, we expect you will have a constant Regard for the Interest of your Country, and especially of this Borough: But as this is a very critical Conjunction, we think it necessary to give you *more particular Instructions*. In the first Place, Sir, As we are in profound Peace, we are surprized to find no Reduction of the *LAND Forces*, which we conceive to be dangerous to our Constitution; and we feel to be very burthenome and oppressive to us.

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In the next Place, we are alarmed with an Attempt to be made this Session of Parliament, for extending the *Excise Laws* to Commodities not yet excised. We hope, however, that these Reports are false, and raised by the Enemies to our Constitution, and to his Majesty's Government. But if any one, who calls himself an *Englishman*, should be so much an Enemy to his Majesty and us, to propose such a Scheme, we expect, Sir, from you, the most vigorous Opposition to it; for we look upon the Continuance of so great a Body of *Land Forces*, and an Increase of Excise Officers under our present Circumstances, as a sure Presage of an entire Subversion of the antient Constitution, and all the valuable Privileges belonging to it, which have so long distinguished us from our neighbour Nations.

A Constitution, Sir, that our Forefathers have, at the Expence of their Lives and Fortunes, delivered down safe to us, and which, we hope, we shall have the Virtue and Courage to deliver to latest Posterity, under a Succession of Princes issuing from his present most sacred Majesty; whose Family came in on the *Principles of Liberty*; who can be maintained on no other. Whoever, therefore, tries to sap up the Foundation of *Liberty*, is at the same Time undermining his Majesty's Title to the Crown; which Thoughts give us the utmost Abhorrence: And we expect from you, Sir, a constant and steady Pursuit of such Measures as will keep our Constitution, as near as may be, in the same Situation, under which it has long flourished. And we do not doubt, but in such a Conduct you will have the Assistance of our other worthy Member, and of all honest Englishmen.

Members.

Lord Viscount GRIMSTON,  
JOHN MERRILL Esq;

## BRISTOL.

City of BRISTOL, Jan. 10.

AT a Meeting of the Common Council this Day, the Question was put, Whether an Excise on any Goods now rated to the Customs, would be agreeable to the Sentiments of this House. It passed in the Negative *Nem. Con.* And it is resolved, *Nem. Con.* That should an

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an Excise be laid on any customable Merchandize, or home manufactured Goods, that it would be very detrimental to the Trader and Trade in general. And therefore it is unanimously ordered, That the Resolution of this House be communicated to the Representatives in Parliament for this City: And that they be desired from this House, to oppose, by all dutiful and legal Methods, any Attempt that shall be made to lay an Excise on any customable Merchandize, or home-manufactured Goods; and that a Moiety of the Expence of such Opposition be defray'd at the Expence of the Chamber of this City. And Mr. Chamberlain is hereby ordered to issue Money for that Purpose, in Conjunction with the Society of Merchants of this City.

CRAFTSMAN, Jan. 20.

Members.

JOHN SCROPE Esq;  
Sir ABRAHAM ELTON Bart.

## A LETTER from a Merchant in Bristol to a Member of Parliament.

SIR,

BRISTOL March 5. 1732.

THE inclosed is what I am desired to send to you; another of the same is sent to Mr. Scrope, which is what we think ourselves obliged to do, to vindicate ourselves from the vile scandalous Falsties in that Pamphlet, in which are so many Things contrary to Fact, that shews the the Writer's Design was only to defame the Merchants trading in Wine and Tobacco, without any Regard to Truth. As to the former I know nothing of it; but as to Tobacco, he says our Bonds are for three Years, which are but eighteen Months: We have Liberty to ship off Tobacco any Time within three Years after Importation; but the Bonds are demandable in eighteen Months; nor do I know of any Instance of longer Indulgence. The Frauds mention'd, Page 13. are such as we complained of to the Parliament, as committed in *Scotland* in 1721; but that such hath been committed by the *English* Merchants, the Author should have proved, before he charged us with such vile Practices, which we abhor; and as to this City, can declare, are absolutely false, and without the least Foundation;

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Foundation; and are ready to clear ourselves, as by the Inclosed. The best Way will be, that of the proper Officers sending up an Account of the imported Weights, compared with those they have from Virginia: For by a late Law in *Virginia*, all their Tobacco is weighed naked, and the Weights of each Hogshead sent to the Officers here, by which any considerable Fraud will be discovered, except common Shrinking; which appears to be about six or seven *per Cent.* Difference between the *Virginia* Weights and those taken here, where there is no Damage or Pilferage. In Page the 28th, he says, we press it to make it dry or Light: Which is ridiculous. It is pressed in the Plantations to make it heavy; on account of saving in the Freight, which is so much *per Hogshead*, be it heavy or light. And he further saith, we wet or water it to the Increase of one Fourth of the Weight on Exportation; whereas wetting Tobacco intirely spoils it, unless it be rolled, which formerly were shipped off in great Quantities, and an Increase was allowed on it, for the Encouragement of that Trade, which is now in Disuse, or in very small Parcels. Exorbitant Commission is another Article brought in, only to discredit Merchants among those that know not the Meaning of such a Charge. It sometimes happens the Planters send bad Tobacco, and the Markets low, that it will nett little more than the Freight, Duty, and incident Charges, which the Merchant advances, whose Commission may amount to eight, to twelve Shillings, and may be more than the Hogshead clears. Must the Merchant be arraigned for an Extortioner, for taking his allowed Commission of Two and a Half *per Cent.*? Must not he be a Villain that uses Mankind in this Manner? Fix the Frauds on particular Persons, Merchants, or Officers, and punish them as severe as the Laws will allow; but it is vile to decry and defame Men that have more Virtue, and greater Sense of Honour than himself, because they are Merchants, by whom alone the Nation hath been enabled to raise such vast Sums as it annually doth. To call the Opposers of Excise Jacobites, Republicans, Enemies to the King, &c. looks as if the Writer was a Garretteer, instead of a Member of Parliament.

I am,

Your Obedient humble Servant,

L. L.

BEDFORD.

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B E D F O R D.

WE hear the Corporation of *Bedford* have wrote to their Representatives in Parliament, requesting them to oppose any *New Excise*, or the converting any of the Customs into *Excises*.

CRAFTSMAN, Feb. 5.

Members.

JOHN ORLEBAR Esq;  
Sir JER. VANACKER SAMBROKE Kt.

B O S T O N in *Lincolnshire*.

THE Mayor, Aldermen, &c. of *Boston* in *Lincolnshire*, in Common Hall assembled, have wrote up to their Members to oppose any new Excise-Laws, or the Extension of the present Laws of Excise, under what Shape or Appearance it may be offer'd to the House; and the said Members have promised to oppose any Thing of that Kind which shall be offer'd.

D. POST, March 10.

Members.

Sir RICHARD EYLES,  
HEN. Lord COLERANE.

B I D E F O R D.

WE hear the Mayor, Aldermen, Capital Burgeses, and Merchants of the Town of *Bideford*, in the County of *Devon*, have sent a Letter to the Representatives in Parliament for the said County, desiring them to oppose any Attempt that shall be made to extend the Laws relating to the Excise.

CRAFTSMAN, Feb. 10.

Members for the County.

Sir WILLIAM COURTNEY Baronet,  
HENRY ROLLS Esq;

B E D.

## BEDWIN, Wilts.

WE hear that the Members for the Borough of *Great Bedwin*, in *Wiltshire*, have received a Letter signed by several of the most considerable Inhabitants of the said Borough, requesting them in the strongest Terms strenuously to oppose any *New Excise*, or Extension of the *Excise Laws*, in any Shape whatsoever.

CRAFTSMAN, Feb. 10.

Members.

WILLIAM SLOPER, } Esquires.  
FRANCIS SEYMOUR, }

## BRACKLY.

WE are inform'd the Borough of *Brackly*, in *Northamptonshire*, have follow'd the same laudable Example of *Nottingham* and *Hull*, to their Representatives in Parliament, requesting them to oppose any New Excise.

Members.

Sir PAUL METHUEN Knt. of the Bath.  
—— LEIGH Esq;

## COVENTRY.

COVENTRY, Jan. 20.

The under-written Letter was this Day sign'd by the Mayor, and the rest of the Aldermen, (except Alderman Keisley, who is Post-master,) and sent to each of our Representatives in Parliament, viz.

S I R,

WE being apprehensive that a Motion will be made during the present Session of Parliament, to convert some of the Customs into an Excise on Home Consumption; and having duly consider'd the pernicious Consequences that will ensue, should the same take Effect, not only to the Trade of this Kingdom, but the Liberties of the Subject; thought it our Duty to let you

know our Sentiments on this important Occasion, earnestly requesting you to oppose any *New Excise*, or any Extension of *Excise Laws* whatsoever.

CRAFTSMAN, July 27.

Members.

Sir ADOLPHUS OUGHTON Bart,  
JOHN NEALE Esq;

## CHESTER.

WE hear that the Mayor, Aldermen, and principal Merchants and Traders of the City of *Chester*, of all Parties, have united in a Letter to *Robert Grosvenor* Esq; one of their Representatives in Parliament, earnestly requesting him to oppose any *New Excise*, or Extension of the *Excise Laws*, in whatever Shape it may be attempted.

CRAFTSMAN, Feb. 17.

Members.

Sir RICHARD GROSVENOR Bart. (dead).  
Sir THOMAS GROSVENOR Bart.

## CANTERBURY.

S I R,

Feb. 10. 1732-3.

WE the Mayor, and Commonalty of this City, in Burghmote assembled, having taken into Consideration the Consequences of extending the Laws of *Excise* to any Commodities not yet excised; and being fully persuaded that the Extension of such Laws must not only be very prejudicial to the fair Trader, by subjecting him to many grievous Vexations from Officers, and a Multitude of other Inconveniences, too obvious to be repeated, but also may in Time be very dangerous to those Liberties and Properties of the Subjects of *Great Britain*, which they in a most distinguish'd Manner enjoy, beyond all other Nations of *Europe*, under the present happy Establishment, are come to a Resolution (*unanimè contradicente*) earnestly to recommend it to you, one of our Representatives in Parliament, (having by a like Letter recommended it to your Colleague,) that you do to the utmost of your Power oppose any Bill or Bills that shall be offer'd in Parliament for extending any of the present Laws of Excise, or making any new Provision

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whatsoever for excising any Commodities not as yet  
liable to the Laws of Excise.

SAWKINS.

By Order of the Court of Burghmote.

Members.

LOND. Even. Feb. 24

Sir WILLIAM HARDRESS } Bart.  
Sir THOMAS HALES }

COLCHESTER.

*A Copy of a Letter sent by the Corporation of Col-  
chester to their Representatives in Parliament,  
in relation to the Excise.*

GENTLEMEN,

**I**N Consequence of that Right we undoubtedly have to  
apply to our Representatives in Parliament on all Oc-  
casions, we take this Opportunity of complaining, That  
Trade has long labour'd under many Discouragements,  
not to call them Oppressions, in respect to the Laws of  
Excise, and particularly an undue and partial Execution  
of them; which Practice is become so odious and bur-  
thenfome, that nothing less than the Animadversion and  
Correction of Parliament can redress such a growing  
Evil.

During this melancholy Situation, and whilst the  
Mischiefs of the Laws that are already in being, touch-  
ing Excises, are universally felt and complain'd of, we  
can scarce give Credit to the Surmises of new ones of  
the like dangerous Tendency being propos'd; but lest  
contrary to the concurrent Sentiments of Persons of all  
Denominations, any one should be so forgetful of his  
Duty to his Country, as to attempt the Laying on any  
new Excise, on any Branch of Trade, in any Form, or  
on any Pretence whatsoever, we hope, nay, we expect,  
you should oppose it to the utmost of your Power, as  
an Affair dangerous to the very Being of Parliaments,  
and our excellent Constitution.

*We are, Sirs,*

*Yours, &c.*

*The*

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*The Answer of a Member of Parliament, to a Letter  
lately sent him from the Borough of —*

GENTLEMEN,

**I** Have receiv'd the Letter you have lately been plea-  
sed to honour me with; wherein you seem to be  
under great Apprehensions, that something will shortly  
be offer'd to the House, injurious to Trade, and dange-  
rous to the very Being of Parliaments, and our excel-  
lent Constitution. — Should that be the Case, I flat-  
ter my self you will never entertain so disadvantageous  
an Opinion of me, as to think I can be regardless of the  
Trust which you have reposed in me, or of that Duty  
which I owe my Country.

As to Trade, I have ever thought it a Matter of such  
Consequence, as to deserve the more immediate Care of  
the Representatives of a Trading People, almost prefe-  
rably to every other Consideration, as the surest Basis  
of the Riches, Strength, and Prosperity of these King-  
doms.

You are pleas'd, however, to own, that your Appre-  
hensions on this Occasion proceed from Surmises which  
you can scarce give Credit to; and I hope you will ve-  
ry soon be convinc'd, that they are without any real  
Foundation.

But as I am not acquainted with what is intended to  
be propos'd, I think it would very ill become me to  
be so far guided by implicit Faith, as either to approve  
or condemn what at present I am a Stranger to.

Should it tend to what Jealousy may possibly suggest,  
should it appear detrimental to Trade, dangerous to the  
Constitution of Parliaments, or the Liberties of my Fel-  
low-Subjects, I hope it is not in my Nature to forget  
that I am an Englishman.

But if, contrary to the Sentiments which are at pre-  
sent entertain'd by many Persons who wish well to their  
Country, it should prove a Benefit to Trade, by point-  
ing out a Remedy for the Frauds which are so univer-  
sally practis'd, to the great Discouragement and Preju-  
dice of the fair Trader; if, without creating any new  
Duties, or increasing those which are already establish'd;  
it should so considerably improve the Revenues, as upon  
any Emergency to supply the Necessities of the Publick;

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If the Government should be thereby enabled to lessen the National Debt, or give Ease to those Branches of Trade which are most burthensome to our poor Manufacturers; if this should be the Tendency of the Scheme, I am sure my Assent to it can't fail of your Approbation,

In Confidence of which, acting upon these Principles, and upon this Foundation, I can have no Reason to doubt the Continuance of your Favour, which it will always be my Endeavour to deserve.

Feb. 16. I am, Gentlemen, your most Faithful and Obedient Humble Servant.  
1732-3. \*\*\*\*\*

To the Mayor, Aldermen, Common-Council, and Burgeses of \*\*\*\*\*

A Reply from the Corporation to the Letter from one of their Members.

S I R,

I Had the Favour of yours; and communicated the Contents to many of those who lately troubled you with their Sentiments on the important Subject of Excise Laws; and I have Authority to assure you, that nothing in your Answer hath in the least alter'd our Thoughts; and if you vote for a Bill of that Nature, even in the Shape you seem to be pleas'd with, or in any other, you can't reasonably expect our Approbation, since we are fully convinc'd that all Excise Laws are destructive to Trade, Innovations on our ancient Rights, and altogether inconsistent with the true Interest of a Free People.

The specious Pretence of serving the fair Trader can no longer amuse us, when we too often see those very Laws, which were calculated for their Protection, used against them; nor can it be otherwise expected, whilst the Execution of those Laws is under the Management of such as by their ill Conduct have render'd themselves justly odious in all Parts of the Kingdom, by often making it a Part of their Duty to be troublesome, in hopes of meriting by their Activity and Vigilance.

If you would act agreeable to our Wishes and Inclinations, before you think of improving or extending the Revenues, make it a Preliminary, that the Laws of Excise be first regulated, and Trade and the poor Manufacturer

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facturer eased; and when this is done, assure yourself nothing will be more grateful to us, than to see the Necessities of the Government fully supplied, as well as proper Provisions made to answer all National Engagements, so as they are annual, and repeated no oftner than Occasion requires, and the Manner of Collection be made easy to the Subject. Acting on these Principles, you cannot fail of having the Approbation and Thanks of us, and all true Lovers of their Country.

COLCHESTER,  
Feb. 28. 1732-3.

I am, Sir,  
Your most Humble Servant,  
The MAYOR.

To Sam. Tuffnel Esq;  
DAILY-POST, March 3.

Members.

STAMP BROOKSBAND Esq;  
SAMUEL TUFFNEL Esq;

EXETER.

FROM Exeter, That the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of that City, being of Opinion, that an Extension of the Excise Laws would be prejudicial and burthensome to the Trade, and Subjects of this Kingdom, have requested their Representatives to exert their utmost Endeavours, and use their best Interest to prevent the Passing any Bill of that Kind.

Members.

JOAN BELFEILD Esq;  
FRANCIS DREWE Esq;

GROCKERS.

AT a Meeting of a great Number of eminent Grockers of the City of London, and Borough of Southwork, &c. Jan. 3. 1733.

Resolved, That the Grockers here present, will unanimously, as far as lies in their Power, use the most dutiful



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dutiful and lawful Means they can, by themselves and their Friends, most strenuously to oppose any new Excise, or Inland Duties, under the Excise Laws, or any Extension of the Excise Laws, under whatsoever Name or Title it may be attempted.

And whereas, many of us here present, are now under the Excise, and have been great Sufferers on that Account; sometimes by our own or Servants Omissions, without any fraudulent Design, but oftener by the Neglect, Mistakes, or Ignorance of the Excise-Officers; and have been so disturbed in our Trade, that some of us have already, and now more are leaving off the Trade of exciseable Goods, to the great Damage of our Families; that were a farther Excise laid on more Goods which we sell, it will not be only be next to impossible to carry on our Trade as Grocers, but as we apprehend it will be highly prejudicial to Trade in general, and may be dangerous to the Liberties and Properties of the whole Kingdom.

We do likewise unanimously agree, That we will write to our Chapmen and Friends in all the Cities and Boroughs to which we Trade, that they will make it their earnest Request to their several Representatives, and other Friends and Neighbours, who have a Seat in Parliament, that they will likewise oppose any new Excise, or any Extension of the Laws of Excise, under any Name or Title whatsoever.

That a Committee be appointed to act with the Committee of Citizens, Merchants, and Traders of London, appointed for that Purpose.

CRAFTSMAN, Jan. 13. 1732-3.

### GLOUCESTER.

*The following Letter, signed by a great Number of the principal Inhabitans of the City of Gloucester, was sent to each of their Representatives.*

SIR,

GLOUCESTER, Feb. 2. 1732-3.

**A**MIDST loud Complaints at the low Ebb of Trade, and the general Apprehensions of new Excise, to sink it lower at a Time when the Situation of publick Affairs flattered us into Hopes, that Measures would be taken

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taken to raise it, you, as one of our Representatives in Parliament, could not but expect and desire our *Sentiments* and *Instructions*.

It is indisputable that the Riches, Strength, and Glory of this Nation are owing to *Trade*; which, for that Reason, is certainly entitled to all the Favour, Protection, and Encouragement of our *Laws*.

We are fully convinced, that any *Extension of Excise Laws* will be not only detrimental to *Trade*, but injurious to our *Liberties*; and think it hard *those Liberties*, for the Preservation whereof *Taxes* are paid, should be hurt by the very Means of *Taxing*. It therefore highly concerns us, by all justifiable Ways, to avoid and prevent, if possible, any such *Extension*.

You need not now be told the many particular Grievances and Inconveniences, inseparable from such *Laws*, so we shall forbear enumerating them, and hasten to request that you will, nay, the Importance compels us to insist that you do, according to the Trust reposed in you, use your utmost Efforts in discouraging and opposing all Attempts to lay us under the Bondage thereof, as you will answer it to God, your Conscience, and your Country.

CRAFTSMAN, Feb. 17.

Members.

CHARLES SELWIN Esq;

BENJAMIN BATHURST Esq;

### HINDON.

*A Letter from the Inhabitants of Hindon, in Wilts, to their Representatives in Parliament.*

SIRS,

**A**S we have good Reason to apprehend, that there is an Intention of converting some of the Duties, now payable at the Custom-House, into Excise or Inland Duties, to the great Prejudice of the Trade of this Kingdom, and Dangers of the Liberties of the People: We the Inhabitants and Traders of this Borough of *Hindon*, have thought it our Duty to let you



you know our Sentiments upon it; and we intreat you (as you value the Interest of the Inhabitants, and the Good of your Country) to oppose and vote against any new Excise, or any Extension of the Excise Laws, that may be offered, on any Pretence whatsoever. And we hope you will not be induced, for any Considerations to give your Consents, that any customable Duty, should be converted into an Inland Duty, by which there may be an Increase of Officers, who have been already found a great Grievance to the People; though Policy may oblige the PROJECTOR of such Schemes to say otherwise.

*Signed by us, the Inhabitants and Traders of the Borough of Hindon, this 16th Day of Feb. 1732-3.*

DAILY-POST, March 7.

Members.

TOWNSEND ANDREWS Esq;  
GEORGE HEATHCOTE Esq;

#### HULL.

THAT strict Application has been made to their Members, to the same Effect of that of Nottingham.

LONDON EVENING-POST, Jan. 18.

Members.

#### Hamborough and Holland Merchants.

ON Thursday, at a Meeting of a great Number of Hamborough and Holland Merchants, and Linnen-Drapers of this City, they unanimously resolved, as far as lies in their Power, to use the most dutiful and lawful Means they can, by themselves and Friends, strenuously to oppose any new Excise, or Extension of the Excise Laws, under any Denomination whatsoever; and a Committee was appointed for that Purpose.

LOND. EVEN. Jan. 13.

KENT,

#### KENT.

Jan. 20. 1732-3.

AS the Advocates for the Extension of the Excise Laws have denied that those Officers do at any Time, in the Execution of their Office, commit illegal Actions, or Attempts to invade the Rights and Properties of the Subject, and have called for Instances of any such Proceedings, I herewith send you a Case, which you may depend on Matter of Fact, and do desire you to publish it for their better Information.

THE latter End of the last Month, on a Sunday, when an honest Farmer in this Neighbourhood was at Church, the Supervisor of Excise came to his House, with an Officer of Excise or two, and two or three Dragoons, and searched his Barns, Stables, &c. moving his Corn, Fodder, &c. and doing him considerable Mischief, but were gone before the Man came home. In the Evening of the same Day, there came another Excise Officer, with a Cornet of Dragoons, and two or three more Dragoons: It being pretty dark, and the Farmer within, and observing some People about his Door, he took his Fork and went to the Door. Upon which they told him, they were come to search his House for uncustomed Good: The Man told them he had none: They told him they must search. Says the Man, Have you a Warrant? They replied, No; but they must search. The Man replied, if you have a Warrant you shall search; but if you have not, not a Man of you shall enter my House. Upon this the Cornet of Dragoons cocked his Pistol, and told the Man, that if he did not immediately give Way, and let them in, he would shoot him through the Head. The Man standing in the Door-Case, bid him be sure of his Fire, for if he missed, his Fork should be in his Guts. Upon this they thought fit to withdraw.

The honest Farmer coming soon after to complain to a Justice of Peace, he sent to the Supervisor of Excise, that he might appear before the Bench of Justices at their Sitzings at Ashford, and order'd the other Excise Officer to appear, to answer to this Matter. Upon his appearing (which was the 6th Instant,) he at first insisted, he could search any House by Virtue of his Office. But being over-ruled in that, and being told, that no Officer

for

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could search any private House, but by a special Warrant for that Purpose, granted upon the Oath of the Officer that he had some special Reason for suspecting the Person's House he would search, which Cause must be thought sufficient by the Justice who grants the Warrant; the Supervisor then said he had a Warrant at Home, which being sent for, appeared to be to this Purpose.

*Whereas I have received Information from A. B. that he hath Reason to suspect that several Retailers of Brandy, Tea, &c. do secret Brandy, Tea, &c. in Rooms and Places not entered; these are to authorize you, the said A. B. to enter into and search all Rooms and Places of such Retailers, &c. and other neighbouring Houses.*

This Warrant bore an old Date. Upon this the Supervisor was told by the Justices, that this Warrant, such as it was, could not justify him, or give him any Authority to search the honest Farmer's House; and as he had done so illegal an Action, he must answer for it, and they were obliged to do the Man so much Justice as to bind the Officer over to the Quarter-Sessions, which being in two or three Days after, the Supervisor, &c. were indicted, and the Bill being found by the Grand Jury, he traversed the Indictment, which will be try'd next Sessions, unless it be moved by *Certiorari* to the *King's-Bench*. This, I think, is a flagrant Instance of what would be done, and is evidently aimed at by the Excise Officers, and the armed Forces that is dispersed all over the Country to assist them.

I am,  
Your humble Servant.

#### LANCASTER.

WE have an Account from Lancaster, that the Mayor, Aldermen, and Merchants, with the rest of the considerable People of that Corporation, appointed a Meeting to consider of the Dangers and Misfortunes that an Excise might bring upon that Port, and all other, as well as upon the Nation in general; and therefore resolved upon, and did write a Letter to their Members to be against an Excise.

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Excise, in what Form, and under what Denomination soever.

CRAFTSMAN, Feb. 5. 1732-3.  
Members.

Sir THOMAS LOWTHER Bart,  
CHRISTOPHER TOWER Esq;

#### LEICESTER.

FROM Leicester, that at a Court of Aldermen and Common Council, in the Common Hall Assembled, it was unanimously resolved, That Mr. Mayor do write in the Name of this Corporation, to the Representatives in Parliament, for their Borough and County, earnestly desiring them to oppose any new Excise, or any Extension of Excise Laws, under what Name or Pretence soever it may be attempted.

LONDON EVENING POST, Jan. 6. 1732-3.  
Members.

Sir GEORGE BEAUMONT,  
GEORGE WRIGHT Esq;

#### LONDON.

AT a Meeting Yesterday Se'nnight of a great Number of Merchants, Traders and Citizens, at the Swan Tavern in Cornhill, it was unanimously resolved "That the Merchants, Traders, and Citizens, here present, will act with the utmost Unanimity, and by all dutiful and lawful Methods, strenuously oppose any new Excise, or any Extension of the Excise Laws, under what ever Name or Pretence it may be attempted." And they deputed Sir William Chapman, Mr. Alderman Chapman, Mr. Alderman Godseal, Sir John Grosvenor, Mr. Willmot, Mr. Bosworth, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Bradley, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Chittys, Mr. Pearse, Mr. Haswell, Mr. Hyde, Mr. Lockwood, Mr. Weyland, Mr. Harris, Mr. Hyme, Mr. Cliver, Mr. Dash, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Newnam, Mr. Standford, Mr. Foy, and Mr. Dunwalf, to wait upon the four Representatives of this City, with the said Resolution; and in the most earnest Manner request them,

in the Names of the Merchants, Traders, and Citizens there met, to oppose with the utmost Vigour and Resolution, any Motion of that kind in the House of Commons.

CRAFTSMAN, Dec. 30. 1733.

Yesterday a Committee appointed by the several Merchants and eminent Traders of this City, went in a Body and waited on the Rt. Hon. Arthur Onslow, Esq; Speaker of the House of Commons, concerning the Affair of the General Excise, which they are apprehensive will be brought before the House the ensuing Session of Parliament.

LONDON EVENING POST, Jan. 13. 1733.

#### London Merchants.

At a Meeting of a great Number of Citizens, Merchants, and Traders of the City of London, the 22d of December, 1733.

It was unanimously resolved, That the Citizens, Merchants, and Traders, here present, will act with the utmost Unanimity, and by all dutiful and lawful Methods, strenuously to oppose any new Excise, or any Extension of the Excise Laws, under whatever Name or Pretence it may be attempted.

That the Committee, appointed for that Purpose, do wait on the four Representatives of this City with the said Resolution; and, in the most earnest Manner, request them in the Name of the said Citizens, Merchants, and Traders, to oppose, with the utmost Vigour and Resolution, any Motion of that kind in the House of Commons; for should such Excise, or Extension of Excise Laws, take Effect, it be will highly prejudicial to the Trade, Manufactures, and Navigation, as well as dangerous to the Liberties of the whole Kingdom; that the said Committee do wait on every Citizen who has a Seat in Parliament, with the same Resolution and Request.

CRAFTSMAN, Jan. 6. 1734.

Feb. 15. 1732.

At a Common Council, held this Day at Guildhall, the following Representation was resolved Nemine Contradicente.

The Representation of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, to Sir John Eyles, Mr. Alderman Parsons, Sir John Barnard, and Mr. Alderman Perry, Representatives in Parliament.

THIS Court doth apprehend, from the Experience of the Laws of Excise now in being, that extending those Laws to any Commodities not yet excised, must necessarily be very prejudicial to Trade, both as it will probably diminish the Consumption of the Commodities to be excised, and subject the fair Trader to the frequent and arbitrary Visitation of Officers, and the judicial Determination of Commissioners, removeable at Pleasure, from whom there is no Appeal.

That the Extension of such Laws must necessarily increase the Number and Power of Officers, which will be inconsistent with those Principles of Liberty on which our happy Constitution is founded, and will further deprive the Subjects of England of some of those valuable Privileges, which have hitherto distinguished them from the neighbouring Nations.

Wherefore this Court doth earnestly recommend it to you, their Representatives, to use your utmost Diligence in opposing a Scheme of this Nature, should any such be offered in Parliament, in any Shape, or however limited in its first Appearance; being fully convinced, than an Inland Duty on Goods, now rated at the Custom-house, cannot be effectually collected, even with an Extension of the Powers, or the severest Exercise of all the Rigours of the present Laws of Excise.

Members.

Sir JOHN EYLES.  
HUMPHRY PARSONS Esq;  
Sir JOHN BARNARD.  
MICAIAH PERRY Esq;

CRAFTSMAN, Feb. 17. 1733.

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A Great Number of eminent Citizens of London, met last *Saturday* at the *Mitre-Tavern* in *Fleet-Street*, to concert Measures for Petitioning against a New *Excise*.

CRAFTSMAN, Feb. 20 1733.

### LIVERPOOL.

AT a general Meeting of the Merchants and Traders of that Corporation, on *Saturday* last, they came to the same Resolutions with the Gentlemen of London, against any farther *Excise*.

CRAFTSMAN, Jan. 6. 1732-3.

THE Merchants of *Liverpool*, have written to most of the Towns in that County, desiring their Friends to make early Application to every Member of Parliament they have the least Pretension to ask Favour from, to oppose every Attempt of any new *Excise*, or any Extension of the *Excise Laws*, in any Shape whatever.

CRAFTSMAN, Jan. 20. 1732-3.

Members.

THOMAS BOOTH Esq;  
Sir THOMAS ASTON.

### L T N N.

MONDAY a Deputation from the Inhabitants of *Lynn Regis* in *Norfolk*, arrived in Town from thence, in order to wait upon Sir ROBERT WALPOLE and Sir CHARLES TURNER, their Representatives in Parliament, earnestly to require them to oppose any Thing that may be offer'd towards an *Excise* on certain Commodities.

CRAFTSMAN, Jan. 20. 1732-3.

Members.

Sir ROBERT WALPOLE,  
Sir CHARLES TURNER.

N O R

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### N O R W I C H.

LETTERS from *Norwich* advise, That the Traders in Tobacco of that City, have wrote circular Letters to their Members, and also to those of the County, and of the several Boroughs therein, earnestly requesting them to oppose the turning the Duty on Tobacco, &c. into an *Excise*.

FOGG, Jan. 13. 1732-3.

Members.

WALLER BACON Esq;  
ROBERT BRITIFFE Esq;

### N O R T H A M P T O N.

THE Borough of *Northampton*, have likewise made the same Application to their Representatives as that of *Coventry*.

CRAFTSMAN, Jan. 27. 1732-3.

Members.

Hon. EDWARD MOUNTAGUE Esq;  
GEORGE COMPTON Esq;

### N E W C A S T L E upon Tyne.

Newcastle upon Tyne, Jan. 24. 1732-3.

AT a Merchants Court held here this Day, several of the Company taking Notice how much they have suffered by the present *Excise Laws*, upon Tea, Coffee, Liquors, &c. insomuch that some had been obliged to lay aside those Branches of their Business; it was unanimously agreed, That any Extension of the present *Excise Laws*, to Wine, Tobacco, Sugar, &c. would be highly detrimental to the Trade of this Company, and, we conceive, to that of the whole Nation. It was therefore resolved, Nemine Contradicente, to use all dutiful and legal Methods to oppose any such new *Excise*, under what Denomination soever it may be attempted; and that the Expence of such Opposition be paid by the Wardens of this Company, by the Order

der of the Governor. And it is also order'd, That the Representatives in Parliament of this Corporation be acquainted with this our Resolution, and be desir'd in the Name of this Company, on behalf of themselves, and the rest of the Trading Burgeses, to use their utmost Endeavours to prevent any such Bill from passing.

CRAFTSMAN, Feb. 10. 1732-3.

Members.

WILLIAM CARR Esq;  
NICHOLAS FENWICK Esq;

### NEW BURY.

To Sir John Stonehouse Bart. and Winchcomb-Howard Packer Esq; Representatives in Parliament for the County of Berks.

The humble Petition of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgeses of the Borough of Newbury, in Behalf of themselves and other chief Inhabitants of the said Borough.

SH EWETH,

THAT the present Excise upon several Commodities already excised, is vastly inconvenient and troublesome to the Traders in it; and that the least Increase therein will increase their Burthen, and a General Excise render Trade intolerable to them; which plainly appears from the Necessity there must be of frequently having their Stocks of Goods weigh'd and measur'd, and applying to Officers for Permits to send out the same; so that they would have but little Opportunity left for Trade. And further, it would subject their Customers and Consumptions to the Knowledge of Persons no way fit to be let into it, as well as being Masters of too great Consequence to be try'd before Commissioners, who in reality are Parties, and so render'd quite unfit for Judges.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray, That you will, to the utmost, oppose any Attempt that may be made for burthening us with any new Excise, or any ways extending of the present Excise.

NOT.

### NOTTINGHAM.

A Letter to one of the Representatives in Parliament for the Town of Nottingham, sign'd by most of the principal Merchants and Tradesmen of the said Town.

SIR,

THIS Day we (most of the principal Merchants and Tradesmen of this Town) met together, to consult about the Consequences of a Bill design'd (as reported) to be brought into the House of Commons this Session, for turning the Duty on Tobacco, Wine, and other Commodities, into an Excise; and having read and observ'd the Reasons publish'd in print against it, and well weigh'd the ill Consequences of it, or any other Extension of the Excise, if pass'd into a Law, do think the same would infringe upon the Liberties we have hitherto so happily enjoy'd; particularly the subjecting our Houses to the Inspection of little Officers, by Day or Night, when they please, we having frequent Experience of their being too troublesome and oppressive here already, and of the Difficulty of being heard and reliev'd against their Oppressions and false Representations by those Gentlemen to whom only there is any Appeal, when moved for by even the best affected to his Majesty: We are therefore determin'd to exert ourselves against making such a Law, and do earnestly intreat you, Sir, to use your utmost Endeavours to prevent the passing any Bill, to subject the Traders to the Laws of Excise, or any further Extension of them than what they are now subject to; or any Thing that may be a Discouragement to our Commerce, or against the Liberty or Property of our Trade; and herein you will oblige the Tradesmen of the Nation in general, and particularly, worthy Sir,

Your most humble Servants.

LONDON EVENING POST, Feb. 1. 1732-3.

Members.

Hon. Sir JOHN STANHOPE,  
BORLACE WARREN Esq;

D O R F O R D

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O R F O R D.

THE Ancient Corporation of Orford in Suffolk, have wrote to their Representatives, to oppose the extortion of Excise, in whatever Shape it may come into Parliament.

LONDON EVENING POST, Feb. 22. 1732-3.

Members.

ROBERT KEMP Esq;  
WILLIAM ACTON Esq;

R O C H E S T E R.

Instructions from the City of Rochester, under their common Seal, to Sir John Jennings Knt. and David Polhill Esq; their Representatives.

S I R,

A Just Concern for the Interest of our Country, and the general Uneasiness of the good People of England at this Juncture, occasioned by their Apprehensions of an intended Extension of the Excise Laws, have moved us to represent to you our entire Disapprobation of any such Design. We had not so long deferred giving you our Sentiments in this Affair, could we have believed that such an open Invasion of our Liberties, established by MAGNA CHARTA, could have been attempted at this Time

Therefore we, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council assembled, do hereby make it our Request to you, on behalf of ourselves and the rest of our Fellow-Citizens, (in case any Motion should be made in order to bring in a Bill for a farther Excise, under what Title, or Denomination soever the same shall be,) that you will with the utmost Vigour and Resolution, oppose the same, it being (as we conceive) so great an Infringement of our ancient Liberties, so very detrimental to Trade, and so universally disliked by all impartial and disinterested People. When the Union of the two Kingdoms was under the Consideration of the Hon. House

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of Commons, our then worthy Member, Sir Stafford Fairbourn, requested the Mayor to call a Common-Hall, that he might have the Sentiments of his Electors on that important Affair: A Noble Instance of our undoubted Liberties! We therefore expect [\* agreeable to your former Conduct among our Kentish Worthies] that you will allow us a Right of applying to you, on this important Occasion, especially as our only Motive is the Good of our Country, which we cannot but hope you have with us sincerely and solely at Heart.

Given under our Common Seal the 5th Day of February, 1732.

CRAFTSMAN, Feb. 17.

Members

Sir JOHN JENNINGS Knt.  
DAVID POLHILL Esq;

To the Author of the DAILY POST.

S I R,

ROCHESTER, March 4. 1733.

I Desire you will please to give the underwritten a Place in your next, and you will oblige your constant Reader,

PHILO-ANGL.

" Mr. Osborne, in his Letter of the 17th of February, for a Confirmation of the Madness of the People, says the Rochester Instructions to their Members are an evident Proof. But that Hireling has not perhaps seen a Collection of the many Grievances they labour under, so many as will give every Lover of his Country great Concern; a Summary of which he may expect speedily.

" The Instructions sent to their Members, were under their Common Seal, legally obtained and carried in Court by a very great Majority, as will appear by their Minute Book, a Copy of which, I am informed, has been required by a Neighbouring Person in Power, of whom Mr. Osborne might have been

\* Omitted in that directed to Sir John Jennings.

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" better



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“ better informed, and not have published such notorious Falshoods in his Journal of the 24th past

DAILY POST, March 6.

R Y E.

*The following Letter from the Town of Rye, in the County of Suffex, was sent to Philip Gibbon and Matthew Norris Esqrs, their Representative in Parliament.*

HONOUR'D SIRs,

W HEN first we heard the Report of a new or additional Excise, to be attempted this Session of Parliment, we looked upon it as a Story invented to create Uneasiness in the Minds of the People, not supposing it could enter into the Heart of any *Englishman* to impose such a Burden upon the Nation, or that (at a Time when we have Peace with all the World) we should become subject to an infamous Method of raising Taxes, unknown to our Forefathers, even in their greatest Necessities: We could not imagine this to be the Reward of so much Blood spilt, and Treasure spent, in Defence of our dear Liberties; that it was for this the Subjects of *Great Britain* had raised such Numbers of brave Men, and such astonishing Sums of Money; that this was to be the Reward of so many glorious Campaigns and Victories, and the Fruits of Treaties lately concluded with all the Power of *Europe*, and said to be so much for the Honour and Advantage of this Kingdom. Our Zeal for his Majesty, and the Blessings we hope from the Succession in his illustrious House, would not suffer us to entertain a Thought of so dangerous a Step from any one in his Service; nor could we suspect a *British* Parliament would suffer a Scheme so plainly tending to the Ruin of Trade and Subversion of our excellent Constitution, even to be proposed with Impunity to the Author. These Considerations, this great Confidence in our Governors, prevented our Belief of any Danger, till we now see the Design owned, and Books dispersed from the Publick

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lick Offices endeavouring to prepare our Minds quietly to suffer ourselves to be fettered. What a surprizing Grief must this be to all true Lovers of their Country! how shocking! at a Time when they justly hoped to be eased of such of those heavy Taxes as most sensibly affect their Trade and Manufactures; to be freed from that abominable modern Practice of trying Causes betwixt the Sovereign and the Subject without Juries, by Persons employed and entirely dependant on the Crown; when they expected a Reduction in the Military Forces, and the National Expences gradually lessened. These pleasing flattering Hopes soon vanishing, we now, alas! see the Monster ready to devour us. To you, therefore, our worthy Representatives, after the Example of many other Towns and Places, we fly for Protection: With you we have intrusted our All; and from you we expect the utmost of your Endeavours for our Security: To you we recommend our Interest, and that of our dear Country; desiring, to the very best of your Power, you'll oppose any Extension of the Excise Laws, under what Pretence, or in whatever Shape or Dress it may be presented: Let it extend to no one Species of Goods not yet excised; for there is no Room to doubt the same Measures now used to establish an additional Herd of Officers all over the Country will prevail hereafter to find Employment, granting one Duty after another, till the Excise be general, and the Nation's Misery compleat.

From your known Affection to his Majesty, his Family, and Government, from your Love of your Country, we promise ourselves you'll heartily struggle to render abortive a Scheme equally injurious to both. We are sensible his Majesty places his chief Happiness in the Affection of his Subjects, and would not impose on them any Thing grievous: It is well known the Extension of the Excise Laws is what the Nation in general hath a Dread and Abhorrence of, and would (it is to be feared) create a Murmuring and Dissatisfaction amongst many Well-wishers to the present happy Establishment; to prevent which, every good Subject ought to contribute his Endeavours; we therefore, again and again, beg you'll exert yourselves at this critical Juncture, and do every Thing in your Power to secure us from the impending Danger, by which you'll render



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der an important Service to your Country, and ever oblige,

Honoured Sirs,

*Given under the Common*

*Seal of Rye, the 15th.*

*Day of Feb. 1732-3.*

Your most Obedient,  
and

Most humble Servants,

The Mayor, Jurats, and Commonalty of  
the ancient Town of Rye.

LONDON EVENING. Feb. 26.

### READING.

*A Copy of a Letter, from the Inhabitants (being Burgeses) of the Town of Reading, in the County of Berks, to their Representatives.*

S I R,

THE general Clamour against an additional Excise, and the worthy Example set us by the Citizens of London, excite us to address ourselves to you as one of our Representatives; humbly requesting you to use your utmost Endeavours against so growing an Evil.

You justly consider the great Weight the Subject groan under, from the many Taxes and Duties already imposed.

That the Nature of this Duty now in question, takes from us that valuable Blessing of being tried *per pares*, saps and undermines the very Foundation of our Constitution, so much envied by all *Europe*.

You, Sir, like a good Physician, will oppose the very Beginning of a Disease. It is very easy to prevent a Mischief, which is not easy, nor possible to remedy: Your Wisdom can foresee and obviate Inconveniences too strong to be removed, when they are once established.

As your Zeal for the Good of your Country, has shewed itself upon all Occasion, we need not remind you of the pernicious Consequences from this overgrown Monster, this great LEVIATHAN, the EXCISE, nor need we urge how sensible our Ancestors were of the dreadful Effects it would bring forth; so sensible that

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that they could not bear the Name, much less the Burthen, although disguised under the specious Pretence of Necessity; and some more honourable, have not scrupled to say, "That they would be hanged at the Door of the House of Commons, before they would give their Consent".

If they had so great a Regard for us, will it not become us likewise so to distinguish ourselves to our Posterity?

We hope, Sir, you have nothing more at Heart.

This is the Fatal Rock we must inevitably split against, if you and the other Representatives, as skillful Pilots, avoid not the Danger by your Wisdom and stedfast Resolution.

Should an Excise become general, should this Evil grow epidemical, would not every Free Briton think the Promoter of it an Enemy to his Country? Would he not justly incur the Censure of the Roman Senate, and deserve to have that Sentence denounced against him, *Curse on the Man who owes his Greatness to his Country's Ruin?*

Your Sentiments we hope are so conformable to this, that we have troubled you too much, and therefore beg Leave to subscribe ourselves,

Your most Obedient Servants, &c.

CRAFTSMAN, Jan. 20. 1733.

Members.

RICHARD TOMPSON Esq.

RICHARD PATTINGER Esq.

### RIPPON.

*The following Letter was wrote by the People of Rippon to their Representative in Parliament.*

To the Hon. William Aislaby Esq; Member of Parliament, in Albermarle-Street, London.

S I R,

RIPPON, Jan. 21. 1732-3.

BY current Reports, from most Parts of the Kingdom, we hear that a Bill is intended to be brought into Parliament for an Excise, and are apprehensive, that if it should pass, it would reduce the Trade of this Town to the lowest Extremity; our Situation is such

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such, that we are circumscribed in Trade, being chiefly Retailers: Besides, if the Management of such Duties should be under the Inspection of Officers, and the Duties intended to be laid on should be paid by the last Retailer or Vendor, the Trouble and Inconvenience would be insupportable to the Inland Trade in general.

Therefore, Sir, we most earnestly request you will be pleased to use your utmost Interest in opposing any such Bill; and that you will communicate this our Request to your Cousin *Aislabe*, and the rest of your Friends, in such a Manner as you shall think most proper. In this you will still add to the many Favours conferred on us, who are, with Esteem,

S I R,

Your most Obedient,  
and obliged Servants, &c.

### S O U T H W A R K.

ON *Wednesday* last there was a meeting of the principal Traders of the Borough of *Southwark*, when they resolv'd to depute proper Persons to wait on their two Representatives, and earnestly desire them to oppose any Motion that shall be made in the House of Commons for a New Excise.

CRAFTSMAN, *Jan. 6. 1732-3.*

AT a meeting of great numbers of Merchants, Traders, and other Inhabitants of the Borough of *Southwark*, on *Monday* last, it was agreed to act with the utmost Unanimity, and by all dutiful and lawful Methods, strenuously to oppose any new Excise, or any Extension of Excise Laws, under whatever Name or Pretence it may be attempted; and a Committee of Twenty-one of the principal Traders in the said Borough was appointed to wait on their Representatives with the said Resolution, and in the most earnest Manner request them, in the Name of the said Merchants, Traders, and Inhabitants, to oppose with the utmost Vigour and Resolution, any Motion of that Kind in the House of Commons; for

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should such Excise-Laws take Effect, it will be highly prejudicial to the Trade, Manufacture, and Navigation, as well as dangerous to the Liberties of the whole Kingdom.

CRAFTSMAN, *July 13. 1732-3.*

Members.

Sir JOSEPH EYLES Knt.  
THO. INWEN Esq,

### S A L O P and S H R E W S B U R Y,

THE Members for the County of *Salop* and Town of *Shrewsbury* have receiv'd a Letter, sign'd by several of the most considerable Traders, Inhabitants of the said Town, requesting them in the strongest Terms strenuously to oppose any New Excise, or Extension of the Excise Laws, in any Shape whatsoever.

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb. 17.*

Members for *Salop* County.

JOHN WALCOT,  
WILLIAM LACON CHILD, } Esquires

*Salop* Town.

Sir JOHN ASTLEY Bart.  
RICHARD LISTER Esq;

### S T A M F O R D.

WE hear from *Stamford* in *Lincolnshire*, that the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common-Council, in Common-Hall assembled, have unanimously resolved earnestly to request the Members of their Borough, and also the Representatives for the County of *Lincoln*, to oppose any new Excise, or Extension of the Laws of Excise, under whatever Name or Pretence it may be attempted.

Members.

WILLIAM NOELE Esq;  
ROBERT SHIRLEY Esq;

### S O U T H A M P T O N.

LAST Week the Mayor and Principal Merchants and Traders of the County of *Southampton*, wrote

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a Letter to their Member, *Anthony Henly* Esq; desiring that he would oppose to the utmost of his Power any Bill that should be brought into Parliament, for an *Excise* on any Goods now payable at the Custom-house, on any Extension of the *Excise Laws*.

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb. 5. 1732-3.*

Members.

WILLIAM HEATHCOAT Esq;  
ANTHONY HENLY Esq.

STRATFORD upon Avon.

WE hear the Mayor, Aldermen, Burgeffes, and chief Inhabitants, of the ancient Borough of *Stratford upon Avon*, in the County of *Warwick*, have wrote to the Representatives in Parliament for the said County, desiring them to oppose any *New Excise*, or *Extension* of *Excise Laws*, in any Shape whatsoever. Notwithstanding the Opposition given to it by Councillor *Clopton*, yet the same was done with great Ease and Unanimity.

CRAFTSMAN, *March 3. 1732-3.*

Members.

Hon. EDWARD DIGBY.  
WILLIAM PEYTON Esq;

SUDBURY.

Copy of a Letter from the Borough of *Sudbury* in the County of *Suffolk*, to *John Knight* and *Carteret Leeths Esqrs*, their Representatives in Parliament.

GENTLEMEN,

*Feb. 19. 1732-3.*

THE many gradual Advances that the Laws of *Excise* have made upon us, proves burthensome and discouraging to Trade; and the present Design, which we hear is on Foot, to extend them further, gives us too much Reason to fear, that they will increase to so great a Number, as will prove fatal to Trade and the Liberty of Subject.

And

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And therefore, as you are our Representatives in Parliament, we earnestly request, nay, let us conjure you, by all the Obligations which the important Trust reposed in you, and your high Station, lays you under, that if a Motion for extending the said Laws any further should be made in Parliament, you would strenuously oppose it, and thereby demonstrate you are acting becoming the Representatives of a Trading Borough in the Hon. House of Commons of *Great Britain*; which will much oblige many of the Electors of the Borough of *Sudbury*, and

Your Humble Servants.

TAUNTON.

SOME Days ago the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of the Borough of *Taunton*, in *Somersetshire*, and also the Gentlemen, Traders, and principal Inhabitants of that populous Town, met and order'd Letters to be sent to their Representatives in Parliament, for that Town and County, and to all the Gentlement of the County, who have Seats in Parliament, earnestly desiring them to oppose an *Excise* in any Shape on Goods now rated at the Custom House, and any *Extension* of the *English Laws*.

CRAFTSMAN, *Feb. 5. 1732-3.*

Members.

FRANCIS FANE Esq;  
GEORGE SPEAKE Esq;

TOBACCONISTS.

AT a General Meeting of the Tobacconists of *London*, held Yesterday at the *Runner-Tavern* in *Queen-Street*, it was unanimously resolved to act in Concert with the Committee appointed by the Citizens, Merchants, and Traders of *London*; and by all just and lawful Means to oppose any new *Excise*, or *Extension* of the *Excise Laws*, under whatever Name or Pretence it may be attempted: And a Committee was appointed for that Purpose.

LOND. EVEN. *Jan. 9.*

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VINT

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VINTNERS.

WE hear a Court of Assistance of the worshipful Company of *Vintners* was held on *Thursday* at their Hall in *Thames-Street*; at which Time a great Number of Dealers of Wine attended there, in order to oppose, by all dutiful and lawful Methods, any new Excise, under whatever Name or Pretence may be attempted. LOND. EVEN. Jan. 13.

WORCESTER.

THE Borough of *Worcester* have made the same Application to their Representatives, as that of *Coventry*.

CRAFTSMAN, Jan. 27.

Members.

SAMUEL SANDYS Esq;  
Sir RICHARD LANE Knt.

WARWICK.

THE Members of the Borough of *Warwick* have received a Letter signed by the Mayor, Aldermen, and principal Inhabitants of the said Borough, requesting them, in the strongest Terms to oppose any new Excise, or Extention of the Excise Laws, in any Shape whatsoever.

CRAFTSMAN, Feb. 10.

Members.

Sir WILL. KEYS Bart.  
WILL. BROMLEY, Jun. Esq;

WHITEHAVEN.

ON the 25th past, the Merchants and Traders of *Whitehaven* met, and unanimously resolved to write to the Representatives in Parliament for *Cumberland*,

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*berland*, and desire them to oppose any Attempt which may be made, for laying any new Excise, or extending the present Excise Laws.

CRAFTSMAN, Feb. 10.

Members for Cumberland.

GILFRID LAWSON Esq;  
JOHN LOWDER Esq,

WOODSTOCK.

Feb. 22. 1732-3.

To the Hon. Mr. John Spencer.

SIR,

WE are greatly alarmed here with a Report, that there will be a Proposal made this Session of Parliament for laying several new Excises; which obliges us to have Recourse to you, who are one of our Representatives, (and the only one whose Health will permit him to serve us,) to desire you will, to the utmost of your Power, oppose any Thing of that Sort, if it is offered; and we think it our Duty, on so extraordinary an Occasion, to put you in mind of yours, which is to serve us. We are, with Reason, afraid that an Increase of Excise Officers may in Time endanger our most valuable Privilege of chusing freely our own Representatives; and when that is done, we know we can be no longer a free People: As long as we are so, we shall always chuse Men of good Families and Fortunes; when we are not, we must for Form's sake send somebody, but it will be whom we are ordered; for that Reason it is highly your Interest to oppose any Project that may take away our free Choice. Expecting you will follow our Instructions,

We are your most humble Servants.

Given under our Common Seal the 23d Day of Feb. 1732-3.

LOND. EVENING.

Members.

Hon. Mr. JOHN SPENCER,  
SAMUEL TROTMAN Esq;

WOGAN.

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## WOGAN.

*The following Letter, signed by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgeſſes of Wogan, has been ſent to their Representatives.*

SIR,

**W**E think our Representatives in Parliament, as Guardians of the Rights and Liberties of the People, are inveſted with a Truſt of the higheſt and laſt Importance; and it is to be hoped that if we did not apply to you, you would, in return for the great Confidence we reſoſe in you, on all Occaſions have a due Regard for the Reſervation of that valuable Part of our Conſtitution, whereby the Enjoyment of thoſe Rights and Liberties have been ſecured to us.

The Propoſal for increaſing or extending the Laws of Excife, that has been of late much talked of, has been the Cauſe of ſome Diſſatisfaction here; and the Pamphlet handed about amongſt us in favour of it, has rather increaſed, than diminifhed our Apprehenſions, by giving us a nearer Proſpect of the Danger that ſeems likely to attend the Execution of it: We therefore think it neceſſary for us to communicate to you our Sentiments, and deſire you will, to the utmoſt of your Power, oppoſe all Attempts that ſhall be made to introduce this, or any other Scheme of the like Kind, on any Pretence whatſoever.

We are, Sir,

Yours, &amp;c.

LOND. EVEN. Feb. 22.

Members.

Sir ROGER BRADSHAW,  
PETER BOLD Eſq;

## YORK.

**F**ROM York we hear, the 15th Inſtant there was a Meeting of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council, and principal Traders of that

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that City; when they unanimouſly wrote to their Representatives in Parliament, requeſting them ſtrenouſly to oppoſe any new Excife, in whatever Manner it may be attempted.

Fog. Jan. 27.

Members.

Sir WILL. MILNER Bart.  
EDWARD THOMPSON Eſq;

F I N I S.

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