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THE
BAKERS
APPEAL;

OR THE
Ruinous and Deplorable Condition

OF THE
BAKERS OF LONDON,

And PARTS adjacent,

Faithfully represented, and humbly address'd

TO A
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.



L O N D O N :

Printed in the Year M D C C X X X,



THE
Bakers APPEAL, &c.

S I R,



HIS little Tract according to its Title, is the humble Complaint of the Bakers of the City of *London*, and of the Parts adjacent.

THEY are a numerous Body of industrious and laborious Poor People; it is with great Justice and Propriety they call themselves Poor, being either already actually impoverished, or very much reduced by the Oppressions they have suffered, and which they now complain of, and being apparently under an unavoidable Necessity of sinking farther, and falling into the lowest Misery that a Tradesman can be reduced to, unless relieved by the timely assistance of the Legislature

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gislature, on whose constant Concern for the impartial executing Justice, and redressing the Grievances of the People, they have all the Reason in the World to depend.

THEY are oppress'd, Sir, in a manner so very particular, and have been so generally deny'd Redress in their most humble Applications for Relief, that they have no other Resort left them, but to lie at the Foot of that Authority, whose Justice and Compassion they have no room to question.

THEY humbly hope, Sir, they are within the Protection of the Law-makers, because they cannot charge themselves, no not so much as with a Desire to alter, much less to offend against the Laws already made, which they chearfully and with the utmost Readiness submit to, and can with humble Freedom say, They without Trespas constantly obey.

BUT at the same Time that they willingly submit to the Laws, they humbly represent that they are oppress'd and ruin'd in Form of Law, which is the worst sort of Tyranny, as it leaves upon them the Reproach of Offenders without the Crime, and takes from them all Hope of Redress by Appeal, even where they are directed by the Law to seek for it.

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THEY humbly represent also, that it is a great Addition to the present Misery of their Circumstances, that it is look'd upon as a kind of Merit to oppress them; as if they, who are to regulate the Bakers, were always made Advocates against them, and that no Justice was due, and no Measures to be kept between the Buyer and the Seller.

HARD is the Fate of the Bakers, that their Employment shou'd be reckon'd dangerous to the Poor, and that the Magistrates should make oppressing the labouring Poor, the first Step to recommend them to the clamorous Poor, and so make themselves Popular at the Bakers Expence.

WITH all possible Humility they represent to you, Sir, and to all impartial Gentlemen of the Legislature, that the Bakers are in their present Complaint, in a Case of Property, and while they obey the Laws, they say, they ought not to be oppress'd, either by the Wilfulness or Ignorance of any Man, whether Magistrate or other; and with the same Humility they claim to say, that they are not Offenders, and desire no Favour for any of their Body that do offend, if any such thing should be.

NAY,

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NAY, Sir, They humbly represent and lay it at your Feet, to consider in their Favour, (when Occasion shall put it into your Hands to do them Justice) that they have chosen to submit even to the most unjust Usage of their Oppressors, the Law having vested 'em with a seeming Power to crush them, tho' they are well assured it is far from being the Intention of the Legislators, that they should be oppress'd by it: They have, they say, Sir, submitted to the most intolerable Hardships, and though they have seen themselves impos'd upon contrary even to the express Terms of the Law, have sat still, rather than give the least Occasion to their Oppressors to say they would not obey the Law.

THEY are not so ignorant as not to know that the Parliament (who make the Laws) are the only Expositors of the Laws which they have made, and are able to redress the Grievances of the People who are oppress'd by any mistaken Construction of the Laws, in the Hands of those who are intrusted with the Execution of them; and 'tis for this Reason that this Representation is laid before you, as an Introduction to their humble Complaint, when they shall appear with it at the Bar of the House.

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IF their Enemies would have been pleas'd, when applied to with the greatest Respect, and in the humblest Manner, to have but read over the Laws made on purpose for settling and regulating this Matter; if they would but have heard impartially the Complaint of the Bakers, the same for Substance with this Representation, and would but have shewn the least Inclination to do Justice between Buyer and Seller, as the Law undoubtedly designed they should; and as the Terms of the Law expressly direct, the Bakers had never given you this Trouble; nor could they (*even now*) obtain the least Redress, so as that they might carry on their Business without apparently ruining themselves, and impoverishing their Families, would they think of bringing their Appeal before the Parliament. They have never shewn the least Inclination to be (what one was pleas'd to call them) a troublesome People; but on the contrary, they have appeared an humble and peaceable People under the most grievous Oppressions: And tho' they have nothing to ask, but what they humbly conceive, and are assur'd, is their legal Right; yet they have apply'd (even for that Right) with the utmost Humility, and to the proper Persons only, who, they conceive, ought not to deny them Justice. But all has been without

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without Success, and they humbly represent, that they have been rejected even with Indecency and Reproach.

IN this Distress, and under these Oppressions, they at present labour; they are daily working themselves poor, and tho' in a Trade, which at this very Juncture communicates the Blessing of Plenty to the World, are themselves like to starve in the midst of that Plenty; and while they are working in one of the most laborious Employments in the whole Nation, are yet treated, as a People not worthy to eat of the Bread they make; as if they were Cheats by the Necessity of their Employments, and were to be punish'd, not protected by the Laws, whether they offend or no.

THEY humbly represent that in some Cases, in which the Magistrates take upon them. to construe the Law by their own Authority, and, which is worse, by their own Judgments (tho' perhaps not always qualified to make a Judgment in the Case) the Bakers are reduced even to a Necessity of breaking the Law, or at least of laying themselves open to the Penalty, which is very severe; while the said Magistrates do not think fit to make due Allowances upon that Bread, which, tho' made up to its full Weight, may waste and dry up
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some of that Weight by lying any small time unfold. In which Case, tho' the Baker is always willing to allow for the Abatement of Weight to his own Loss, it would be very hard that he should be censured as guilty of a Fraud, when he may be able to prove that the Bread, both going in and coming out of the Oven, was of a due Weight, conform to the Assize.

BUT even this, tho' often made Use of to oppress and defame the Baker, they have submitted to, and have hitherto made no Complaint, having so much heavier Weights to labour under, and which must inevitably sink them if not speedily reliev'd.

HAVING thus mention'd the Oppression in general, and complained in Terms so pressing and importuning, they humbly crave your Leave to support their Complaint with a bare Recital of Matters of Fact, and to lay before you as well the Law by which they claim to be regulated, and to which they, as above, most willingly submit; as also the wrong Construction of that Law, and the Hardships imposed upon them in consequence of that wrong Construction, by those to whom the Execution of that Law is committed, and that unhappily for the Bakers without any Appeal but to themselves.

THE Laws, Sir, now in Force for regulating the Assize of Bread, are as follow,
B *viz.*

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viz. 8 *Anna Regina*, entitled, An Act to regulate the Price and Assize of Bread.

1 *Georgii Regis.* entitled, An Act for continuing several Laws therein mention'd, relating to Coals, Hemp, and Flax, *Irish* and *Scots* Linnen, and the Assize of Bread.

THE particular enacting Clauses in those Acts relating to the settling the Assize of Bread, and in which the Bakers are concern'd, being much the same, are as follow.

From and after the first Day of May, in the Year of our Lord, 1710, the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen, within the City of London, and the Liberties thereof, or the Lord Mayor of the said City for the time being, by the Order of the said Court, shall severally and respectively, and from time to time, as there shall be occasion, set, ascertain, and appoint, within their several respective Jurisdictions, the Assize and Weight of all Sorts of Bread, to be sold, or expos'd to Sale by any Baker or other Person whatsoever, within the Limits of their several Jurisdictions, having respect to the Price, the Grain, Meal, or Flour, whereof such Bread shall be made, shall bear in the several Publick Markets, in or about the City, and making reasonable Allowance to the Bakers for their Charges, Pains, and Libelhoods.

THE Bakers Desire, Sir, most humbly to represent, That entirely submitting as well to the Justice as to the Authority of the Parliament,

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liament, they made no Complaint of any Hardships in these Acts, at the Time they were passing; nor offered any Petition to secure to themselves the due Execution of the said Laws; not doubting but the Justices of the Peace, Magistrates and other Officers, to whom the said Laws should be entrusted, would do Justice between the Buyer and Seller, especially where the Letter and the true Intent and Meaning of the Law corresponded so well together, and where the whole was so explicit, that they conceived there was no room left to injure or oppress them.

THEY could not doubt but that when the Law directed the Magistrate in so many Words *to fix the Price and Assize of Bread according to, or with respect to, or in proportion to the Rate or Price of the Meal and Flour, as well as the Grain, in the next adjacent Markets; the said Magistrates would not fail to act accordingly, and to make the Price or Rate of the said Meal and Flour, as well as the Grain, be the Standard according to which, or with respect to which, or in proportion to which, the Price and Assize of Bread should be fixed and settled.*

THEY humbly represent, that the Terms of the said Acts, do in their Opinion, admit no Misconstruction, no double Interpretation, or leave room for any partial or

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unjust Execution to the Prejudice of the Bakers, or of any other Person; and that therefore all the Mistakes which have occur'd, and all the Oppression of the Bakers in adhering arbitrarily to these Mistakes, are really designed and premeditated Injuries to the Bakers, and evident Deviations from the enacting Clauses of the said several Laws; and it is for this Reason that the Bakers complain of these Deviations as evident Oppressions, having also not been able by all the most humble Applications to the said Magistrates to obtain any effectual Redress or Relief in the same.

THE Mistakes, Sir, which they insist upon, and which they complain of as injurious and oppressive, are principally these.

I. THAT whereas by the express Words of the Acts of Parliament, as above recited, the said Magistrates and Justices are oblig'd, in settling and affixing the said *Price and Assize of Bread*, to have *Respect* to the real Prices or Rates of such *Wheat, Meal, or Flour*, whereof such Bread is made: The Bakers humbly represent, 1. That the said Assize of Bread is not set according to the Terms of the said Law by the real Price of the *Meal, or Flour*, but according to the Price of the Wheat in the Grain, and not in the Flour.

2. That the said Price and Assize of Bread

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is not set according to the real Price of that Wheat of which the Bread is made (tho' in the Grain) but according to the Price of Wheat of an inferior Quality and Value; whereas the Bread which the said Bakers make, is made of Flour rais'd from Wheat of a better Quality, and much higher Price than that from or according to which the Assize of their Bread is set.

II. THAT whereas the Act expressly mentions, that the real Price of the said *Wheat, Meal, and Flour*, according to which the Assize of Bread shall be set, shall be taken from the Price such *Wheat, Meal, and Flour* shall bear in the several publick Markets in or about the City, &c. The Bakers humbly represent, that the Assize and Price of Bread has been and is ordinarily set, by the Lord Mayor, and Magistrates of the City, by and according to the Price of the Wheat as sold at the Market of *Bear-Key* only; which it is well known is not the Market where the Bakers of this City buy their Flour; nor is any Flour usually or ordinarily sold at the said Market of *Bear-Key*, very little of the best kind or sort of Wheat being usually sold there, but an inferior sort of Wheat, chiefly such as is ordinarily bought by *Distillers, Starch-makers*, or for Exportation to foreign Countries; whereas the Market

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for the best Flour, which the Bakers always buy, and of which their Bread is *ordinarily* made, is at *Queen-Hithe*, where the Price of Flour is always higher, as the Quality is far better than what the Wheat at *Bear-Key* will or can produce.

HENCE they humbly represent that to set the Price and Affize of Bread according to the real Price of Wheat in the Grain only, and at a Market where the lowest priced and meanest sort of Wheat is chiefly sold, and where the Bakers very seldom buy, is not only contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of the several Acts of Parliament for regulating the Price and Affize of Bread as above, but is also contrary to the express Letter of the said Acts, which enact that the said Affize and Price of Bread shall be set according to the real Price of such Wheat, Meal, or Flour, whereof the Bread is made; Which contrary Practice of the said Magistrates is so far partial and unjust, and also highly injurious and oppressive to the Bakers, who by this means are oblig'd to make and sell their Bread after the Value of the lowest priced and meanest sort of the Wheat, at the same time that they make it of the best and finest and highest priced Flour that can be had.

THEY farther humbly represent that by this Oppression and this injurious Practice
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of the Magistrates, most of the Allowance which by the said Act of Parliament is judged reasonable to be made, and is accordingly expressly granted to the Baker for his Maintenance or Livelihood, and for the Support of his Family and Servants, is taken away, and the laborious working Tradesman is left to starve and be undone, as is farther made appear in the following Particulars, (*viz.*)

THE Act of Parliament before recited, after directing, as above, upon what Foot the Justices or Magistrates shall set or regulate the Affize and Price of Bread, expressly directs the said Magistrates to set the said Price and Affize so, that they may make a *reasonable Allowance to the Bakers for their Charges, Pains, and Livelihood, as heretofore has been accustomed.*

THESE are the very Words of the Law, whereas the poor oppress'd Bakers humbly represent that they are so far from having their Charges, Pains, and Livelihood considered in the said Affize and Price as now settled, that they have lost by every seven Sacks of Flour baked into Bread, at least thirty Shillings out of the Allowance which by Law ought to be made for the Pains and Labour of a heavy and most laborious Employment; so that it necessarily follows, that the greatest Part of the poor Bakers and their Families must sink into
Poverty

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Poverty and Misery, and even the richest and wealthiest among them be greatly impoverished and reduced.

THE Allowance made formerly to the Bakers for Labour and Livelihood, amounts to at least ten Shillings upon every Sack of Flour baked into Bread; nor the exceeding Laboriousness of the Employment considered, could a less Allowance be thought reasonable; but now so far are they from having any such Allowance made, or their Labour being at all considered, that it may be demonstrated that the Bakers are such Losers that it is not possible for them to carry on their Trade.

IN order to make good this Allegation, the Bakers humbly crave leave to say they shall lay before the Parliament such just Calculations (too long for this Letter) as well of the first Cost of their Bread, and of the ordinary Expences attending the Workmanship thereof; as also of the Produce of it at Market, and of the Rate it ought to be sold for; as by which their daily Losses may at large appear; by which Calculation they also humbly hope the Truth of what they have here represented, will be fully made out, so that they are not at all afraid of being charged by their Enemies with having abused the Credulity of their Friends.

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THIS, Sir, they humbly conceive, looks like a Snare purposely, though they would hope not maliciously, laid by some of the inferior Officers for drawing the Bakers as it were into the Necessity of offending, and subjecting them universally to a Charge at least of *Disobedience*; in which case they are by an almost unprecedented Clause in the Act liable to be fined by the Magistrate; they say unprecedented, because thereby subjected to a Fine of ten Shillings for disobeying, in a Case where it is not practicable for them to obey: For Example,

THE Assize of Bread as set by the said Magistrates very often rates the Quartern Loaf to be sold at an odd Farthing in the Price, without any Direction to the Baker, in case of half Quartern Loaves, which half Quarterns he is obliged by the Custom of the Trade (as well as allowed by the Acts of Parliament) to make, in large Numbers, but cannot in the Price split the Farthing, our Coin having provided no Species of a lower Denomination; so that the poor Baker is under a fatal Necessity of giving away the half Farthing in every such Loaf; and yet in the Strictness of the Law, and according to the Letter of it, is not only a Loser but an Offender also, breaking in upon that Order of Assize which he is oblig'd under the Penalty of ten Shillings to obey; and tho'

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it may be alledged that they have not been charg'd with this Breach as an Offence, yet it remains an unhappy Truth, that they are every Day Sufferers by the Loss almost equal to the Fine for Disobedience, and are so made to feel the Penalty, tho' under a different kind of inflicting it.

THEY have also some other Grievances in this setting the Assize and Price of their Bread, so narrow in its Circumstances, that they cannot divide the Fractions to any Person in the small Bread, by which means they are obliged to give the better End of the Staff to the Buyer, but these as smaller Matters they omit troubling you with.

2. ANOTHER Head of Grievances which the Bakers humbly complain of, and of which they hope for Redress by the Justice of the Parliament, is their having been deny'd Justice by those very Magistrates who are entrusted with the Execution of this Law ; and who they humbly conceive are equally oblig'd to do Right to the Bakers as well as to punish and fine them if they do wrong ; and, Sir, as they resolve to give you the Trouble of no Complaints but in case of manifest Injury, and where their Complaints are justify'd by the Law, so they humbly represent, that tho' they cannot be injur'd in this Particular but in manifest Violation of the Laws, yet that they

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they suffer and are oppress'd not at all the less ; but that their Enemies plainly violate not the Laws only, which, *as above* express'd, are made for the Regulation of their Trade, and for setting the Assize and Price of their Bread ; but even they violate also the great Charter of the Nation's Liberties ; *viz.* MAGNA CHARTA itself, to which as *Englishmen* the Bakers claim a Right. The Case is this : By the Act of 3 GEORGI REGIS, intituled an Act for continuing and amending an Act for the regulating the Price and Assize of Bread ; it is expressly mentioned, as follows.

Provided always, and be it farther enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that before any Reduction is made in the Assize of Bread by the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen, &c. A Copy of the Prizes delibered in by the Deal Weighers for the said City for the time being, shall be left at the Common Hall of the Bakers Company, by the space of twelve hours before any such Reduction ; to the Intent that the said Company shall have Opportunity to be heard thereupon before the said Court.

THIS they humbly conceive is an express Law in their Favour, and in order to their obtaining Justice when they find themselves aggrieved ; but they, with all Humility, represent, Sir, that the Master and Wardens of the Bakers Company, having had notice of an intended

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Reduction, as the Law directs, have attended the said Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen, earnestly desiring to be heard before the said intended Reduction shall pass, and having good and sufficient Reasons to offer against the same; but after long waiting, have been rejected, and refused so much as to be called in; and the said Reduction has been sent out to them, commanding them to submit to the same without their being admitted to speak, or without having any Opportunity given them to be heard thereupon, which the Law expressly directs.

THIS, Sir, they conceive, is a manifest Violation of the Law as well the above recited Clause as of *Magna Charta* itself, which enacts that *no Man shall be deny'd Justice*, and they are told it is more than probable they may (even by the Parliament itself) be referr'd in this case to the ordinary Course of Justice in his Majesty's Courts at *Westminster Hall*; and they are advised, and do humbly resolve, if they cannot otherwise be redressed, to seek it there; but they also join this flagrant Instance of Injustice to their other Grievances, and represent it in this humble manner, That it may be plain to you, Sir, what Oppressions they lye under, what Treatment they daily receive; and that they have not brought before you a groundless or frivolous Complaint. IT

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IT will no longer be wondered at, Sir, that while they are thus treated (by the chief Magistrates) as Persons to whom no Justice is due, and who are not to be heard in their own Defence; they should at the same time be harras'd by Informers, be the Contempt of the inferior Officers, and be made a Prey to the Avarice and Rapine of every ignorant, and they may say, perjured Meal-weigher, who neither duly attend the Duty of their Office, nor understand it; such being employ'd in that Work, that have no Knowledge of the Goods they are to inspect, nor to take proper Measures to be rightly informed, either of the Value of the Goods or of the current Price of the Markets; neither do they perform the Duty of their Office according to their Oath, which obliges them to give a just and faithful Account of the Rates of *Wheat, Meal, and Flour*, and on this Account are really perjured, whether the Omissions are wilful, or by meer Indolence and Negligence.

NOR has the refusing a fair Hearing to the Bakers in manner as above, been the only Act of Partiality they have to complain of; but the same Lord Mayor and Aldermen have refused proper Affidavits and creditable Evidence in Behalf of the said Bakers when offered upon Oath, and when at the same time they have admitted others
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to give Evidence upon Oath, and accepted that Evidence against the Bakers, tho' the Bakers have good Reason to believe they had sworn falsely. The Bakers, Sir, must have no Sense of Injury, and know nothing of their common Rights, as *Englishmen*, if they should sit still, and suffer such manifest Violations of the Law, and such open and avowed Injuries; and they cannot but hope the Parliament will accept it as a Testimony of the utmost Regard to their known Justice, that they have hitherto forborn all other legal Prosecutions, and only resolved in the humblest manner to apply to their Representatives for Help and Deliverance.

IF Men under just Suspicion of Perjury have been encouraged and been received as good Evidence against the unhappy Bakers, it cannot well be expected that there should want a Set of Profligates, who make it their Business to promote and procure frivolous and vexatious Informations, and that in Cases merely accidental, where it has not been in the Bakers Power to avoid laying themselves open to the Malice of such People; and what can a poor Baker expect where the Magistrate will not distinguish between unavoidable Accident and an evident Design? They humbly suggest, Sir, that there are many Cases in the

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the ordinary Course of their Business, in which it may be impossible to prevent some Difference of Weight between one Loaf and another, and that being always willing to make up those Differences to the Buyer, they think it would be very just that every Buyer should see their Bread weighed if they please, and that if they refuse or decline seeing it weighed, the Baker being always willing to weigh it, in order to make up any Deficiency such Buyers ought not to complain or commence any Process for want of Weight: On the other hand, if any Baker refuses to weigh his Bread at the Time of Sale to the Buyer, they are content such Bakers should answer for whatever Deficiency may happen, whether by Accident or no.

ON the other hand, it is evident that the Informers and their Abettors use all possible Arts even to draw in the Bakers to those accidental Deficiencies, and yet never demand to see the Bread weighed when they buy; the Offence, not the preventing an Offence, being what they evidently aim at.

THERE is yet another Artifice usual in the Markets at *Bear-key*, which many Ways affects the Bakers, when the Buyers of Corn for Exportation shall, by the Strength of their Stocks, keep down the Rate of Wheat at the Market, meerly that

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that they may take the Advantage to buy up large Quantities to lay up; and yet this running down the Price shall immediately affect the Baker, tho' he has nothing to do in these kinds of Corn, and the ignorant Officers shall give in their Report from the Markets, which are so fraudulently beaten down.

THESE Things the Bakers have been often furnished to represent to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, but are usually brow-beaten, check'd and refus'd hearing, in manifest Violation of the Laws, as has been said, and by which all the Frauds and injurious Treatment which they receive from the Informer's Officers, &c. are supported and encouraged.

THUS, Sir, the Bakers have laid before you a brief State of their Case, and humbly represented their Oppressions to you; the Sum of all is, that they may have Justice impartially administred: This is the short Prayer of their humble Petition, not to have any Favour in doing wrong, but that the Laws may be duly executed.

IT might be expected, Sir, that the Bakers, should in an Account of this Nature, and where their Complaints have been so warm, and the Reasons of them so pungent, have exhibited something of the Reasons which the Magistrates or Justices of the Peace, to whom they are to apply themselves

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themselves, have offered for refusing to hear and examine their Grievances; and also the Reasons why they have always refused to redress the Grievances they the Bakers have complained of, seeing it is hardly credible, that Magistrates, and Men otherwise of good Characters, should refuse to do Justice to a whole Society of Tradesmen, or so much as to hear their Complaint without giving some Reasons for such an extraordinary Conduct.

BUT, Sir, the Bakers humbly lay it before you, and hope to obtain your Consideration of such a Proceeding in its proper Time and Place; that they have been treated, Sir, with such Haughtiness by some of the said Magistrates, and with such unsufferable Insolence by their inferior Officers, that they really forbear the Repetition of it rather to conceal the Rudeness of the said inferior Officers, than that they fear to prove the Fact upon them.

THE Bakers, Sir, as they are Men of Business, laborious and diligent, so they are very willing to recommend themselves to their Superiors, by an humble and submissive Carriage as becomes them; but they hope, they may say, they do not owe the same Homage to Footmen and Servants; and also that they are not so void of Sense as not to know when they are ill treated, especially by such as have no

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Right, either by their Persons or Offices, to give them any ill Usage.

FOR this Reason, Sir, while they are complaining to you of the ill Treatment they receive from the Masters in denying them Justice, they cannot be altogether silent under the Treatment they have from the meanest and most contemptible of their Officers; Fellows, who should not have been so much as mentioned here, if it had not been that the Bakers have seen them too much countenanc'd and encourag'd by their Masters, even in some of their grossest Insults which they offer to the unhappy Tradesmen, who have no other Way fallen into their Hands than as they have made themselves Informers, and (for want of Bribes) Accusers of the Bakers, in Cases where the said Accusers have neither been able to make good their Accusations, or did really understand the Foundation upon which those Accusations ought to have been grounded.

EITHER, Sir, the Bakers have been Offenders, or they have not; if they at any time offend, they are sure to obtain no Favour; and they are so well assured that they are not willingly Offenders, that they with Freedom say, they ask no Favour: But, Sir, they humbly insist that they are made Offenders by the Avarice of these Informers and Promoters of Informers, when

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when no real Crime can be charged upon them; and yet even in these Cases are equally ill used, as if they were Criminals in the highest Nature, as they have already observed, while without any intended Offence, they fell as it were by the Necessity of their Employment, under the Lash of those Creatures, who upon the least Advantage (shall we say, Sir) even the least imaginary, not real Advantage, fell upon the Bakers by Seizures and Riflings, ruining not their Substance only but their Reputation also, when nothing can be proved upon them, but what, as above, is (after their Manner of applying the Laws) impossible for them to avoid.

If the Bakers offend, Sir, they are content to submit to Punishment as the Law directs; but to be thus treated upon the most frivolous Pretences, and after the greatest Industry is used to find out such an Offence, or to make it, really is, Sir, plundering, not punishing.

It may have happened, and we believe has sometimes done so, that the Bakers by the own Negligence, not to say Treachery of their Servants, have been betray'd into such Deficiencies, while those Servants have at the same time officiously accused them to the Officers, in order to expose their Masters for the Crime, which has been really their own; all which would be

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be effectually prevented by the needful Provision (mentioned as above) of a Clause to allow the Bakers to weigh their Bread out to the Buyer, and to make good either in Money or Bread such a Defect as may appear in it, let the Occasion be what it will: This Claim is so reasonable that they think there can be no Room to object against it, nor indeed can their Enemies refuse it, did they not seek the Offence rather than the Remedy.

ALL which, Sir, is humbly submitted to your impartial Judgment, and your Favour is no otherwise asked for the distressed Bakers, than as you shall or shall not find their Cause merits to be considered.

August 31.
1730.

F I N I S.