Thursday, January 27, 1736

Gentlemen,

H. L. E. The Drinkers, as well as Vendors of Spirituous Liquors, are struggling under the pressure of the whole Body of the People. They are determined to have an establishment of their own, and are looking to a scheme for their relief, in hopes the Parliament will take their Cafe into consideration the next session. I have received a view of the several methods hinted at, and the temper is, in doing which I shall remark the consequences. The first method is, and afterwards propound an expedient of my own, wherein I shall have a particular regard to some of the inferior classes of Retailers, whose Cafe has been almost wholly neglected by theカフェ, and they have a taste for the company and indulgence of the Legislature as much as if not more than any of the rest.

The methods hitherto proposed have been adopted by the several Writers according to the customs, to which interest, prejudice, or real concern for the welfare of the subject, they have attributed the evil arising from the abuse of household liquors, and the dispensation of them.

Most of those who ascribe the evil to the first cause, consider either that they are in a dangerous case, and that it is not the custom of the people to be addicted to the like. The imputation of Gin, which makes it more hurtful than French Brandy, and for its incessant quality, either Brandy or Rum must be restricted in the measure of the law, so that the bad consequences of a drink to the poor, after this manner. The opposite part of the liquor by the effects it has when drank to excess. But would not Brandy, Rum, and especially Statically be attacked. The foregoing, or any other good consequences it drank to excess in the same manner?

Thus supposing Gin was stronger as they represent it, what a monstrous remedy would they propose? To ruin 100,000 families at once, is a work only becoming Tartars and Savages, who have no sentiments of humanity, compassion or mercy. Nor do they believe that the remedy in their own behalf. But was there an attempt made for supposing at once Brandy or the Malt-Rye, those notorious names of the nation, who would be more forward to vindicate and support them than the law, the evil of which they might retreat from the good conscience, and from being a public benefit. But in their opinion, the whole was ruined, before they would once upon their mouths to suppress them. Which shows the true motive of such men's zeal against any vice or evil is not any real view to the public good, but some particular interest, expiring or disguised. And why otherwise should they have the health of the drunks of the people more at heart, than the public good, or the mind of people, and the livelihood of another part.

This remedy therefore, on account of its extreme violence, has been justly condemned by all those men, who are most averse to Spirituous Liquors. I am sure you will not be defensible to others. An Ulster or Lawyer cry, Down with the Distillery, the bane of the nation; nor minds what the Distillers say in their own behalf. But was there an attempt made for supposing at once Brandy or the Malt-Rye, those notorious names of the nation, who would be more forward to vindicate and support them than the law, the evil of which they might retreat from the good conscience, and from being a public benefit. But in their opinion, the whole was ruined, before they would once upon their mouths to suppress them. Which shows the true motive of such men's zeal against any vice or evil is not any real view to the public good, but some particular interest, expiring or disguised. And why otherwise should they have the health of the drunks of the people more at heart, than the public good, or the mind of people, and the livelihood of another part.

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