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COLLECTION

Of all the

POLITICAL LETTERS

IN THE

London JOURNAL,

TO

DECEMBER 17, inclusive, 1720.



O Liberty! O Virtue! O my Country!

CATO.

LONDON:

Printed for J. ROBERTS in *Warwick-Lane,*
MDCCLXXI.

(Price One Shilling.)

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ADVERTISEMENT.



THE Approbation the following Papers have met with, and the continu'd Demand for them, are sufficient Reasons for thus collecting them together. Which is done with the greater Pleasure, as it is indulging the virtuous Resentments of an injur'd People; and as it is cherishing that Honest Love of Liberty in my Countrymen, upon the Continuance of which the Good of the whole Community depends; and the Loss of which must be attended with the Loss of every thing else that is valuable.

I need say nothing of the unknown Authors; the general Applause prevents all private Commendation: And indeed, to the true Patriot, the Pleasure of doing Good, is superior to any Praise resulting from it. However, it is sufficient for the Publick, that at the same time they know themselves serv'd, it is universally conjectur'd to be by the Ablest Pens, as well as by some of the Greatest and Honestest Men in the Kingdom.

ADVERTISEMENT.

This Collection is confined to the Introductory Letters in the London Journal upon Political Subjects, which are brought down to the 17th of last Month inclusive; from which Time the single Papers continue in Sale. The other Introductions, which I doubt not will be thought equally diverting as these are useful, will be publish'd in the same Manner, in a few Days.



A

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*A Collection of LETTERS to the
Author of the London Journal.*

N U M B. I.

To the Author of the London Journal.

S I R,



THE World has often been ruled by Men, who were themselves ruled by the worst Qualities, and most sordid Views. *The Prince*, says a great *French* Politician, *governs the People, and Interest governs the Prince.*

The Manner by which Men climb to Greatness, makes no Difference in the Respect paid them by the People : A King, who makes his Way to a Throne by the Means of Blood and Treachery, meets with the same Incense which

is presented to the Virtuous Monarch, who comes to Empire honestly by Choice, or quietly by Descent; and a Minister who gets his Staff by Sycophancy, and keeps it by Lies and Oppression, is not less ador'd than the Statesman who owes his Exaltation to great Abilities and pure Merit.

Hence it comes to pass that few Men care how they Rise in the World, so they do but Rise: They know that Success expiates all Rogueries, and never misses Reverence; and that he who was called Villain, or Murderer in the Race, is often christened *SAINTE* or *HERO* at the Goal. The present Possession of Money or Power, is always a ready Patent for Respect and Submission. He that gets a Hundred Thousand Pounds by a Bubble, that is, by selling a Bag of Wind to his credulous Countrymen, is a greater Idol in every Coffee-House in Town, than he who is worth but Ninety Thousand, tho' acquired by honest Trading or ingenious Arts, which profit Mankind, and bring Credit to his Country: And thus every *South-Sea* Cub, shall, by the sole Merit of his *MILLION*, vie for Respect and Followers with any Lord in the Land, tho' it should strangely happen, as it sometimes does, that his Lordship's Virtues and Parts ennoble his Title and Quality. It matters not, whether your Father was a Tinker, and you his worthy Son a *Broker* or a *Sharper*, provided you be but a *South-Sea Man*; if you are but that, the whole Earth is your humble Ser-

ant.

The Behaviour therefore of Mankind having shewn that they think Money the *CHIEF GOOD*, it is no wonder that Pride follows Riches; and that he who bears a heavy Purse, bears likewise a stately Brow ; when he sees all Men adore him , it is very natural for him to adore himself, and to exalt his own Head in Proportion, as others debase theirs.

At present, nothing further is necessary towards getting an Estate, that is, Merit and Respect, than a little Money, much Roguery, and many Lies. With what Indignation have I beheld a Peer of the Realm, courting the good Graces of a little Haberdasher with great Cash, and begging a few Shares in a Bubble which the honourable *Goodman Bever* had just then invented to cheat his Fellow-Citizens.

Whenever I see one of these over-grown rich Men, I consider him in his former Station, and in his present Station, and respect him according to the Spirit which I see him in : If I find that he forgets what he *was*, I always forget what he *is*, and put him in mind of his former self.

There is a certain Tallow-Chandler, who is deep in Stocks, and is grown a great Man by Virtue of his Gettings ; but the poor Man is only Rich, he has not One other Endowment about him, unless we except his memorable Quietness under certain Garniture, which his Wife has made bold to plant beneath his Hat. I observed this same *Upstart* sitting lately at a Coffee-House in the Midst of a great Circle of

People, who were worshipping him because he was Richer than they : I knew the great Revolution of the Man's Fortune, and his great little Worth, and so going up to him, Mr. *Smellwell*, says I, *I want Half a Dozen Pound of Farthing Candles ; I know there are good ones at your Shop : I wish you would step Home with me, and then I am sure I shall have the best.*

He told me (after some resentful Wriggles in his Seat) that his Name was *Smellwell* ; but that he kept no Shop. *Codso*, says I, Mr. *Smellwell*, *I ask you a Thousand Pardons ; I had quite forgot : I have heard indeed that you have pull'd off your Frock, and put on your Chariot.*

But exalted Boobies being below Satyr, I shall here only consider a little the Mischiefs brought upon the Publick by the Projects which bring them their Wealth. It is melancholy to consider that Power follows Property, when we consider at the same Time into what vile Hands that Property is fallen, and by what vile Means, even by Bubbles and direct Cheating.

Of our Second-hand Bubbles I blame not one more than another, their Name shews their Nature. The GREAT BUBBLE of All set them an Example, and began first. By it, immense Fortunes have been got to particular Men, most of them obscure and unheard of ; happy for their own Characters, and for the Nations Trade, if they had still remained so. I hope our All is not yet at the Mercy of Sharpers ; ignorant mercenary Shar-

Sharppers: but I should be glad to see it prov'd that it will not be so. Are we a Trading Nation? Where is our Trade? Consult the Books of Export; number the Ships that go laden out of the River, and the Stagnation and Ruin of Trade will stand confessed. There's one Comfort remaining to the City of *London*, from the miserable Loss of that Trade which rendred that City so long the Mark and Envy of Nations. In Case of a great Frost, our Ships will make as good Fires as *Newcastle* Coals.

Do our People and our Poor subsist by Manufacture? Where is our Manufacture? Even at almost an utter Stand; while a few are getting Millions here in Town, many want Work and Bread in all the Trading Towns thro' the Nation; and personal Prosperity is built from the Ruins of the Publick. I shall trouble you further upon this Subject in my next; and am,

S I R,

Your's, &c.

N U M B.

N U M B. II.

To Owen ap Williams, *Esq*; Author of the
London-Journal.

S I R,

EVERY Religion which refuses to tolerate other Religions, charges it self, by so doing, with *Tyranny* and *Imposture*; for no Religion can be *true* that is not *merciful*, nor *merciful* if it punishes Men for their *Faith*.

There are but few *Societies*, Sir, that look with a kind Eye upon each other; even where they have not, for their Basis or Chief End, the Acquisition and Preservation of Riches and Dominion, which are the most jealous Things in Nature, as they are the hardest to come at. They will be piquing themselves upon point of Reputation, and some will be striving to appear great, by representing another as little: All *Clubs*, whether they be *Worldly* or *Ghostly*, have their *Rival Clubs*, and their Love of themselves makes them hate one another, tho' it must be owned that your *Holy Clubs* have been ever the most Bitter and Bloody of all others.

But it has so happen'd, that at present a great Share of our Zeal and Violence for the *Church*, is changed into a Zeal for the Stocks; and the Reason is plain, there is now a-days more to be got by the *Alley* than the *Altar*; so that whenever you hear a Sermon, extorted out' of the Gospel,

Gospel, against the *South-Sea*, you may swear the *Parson* has got nothing there.

But to return to my Discourse upon *Clubs*: If we would preserve all the distinct Societies in the Commonwealth, whether they be for *Speculations* and *Mysteries*, or for *Trade*, or for *Physick*, or for *Arts* and *Sciences*: I say, if we would preserve them safe, and independent of each other, we must not endow one with Privileges destructive of all the rest. In the Business of *Companies* and *Stock-Jobbing*; for Example, if you do not keep an equal Hand, your Partiality will infallibly beget *Persecution* on one Hand, and *Oppression* on the other; *Interest* teaches all Men *Zeal*; *Stock-Jobbers* as well as *Churchmen*; and that *Zeal*, if you put a Knife in his Hand, will be sporting with Misery, and dabbling in Blood.

All Men, as I humbly conceive, have an equal Right to *cheat* the Publick, tho' every Man, if you would let him, would keep the whole Advantage of Cheating it to himself: It is nothing to the Nation, whether it be bubbled by the *North* or the *South*; but it is of much Importance to Mr. *South*, and Mr. *North*, which of them shall be the happy Man, and the *privileged Bubbler*. If the People will be buying Bags of Wind at a great Price, it matters not a Farthing who is the Seller, provided that to make the Market more plausible, he has got a *Licensed Bag*; one Man's blown Bladder is as good as another's, and it is only Arts and great Names that make the Difference.

We

We have at present in this Land, a great Number of *Wind-Sellers*, who are daily forming themselves into Societies, and taking in Subscriptions for improving and carrying on the Trade and Myſtery of *Wind* : This *Wind* is of ſeveral *Climates*, according to the ſeveral Fancies or Gueſſes of the *Projectors*. Some have choſen for their Portion a large Region of Wind, beyond Sea, towards the South of *America*, and they have talk'd many Years of ſending thither great Numbers of Ships for the Company, on this profitable and *ſubſtantial* Trade ; but the Voyage is ſo long, that tho' the Lading be *exceeding light*, yet I do not find that any of the ſaid Ships have yet arrived in our River, or perhaps they have not got out of it. Others go *Northward* for their Wind to *Germany, Greenland*, or the *Orcades*, where there is Store of *rare bleak Winds*, at *reasonable Rates* : Others again, who love a warmer Sun, have invented their Wind in certain *American Iſlands*, and theſe laſt boaſt that their Wind is the moſt gainful Wind of all.

Now all theſe worthy Gentlemen agree in this, they ſell their Wind before it is caught ; for, ſay they, we cannot *Purchase*, nor *Manuſacture our Wind*, without *ſome ready Money* ; and ſo they ſell you a ſwinging Parcel of *wild Wind* for a ſmall Price, and you are to be put in Poſſeſſion of it, as ſoon as 'tis caught and tamed.

Now

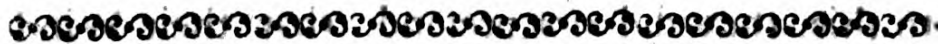
Now all these *fair Dealers* were going on and getting their Thousands by their said Trades, till a certain great *Wind Company* in Town, who wou'd engross the whole Commodity to themselves, took a cruel Resolution to crush these their Brethren and Rivals: In order to this, they did not pretend, that their Wind was a Bit better than any other Wind in the Alley: No, their Consciences would not let them go that length; so they only alledged, that their *Bags* were *Stamp'd Bags*, and their *Wind* was *Excis'd Wind*; whereas, said they, all the other Corporations of *Wind-Merchants* are no better than *Smuglers*. This Plea was allow'd to be good by the *Bench*, (*for the Thing was try'd at a Quarter Sessions*) and so the Sale of all other Wind was strictly prohibited.

Here then is the Beginning of the *Persecution* in the *Alley*. The *Establish'd Jobbers* have pronounced all that Jobb upon *private Judgment*, *Interlopers* and *Fanaticks*, and called upon the *Secular Arm* to crush them, *else*, say they, *this our Craft* and our *Wind* will be set at nought; and hereupon they all cried with one Accord, *Great is the SOUTH WIND*.

The *Dissenting Bubbles*, being all thus doom'd *Schismaticks*, are in a gasping Condition, expostulating and complaining, that in a free Country, and a projecting Age, all the ingenious *Refiners* and *Sellers* of *Wind*, are not equally tolerated.

Say they, very *judiciously*, and very *truly*, *We are all agreed in FUNDAMENTALS*, namely, in
C
raising

raising Millions out of Nothing, and in sacrificing all other Trade and Manufactures to the Trade and Mystery of WIND ; and yet we are persecuted by Men who deal in nothing else but WIND.
I am, Sir, &c.



N U M B. III.

To the Author of the London Journal.

S I R,

I Must beg you, for the Benefit of the present Age, as well as for the Advantage of Posterity, to allow me a little more Conversation with you, about the unhappy Circumstances of my Countrymen, who are engag'd in the Great Affairs of *Exchange-Alley*: How easily are Men bewitch'd into *Ruin and Misery*; the Stocks continue falling, and many Thousands are, by the Hopes of *Excessive Gain*, reduc'd to *absolute Beggary*. *High Expectations* and *Great Plenty* are succeeded by *general Diffidence*, *prevailing Fears*, *Bankruptcy* and *Poverty*.

It is dismal and mournful to behold the melancholy desponding Looks which one every where meets with, both in the Center and Suburbs of the City. The Distraction, Apprehensions, and Desolation that at present reign in the Hearts and Circumstances of the People, are indeed almost universal; all Ranks of Men suffer. It is, however, to be observ'd, that ma-

ny of those who so largely contributed to undo Trade and Manufacture, are themselves undone by the Stocks. Men have, as it were, madly clubbed to destroy their Country, and themselves; nor does this their own woful Fate excuse or extenuate their Fault. Their own Misery is the Effect of their Blindness; but the Publick is not hurt thro' Ignorance. The Overthrow of Trade, and the Discouragement of Industry, are Crimes which they have committed with their Eyes open.

People have almost ventur'd without a Chance for getting; they had a hundred to one against them, their principal Dependance in many Cases being upon the Faith and Honesty of a Knot of Knaves, who being under no Restraint, but the Fear of Hanging, are not under any Restraint at all, while they have so many Thousands in their Pockets: Alas, if a Traitor has but Money enough, What room has he to fear an Ax or a Halter! I could give Instances, but I spare the present Generation.

I was yesterday in the *Alley*, that infamous Spot of Earth, where a few Miscreants thrive at the Expence of their Country, and Treachery preys upon Credulity; there I was shewn an unhappy Man (*amongst many others*) with this Account of him; He had a good Estate in the Country, which brought him in a plentiful Income of *Fifteen hundred Pounds a Year*, but this did not satisfy him; he wanted to be worth a Million, and his Wife to be a Dutchess; it

cut the Hearts both of him and her to behold *little prim Prick'd-ear'd Citizens* wallowing in *Luxury*, and boasting their *Hundred Thousands*, while they themselves, who were People of Breeding, and had never stood behind Compters, were forced to sit down with their original Fortune, which only afforded them ENOUGH: He therefore turn'd his whole Estate into Money, and brought his whole Money into the *Alley*; and behold the Effect! Two Months ago he had *Forty five thousand Pounds*, but it's now all gone, and *Ten thousand Pounds* into the Bargain; and all the miserable Man has left is, *a Wife and Seven Children*.

STOCK-JOBGING is the accursed Art of preying upon one another, and of *Cheating* and being *Cheated* by Consent. One cannot get in this abominable Myſtery, what another does not *loſe*; and a Bargain ſtruck between Two Stock-Jobbers, is only a Trial of Skill, which of them Two ſhall prove the luckier Knave: But whoever gets, the Nation certainly loſes; and all Ranks of Men engaged, run into real Expence and *Luxury*, without real Wealth; and the Kingdom becomes moſt prodigal, when it is moſt decaying; which is alſo a Sign and Behaviour of particular Bankrupts, when they are firſt becoming ſuch.

This Nation cannot, nor never did thrive, but by *Industry* and *Trading*, both of which are much at a ſtand for the preſent, by the ingenuous and publick-ſpirited Management of
Stock-

Stock-Jobbers, and of those who abet them for the sake of going snacks. A Pótent Body of Men! And yet in spite of both, the Credit of Jobbing seems expiring, and the People, at last, seem appriz'd of a merciless Conspiracy, to deceive and plunder a free, believing Nation, to enrich a vile Tribe of Stock-Jobbers. *Thank God*, they want the Arbitrary Engines of *France* to support Projects borrow'd from *France*: We are yet free; and I am told that *Jack Ketch* has very powerful and very plausible Hopes of making his Fortune this Winter, and of stripping those who would strip the Kingdom. I must own, it would be very natural, and not displeasing to one possess'd with the honest Principles of Liberty and Justice, to see the *Spoilers* of a free People *spoiled* by the Hangman.

I am, &c.



N U M B.

N U M B. IV.

To the Author of the London-Journal.

S I R,

THE greatest *Empires*, and the mightiest *Stock-Jobbers*, have frequently risen from small Beginnings. The Kingdom of *Macedon* was but a despicable Kingdom, till *Philip* and *Alexander* came to be *DIRECTORS* of it; nor were Sir ———, and Sir ———, at present two potent Emperors, of a more noble Original than the Kingdom of *Macedon*; tho' they are, in this our Day, Names of much greater Importance, than those of *Alexander* the Great, and his Father *Philip*: Nay, it is confidently asserted by some considerable Antiquaries, that none of the *Roman Emperors*, tho' often basely born, nor any of the *Heathen Gods*, however dishonestly begot, could boast an humbler Beginning than our great S I R *J* ——— N, the famous *Heathen God*, and *Cobler of Stocks*, who from an humble Stall, the inglorious Scene of his Infancy, by *Figures* and *Conjuring*, brought a whole People to *Enrich* and *Adore* him, at the Expence of their *Estates*, and their Senses.

But as it happened to *Cæsar*, *Alexander*, and several other of the principal *Directors* and *Disturbers* of the Affairs of Mankind, that they have been often snatched away by uncourteous
and

and disastrous Destiny, and their Estates have suffered amazing Revolutions ; even so it is justly apprehended that many, alas ! too many of our *Dictators in Stock*, and *absolute Monarchs* of the *ALLET* will fall, or rather rise, by the *basest Blow of Fate*. This considerable Comfort will, however, attend them, that they will dye *nearer Heaven*, than ever they liv'd, or ever they will live after they are dead ; for it is written, *That the Spirit of a BEAST goeth downward*.

There are already several mournful Presages of their approaching Doom, and their *evil Genius* does already haunt them. Wherever they go, they are pursued by the *Mobb* and the *Ravens*, the former hoot them on every Side, and the latter croak over their Heads ; at the Name of *De Wit* they tremble, and at the Name of *Jack Ketch*, they wax Pale. The sight of *Timber* puts them into Agonies ; and when they enter into a Door, they shut fast their Eyes, from the dread of beholding a *Post* : A *dry Salter* is their Aversion, for lo ! he dealeth in *Hemp*, and they sweat at the Sight of a *Sessions Paper*. If a Man, having Business with them, pats one of them upon the Shoulder, he starts, looks wild, and pulls out his Purse, as much as to say, *Take this Bribe, and let me run away*.

It is thought, that having *ruined* all Trade, and *sanctify'd* all Knavery, they were in hopes for *filthy self Ends*, to have utterly ruined
 Mr. *Ketch's*

Mr. *Ketch's* Trade also ; and had their raw Empire been a little established, probably they might have succeeded, and stopped the honest Course of our Gallows, as effectually as they have stopped the Course of our Navigation, and our Industry. But *Jack* being a discerning Fellow, and wisely foreseeing that what Men are born to, will *necessarily* befall them, is going to set up his Equipage as well as they, and hopes to maintain it more honestly out of their Spoils, than they do theirs out of the Spoils of a seduced People.

Such is the woful Plight they are in, such the terrible Prospect before them ; Money will not do, a whole Nation may be *betray'd*, but a whole Nation cannot be bribed: When the People have been up, *a Million* has not been able to *save one Throat*.

To shew them that their Fate begins to operate in good earnest, their Noses are daily put in Mind of what their Necks may soon expect from the Publick Justice. This is an unlucky Omen, for there is such a strict Confederacy between these two Members, that they seldom suffer separately, and in some Diseases, I am told, never.

These Princely Jobbers feel likewise frequent Marks of the Peoples Favour at their *other End*, and receive *sensible Warnings* from their very Posteriors. But their great and principal Monitor is the *Nose*, which by the many *Tweaks* and *Convulsions* it feels, foretels its miserable
and

and short Duration ; and when that is gone, will the Persecution cease ? Verily nay ! Not satiated with demolishing the comely *Steeple* of the Face, it will rage against the rest of the Fabrick, and make Martyrs of Member after Member, till it has not left one Muscle upon another. *Woe be to you Stock-Jobbers and Traytors ; you are exalted into Chariots, but you shall be cast down into Carts.*

The greatest Felicity that can, at present, attend a *Director* of a *Bubble*, is to have ne'er a *Nose* at all, or to be blessed with a short one ; for then *Revenge* not meeting a sufficient Handle in the *Front*, will naturally fall upon the *Rear*, where tho' its Marks may prove *black* and *blue*, and very grievous to be born, yet will they remain hid, and consequently unknown to all but those who saw them given ; whereas a *Pinch* in the *Snout* proclaims its own Infamy to all that behold it, and is Matter of *Fear* as well as *Sorrow*.

Now, to those Great *Heroes* in *Stock*, who are neither blessed with a *short Nose*, nor ne'er a *Nose*, I would humbly propose a Piece of Advice : I do not pretend to advise them to run away from their *Roguery*, and do honestly by the Publick ; *No, no such Matter* : I shall advise them to nothing but what is possible : *Let them but soak their Noses thrice a Day in Oyl*, and it will enable them to beguile the Gripe of the hardest *Mastiff* in the *Ailey*.

N. B. *This Receipt will not do for their Necks, which I do not pretend to ensure, God forbid I should have any Share in stopping or disappointing the due Course of Justice.*

But as Men are never *banged* by the *Nose*, I am only proposing an Expedient to make it endure pulling with the more Ease ; and I hope I shall not for this my Ingenuity be blamed, as if I was partial to the *Noses* of these *Great* and *Wealthy* Men, any more than I am to their *Persons*. The whole Secret of my Kindness lies here : I hate to see disfigured Faces ; and if every *Directing Money Monarch*, who has play'd the Rogue, carried a Purple Nose about him in Token thereof ; I could not, without great Offence to my self, do my Business at the *S--- S--- House*.

But now, to conclude : Tho' many *Powerful Princes*, and *Almighty Stock-Jobbers*, have risen to be so from small, and often sudden Beginnings ; and tho' the Death of the latter will, in all Probability, have this in common with the Death of the former, that they will die in *perfect Health* ; yet (*which is wonderful*) the World has paid a Regard to *these Princes* very different to that which it pays to *Stock-Jobbers*. I never heard, that an *Imperial Knave* received a *Kick* in the *Breech*, or a *Twang* by the *Nose* ; whereas it often happens, that the *Hams* of our *most Illustrious Stock-Jobbers* are, by such ugly
Usage,

Usage, render'd unfit to carry them ; and then their *Noses* look as if they were *parboil'd*.

Enquiring into the Causes of this unequal Treatment of Men, who are by different Means equal *Enemies* to *Mankind*, I find them to be these two : In the first Place, none of our *Clergy* have yet appear'd so abandon'd as to found *Stock-Jobbing* upon *Divine Right* : And, in the second Place, there is scarce a *Director*, either of the *South* or the *North BUBBLE*, who possesses One Great or Good Quality, to prevent or lessen the *General Detestation* of *Mankind*.

I am, SIR, &c.



D 2

N U M B.

To the Author of the London Journal.

S I R,

AS I have heard, with Concern, the Report of our being in Danger of losing *Gibraltar*, lately reviv'd ; so I had no small Pleasurè to see, in the Generality of the People, a just Sense of the great Importance of that Place to the Trade and Security of *England*.

All Men, in truth, shew their Opinion of it, by the Fears they express about it ; and if we set aside (as unworthy of mention) a few *prostitute Hirelings*, who go about Coffee-Houses to drop, as far as they dare, stupid and villanous Reasons for giving it up ; I say, excepting such a contemptible few, I defy those, who for vile Ends, or to make good vile Bargains, would gladly have it surrender'd, to pick out of all the People of *England*, One honest, rational, and disinterested Man to concur with them in it.

Thank God, in Spite of the Folly of *Parties*, and the Arts of *Betrayers*, we see in all Men a steady, warm, and unanimous Spirit for the Preservation of *Gibraltar* ; and I hope to see shortly the Time when we shall, with the same Frankness and Unity, exercise our Reason and our Eyesight in other Matters, in which we are at present misled, either by Infatuation or false Interest.

There

There are two Things which surprize me in the many Apprehensions we have had about *Gibraltar* : The first is, the great Diffidence manifested by such Fears : Men must be far gone in Distrust, before they could come to suspect that their Superiors could ever grow so much as indifferent about a Place of such Consequence to their Country ; and to suppose them capable of giving it up, is to suppose them capable of giving up *Portsmouth*, nay, *England* it self. Such Suppositions must therefore be unjust, and the Height of Ignorance or Spleen. Can it be imagined, that Men of Honour would forfeit their Reputation, Patriots sacrifice a Bulwark of their Country, or wise Men venture their Heads, by such a traiterous, shameful and dangerous Step ?

But, say some, Perhaps it will be *suffer'd* to be taken *by Surprise*, and then all the Blame will only rest upon some obscure Officer, who may easily be given up or kept out of the way, while those who contriv'd the Roguery, and felt the Reward of it, will be as loud in their Resentments, as others who love their Country well enough to grieve for its Disgrace or its Losses.

I know, indeed, all this has been said more than once, and some plausible Circumstances urged, to shew that it was not absolutely groundless. But, alas, what a poor Plot would here be ! A Farce of Treachery and Nonsense, visible to the weakest of Mankind, and only fit
to

to raise Hatred and Contempt towards the wretched Framers of it : This would be to deal with us, as with a Nation of Ideots, blind, insensible, who can neither see Day-light, nor feel Injuries, nor return insolent Usage. No, no, we are not as yet to be hoodwink'd by such thin Schemes : We can ask, if need were, a few plain Questions, which would easily puzzle such feeble Politicians ; but at present we have no Occasion.

All this, however, shews, how much we are apt to suspect foul Play in this, and many other Cases of the like Nature ; nor shall I now maliciously enquire, to what prevailing Cause such Distrust is to be ascrib'd.

Another Thing at which I am apt to wonder is, that considering how much our Credit is concern'd to clear our selves from the Charge of any base Purpose of being willing that *Gibraltar* should be given away, we have not yet done it, at least in any publick and satisfactory Manner. The mistaken People will say, and have said, that our Silence is a Confession of our Guilt ; and that if their Censures and Suppositions had not been just, it was in our Power publickly to have confuted and remov'd them ; neither of which we have done, but suffer'd *them* to remain under painful Fears, and *our selves* under the Suspicion of neither regarding their Interest, nor their Ease, nor our own Credit.

Why did you not, say they, tell all the World how much you were wronged, and be-
lyed

lyed in a Declaration, said to be the *Regent's of France*, which expressly asserted, that a Bargain was made to give away *Gibraltar*? Why did you not demonstrate, that you were at least as willing to preserve your own Towns, as to conquer Countries for other People, who are remarkable for doing you as little Service as they possibly can? Why did you suffer it to be suggested with the least Colour of Probability, that you would rather throw away what was your own, than not procure for *Foreign Allies* at *your* Expence, what was none of theirs? Why do we fight, why conquer, if we must thus condescend to implore the Vanquish'd graciously to grant Peace to us the *Conquerors*, for which we will humbly pay them with part of our Dominions? And how came Foreign States, *most of them Slaves*, to be more in your Favour than *old England*, which is a Nursery of Freemen?

All these are malicious Questions, tho' I hope groundless; but as they are propos'd by many Thousands of his Majesty's Liege Subjects, in a modest and serious Way, methinks it would be a seasonable Piece of Discretion and good Policy, to prove them groundless.

For *God's sake* let us answer, if we can answer; and if our Innocence is to be shewn, as no doubt it is, let it be shewn; it will not even be enough, that *Gibraltar* is never given up, but we ought to purge our selves from the Imputation of ever having entertain'd so criminal an Inten-

Intention. If we can do this, it will recover us some Part of the Credit and Confidence we have lost by not doing of it. I therefore hope, and humbly propose, that we may soon see some able and sagacious Pen, instead of making *Odes* for us, make *Apologies* for us; which *Heaven of its infinite Mercy grant, &c.*

In the mean Time, permit me, *your patient Reader*, to give here three unanswerable Reasons why *Gibraltar* cannot either be given up or taken :

First, because *Secretary Grimaldo* says it.

Secondly, it would make *South-Sea Stock* fall; and

Thirdly and lastly, We have wise and honest *Governors*.

I am, Sir, &c.



NUMB.

NUMB. VI.

To the Author of the London Journal.

S I R,

THE terrible Circumstance of our *French* Neighbours, under the Plague in some Places, expecting it in others, and dreading it in all, is a loud Warning to us, to take all Expedients and possible Precautions against such a formidable Calamity.

We have already had, and still have a Contagion of another Sort, more universal, and less merciful than that at *MARSEILLES*; the latter has destroy'd, we are told, about sixty thousand Lives; ours has done worse, it has render'd a much greater Number of Lives miserable, who want but the Sickness to finish their Calamity; either by rendering it complete, or by putting an end to them and that together.

Indeed, had the Alternative been offer'd us, half a Year ago, I think it would have been a Symptom of Wisdom in us, to have chosen rather to fall by the Hand of *God*, than by the execrable Arts of Stock-Jobbers: That we are fallen, is a sorrowful Truth, not only visible in every Face you meet, but in the Destruction of our Trade, the Glory and Riches of our Nation, and the Livelihood of the Poor.

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But *Complaining* does not mend the Matter ; and yet what sensible Heart can avoid *Complaining*, when he hears his *dear Country*, a *whole Country*, a *potent Nation*, a *Nation* happy in its *Climate*, in its *Prince*, and in its *Laws*, groaning under mighty Evils, brought upon it by mean and contemptible Hands, and apprehending Evils still more mighty ? This gives Bitterness to a human Spirit, tho' it suffers no otherwise than by Sympathy : Is there no way left of doing our selves Justice, and has the Dearth of our Prosperity extinguish'd all Sense of our Injuries ?

'Tis true, it is both prudent and religious in private Persons, to stifle the Notions of Revenge, and calmly to expect Reparation from God and the Law : But *Jealousy* and *Revenge*, in a whole People, when they are abused, are laudable and politick Virtues ; without which they will never thrive, never be esteem'd : How far they are to carry their Resentments, I do not pronounce. The Measures of it must be determin'd by Circumstances ; but still, keen Resentment ought to be shewn, or some Punishment, or Punishments, inflicted : When the Dignity, or Interest, of a Nation is at Stake, *Mercy* may be *Cruelty*.

To this Spirit of *Jealousy* and *Revenge*, was formerly the *Roman*, and now the *Venetian* Commonwealths, beholden for the long Preservation of their Liberty ; and Liberty will never subsist long where they are not : For if
any

any Crimes against the Publick may be committed with Impunity, Men will be tempted to commit the greatest of all; I mean that of making themselves Masters of the State; and where Liberty ends in Servitude, it is owing to this Neglect. *Cæsar* thought he might do what he had seen *Marius* and *Sylla* do before him, and so enslav'd his Country: Whereas, had the Two first been hang'd, the Third would, perhaps, never have been.

I bring these Examples to prove that Nations should be quick in their Resentments, and severe in their Judgments. As never Nation was more abus'd than our's has been of late by the *Dirty Race* of *Money-Changers*; so never Nation could, with a *better Grace*, more *Justice*, or *greater Security*, take its full Vengeance, than our's can, upon its *detested Foes*. Sometimes the *Greatness* and *Popularity* of the Offenders make *strict Justice* unadviseable, because unsafe; but here it is not so; you may, at present, load all the Gallows's (in *England*) with *DICTATORS* and *Stock-Jobbers*, without the Assistance of a *Sheriff's Guard*, or so much as a *Sigh* from an *Old Woman*, tho' accustom'd perhaps to shed Tears at the untimely Demise of a Common Felon or Murderer. A thousand *Stock-Jobbers*, well *truss'd up*, beside the diverting Sight, would be a cheap Sacrifice to the *Manes* of Trade; and one certain Expedient to soften the Rage of the People; and to convince them that the fu-

ture *Direction* of their Wealth and Estates shall be put in the Hands of those, who will as effectually study to promote the General Benefit and Publick Good, as those who have, lately, most *infamously* sacrificed Both to their own *private Advantage*. Something is certainly due to both the former. The Resurrection of Honesty and Industry can never be hop'd for, while this Sort of *Vermin* is suffer'd to crawl about, tainting our Air, and putting every Thing out of Course; subsisting by Lies, and practising vile Tricks, low in their Nature, and mischievous in their Consequences.

That a Multitude of Families are ruin'd, and suddenly sunk from plentiful Circumstances to abject Poverty, is affecting and lamentable; tho' perhaps all owing to their own rash Confidence in the Management of *known Knaves*: That innocent Children, born, as they imagin'd, to fair Fortunes, and brought up accordingly, must now want Bread, or beg it, is a *Catastrophe* that must pierce every tender Heart, and produce Pity and Tears: But to see one's Country labouring under all the sad Symptoms of Distress, without the Violence of War, without the diabolical Refinements of able Politicians; but purely from the *Dull Cunning* of inferior Rogues, void of Bravery, void of Abilities; Wretches that would run away in the Field, and be despised in Assemblies; this is what should turn *Pity* into *Rage*, and *Grief* into *Vengeance*.

For

For a Nation to suffer itself to be ill used, is of dangerous Example; whether those that use it ill be its *Neighbours* or its *Natives*: Patience, in this Case, invites fresh Injuries; and that People, who would not bear many unjust Burthens, must not bear one.

A Country, as I said above, ought to do it self Justice with Speed, as well as with Vigour; Delay has often render'd a Cure impossible in the Body Politick, as well as in human Bodies: By Delays, the Edge of Resentment goes off, and the Offender has Leisure to fortify himself by new Rogueries.

I would therefore have my Countrymen take Advantage of the Humour they are in, and make a Virtue of their present Anger. Let them rouse the Bold Spirit of a Free Nation; and shew, by all Lawful and Loyal Means, that they who always scorned to be the Property of TYRANTS, will not be the Prey of STOCK-JOBBERS.

I am, SIR,

My Country's,

And Yours,

C A T O.

NUMB. VII.

To the Author of the London Journal.

S I R,

I AM naturally led, by what you mentioned in your last, relating to our injured Country, to fall in with you upon the same Subject. A Man robb'd in his House; or on the Highway, receives from the Law all possible Satisfaction: He has the Restitution of his Goods again, where it can be made; and he has the Life of the Offender, if he can be apprehended; and then there is a plentiful Reward given for every such Apprehension. By this salutary Method, Vengeance is at once taken for the Crime committed, and a terrible Example made of its Author, to prevent its Repetition.

The *Law* is the great Rule in every Country, at least in every free Country, by which private Property is ascertained, and the Publick Good, which is the great End of all Laws, is secured; and the religious Observance of this Rule, is what alone makes the Difference between good Laws and none. The Terrour and Sanctity of the Laws, are shewn by the Execution of them; and to a Contempt of the Laws, or to a direct dispensing with them, have been owing most of the
Shocks

Shocks and Revolutions, that we have, for many Ages, sustain'd in *England*.

Some Laws are, indeed, unwarily made, being procured by Passion, Craft, or Surprise; but such are generally either suffered to wax *obsolete*, or are repealed, as we have seen in many Instances, *and may yet see in more.*

But, I speak, here of those Laws which have a direct and known Tendency to secure to us what we have, and to preserve us what we are: A free People are kept so, by no other Means, but an equal Distribution of Property; every Man who has a Share of Property, having a proportionable Share of Power; and the first Seeds of *Anarchy*, which, for the most part, ends in *Tyranny*, are produced from hence, that some are *ungovernably rich*, and many more *miserably poor*; that is, some are Masters of all the *Means of Oppression*, and others want all the *Means of Self-defence*.

What Progress we have lately made, in *England*, towards such a *blessed State* of Confusion and Misery, by the Credulity of the People, throwing their All upon the Mercy of *base-spirited, hard-hearted VILLAINS*, *mischievously trusted* with a Power to undo them, is too manifest from the woful Condition we are in: The Ruin is general, and every Man has the miserable Consolation to see his Neighbour undone; for as to the *Class of Ravens*, whose Wealth has cost the Nation

its *All*, as they are *manifest Enemies to God and Man*, no Man can call *them his Neighbours*; they are *Rogues of Prey*, they are *Stock-Jobbers*, they are a *Conspiracy of Stock-Jobbers*: A Name which carries along with it such a detestable deadly Image, that it exceeds all humane Invention to aggravate it; nor can Nature, with all her Variety and Stores, furnish out any Thing to illustrate its Deformities by; nay, it gains visible Advantage by the worst Comparisons you can make: Your Terrour lessens, when you liken them to *Crocodiles and Cannibals*, who feed, for *Hunger*, on humane Bodies.

These Monsters, therefore, stand single in the Creation, they are *Stock-Jobbers*; they have serv'd a whole People, as *Satan serv'd Job*; and so far the Devil is injured, by any Analogy you can make between him and them.

Well; but Monsters as they are, what would you do with them? The Answer is short and at hand, *Hang them*; for whatever they deserve, I would have no new Tortures invented, nor any new Death devised. In this, I think, I shew Moderation; let them only be *hang'd*, but *hang'd speedily*: As to their *Wealth*, as it is the *manifest Plunder* of the People, let it be restored to the People, and let the Publick be their Heirs. The only Method by which the Publick is ever like to get *Millions* by them, or indeed any Thing.

But

But say some, when did you ever see Rogues, covered with Wealth, brought to the Ax or the Gallows? I own the Example is rare, more is the Shame of this Nation, which has had such rich Temptations, and such frequent Opportunities; we have had publick Guilt in abundance, *God knows*, often protected by *Party*, and often by *Money*. *Faction* on one Side, and *Riches* on the other, have, as it were, made a *Lane* for great Criminals to escape. But all these Escapes, which are, indeed, our Reproach, cannot give any Ground to fear a present one.

This Nation has formerly been bought and sold; but Arts were used to blind the Peoples Eyes, and the Effects of the Treachery were not immediately felt; and we know that the Resentment of the Vulgar never follows from their *Understanding*, or their *Reflection*, but from their *Feeling*: A Pick-pocket may tickle a plain Fellow's Ear, till he has got his Purse, but if he *feels* it going, he will knock the Thief down.

We have felt our Pockets pick'd, and we know who have done it. *Vengeance abides them*. I am told, some of them *have the Face to pretend*, that they ought not to be put to death; but we hope the Legislature will *effectually* convince them, that this their Partiality to themselves is groundless: All their Hopes of Safety must consist in their Money; and without Question, they will try to make

the Wages of their Villany protect their Villany: But I cannot see how any Sums can save them; for as they have robb'd and cheated all Men, *except their Accomplices*, so all Men are concerned to see Justice done to themselves; and if the ordinary Channels of Justice could be stop'd by Bags of Money, or by Partnership in original Guilt, *which Evil we do not apprehend*, the enrag'd, the abus'd People, might be prompted by their uppermost Passion, and having their Resentment heightened by Disappointment, might, *it is to be feared*, have recourse to *extraordinary Ways*; Ways that are often *successful*, tho' never *justifiable*.

Here are no Parties in this Case to disguise Truth, and obstruct Justice; the Calamity is general, and so is the Resentment; All are *Sufferers*; All will be *Prosecutors*. The Cry for Justice is loud and united; if it be baulked, I can prophesy no good from so cruel an Omission.

If this mighty, this destructive Guilt, were to find Impunity, nothing remains, but that every Villain of a daring, or avaricious Spirit, may grow a Great Rogue, in order to be a Great Man: When a People can no longer expect Redress of publick and heavy Evils, nor Satisfaction from publick and bitter Injuries, hideous is the Prospect they have before them. If they will tamely suffer a Fall from Plenty to Beggary, they may soon expect another, and a worse, from that to *Slavery*; *but I hope better Things of England.* I have

I have before my Eyes a *wise beneficent Prince*, a *generous and publick spirited Parliament*, an *able disinterested Ministry*; all contending with each other for the Wealth, the Glory, the Liberty of their Country: And I have before my Eyes a *brave and honest People*, *Lovers of Trade and Industry*, *free of their Money*, and *well deserving of the Legislature*, *passionate for Liberty*, and *Haters of Chains*; but *deluded, drained of their Money*, and abused beyond Patience, beyond Expression, by *mean Sharpers*, that swagger in the Plunder of their Country.

Where therefore there is so much Capacity, and there are so many good Dispositions to help us on one Side; such loud and melancholy Calls, for that Help, on another Side; and such open, such execrable, such publick Crimes from a third Quarter; we may hope every Thing from the speedy Meeting of the *King and Parliament*. They are our *PROTECTORS*, and *we trust they do not bear the Sword in vain*.

I doubt not but many Schemes will be laid before them, some of them designed for a Source of new Rogueries, and to prevent Enquiries into the old ones. It shall be the Business therefore of this Paper, to watch and examine such Schemes, and to condemn them, or recommend them, just as they deserve.

I have, Sir, in this, as you did in your last, taken the Guilt of our *Traytors* for granted, as

I think all Men do : But because they shall have all fair Play, I undertake hereafter, if it is found necessary, to *prove it*, by an Induction of Particulars. And I will promise them, out of the great Love I bear them, that as long as I continue to send you these Letters, and you to publish them, they shall find in them something of more Weight, than in the poor and feeble Jest's of *common News Writers*.

I am, S I R, &c.

BRITANNICUS.



NUM B. VIII.

To the Author of the London Journal.

S I R,

I Find you are fairly enter'd, and, like an honest Man, seem to have the publick Good, and the Interest of your Country sincerely at Heart, separate from all other Views whatever : In this noble Undertaking you need not fear the Assistance of every generous Mind in the Kingdom ; and I doubt not but you, in some Measure, experience what I say to be just, by the daily Help you receive : We
look

look now to you alone, to represent, in this publick Manner, the Grievances we are under, and we depend upon your discharging the Trust reposed in you with Integrity and Honour.

All Men are now taught, by miserable Experience, that the Project of the *South-Sea*, through the hard-hearted Knavery of some, who have been in the Direction of it; and through the Folly, or rather Distraction of the People, has not answer'd the good and wise Ends design'd by the Parliament; but instead of that, has ruin'd Thousands of innocent and well-meaning People, to glut *Harpies* and *Publick Robbers* with Millions: *Unhappy Fate of poor England, worthy of a better! For This, Trade has been neglected; for This, Industry discourag'd; for This, Honesty abandon'd; for This, Credit undone, and all that Stock-Jobbers might make Fortunes, and small Sharppers grow mighty Men.*

Every one, therefore, seems to agree, that something is necessary to be done, in a legal Way, to restore, once more, our Publick Credit. But it is hop'd we are far from consenting that any Thing ought to be done, to repair the Losses occasion'd by Folly and Covetousness, out of the Estates of those, who always foresaw, and always oppos'd this mighty Mischief, much less, at the further Expence of the Honour and Trade of the Nation.

To

To set this Matter in a due Light, it is necessary to enquire what is meant by the Publick Credit of a Nation.

First, Credit may be said to run high, when the Commodities of a Nation find a ready Vent, are sold at a good Price, and when Dealers may be safely trusted with them, with a reasonable Assurance of being paid.

Secondly, When Lands and Houses find ready Purchasers, and when Money is to be borrow'd at low Interest, in order to carry on Trade and Manufacture, at such Rates, as may enable us to undersell our Neighbours.

Thirdly, When People think it safe and advantageous to venture large Stocks in Trade and Dealing, and do not lock up their Money in Chests, or hide it under-ground. And,

Fourthly, When Notes, Mortgages, and Publick and Private Security will pass for Money, or easily procure Money, by selling for as much Silver and Gold as they are Security for; which can never happen, but upon a Presumption, that the same Money may be had for them again.

In all these Cases, 'tis abundantly the Interest of a Nation, to promote Credit and mutual Confidence; and the only possible Way in Nature, effectually to do this, is to maintain *Publick Honour and Honesty*; to provide ready Remedies for private *Injustice and Oppression*,
and

and to protect the Innocent and Helpless from being devour'd by Fraud and Rapine.

But National Credit can never be supported by lending Money without Security, or drawing in other People to do so ; by raising Stocks and Commodities, by Artifice and Fraud, to unnatural and imaginary Values ; and consequently delivering up helpless Women and Orphans, and the ignorant and unwary, but *industrious Subject*, to be devour'd by *Pick-Pockets* and *Stock-Jobbers* : A sort of Vermin that are bred and nourish'd in the Corruption of a State.

This is a Method, which, instead of preserving Publick Credit, destroys all Property, turns the Stock and Wealth of a Nation out of its proper Channels, and instead of nourishing the Body Politick, produces only *Ulcers*, *Eruptions*, and often *Epidemical Plague-Sores* : It starves the Poor, destroys Manufactures, ruins our Navigation, and raises Insurrections, &c.

The first Loss is always the least ; one half of the Nation is ruin'd already ; I hope we may learn Wit from our Misfortunes, and save the other half : In order to this, we may expect, that no new Projects will be countenanc'd or receiv'd, which have any Tendency to prejudice Trade, or which cause Monopolies, or set up exclusive Companies ; and that no Privileges or Advantages be granted, for which ready Money might be got.

Some

Some People have the Assurance to publish it, for Example, that a certain Set of *Stock-Jobbers*, whose Faith and Modesty are now well known and felt, expect, among other Gifts, from the Publick, that the Island of *St. Christophers* should be given them, *as a further Expedient to get more Wealth to themselves, and leave the Nation none*: Now *St. Christophers* is worth *three hundred thousand Pounds Sterling*, and will yield so much; so that to present them with this Island, would be just making them a Present of *three hundred thousand Pounds*; a Sum almost sufficient to make the Fortune of *an Under South-Sea Clerk*; but such a Sum as this poor Nation cannot, at present, spare.

I hope, therefore, that it will no longer be impudently alledg'd, that by parting with such Gifts, we lose nothing; since that alone is worth nothing, for which nothing can be got: But the Case is otherwise here; and from the Nature of our publick Gaming, and the Spirit of the worthy Sharpers who direct it, I dare pronounce before-hand, that every Scheme that they themselves propose, to make their Bubble and their Roguery thrive again, will still be built upon the further Expence, and further Loss and Misery of these unhappy Nations.

If our Money is gone, *thank God*, our Eyes are left; and sharpen'd by Experience and Adversities,

versities, we can see through Disguises, and will be no more amaz'd with Moon-shine.

The Nation and Parliament has been abus'd, and they will undoubtedly be reveng'd ; they will not be put off with dark juggling, and knavish Projects, to stifle Resentments, and divert due Vengeance : There's no attending to any new Schemes, till the *Publick Robbers* are punish'd, with whom there can never be any Accommodation.

To begin then, in the first Place, with the Criminals, will shew that we are in earnest Champions for Honesty, for Trade, and for the Nation, all oppress'd by *Money-Leeches* : All other Remedies may be but Mountebank Remedies : It would be Madness to concert new Schemes, liable to new Abuses, without first doing Justice to the *Abusers* of the old ; Impunity for past Crimes is a Warrant to commit more, especially when they are gainful.

Such mighty Mischiefs as these Men have done, will be but meanly atoned for, by such infamous Lives, unless their Estates are also confiscated ; and even these, *great as they are*, will repair but Part of our Misfortunes. But what we can have of them, let us have ; their Necks and their Money.

To begin with any other Project, they will take for a Confession, that there is a Design to save them ; and to what that must be owing, we all know ; and what further Evils it may produce, may even surpass our Fears, tho' al-

ready terribly great : But a Method of Justice presently enter'd upon, and impartially carried thro', will give us Patience under our Burdens, banish all our Fears, give Credit to the Publick Proceedings, and restore Hope to the almost despairing People.

I am, SIR,

Your Humble Servant,

C A T O.



N U M B. IX.

To the Author of the London Journal.

S I R,

THIS great Nation, undone by despicable *Stock-Jobbers* and their *Abettors*, has hitherto quietly groan'd under the merciless Hands of its Pillagers, and liv'd for some Months upon the pure Hopes of *Redress*. We look'd towards the Parliament : *His Majesty and his Ministry being absent, and busy'd with the Affairs of this Kingdom abroad, and in the glorious Aims of settling the Peace of Europe, and strengthening the Protestant Interest.*

3

The

The first Part of our Hopes is now almost accomplish'd, the Parliament are just upon meeting, and never, sure, did any Session open with greater Expectation, or more to do: Every Thing is turn'd *Topsy Turvy*; and the Nation, thrown into Convulsions, is waiting for the healing Hand of its *Representatives*.

Many Expedients will, no doubt, be offer'd *without Doors*; calculated, in Appearance, to improve the Stock; but, in reality, design'd to save the *DI-----RS*. This is to begin at the wrong End. To pretend to form Schemes for the encreasing of *Credit*, before the *Destroyers*, the *Cannibals* of *Credit*, are honestly and openly hung up to its *Manes*, is, in some sort, to confess, that we had our Instructions and Politics from the Criminals themselves; and our best and only Reasons out of their *Purses*.

Or if we are not thus wicked, we would, at best, be miserably weak to fall into such a preposterous Method; and whether great and general Calamities have their Root in *Roguary* or *Folly*, is all one to a Nation.

In spite of all the Remedies that can be apply'd, Multitudes will still remain undone beyond all Remedy: Nay, for ought I can see, there is no practical Remedy at all for what is past, so effectual has been the *Roguary* on one Side, and so rivetted is the *Ruin* on the other.

All therefore, that seems to me to be left, even to the united Wisdom of *Great Britain*, is the *Cure of Prevention*, to stop the Progress of the Contagion, to take Care that those which have already suffer'd, shall suffer no more, nor make new Sufferers : It is certain that all Men have suffer'd in some Sense or other, *the Criminals excepted*. It is hop'd that the miserable People will now be honour'd with *Their* good Company ; and that *the Box on the Ear*, which wantonly began from them, will in good earnest be returned to them, and end with them. It is some Consolation to the Inhabitants of a Village, who have been bit all round by a mad Dog, to see the *DIRECTOR* of the Poyson, and the Author of their Pain and Danger, honestly hung up, or knock'd on the Head.

The prevailing Woe which has long rag'd, and still sits hard and heavy upon us, has certainly some Authors, and the *D-----s* are generally taken to be these Authors ; and if they are duly and publickly punish'd, they will continue to be taken for the *only Authors*. But if there is nothing done to them, or nothing effectually done to them, we shall naturally look further, and make bold to know, that tho' they have been Rogues, yet that others have been greater than they, that others have *directed* the *D-----s*, and were Partners in the Spoil.

But

But if they stand single, and are found the *only* and *original* Plunderers of their Country, they will infallibly be given up to publick and crying Vengeance ; not only by the Rules of Guilt, but of good Policy. A more popular Thing cannot be done, nor indeed so popular a Thing. The Blessings of the People, and the universal Affections of *Great Britain*, will be some of the Rewards attending upon those, who will be the generous Authors of Publick Justice, upon the detestable Authors of Publick and Intense Misery.

I will never suppose that any Men, or even one Man in any publick Station, did by any Means *join* with *Stock-Jobbers* to undo their Country ; much less *enabled Stock-Jobbers* to undo their Country ; and supported them while they were about it. But it would be melancholy and terrible, indeed, to imagine that any publick Men, at least, any Man concern'd in the *Finances*, or set over any Part of the Publick Money, by which Publick Credit is circulated and sustained, should, in Defiance of his Publick Trust, put himself at the Head of a Conspiracy of *Stock-Jobbers*, who were with merciless and unclean Hands rifling the Publick itself, engrossing all its Wealth, and destroying, at once, all publick and private Faith.

Such

Such unprecedented Treachery, such overgrown Guilt, can never be suppos'd. Our Corruptions cannot be yet become so bold and bare-fac'd, nor we so tame. The Thing, therefore, by being so very monstrous, must be impossible, whatsoever Suggestions there may be to the contrary; which, were they true, could not fail of calling down double and conspicuous Punishment upon such a *Verres*.

As to those, who lately encouraged a Scheme, out of an honest Purpose to relieve the Publick, and pay off its Debts, they ought, and, no doubt, will be the first and the most active to revenge the Publick upon those, who, instead of relieving it, have brought the Publick into such doleful and dying Distress.

By this, they will further evince the Honesty of that Purpose, and merit still more to conduct our Affairs; and which will undoubtedly be remembred by the honest Free-holders of *England* at a proper Season in their Favour: Our Eyes are upon them; our Confidence is in them, and we wish them good Success in this great Tryal of Integrity and publick Spirit.

I foresee that there will be many who will be loud in their Call for Publick Justice, and yet be the first to prevent it. Their Avarice will arm their Tongues with Zeal, and a proper

per Present *disarm* it of its Eloquence. However, the Outside of publick Spirit will still be kept on; they will be sure to cry out to the last for Punishment, for severe Punishment; but they will be as sure to find fault with every Expedient proposed for inflicting it. I could name some worthy Patriots, of *many Words*, and *great Weight*, who will act this Farce rarely. It will not be the first time ---- What is humane Life, but a Masquerade! and what is civil Society, but a mock Alliance between Hypocrisy and Credulity!

Magna & misera Civitas, eodem anno tantas injurias tantumq; pudorem passa, inter Vinios, Fabios, Icelos, Asiaticos, varia & pudenda sorte agebat; donec successere Mucianus, & Marcellus, & magis alii homines quam alii mores.

These are the Words of a great *Ancient*, signal for his Wisdom and strong Observations: Had he liv'd now, and written in English, he would have written thus.

*Oh London! Oh England! Oh my Country! How great! and yet how miserable! What Reproach, what Calamities, what Ruin hast thou sustain'd? Sustain'd, in the Space of one short Year; less than a Year! Sustain'd from the Dregs of humane Kind! From Fellows, vile in their Original; and as to their Spirit, Slaves! What opprobrious Delusions; what deadly Revolutions hast thou suffered to be brought upon thee, by the ignoble Names, and servile Hands of B-----t;
L-----b-----,*

*L-----b-----, H-----b, and the like Scum of the
Vulgar! And after all this, art Thou not yet
weary, O my Country! of thy own Shame? Not
yet satiated with Devastation and Havock? And
wilt Thou yet again try the old Knavery mana-
ged by new Knaves?*

You may expect, Sir, to hear from me again
next Week upon this fruitful Subject; and
for the future, till every Ear is alarm'd with
the *Villany*, and every Heart detests the *Villains*,
how great soever, that have been the Cause of
our Destruction.

I am, SIR,

The Lover of my Country.





NUMB. X.

To the Author of the London Journal.

S I R,



IS worth Observation, that no Experience or Sufferings can cure the World of its Credulity. It has been a Bubble from the Beginning; nor is it a bit wiser for this Discovery, but still runs into old Snares, if they have but new Names, and often whether they have or no.

Self-Love beguiles Men into false Hopes, and they will venture to incur a hundred probable Evils, to catch one possible Good; nay, they run frequently into distracted Pains and Expences to gain Advantages, which are purely imaginary, and utterly impossible.

Were the Passions properly balanced, Men would act rationally; but by suffering one Passion to get the better of all the rest, they act madly or ridiculously.

Our prevailing Passions in *England*, of late, have been *Hope*, *Avarice*, and *Ambition*, which have had such a headlong Force upon the People, that they are become wretched and poor, by a ravenous Appetite to grow great and rich. Our Fear and Caution were postponed, and by a sanguine Struggle for what we had not, we lost what we had. Could such *Courage* be in-

H

spired

())
spired by Stock-jobbing? A cowardly Science
of mean Tricks and Lyes!

Every Adventurer in this mighty Lottery, forefaw that many must be Losers, and that was got by one must be lost by another; but every Man *hoped* that Fate would be kinder to him in particular, than to a thousand others; and so this mad *Hope* became general, as are the Calamities which it has produced.

This shews the little Power that Reason and Truth have over the Passions of Men, when they run high. In the late Revolution in the *Alley*, Figures and Demonstration *would* have told them, and the DIRECTORS *could* have told them, that it was all *Phrenzy*; and that they were pursuing gilded Clouds, the Composition of Vapour and a little Sunshine; both fleeting Apparitions! Common Sense could have told them, that Credit is the most uncertain and most fluctuating Thing in the World, especially when it is applied to Stock-Jobbing; that it had long before been exalted higher than it could well stand, even before it was come to fifty above *Par*, and therefore always tottered, and was always tumbling down at every little Accident and Rumour. A Story of a *Spanish Frigate*, or of a few Thieves in the dark *Dens* of the *Highlands*, or the *Sickness* of a foreign Prince, or the *Saying* of a Broker in a Coffee-House; all, or any of these contemptible Causes were able to reduce that *same Credit* into a very slender Figure, and sometimes within her old Bounds: But particularly they might have
3 seen,

seen, that it was now mounted to such an outrageous Height, as all the Silver and Gold in *Europe* could not support; and therefore when People came in any considerable Number to sell, (and to sell was the whole End of their buying) it would have a dreadful Fall, even to the crushing of the Nation. This has since dolefully happened: Our *Hopes*, which were our Ruin, are gone; and now we behold nothing but the Face of the Mourner.

But in spite of all this Mischief, produced by Credulity, by manifest and ill-grounded Credulity, it is much to be feared that some little Art, and big Promises, would make us repeat it, and grow mad again. This seems evident, not only from the Folly and Feebleness of humane Nature, ever the Prey of Craft, and ever caught with Shadows; but from our endless Gaping after new Projects, and our Eagerness to run into them. We have been bruised in a Mortar, but we are not wiser; while one Ruin is yet upon us, we are panting after another, perhaps work'd up by the same Hands, or by other Hands with the same Views.

O the Weakness and Folly of Man! it is like a Whirlpool, which destroys and drowns not by *Halves*, but when a *Part* is drawn in, the *Whole* follows.

*Surely the Pleasure is as great,
Of being cheated, as to cheat!*

Else Men would not be such *Dupes*, as every where they are; whoever would catch Mankind, has nothing to do, but to throw out a

Bait to their Passions, and infallibly they are his Property. This Secret is well known to corrupt Courts, and their crafty Agents, who flatter or frighten their obeying believing Vassals into all the Excesses of Misery and Obedience. By This, Standing Armies have been maintained; by This, wild Wars have been waged; and by This, an idle, expensive, absurd, and cruel *Popish Hierarchy* has been supported.

Once more, O wretched Man! Thou willing Instrument of thy own Bondage and Delusion; even Mountebanks know this Secret of cajoling thee, and picking thy Pocket; and worse than Mountebanks, *Stock-jobbers* know it.

When a People are undone, it is some Consolation to reflect, that they had no hand in their own Ruin, or did all they could to prevent it, by the best Counsels they could take, or by the bravest Defence they could make. But alas, poor *England!* thou hast not that Consolation. Thou hast not fallen by able Traytors; thou art not the Victim of deep Design, or artful Treason; nor art thou the Price of Victory in the Field; neither art thou outwitted by the subtle Dealers in Mystery and Distinction; nor in this Instance deceived by their false Alarms.

No, we have no such palliating Reflection to reconcile us to our Misery, or to abate its Pangs: To our deathless Shame, we are the Conquest, the Purchase of *Stock-jobbers*. The *British Lions* crouch to a *Nest of Owls!* Can we survive the Remembrance without Revenge?

But

But all this is complaining, will some say; and we want Remedies rather than Complaints: To bewail our Calamities, is indeed natural, but to extricate our selves out of them, is necessary. Here are *Two Hundred Millions* of *Imaginary* Property lost, and at least *Twenty Millions* of *Real* Property plundered from the honest and industrious, and given to Sharpers and Pick-pockets: Shall these *Rooks* be suffered to enjoy it? and shall the Bubbles be redressed out of other Mens Estates, no wise chargeable with the Mischief? or must we prostitute the publick Honour of the Nation to draw in other People (no way concerned) to take the bold Bargains of rash Men and *Dupes* off their Hands? But if none of these Methods are taken, our Cullies must set down with their Loss, or the Traytors be forced to disgorge.

If we make new Schemes, or diversify the old, till Doom's-Day, there will be no paying *Twenty Millions* without *Twenty Millions*, or without what is Equivalent to *Twenty Millions*, which will be the same thing to the Nation as the parting with *Twenty Millions*.

The Payment therefore will either be a real Payment, or a sham Payment; and in this Case, if *caveat emptor*, (*let the Buyer look to it*) be a good general Rule in the Business of Bargains and Sale, it will be a good Rule here too.

If we have any *State-Chymists*, who have Art enough to make Millions evaporate into Smoak, yet I must beg leave to doubt their Skill at consolidating Smoak into Gold,

I hope

I hope I shall not be understood, by what I have said, to oppose an Attempt to redeem us out of our present wretched Condition. On the contrary, I shall be the first to Vote that Man a Statue of Gold, who can strike out an honest and skilful Expedient for our Recovery, which I own is far past my own Skill. I am no Candidate for the Golden Statue.

By all this, I would only caution my Countrymen not to be caught again ; let them beware of new *Snares*: As to the Losers, they have not a great deal to expect ; and I can say no more to them here than that in Countries where the Plague rages, the Preservation of the *Whole* is the principal Care ; the Infected are for the most part left to take Care of themselves ; and I never heard it suggested that Nine Millions of People ought to be exposed to the mortal Contagion of that Distemper, to preserve a few Individuals.


I am, Sir, Yours,
C I C E R O.



N U M B. XI.

To the Author of the London Journal.

S I R,

 *Beware of the first Step*, will be allowed by all Men, who have any Skill in humane Affairs, to be a commendable Caution in all Proceedings of Moment. In how many Instances do we see, that Things which begin plausibly, end tragically? People have

have been often enslaved by Princes created by themselves for their Protection, and often butchered by Armies raised by themselves for their Defence. The late *French* King, whenever he was going to shed the Blood of his People, in any wanton War, tho' undertaken to gratify his Lust of Power, or to exalt his own House, never failed to let them know, in an Edict made on purpose, that it was all for their own Good and Prosperity; that is, they were to suffer Slaughter abroad, and Oppression and Famine at home, purely for their own Advantage and Felicity.

General Propositions are, for the most Part, dangerous, and intended to support Consequences, which at first View, they do not seem to mean and imply. They are, therefore, generally plausible in Appearance, to catch Consent; from which Consent, when it is once got, new Advantages are taken, which were not foreseen, and fresh Articles are added which were not known to be decided.

In the late long War with *France*, what was more desirable, what more plausible than *Peace*? A Blessing so universally understood to be one, that the lowest Vulgar wanted no Words nor Persuasions to know its Excellency! And when we were insulted with this Question, *What, will you not treat?* To have said *No*, would have been an Answer so invidious, that scarce any Man durst make it; and yet all wise Men then knew, that to consent to a Treaty at that Time with *France*, considering the Persons

sons and their Interests who were to manage it, was to consent to a Conspiracy against *England* in particular, and to plot against all *Europe* in general: We were stun'd with the Word PEACE, nor could we stand it, tho' we knew it was hatching TREASON. In short, to *Treat*, as soft a Phrase as it was, signified neither more nor less, than to give to *old Lewis* his wicked Will of all *Europe*, and to the *Tories* their *Pretender*.

Take another Instance. In the present *Spanish* War, which, we are assured, wants nothing but a Form to conclude it, we cannot forget the loud Attestations, that were every where given us, *That to declare War was sufficient alone to end the War, and frighten the Spaniards into a Peace*: And who, among us, would not willingly be at the Expence of a Piece of Paper, and of the *Heralds* Lungs, to scare a turbulent and understanding Court, as was that of *Philip*, into Moderation and Quietness? But the Obstinacy of *Spain*, the Length of that War, our great Charge in Men and Money to support it, and the Condition of our Fleet, worn in the Service of our Allies, or eaten by Worms in the *Mediterranean*, are all sufficient Lessons to us, how little we ought to have trusted to such Assurances, or to the Word of those that gave them.

Take a third Instance. Upon the establishing of the present *East India* Company, it was reasonably urged, that such a Company would be no other than a Confederacy of cunning Fellows

lows against fair and general Trading, by monopolizing to a few, the sole Traffick and Riches of a great Continent. To which it was answered, that there was no such Design; but that every Man who would subscribe his Name in their Books, and comply with some easy Conditions, would be frankly admitted to share in their Trade: But this was all Hypocrisy or Lying; for no sooner had the *Projectors*, by such petty Pretences to publick Honesty, got the better of Opposition, and cook'd up their Project, but it was found that their Trade was impracticable to all but themselves: Every Trader was obliged to come into the Joint Stock; and all Attempts since, for the publick Good, have proved ineffectual against so formidable a Society.

We have a fourth Instance from the first Institution of the *South-Sea*. It was at first pretended, that every Proprietor was to have 6 *per Cent.* for his Money, without Trouble or Deductions, and need not engage in the Trade, unless he chose: This drew in a great Multitude to vouch for the Scheme, and encourage it; but in passing the Bill, it was found that the crafty *Managers* had lopt off one *per Cent.* to be applied, as they pretended, to carry on the Trade of the Company, and all were obliged to join in the Chimerical Assiento; by which they have since pillaged the Proprietors of a Million and a half—*See the vast Advantage of losing by Trade.* A Secret well known to the Directors!

A fifth Instance may be taken from the same

South-Sea. What a rare Sugar Plumb to the Nation, was a Scheme so finely calculated to pay off the Nation's Debts! What a tempting Bait was here! Even those who saw whither it mischievously tended, and perceived the deceitful Hook under it, could not stand the Scorn and Rebukes of the Many, who swallowed it without seeing it. What fatal Devastation and Poverty it has since produced, by the unparallel'd Treachery of the *D—rs*, and some that are worse than they, the miserable People feel much more sensibly than I can express, pierced as they are with the keen Arrows of merciless Villany, and unrelenting Distress. We have undone our selves to pay our Debts, and our Debts are not paid. What shall I say? We had once Bread, Money, and publick Faith: But now! What remains to us? I cannot answer.—Our Grief, our Folly, our Losses, our Dishonour, our cruel Usage, are too big for Words.

I have said so much, to prove how wary we ought to be in going into *new Schemes*. We ought at least to know the whole of them before we consent to a Part. It will behove us to have too an Eye to the Quarter from whence they come; whether they be Directors, or their Masters, and Confederates; or Men of fair and upright Characters, whose Souls are *honest*, and their *Hands clean*. As to those, who are known to have promoted the mighty Cheat, and the Ruin of their Country; their Infamy is so glaring, that, since they will not have Modesty and Remorse enough to hold their Tongues, and to
for-

forbear meddling with the Concerns of a People beggared by them, we ought to mind no more what they say, than the Judge did the *House-breaker*, who upon his Trial, told his Lordship, that he *would swear the Peace against him, for putting him in fear of his Life.*

The same may be said of those that are fallen in with the Guilty, and *unexpectedly* speak the same Note. We guess at their Motives. The powerful Getters would save themselves, by letting others get as much, and perhaps are glad to divide their Gains to escape Punishment.

If any Man would be the unsuspected and fair Author of a new Project, he can recommend it and himself no better, than by shewing it to be honestly consistent with the Punishment of our *Million Knaves*, the *Blood-suckers* of *England*. A new Scheme, and an Inquisition into the Management of the old one, may both successfully go on at the same time; and they who say they *cannot*, do but own they are afraid *they should*. Are they conscious to themselves that the *D——rs* may hope to escape Part of their Punishment, by fathering upon others a great Share of their Guilt, or rather the first Power of being Guilty?

What mean some Men by saying, we ought to extinguish the Fire, before we enquire into the Incendiaries? Are they some of them? Or did they furnish out *Brands* to the rest? Or would they give them time to run away? The Truth is, the House is already burn'd down, many are burn'd to Death, and all are miserably scorch'd:

scorch'd: The Flame has in a manner wasted it self; but those that talk thus, seem eager to revive it, by new Devices to stir the Embers. All we can now do, is to build the House again, if we can; and hang those that fired it, which we are sure we ought. Besides; we have long known who did it, they have been taken in the Fact at Noon-day, and every Day. *This Thing was not done in a Corner*, nor at once, nor by one; the Villany was deliberate, gradual and open.

These Gentlemen do however confess, that the House has been set on fire; which Confession they would doubtless be glad to avoid, if they could: But the Misery is sorely felt, and all *Europe* are Witnesses of it. Can they therefore, after an Acknowledgment that the Nation has been burn'd, have the Face to be contriving Ways to delay the Punishment of the Burners? Has Self-love no Share in this? And by the Delay of the Punishment of others, do they not as good as avow that they tremble for themselves? For my part, I can see no Difference in this Case, between delaying it, and frustrating it.

The Expedients for retrieving us, if we can be retrieved, are certainly compatible with Expedients for revenging us; and the latter will facilitate the former. It will give Life to the poor Bankrupt Heart-broken People, if they see that their Destroyers meet due Vengeance, and that they are like to be no more the Prey of daring Parricides.

I am, Sir, your old Friend,

C A T O.