

the Price of Molasses from about 16*s.* to about 10*s.* per Hundred Weight; and Molasses of our Plantation Produce usually sold in *England* at 20*s.* per Hundred and upwards, before it was overburthen'd with Duties of Excise. This Imposition therefore must prove highly prejudicial to our Sugar Planters as well as the Revenue; because it baulks the distilling of Molasses, and brings the Price to a very low Ebb; without any Advantage to any Body but our Rivals in the Sugar Plantations; and it discourages our Refiners, who are a useful Set of People, as middle Men between the Planters and Consumers.

It is computed, that before the passing this Law the Quantity of Molasses-Spirits made, was about one 8th Part of the Quantity of Malt-Spirits made, and now it is only one 18th Part; notwithstanding the Quantity of Malt-Spirits now made, is near the same as it was before the said Law pass'd: Whereby it will appear that the Revenue on Molasses-Spirits is abated considerably, notwithstanding the Duty is doubled: And the Quantity of Malt-Spirits now made, keeping near the Quantity made before, can be no ways attributed to the Abatement of the Quantity of Molasses-Spirits, but the Loss falls altogether on the Sugar-Trade, without the least Advantage to the Landholder of *Great Britain*.

It is not to be admitted that the Quantity of Malt-Spirits can increase on Account of the Failure of the Quantity of Molasses-Spirits; whatever may be the Case with regard to *French* smuggled Brandy; for Molasses-Spirits are of a different Kind from Malt-Spirits, and sell for a better Price: This, indeed, may be the Cause why the Duty on the one is double what it is on the other; but when the Freight and Insurance from our Plantations, and the