

wish there may be many of these. Those petty Alehouses are the Sources of the Idleness and Debauchery of the common People, and the Nests and Nurseries of Villains. The factious Proposers of this Tax have shewn themselves good Politicians, in making the Distress of their Country contribute to its Police. I wish the Benefits likely to arise from this Measure were still more extensive, and that the Number of publick Houses in the Kingdom could be lessened to a Degree greater than this Tax can operate. I wish rather than expect great Effects from this Tax. For if one House in four could be shut up, the three Parts which remain would afford a sufficient Fund. But can we believe that one Alehouse-keeper in Twenty, nay in Fifty, is so peculiarly circumstanced, that he cannot advance twenty Shillings for a License. I say advance, for no one can imagine that in the End the Alehouse-keeper will be to pay it out of his Gains. One may as well suppose the Excise on his Beer is paid out of his Gains: The Fact is, the Customer must pay both. For all Taxes which are laid generally and collected fairly, are paid

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