

landed and laborious Part of the Nation; and, though made Use of as the Means of raising the Taxes, instead of facilitating their Payment, add grievously to the Burthen and increase the Difficulty of supporting it.

As the Increase of Taxes, also, tends to increase the Number of Stock-holders, so must the Price of all the Means of Life, and consequently of Labour, increase, till it come to a Degree incompatible with the Prosperity, or even the Being, of many of our Manufactories.

It is further a melancholy Reflection to think, in how many Instances the Necessity of raising such vast Sums as the Exigencies of State require, contributes to promote Idleness and Debauchery, in the lower Classes of People. It may be sufficient here to hint only at the Distillery; and barely to mention the Case of Tipling Houses, the unlimited Number of which are so pernicious to the Morals and Manners of those, on whom both the Wealth and Strength of the Nation ultimately depend.

Can it be denied that in these, as in many other Cases, the most prudential Maxims of domestick Polity have not been dispensed with, under Pretence of the Necessity of promoting the Revenue? Nothing, indeed, can be more absurd than to imagine the Duties, arising from the Means of Intoxication, Debilitation and Riot, more beneficial to a state, than Sobriety and