

present situation with uncertainty, or with the other far more pernicious consequences already mentioned.

I should advise, therefore, to lower the Duties so as Rum could be sold at Eight Shillings a gallon, and Brandy about Nine Shillings. This would in a good measure prevent the smuggling of these liquors; and as they are more palatable than Malt Spirits, supposing they would be dearer, yet great quantities would be consumed, by which great benefit would be procured to, and the murmurs of our West India Islands would be silenced, and a due proportion necessary to keeping under the too great consumption of corn by distilling would be established. Wheat being a grain universally cultivated, and almost always to be had from some country or other, the price of it generally bears no just proportion to that of the inferior grains, which are for common greatly dearer than proportionally they ought to be, and the price of them is more immediately affected