

The Scriptures tell Us that the Drunkards shall Come to Poverty. If therefore the Drunkenness of one Man (as doubtless it will) shall bring himself and family to ruine why then shall not Drunkenness, when it becomes the publick Sin of the People bring the whole Nation to Destruction as indeed it often doth, many Instances whereof I could produce of Divers Kingdoms and Nations that for Drunkeness have been punished of God and given as a prey to their Enemies. There has (Gentlemen) been Severall good Statutes made in England against this Sin of Drunkeness but they have failed of their End the Reason whereof in my Opinion is because the Penalties inflicted by these Laws were not laid Severe enough Wherefore I hope it will become the Prudence of this Assembly so to Consider this so great an Evil as for the future no such disorders may be Committed to the End you may with Joel say Awake ye Drunkards and weep and howle &c.

Lib. W. H.

In like manner I recommend to your Care the utter Suppression of that most horrid and Damnable Sin of Adultry which in these days is grown to that height that with the Prophet we may Justly say the Land is full of Adulterers. This Sin (Gentlemen) in the old Law was (as I wish it were by Law now) made punishable by Death for it was Decreed that he that Committeth Adultery with his Neighbours Wife the Adulterer and the Adulteress shall surely be put to Death, and with reason for it not only brings Our Estates to Ruine as it is said that by means of a whorish Woman a Man is brought to a piece of bread but it also brings both body and Soul to Eternal Death for as to Drunkards it is said, That Adulterers shall not Inherit the Kingdom of God So abominable and Shamefull it is for Men Especially Married Men to keep whores as I hear some do not only abroad but even at home under their Wives Noses where the Strumpets rule and the Wives obey to the Scandall of all honest and good men wherefore I pray it may be taken into such Consideration as for the future such Villains may be Excluded from all humane or at least Christian Societys.

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As also I pray you may Consider duely of that most Abominable sin of Swearing which Doubtless Occasions many Judgments from heaven to light upon us for that because of Swearing the Land Mourneth. But fearing I may be misunderstood by Some I will before I proceed further Distinguish between Lawfull and unlawfull Swearing, I say Lawfull for that God himself hath sworn the oath which he sware to Our Father Abraham &c. By myself have I sworn saith the Lord, every one that Swareth by him shall Glory, thou shalt fear the Lord thy God and shalt serve him and Swear