

at any rate be paid for making Sin convenient to them; and it will account for Villanies of another Kind, which are growing so fast as to be insupportable, and almost incurable: For, Where is the Wonder that Persons so abandoned should be ready to commit all Sorts of Outrage and Violence? — A City without Religion can never be a safe Place to dwell in.

THE unnatural Lewdness, of which we have heard so much of late, is something more than brutish, and can hardly be mentioned without offending chaste Ears, and yet cannot be passed over entirely in Silence, because of the particular Mark of Divine Vengeance set upon it in the Destruction of Sodom by Fire from Heaven. Dreadful Example!

BUT these Vices are so enormous, that 'tis to be hoped the Generosity of our People are not guilty; I hope in God they are not, I trust they are not. But how unhappy is it for this Country, that there should be any Ground even for Suspicion that these Vices are growing to be common!

BUT to go one Step further —

WHEN Men, not content with indulging their own brutish Passions, take Pains to corrupt others, they act with such cool and diabolical Malice, as outdoes former Examples, and seems to be a Challenge to the Power and Justice of God — Have not all the Abominations of the public Stews been opened to View by lewd Pictures exposed to Sale at Noon-day? Have not Histories or Romances of the vilest Prostitutes been published, intended merely to display the most execrable Scenes of Lewdness; Lewdness represented without Disguise, and nothing omitted that might inflame the corrupt Passions of the Youth of the Nation! What was the Encouragement for Men to dare giving such an Affront not only to the common Sense, but to the common Law of the Country? Was it not the quick Sale these Pictures and these Books had? And is not this a deplorable Circumstance, and sad Instance of the corrupt Disposition of many among us?

Is it to be wondered at, after so much Pains taken to corrupt the Religion and Morals of the People, that they should be indisposed to attend to any thing serious, or that they grow sick of Religion, which has no Comforts for them; that they fly from the Church and crowd to the Playhouse: That they are tired of themselves, and their own Thoughts, and want to lose themselves in Company from Morning to Night? It is this unhappy, unsettled State of Mind that has introduced a Kind of general Idiocy among the People, and given Rise to almost infinite Places of Diversion in and about this Town; it were well if they were Places of Diversion only; but they are often Places for carrying on worse Business, and give Opportunities to the Profligate to seduce the Innocent, who often meet their Ruin, where they only came for Pleasure — While I was writing this I cast my Eye upon a News Paper of the Day, and counted no less than fifteen Advertisements for Plays, Operas, Music, and Dancing, for Meetings at Gardens, for Cock-fighting, Prize fighting, &c. Should this Paper, (as many of our News Papers do) go abroad, what an Idea must it give to all the Churches abroad, of the Manner in which Lent is kept in this Protestant Country? What our Saviour said to the Jews upon another Occasion, *You have turned the House of Prayer into a Den of Thieves*, may with a little Variation, be applied to Ourselves, We have turned this Season appointed for serious Reflections, and Humiliation of Body and Spirit, into a Time of Mirth and Jollity, of Musick, Dancing, and riotous Living.

How far this Spirit of Indolence and Idleness has gone, and to what Excess, may be seen in all Orders among us; friendly Visits for Conversation are become insipid Things, and are degenerated into Meetings for Gaming, where People hardly known to each other, are invited by one Tye only, the Love of Play: Which seems now to be, not an Amusement or Diversion, but a serious Business of Life, and one would think a necessary one, by seeing how some Children are trained up

HERE is a great and a grievous Evil among us, which naturally springs from the Disorders before mentioned; I mean the great Increase of Popery in this Kingdom. When Men have lost all Principles of Religion, and are lost to all Sense of Morality, they are prepared to receive any Superstition, whenever the Decay of Health, or the cross Accidents of Life revive the Fears of Futurity; which may be stifled, but cannot be extinguished; such Persons not able to digest the wholesome Food of Repentance, by which their spiritual Condition might be gradually mended, greedily swallow the high Cordial of

Abolition, which like other Cordials gives some present Ease, but works no Cure. And with respect to People of a serious and religious Turn of Mind, the manifest and almost general Contempt, or at least Neglect, of the Duties of Religion, gives a great Advantage to the Emissaries of Rome to impose on their Weakness, and to persuade them that they can have no Hopes in the Religion of a Church, where Religion itself is hardly to be found.

LAY these Things together; and what more your own Observation and Reflection may furnish, and much more they may furnish; and then ask your Heart, whether you have not Reason to fear, that God will visit for these Things. If your Heart misgives you, and forebodes the Time of taking Vengeance for these Iniquities to be drawing near, consider farther, how graciously you have been dealt with by having had Warning of your Danger; and remember that the the long Sufferance of God is a Call to Repentance.

It is purely for the Sake of this Reflection, that I now address myself to you: I have no Pleasure in laying open the Shame of my Country, or in exposing its Nakedness either to Friends or to Foes; and when I consider my own Situation, 'tis a Prospect void of all Comfort to me to see the Condition of the People, over whom I have a Charge; and, God knows my Heart, these Considerations are a Pain and Grief to my Mind.

BUT, let us not despair; there is still one Remedy left, and whatever Reason we have to condemn ourselves, yet of this we may be sure, that God has not forgotten to be gracious. To him then let us turn, with hearty Repentance for our Sin; and with a Resolution to do, each of us in his proper Station, what lies in our Power to stem the Torrent of Iniquity which threatens our Ruin.

[The Remainder in our next.]



LONDON. March 13.

YESTERDAY about 7 o'clock in the morning, was fought in Hyde-Park, a duel with sword and pistol between capt. Clarke and capt. Innes, belonging to admiral Knowles's Squadron; capt. Clarke fired first, and the ball went through capt. Innes's breast into his body, of which wound he dy'd at 12 o'clock at night; the coroner's jury brought it in wilful murder.

—A duel had been fought the 24 ult. between admiral Knowles and capt. H——, with pistols, when two or three shot were exchanged on each side, but no hurt was done.— His majesty being informed that more challenges were depending, particularly four challenges sent to the said admiral, order'd three officers into custody.

April 4. Six persons, being Irish, are in custody of Mr. Bation, one of his majesty's messengers, at Charing Cross, for insisting men into foreign service: They are guarded by two centinels at there door. There are three evidences against them in the hands of another messenger.

On Thursday last a person who has lately left off his business of a shoemaker, and for some time followed the employment of a field or street preacher, was taken near Carnaby market, and carried before a justice (to whom he was obliged to give in bail for his appearance at the Quarter-sessions) for impiously affirming, that he had received positive commands from God, by an Angel, to declare that the dissolution of the world would be the Sunday morning following.

The Life-guardman, who prophesied the destruction of the city of Westminster this week, which has had such an effect on many weak minds, who mistrusted providence, as to desert the town, is confin'd, he appearing to be delirious.

The strong apprehensions the town was under of being visited on Wednesday night with another shock of an earthquake, produced the most extravagant effects imaginable. Great numbers of people went into the neighbouring fields, and there walked till day-break; and others, under the same superstitious influence, went to a more considerable distance; so that the several roads into the country were never known to be more throng'd. It is with concern we perceive so little unanimity remaining among us, and to find that reason and religion have not force enough to produce more becoming effects. The behaviour on this occasion has been remarkably irrational