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SERIOUS SCHEME

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My Honorary A Recd
SERIOUS and USEFUL

1234

S C H E M E,

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312

924

To make an

1588

Hospital for Incurables,

O F

Universal Benefit to all His Majesty's
Subjects.

242

390

212

844

Occasioned by a Report, that the Estate of
RICHARD NORTON Esq; was
to be appointed by Parliament
for such an Endowment.

To which is added,

29

A Petition of the Footmen in and about *Dublin*.

24

49

By a Celebrated Author in *Ireland*.

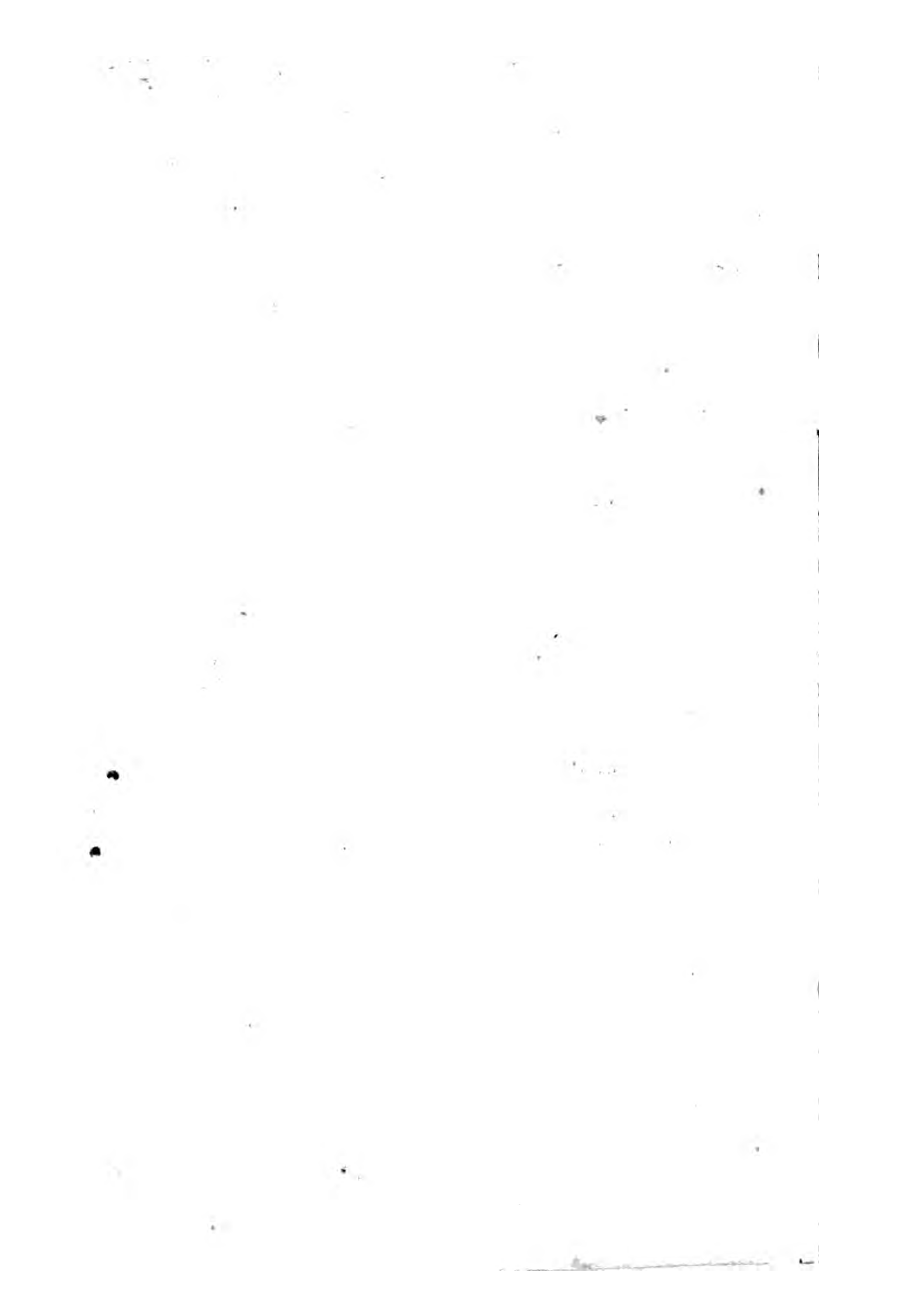
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Faecunda Culpa Secula! ——— Hor.

L O N D O N:

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A

SERIOUS and USEFUL
S C H E M E, &c.

THERE is not any thing which contributes more to the Reputation of particular Persons, or to the Honour of a Nation in general, than erecting and endowing proper *Edifices*, for the Reception of those who labour under different Kinds of Distress. The Diseased and Unfortunate are thereby delivered from the Misery of wanting Assistance; and others, are delivered from the Misery of beholding them.

It is certain, that the *Genius* of the People of *England* is strongly turned to publick Charities; and, to so noble a Degree, that almost in every part of this Great and Opulent *City*, and also in many of the adjacent Villages, we meet with a great Variety of *Hospitals*, supported by the generous Contributions of private Families, as well as by the Liberality of the Publick. Some, for Seamen, worn out in the Service of their Country; and others, for infirm disabled Soldiers: Some, for the Maintenance of Tradesmen decayed; and others, for their Widows, and Orphans: Some,

B for

for the Service of those who linger under tedious Distempers; and others, for such as are deprived of their Reason.

But I find, upon nice Inspection, that there is one Kind of Charity, almost totally disregarded, which, nevertheless, appears to me of so excellent a Nature, as to be at present more wanted, and better calculated for the Ease, Quietness, and Felicity of this whole Kingdom, than any other can possibly be. I mean,

An Hospital for Incurables.

I must indeed confess, that an Endowment of this Nature would prove a very large, and perpetual Expence. However, I have not the least Diffidence, that I shall be able effectually to convince the World, that my present Scheme for such an *Hospital*, is very practicable; and must be very desirable by every one, who hath the Interest of his *Country*, or his fellow Creatures, *really* at Heart.

It is observable, that altho' the *Bodies* of human Creatures be affected with an infinite Variety of Disorders, which elude the Power of Medicine, and are often found to be incurable; yet their *Minds* are also overrun with an equal Variety, which no Skill, no Power, no Medicine can alter or amend. And I think, that out of regard to the publick Peace and Emolument, as well as the Repose of

many pious and valuable Families, this latter Species of *Incurables* ought principally to engage our Attention and Beneficence.

I believe, an *Hospital* for such *Incurables*, will be universally allowed necessary, if we only consider, what Numbers of absolute *Incurables*, every *Profession*, *Rank*, and *Degree* would perpetually produce, which, at present, are only national Grievances, and of which we can have no other effectual Method to purge the Kingdom.

For Instance ; let any Man seriously consider, what Numbers there are of incurable *Fools*, incurable *Knaves*, incurable *Scolds*, incurable *Scriblers* (beside my self) incurable *Coxcombs*, incurable *Infidels*, incurable *Liers*, incurable *Whores* in all Places of publick Resort—: Not to mention the incurably *Vain*, incurably *Envious*, incurably *Proud*, incurably *Affected*, incurably *Impertinent*, and ten thousand other *Incurables*, which I must of Necessity pass over in Silence, lest I should swell this Essay into a Volume. And without Doubt, every unprejudiced Person will agree, that out of meer Christian Charity, the Publick ought to be eased as much as possible, of this troublesome and intolerable Variety of *Incurables*.

And first ; under the Denomination of incurable *Fools*, we may reasonably expect, that such an *Hospital* would be furnished with considerable Numbers of the Growth of our own *Universities* ; who, at present, appear in

various Professions in the World, under the venerable Titles of *Physicians*, *Barristers*, and *Ecclesiasticks*.

And, as those *antient Seminaries* have been for some Years past, accounted little better than Nurseries of such sort of Incurables, it should seem highly commendable to make some kind of Provision for them; because, it is more than probable, that if they are to be supported by their own particular Merit in their several Callings, they must necessarily acquire but a very indifferent Maintenance.

I would not, willingly, be here suspected, to cast Reflections on any Order of Men, as if I thought, that small Gains from the Profession of any *Art* or *Science*, were always an undoubted Sign of an equally small Degree of Understanding: For, I profess my self to be somewhat inclined to a very opposite Opinion; having frequently observed, that, at the *Bar*, the *Pulse*, and the *Pulpit*, those who have the least Learning or Sense to plead, meet generally with the largest Share of Promotion and Profit. Of which many Instances might be produced; but the Publick seems to want no Conviction in this Particular.

Under the same Denomination we may further expect a large and ridiculous Quantity of *old rich Widows*; whose eager and impatient Appetites inflame them with extravagant Passions, for *Fellows* of a very different Age
and

and Complexion from themselves: Who purchase Contempt and Aversion with good Jointures; and being loaded with Years, Infirmities, and probably ill Humour, are forced to *bribe* into their Embraces, such whose Fortunes, and Characters; are equally desperate.

Besides, our Collection of incurable *Fools*, would receive an incredible Addition from every one of the following Articles.

From young *extravagant Heirs*; who are just of a competent Age, to become the Bubbles of *Jockeys, Sportsmen, Gamesters, Bullies, Sharpers, Courtezans*, and such sort of *honourable Pick-pockets*.

From *Misers*; who half starve themselves, to feed the Prodigality of their *Heirs*: And who proclaim to the World how unworthy they are of possessing Estates, by the wretched and ridiculous Methods they take to enjoy them.

From *contentious People*, of all Conditions; who are content to waste the greatest part of their *own* Fortunes at Law, to be the Instruments of impoverishing *others*.

From those, who have any Confidence in *Professions* of Friendship, before Trial; or any Dependance on the *Fidelity* of a *Mistress*.

From young illiterate *Squires*, who travel abroad to import *Lewdness, Conceit, Arrogance, Vanity* and *Foppery*; of which Commodities there seems to be so great an Abundance at Home.

From

From young *Clergymen*; who contrive, by Matrimony, to acquire a Family, before they have obtained the necessary Means to maintain one.

From those who have considerable Estates in *different* Kingdoms, and yet are so incurably stupid, as to spend their whole Incomes in *This*.

These, and several other Articles which might be mentioned, would afford us a perpetual Opportunity of easing the Publick, by having an *Hospital* for the Accommodation of such Incurables: Who, at present, either by the over Fondness of near Relations, or the Indolence of the Magistrates, are permitted to walk abroad, and appear in the most crowded Places of this City, as if they were indeed *reasonable Creatures*.

I had almost forgot to hint, that under this Article, there is a modest Probability, that many of the *Clergy* would be found properly qualified for Admittance into the *Hospital*, who might serve in the Capacity of *Chaplains*, and save the unnecessary Expence of Salaries.

To these *Fools*, in order succeed, such as may justly be included under the extensive Denomination of incurable *Knaves*; of which our several *Inns of Court* would constantly afford us abundant Supplies.

I think indeed, that, of this Species of Incurables, there ought to be a certain limited Number annually admitted; which Number, neither

neither any Regard to the Quiet or Benefit of the Nation, nor any other charitable or Publick-spirited Reason, should tempt us to exceed; because, if all were to be admitted on such a Foundation, who might be reputed *incurable of this Distemper*; and if it were possible for the Publick to find any Place large enough for their Reception; I have not the least Doubt, that all our *Inns* which are at this Day so crowded, would in a short Time be emptied of their Inhabitants; and the *Law*, that *beneficial Craft*, want hands to conduct it.

I tremble to think what Herds of *Attornies*, *Sollicitors*, *Pettifoggers*, *Scriveners*, *Usurers*, *Hackney-Clerks*, *Pick-pockets*, *Pawn-Brokers*, *Jaylors*, and *Justices of the Peace*, would hourly be driven to such an *Hospital*: And what Disturbance it might also create in several noble and wealthy Families.

What unexpected Distress might it prove to several Men of Fortune and Quality, to be suddenly deprived of their *rich Stewards*, in whom they had for many Years reposed the utmost Confidence, and to find them irrecoverably lodged among such a Collection of *Incurables*?

How many *Orphans* might then expect to see their *Guardians* hurried away to the *Hospital*; and how many greedy *Executors* find Reason to lament the want of Opportunity to pillage?

Would

Would not *Exchange-Alley* have cause to mourn for the Loss of its *Stock-Jobbers* and *Brokers*; and the *Charitable Corporation*, for the Confinement of many of its *Directors*?

Might not *Westminster-Hall*, as well as all the *Gaming-Houses* in this great City, be entirely unpeopled; and the Professors of Art in each of those Assemblies, become useless in their Vocations, by being deprived of all future Opportunity to be dishonest?

In short, it might put the whole Kingdom into Confusion and Disorder; and, we should find, that the entire Revenues of this Nation would be scarce able to support so great a Number of Incurables, in *this way*, as would appear qualified for Admission into our Hospital.

For, if we only consider, how this Kingdom swarms with *Quadrille-Tables*, and *Gaming-Houses* both publick and private; and also, how each of those Houses (as well as *Westminster-Hall* afore said) swarms with *Knaves* who are anxious to win, or *Fools* who have any thing to lose; we may soon be convinced, how necessary it will be to limit the Number of Incurables, comprehended under those Titles, lest the Foundation should prove insufficient to maintain any others beside them.

However, if by this Scheme of mine, the Nation can be eased of 20 or 30 thousand such *Incurables*, I think it ought to be esteemed
some-

somewhat beneficial, and worthy of the Attention of the Publick.

The next sort, for whom I would gladly provide, and who for several Generations have proved insupportable Plagues and Grievances to the good People of *England*, are those, who may properly be admitted under the Character of incurable *Scolds*.

I own, this to be a Distemper of so desperate a Nature, that few *Females* can be found, willing to own themselves any way addicted to it: And yet, it is thought, that there is scarce a single *Parson*, *Prentice*, *Alderman*, *Squire*, or *Husband*, who would not solemnly avouch the very Reverse.

I could wish, indeed, that the Word, SCOLD, might be changed for some more gentle Term, of equal Signification; because, I am convinced, that the very *Name* is as offensive to *Female* Ears, as the Effects of that incurable Distemper is, to the Ears of the *Men*: Which to be sure is inexpressible.

And, that it hath been always customary to honour the very same kind of Actions with different Appellations, only to avoid giving Offence, is evident to common Observation.

For Instance; How many *Lawyers*, *Attornies*, *Solicitors*, *Under-Sheriffs*, intriguing *Chamber-Maids*, and *Counter-Officers*, are continually guilty of *Extortion*, *Bribery*, *Oppression*, and many other profitable *Knaveries*, to drain the Purfes of those, with whom they are any way

way concerned? and yet, all these different Expedients to raise a Fortune, pass generally under the milder Names of *Fees, Perquisites, Vails, Presents, Gratuities*, and such like; altho', in strictness of Speech they should be called, *Robbery*, and consequently be rewarded with a *Gibbet*.

Nay, how many *honourable* Gentlemen might be enumerated, who keep *open Shop* to make a Trade of Iniquity; who teach the *Law* to wink whenever Power or Profit appears in her way; and contrive to grow rich by the *Vice*, the *Contention*, or the *Follies* of Mankind; and who, nevertheless, instead of being branded with the harsh-sounding Names, of *Knaves, Pilferers*, or *publick Oppressors*, (as they justly merit) are only distinguished by the Title of *Justices of the Peace*; in which single Term all those several Appellations are generally thought to be implied.

But to proceed. When first I determined to prepare this Scheme for the Use and Inspection of the publick; I intended to examine one whole *Ward* in this City, that my Computation of the Number of incurable *Scolds*, might be more perfect and exact. But I found it impossible to finish my Progress through more than one *Street*.

I made my first Application to a wealthy *Citizen* in *Cornhill*, Common-Council-Man for his *Ward*: to whom I hinted, that if he knew e'er an incurable *Scold* in the Neighbourhood,

hood, I had some Hope to provide for her in such a manner, as to hinder her from being further troublesome. He referred me with great Delight to his next Door Friend; yet, whispered me, that with much greater Ease and Pleasure he could furnish me out of his own Family—; and begged the Preference.

His next Door Friend owned readily that his *Wife's* Qualifications were not misrepresented, and that he would chearfully contribute to promote so useful a Scheme; but, positively asserted, that it would be of small Service, to rid the Neighbourhood of *one Woman*, while such Multitudes would remain all equally insupportable.

By which Circumstance I conjectured, that the Quantity of these *Incurables* in *London, Westminster* and *Southwark*, would be very considerable; and that a generous Contribution might reasonably be expected, for such an *Hospital* as I am recommending.

Besides, the Number of these *Female Incurables* would probably be very much increased by additional Quantities of OLD MAIDS; who, being wearied with concealing their ill Humour, for *one Half* of their Lives, are impatient to give it full Vent in the *other*. For, *old Maids*, like old thin-bodied *Wines*, instead of growing more agreeable by Years, are observed, for the most part, to become intolerably *sharp, sour, and useless*.

Under this Denomination also, we may expect to be furnished with as large a Collection of *old Batchelors*, especially those who have Estates, and but a moderate Degree of Understanding. For, an *old* wealthy *Batchelor*, being perpetually surrounded with a set of *Flatterers*, *Cousins*, *poor Dependents*, and *Would-be-Heirs*, who for their own Views submit to his Perverseness and Caprice; becomes insensibly infected with this *scolding* Malady, which generally proves incurable, and renders him disagreeable to his *Friends*, and a fit Subject for Ridicule to his *Enemies*.

As to the incurable *Scriblers*, (of which Society I have the Honour to be a Member) they probably are innumerable; and, of Consequence, it will be absolutely impossible to provide for one tenth Part of their Fraternity. However, as this set of *Incurables*, are generally more plagued with Poverty than any other, it will be a double Charity to admit them on the Foundation. A Charity to the World, to whom they are a common Pest and Nuisance; and, a Charity to themselves, to relieve them from *Want*, *Contempt*, *Kicking*, and several other Accidents of that Nature, to which they are continually liable.

Grubstreet it self would then have reason to rejoice, to see so many of its half-starv'd Manufacturers amply provided for; and the whole Tribe of *meagre Incurables*, would probably shout for Joy, at being delivered from the

Tyranny and *Garrets*, of *Printers*, *Publishers*, and *Booksellers*.

What a mixed Multitude of *Ballad-Writers*, *Ode-Makers*, *Translators*, *Farce-Compounders*, *Opera-Mongers*, *Biographers*, *Pamphleteers*, and *Journalists*, would appear crowding to the Hospital; not unlike the *Brutes* resorting to the *Ark* before the *Deluge*. And what an universal Satisfaction would such a Sight afford to all, except *Pastry-Cooks*, *Grocers*, *Candlerers*, and *Tobacco-Retailers*, to whom alone the Writings of those *Incurables* were any way profitable?

I have often been amazed to observe, what a Variety of incurable *Coxcombs* are to be met with, between *St. James's* and *Limehouse*, at every Hour of the Day; as numerous as *Welsh Parsons*, and equally contemptible. How they swarm in all *Coffee-Houses*, *Theatres*, *publick-Walks*, and *private Assemblies*; how they are incessantly employed in cultivating *Intrigues*, and every kind of irrational *Pleasure*: How industrious they seem to mimic the Appearance of *Monkeys*, as *Monkeys* are emulous to imitate the Gestures of *Men*: And from such Observations I concluded, that to confine the greatest part of those *Incurables*, who are so many *living Burlesques* of human Nature, would be of eminent Service to this Nation; and I am persuaded, that I am far from being singular in that Opinion.

As

As for the incurable *Infidels* and *Liers*, I shall range them under the same Article, and would willingly appoint them the same Apartment in the Hospital; because, there is a much nearer Resemblance between them, than is generally imagined.

Have they not an equal Delight in imposing Falsities on the Publick; and seem they not equally desirous to be thought of more Sagacity and Importance than others? Do they not both report, what both know to be false; and both confidently assert what they are conscious is most liable to Contradiction?

The Parallel might easily be carried on much further, if the intended Shortness of this Essay would admit it. However, I cannot forbear taking notice, with what immense Quantities of incurable *Liers*, his Majesty's Kingdoms are overrun; what Offence and Prejudice they are to the *Publick*; what inconceivable Injury to private Persons; and what a Necessity there is, for an *Hospital*, to relieve the Nation from the *Curse* of so many Incurables.

This Distemper appears almost in as many different Shapes, as there are Persons afflicted with it; and in every Individual, is always beyond the Power of Medicine.

Some LIE for their Interest, such as *Fish-Mongers*, *Flatterers*, *Pimps*, *Lawyers*, *Fortune-Hunters*, and *Fortune-Tellers*, and others LIE for their Entertainment, as *Maids*, *Wives*,
Widows,

Widows, and all other Tea-Table Attendants.

Some LIE out of *Vanity*, as *Poets*, *Painters*, *Players*, *Fops*, *Military Officers*, and all those who frequent the *Levees* of the *Great*: And others LIE out of *Ill-nature*, as *old Maids*, &c.

Some LIE out of *Custom*, as *Lovers*, *Cox-combs*, *Footmen*, *Sailors*, *Mechanicks*, *Merchants*, and *Chamber-Maids*; and others LIE out of *Complaisance* or *Necessity*, as *Courtiers*, *Chap-lains*, &c. In short, it were endless to enumerate them all, but this Sketch may be sufficient to give us some small imperfect Idea of their Numbers.

As to the remaining Incurables, we may reasonably conclude, that they bear at least an equal Proportion to those already mentioned; but with Regard to the incurable *Wh—es* in this Kingdom, I must particularly observe, that such of them as are *publick*, and make it their Profession, have proper Hospitals for their Reception already, if we could find *Magistrates* without Passions, or *Officers* without an incurable Itch to a *Bribe*. And, such of them as are *private*, and make it their Amusement, I should be unwilling to disturb for two Reasons.

First; because, it might probably afflict many *Noble*, *Wealthy*, *Contented*, and *Unsuspect-ing* *Husbands*, by convincing them of their own Dishonour, and the unpardonable Disloyalty of their *Wives*: And secondly; because

it

it will be for ever impossible to confine a *Woman* from being guilty of any kind of Misconduct, when once she is firmly resolved to attempt it.

From all which Observations every reasonable Man must infallibly be convinced, that an Hospital for the Support of these different kinds of Incurables, would be extremely beneficial to these Kingdoms. I think therefore, that nothing further is wanting, but to demonstrate to the Publick, that such a *Scheme* is very practicable; both by having an undoubted Method to raise an annual Income, at least sufficient to make the Experiment; (which is the way of founding all *Hospitals*) and by having also a strong Probability, that such an *Hospital* would be supported by perpetual Benefactions; which, in very few Years, might enable us to increase the Number of *Incurables*, to 9 tenths more, than we can reasonably venture on at first.

A Computation of the daily and annual Expences of an Hospital to be erected for Incurables.

	p. Day.
<p>I<i>ncurable Fools</i>, are almost infinite; However at first I would have only 20 thousand admitted; and allow- ing to each Person but one Shilling <i>per Day</i> for Maintenance, which is as low as possible, the daily Expence for this Article will be</p>	1000
<p><i>Incurable Knaves</i>, are, if possible, more numerous, including <i>Foreigners</i>, e- specially <i>IRISHMEN</i>. Yet I would limit the Number of these to about 30 thousand; which would amount to</p>	1500
<p><i>Incurable Scolds</i>, would be plentifully supplied from almost every Family in the Kingdom. And indeed, to make this Hospital of any real Benefit, we cannot admit fewer, even at first, than 30 thousand, in- cluding the <i>Ladies of Billingsgate</i>, and <i>Leaden-Hall Market</i>, which is</p>	1500
<p><i>The incurable Scriblers</i>, are undoubt- edly a very considerable Society, and of that Denomination, I would ad- mit at least 40 thousand; because it is to be supposed, that such Incura- D bles</p>	

	p. Day.
bles will be found in greatest Distress for a daily Maintenance. And, if we had not great Encouragement to hope, that many of that Class would properly be admitted among the <i>incurable Fools</i> , I should strenuously intercede to have 10 or 20 thousand more added. But their allowed Number will amount to	2000
<i>Incurable Coxcombs</i> , are very numerous: And considering what Numbers are annually imported from <i>France</i> and <i>Italy</i> , we cannot admit fewer than 10 thousand, which will be	500
<i>Incurable Infidels</i> , (as they affect to be called) should be received into the Hospital to the Number of 10 thousand: However, if it should accidentally happen, to grow into a Fashion to be <i>Believers</i> , it is probable, that the great part of them, would, in a very short time, be dismissed from the Hospital, as perfectly cured. Their Expence would be	500
<i>Incurable Liers</i> , are infinite in all Parts of the Kingdom: And making Allowance for <i>Citizen's Wives</i> , <i>Mercer's Prentices</i> , <i>News-Writers</i> , <i>old Maids</i> , and <i>Flatterers</i> , we cannot possibly allow a smaller Number, than 30 thousand, which will amount to	1500

p. Day.

The *Incurably Envious*, are in vast Quantities throughout this whole Nation. Nor can it reasonably be expected, that their Numbers should lessen, while *Fame* and *Honours* are heaped upon some particular Persons, as the publick Reward of their Superior Accomplishments; while others, who are equally excellent, in their own Opinions, are constrained to live unnoticed and contemned. And as it would be impossible to provide for all those who are possessed with this Distemper, I should consent to admit only 20 thousand at first by way of Experiment, amounting to

> 1000

Of the *Incurably Vain, Affected, and Impertinent*, I should at least admit 10 thousand. Which Number I am confident will appear very inconsiderable, if we include all Degrees of *Females* from the *Dutchess* to the *Chamber-Maid*; all *Poets*, who have had a little Success, especially in the *Dramatick* Way; and all *Players*, who have met with a small Degree of *Approbation*. Amounting only to

> 500

By which plain Computation it is evident, that two hundred thousand Persons will be daily provided for, and the Allowance for maintaining this Collection of Incurables, may be seen in the following Account.

			<i>p. Day.</i>
For the In- curable	{	<i>Fools</i> , being 20,000 at one Shilling each	1000
		<i>Knaves</i> at 30,000 Ditto	1500
		<i>Scolds</i> 30,000	1500
		<i>Scriblers</i> 40,000	2000
		<i>Coxcombs</i> 10,000	500
		<i>Infidels</i> 10,000	500
		<i>Liers</i> 30,000	1500
For the In- curably	{	<i>Envious</i> 20,000	1000
		<i>Vain</i> 10,000	500
Total mainain'd		200,000	Tot. Ex. 10,000

From whence it appears, that	}	<i>M. Tb. H.</i>
the daily Expence will a-		
mount to such a Sum, as in		
365 Days comes to		3,650,000

And I am fully fatisfied, that a Sum, much greater than this, may easily be raised, with all possible Satisfaction to the *Subject*, and without interfering in the least with the Revenues of the *Crown*.

In

In the first place, a large Proportion of this Sum might be raised by the voluntary Contribution of the Inhabitants.

The computed Number of People in *Great Britain*, is very little less than eight *Millions*; of which, upon a most moderate Computation, we may account one half to be Incurables. And, as all those different Incurables, whether acting in the Capacity of *Friends*, *Acquaintances*, *Wives*, *Husbands*, *Daughters*, *Counsellors*, *Parents*, *Old-Maids*, or *Old-Bachelors*, are inconceivable Plagues to all those with whom they happen to be concerned; and as there is no Hope of being eased of such Plagues, except by such an *Hospital*, which by Degrees might be enlarged to contain them all: I think, it cannot be doubted, that at least 3 *Millions* and an Half of People, out of the remaining Proportion, would be found both able and desirous, to contribute so small a Sum as 20 Shillings *per Annum*, for the Quiet of the Kingdom, the Peace of private Families, and the Credit of the Nation in general. And this Contribution would amount to very near our requisite Sum.

Nor can this by any means be esteemed a wild Conjecture; For, where is there a *Man* of common *Sense*, *Honesty*, or *Good-Nature*, who would not gladly propose even a much greater Sum, to be freed from a *Scold*, a *Knave*, a *Fool*, a *Lier*, a *Coxcomb* conceitedly repeating the Compositions of *others*, or a vain impertinent *Poet* repeating his *own*? In

In the next Place, it may justly be supposed, that many young *Noblemen, Knights, Squires*, and extravagant *Heirs*, with very large Estates, would be confined in our *Hospital*. And I would propose, that the annual Income of every particular *Incurable's* Estate, should be appropriated to the Use of the House. But, besides these, there will undoubtedly be many *old Misers, Aldermen, Justices, Directors* of Companies, *Templers*, and *Merchants* of all Kinds, whose Personal Fortunes are immense, and who should proportionably pay to the *Hospital*.

Yet, lest by being here misunderstood, I should seem to propose an unjust or oppressive *Scheme*, I shall further explain my Design.

Suppose, for instance, a young *Nobleman*, possessed of 10 or 20 thousand Pounds *per Annum*, should accidentally be confined there, as an *Incurable*: I would have only such a Proportion of his Estate, applied to the Support of the *Hospital*, as he himself would spend, if he were at Liberty. And after his Death, the Profits of the Estate should regularly devolve to the next lawful *Heir*, whether Male or Female.

And my reason for this Proposal, is; because, considerable Estates, which probably would be squandered away among *Hounds, Horses, Hawks, Whores, Sharpers, Surgeons, Taylors, Pimps, Masquerades*, or *Architects*, if left to the Management of such *Incurables*;
would,

would, by this Means, become of some *real* Use both to the *Publick* and themselves. And perhaps this may be the only Method which can be found, to make such young *Spend-thrifts* of any real Benefit to their Country.

And altho' the Estates of deceased Incurables might be permitted to descend to the next Heirs, the *Hospital* would probably sustain no great Disadvantage; because, it is very likely, that most of those *Heirs* would also gradually be admitted under some Denomination or other; and consequently their Estates would again devolve to the Use of the *Hospital*.

As to the wealthy *Misers*, &c. I would have their private Fortunes nicely examined and calculated; because, if they were *old Batchelors*, (as it would frequently happen) their whole Fortunes should then be appropriated to the Endowment; but, if married, I would leave two thirds of their Fortunes, for the Support of their Families; which Families would chearfully consent to give away the remaining third, if not more, to be freed from such peevish and disagreeable Governors.

So that, deducting from the two hundred thousand Incurables, the 40 thousand *Scribblers*, who, to be sure, would be found in very bad Circumstances; I believe, among the remaining hundred and sixty thousand *Fools*, *Knaves*, and *Coxcombs*, so many would be found of Large Estates and Easy Fortunes, as

would at least produce two hundred thousand Pounds *per Annum*.

As a further Addition to our Endowment, I would have a TAX upon all *Inscriptions* on *Tombstones*, *Monuments*, and *Obelisks* erected to the Honour of the Dead, or on *Portico's* and *Trophies* to the Honour of the Living: Because these will naturally and properly come under the Article of *Lies*, *Pride*, *Vanity*, &c.

And, if all *Inscriptions* throughout this Kingdom, were impartially examined, in order to tax those which should appear demonstrably false or flattering, I am convinced, that not one fifth Part of the Number, would, after such a Scrutiny, escape exempted.

Many an *ambitious* turbulent *Spirit* would then be found, *belied* with the opposite Title of *Lover* of his *Country*; and many a *Middlesex Justice*, as improperly described, *sleeping in Hope of Salvation*.

Many an *Usurer*, discredited by the Appellations of *honest* and *frugal*; and many a *Lawyer*, with the Character of conscientious and *equitable*.

Many a British *Statesman* and *General*, decaying, with more Honour than they lived; and their *Dusts*, distinguished with a better Reputation, than when they were animated.

Many dull *Parsons*, improperly stiled Eloquent; and as many stupid *Physicians*, improbably stiled *Learned*.

Yet,

Yet, notwithstanding the Extensiveness of a *Tax* upon such *Monumental Impositions*, I will count only upon 20 thousand, at five Pounds *per Annum* each, which will amount to one hundred thousand Pounds annually.

To these Annuities, I would also request the *Parliament* of this Nation, to allow the Benefit of two *LOTTERIES* yearly; by which the Hospital would gain two hundred thousand Pounds clear. Nor can such a Request seem any way extraordinary, since it would be appropriated to the Benefit of *Fools* and *Knaves*, which is the sole Cause of granting one for this present Year.

In the last Place, I would add the Estate of *Richard Norton* Esquire; and to do his Memory all possible Honour, I would have his *Statue* erected in the very *first* Apartment of the Hospital, or in any other which might seem more apt. And, on his Monument, I would permit a long Inscription, composed by his dearest Friends, which should remain *Tax-free* for ever.

From these several Articles therefore, would annually arise the following Sums.

E

From

	<i>M. Tb. H.</i>	<i>P. Ann.</i>
From the voluntary Contributions	3,500,000	
From the Estates of the Incurables	200,000	
By the Tax upon Tombstones, Monuments, &c. (that of <i>Richard Norton</i> Esq; always excepted)	100,000	
By two annual Lotteries	200,000	
By the Estate of <i>Richard Norton</i> Esq.	6,000	
Total	<u>4,600,000</u>	

And the necessary Sum for the }
 Hospital being } 3,650,000
 There will remain annually over }
 and above } 356,000

Which Sum of 356,000 *l.* should be applied towards erecting the Building, and to answer accidental Expences, in such a manner, as should seem most proper to promote the Design of the *Hospital*. But the whole Management of it should be left to the Skill and Discretion of those, who are to be constituted Governors.

It may, indeed, prove a Work of some small Difficulty, to fix upon a commodious Place, large enough for a Building of this nature. I should have thoughts of attempting to enclose all YORKSHIRE, if I were not

apprehensive, that it would be crowded with so many incurable *Knaves* of its own Growth, that there would not be the least room left for the Reception of any *others*: By which Accident, our whole Project might be retarded for some Time.

Thus have I set this Matter in the plainest Light I could, that every one may judge of the Necessity, Usefulness, and Practicableness of this Scheme: And I shall only add a few scattered Hints, which, to me, seem not altogether unprofitable.

I think the PRIME-MINISTER for the Time being, ought largely to contribute to such a Foundation; because his high Station and Merits must of Necessity infect a great Number with *Envy*, *Hatred*, *Lying*, and such sort of Distempers; and of Consequence furnish the Hospital annually with many *Incurables*.

I would desire, that the *Governors* appointed to direct this Hospital, should have (if such a thing were possible) some Appearance of *Religion*, and *Belief* in *God*; because, those who are to be admitted as incurable *Infidels*, *Atheists*, *Deists*, and *Freethinkers*, most of which Tribe are only so out of *Pride*, *Conceit*, and *Affectation*; might perhaps grow gradually into *Believers*, if they perceived it to be the *Custom* of the Place where they lived.

Altho' it be not customary for the Natives of *Ireland* to meet with any manner of Promotion in this Kingdom, I would, in this Respect, have that National Prejudice entirely laid aside; and request, that for the Reputation of both Kingdoms, a *large* Apartment in the *Hospital* may be fitted up, for *Irishmen* particularly, who either by *Knavery*, *Lewdness*, or *Fortune-Hunting* should appear qualified for Admittance: Because, their Numbers would certainly be very considerable.

I would further request, that a *Father*, who seems delighted at seeing his *Son* Metamorphosed into a *Fop*, or a *Coxcomb*, because he hath travelled from *London* to *Paris*; may be sent, along with the young Gentleman, to the *Hospital*, as an *old Fool*, absolutely incurable.

If a *Poet* hath luckily produced any thing, especially in the Dramatick Way, which is tolerably well received by the Publick, he should be sent immediately to the *Hospital*; because incurable *Vanity* is always the Consequence of a *little* Success. And, if his Compositions be ill received, let him be admitted as a *Scribler*.

And I hope, in regard to the great Pains I have taken, about this *Scheme*, that I shall be admitted upon the Foundation, as one of the *scribbling Incurables*. But as an additional Favour, I intreat, that I may not be placed
in

in an Apartment with a *Poet*, who hath employed his Genius for the *Stage*; because he will kill me with repeating his *own* Compositions; and I need not acquaint the World, that it is extremely painful to bear any Nonsense——, except *our own*.

My private Reason for soliciting so early to be admitted, is; because it is observed that *Schemers* and *Projectors* are generally reduced to Beggary; but, by my being provided for in the Hospital, either as an Incurable *Fool* or a *Scribler*; that discouraging Observation will for once be publicly disproved, and my Brethren in that way will be secure of a *publick* Reward for their Labours.

It gives me, I own, a great Degree of Happiness, to reflect, that altho' in this short Treatise, the Characters of many Thousands are contained, among the vast Variety of *Incurables*; yet, not any one Person is likely to be offended; because, it is natural to apply ridiculous Characters to all the World except our selves. And I dare be bold to say, that the most incurable *Fool*, *Knave*, *Scold*, *Coxcomb*, *Scribler*, or *Lier*, in this whole Nation, will sooner enumerate the Circle of their Acquaintance as addicted to those Distempers, than once imagine *themselves* any way qualified for such an *Hospital*.

I hope

I hope indeed, that our *wise Legislature* will take this Project into their serious Consideration; and promote an Endowment, which will be of such eminent Service to Multitudes of his Majesty's unprofitable Subjects, and may in time be of use to *themselves* and their *Posterity*.

From my Garret, in *Moor-Fields*.
Aug. 10. 1733.

F I N I S.

T O T H E
H O N O U R A B L E
House of COMMONS, &c.

*The humble Petition of the Footmen in and about
the City of Dublin.*

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT your *Petitioners* are a great and numerous *Society*, endowed with several Privileges, Time out of Mind.

That certain *lewd, idle, and disorderly* Persons, for several Months past, as it is notoriously known, have been daily seen in the publick Walks of this City, habited sometimes in *Green-Coats*, and sometimes in *laced*, with long *Oaken Cudgels* in their Hands, and without Swords, in hopes to procure Favour, by that Advantage, with a great Number of Ladies who frequent those Walks, pretending and giving themselves out to be true genuine *Irish Footmen*. Whereas they can be proved to be no better than common *Toupees*; as a judicious Eye may soon discover, by their *awkward, clumsy, ungentle* Gate and Behaviour; by their Unskilfulness in Dress, even with the Advantage of wearing our Habits; by their ill favoured Countenances,

tenances, with an air of *Impudence* and *Dullness* peculiar to the rest of their Brethren: Who have not yet arrived at that transcendent Pitch of Assurance. Although, it may be justly apprehended, that they will do so in time, if these *Counterfeits* shall happen to succeed in their evil Design, of passing for *real Footmen*, thereby to render themselves more amiable to the Ladies.

Your *Petitioners* do further alledge, that many of the said *Counterfeits*, upon a strict Examination, have been found in the very Act of *strutting, swearing, staring, swaggering* in a manner that plainly shewed their best Endeavours to imitate us. Wherein, altho' they did not succeed, yet by their ignorant and ungainly way of copying our Graces, the utmost Indignity was endeavoured to be cast upon our whole Profession.

Your *Petitioners* do therefore make it their humble Request, that this *Honourable House* (to many of whom your *Petitioners* are nearly allied) will please to take this Grievance into your most serious Consideration: Humbly submitting, whether it would not be proper, that certain *Officers* might, at the publick Charge, be employed to search for, and discover all such *counterfeit Footmen*, and carry them before the next *Justice of Peace*; by
whose

whose Warrant, upon the first Conviction, they should be stripp'd of their *Coats*, and *Oaken* Ornaments, and be set two Hours in the Stocks. Upon the second Conviction, besides stripping, be set six Hours in the Stocks, with a Paper pinned on their Breast signifying their Crime, in large capital Letters, and in the following Words. *A. B.* commonly called *A. B. Esq;* a *Toupee*, and a notorious *Impostor*, who presumed to personate a *true Irish Footman*.

And for any further Offence the said *Toupee* shall be committed to *Bridewell*, whipp'd three times, forced to hard Labour for a Month, and not be set at Liberty, till he shall have given sufficient Security for his good Behaviour.

Your *Honours* will please to observe with what Lenity we propose to treat these enormous Offenders, who have already brought such a Scandal on our *Honourable Calling*, that several well-meaning People have mistaken them to be of our *Fraternity*; in diminution to that Credit and Dignity wherewith we have supported our Station, as we always did, in the Worst of Times. And we further beg leave to remark, that this was manifestly done with a *seditious* Design, to render us less capable of serving the *Public*

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lick in any great Employments, as several of our *Fraternity*, as well as our *Ancestors*, have done.

We do therefore humbly implore your *Honours*, to give necessary Orders for our Relief, in this present Exigency, and your *Petitioners* (as in Duty bound) shall ever pray, &c.

Dublin

1732.

F I N I S.