

**AN ENQUIRY INTO THE  
CAUSES OF  
THE LATE INCREASE OF  
ROBBERS, &C.**

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An Enquiry Into the Causes of the Late Increase of Robbers, &c. by Henry Fielding

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**HENRY FIELDING**

**AN ENQUIRY INTO THE  
CAUSES OF  
THE LATE INCREASE OF  
ROBBERS, &C.**



AN  
**ENQUIRY**

INTO THE

**CAUSES** of the late Increase  
of **ROBBERS, &c.**

WITH SOME  
**PROPOSALS** for Remedying  
this Growing Evil.

[Price 3 s. bound, and 2 s. 6 d. few'd.]

A N  
**E N Q U I R Y**

Into the CAUSES of the late

**Increase of Robbers, &c.**

WITH SOME  
**PROPOSALS** for Remedi<sup>ng</sup> this  
**GROWING EVIL.**

IN WHICH

The Present Reigning VICES are impartially  
exposed; and the LAWS that relate to  
the Provision for the Poor, and to the  
Punishment of FELONS are largely and  
freely examined.

*Non jam sunt mediocres hominum libidines, non humane  
audacia ac toleranda. Nihil cogitant nisi eadem, nisi  
incendia, nisi rapinas. Cic. in Catil. 2<sup>da</sup>.*

By **HENRY FIELDING, Esq;**

Barrister at Law, and one of His Majesty's  
Justices of the Peace for the County of *Middle-  
sex*, and for the City and Liberty of *Westminster*.

The **SECOND EDITION.**

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TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

**Philip Lord Hardwick,**

Lord High Chancellor of *Great Britain*.

MY LORD,

**A**S the Reformation of any Part of our Civil Polity requires as much the Knowledge of the Statesman as of the Lawyer, the following Sheets are, with the strictest Propriety, addressed to a Person of

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E. V. W.  
7-2-46

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## DEDICATION.

the highest Eminence in both  
these Capacities.

The Subject of this Treatise cannot be thought unworthy of such a Protection, because it touches only those Evils which have arisen in the lower Branches of our Constitution. This Consideration will account for their having hitherto escaped your Lordship's Notice ; and that alone will account for their having so long prevailed : But your Lordship will not, for this Reason, think it below your Regard ; since, however ignoble the Parts may be in which the Disease is first engendered, it  
will

## DEDICATION.

will in time be sure to affect the whole Body.

The Subject, indeed, is of such Importance, that we may truly apply to it those Words of *Cicero*, in his First Book of Laws: *Ad Reipublicæ formandas & stabilendas vires, & ad sanandos Populos omnis pergit Oratio.* How far I have been able to succeed in the Execution, must be submitted to your Lordship's Candour. I hope I have no immodest Opinion of my own Abilities; but, in truth, I have much less Confidence in my Authority. Indeed the highest Authority is necessary to any Degree

## DEDICATION.

of Success in an Attempt of this Kind. Permit me, therefore, my Lord, to fly to the Protection of the Higheft which doth now exist, or which perhaps ever did exist, in this Kingdom.

This great Sanction is, I am convinced, always ready to support what really tends to the Public Utility : If I fail, therefore, of obtaining the Honour of it, I shall be fully satisfied that I do not deserve it, and shall sit down contented with the Merit of a good Intent : for surely there is some Praise due to the bare Design of doing a Service to the Public. Nor can my  
Enemies,