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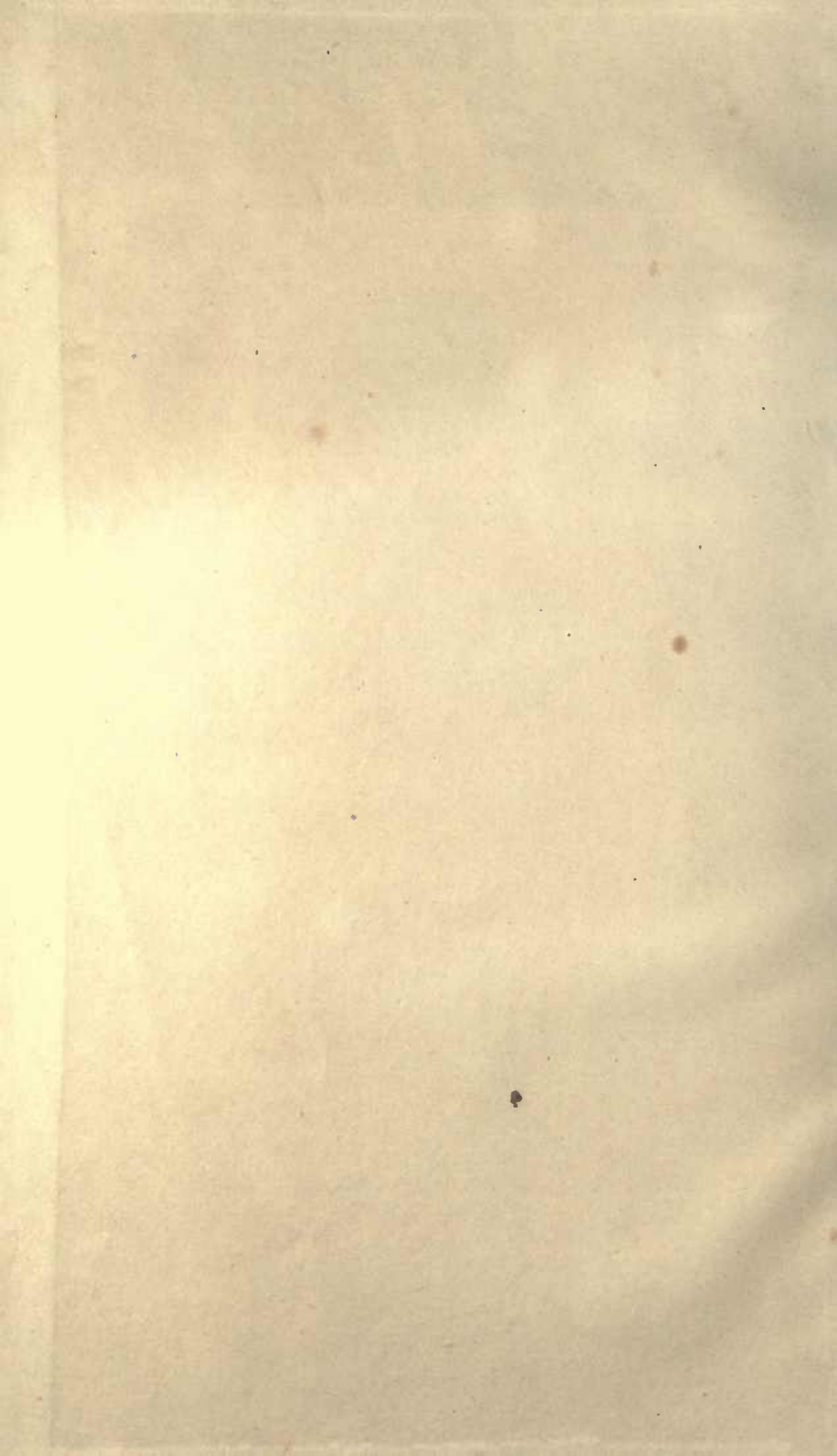
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Account 6

Carlos Blom

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C. K. OGDEN





TO THE READER

Since writing the accompanying work, an alteration in the cash price of Gin, from the Rectifiers to the Trade, has taken place. The scale, however, offered to the notice of the Public, in the division, which was immediately made on the article of Gin, in this Treatise, applies equally as well, in respect to its extensive reduction and reduction, as though, another scale was adopted, adapted to the present prices which are stated for it. The terms which the Author has mentioned, and which are agreeable to those, at the time this work was commenced, are, for Gin twenty-two per cent. under proof 32. 44. and for the article at seventeen per cent. under proof 100. per gallon.

The recent alteration which has taken place, renders the cash prices from the Rectifiers to the Trade, for the former strength 32. 6d. per gallon, for the latter 32. 15. 6. Some of our planters and advertisers, Gin is now sold at the low price of 32. 4d. per gallon, to enable them to do which, had to permit of its being vendid at that sum per gallon (allowing for the sugar and acetous used in sweetening and making up,) it takes sixty-four gallons and a half of water, and further to admit of a profit of only 6d. per gallon, when gallons more, of the same kind, making a total of eighty gallons and a half of water, to every 100 gallons of Gin at 32. 6d. per gallon. This calculation is offered to the Reader, to show, that, although the prices which relate to the article of Gin in this Treatise, differ from those, at present fixed by the Rectifiers, yet the circumstances, does not in the least affect the general statement of fact.

TO THE READER.

SINCE writing the accompanying work, an alteration in the cash price of Gin, from the Rectifiers to the Trade, has taken place. The scale, however, offered to the notice of the Public, in the division, which more immediately treats on the article of Gin, in this Treatise, applies equally as well, in respect to its extensive adulteration and reduction, as though, another scale was exhibited, adapted to the present prices which are quoted for it. The terms which the Author has mentioned, and which are agreeable to those, at the time this work was commenced, are, for Gin twenty-two per cent. underproof 9s. 4d. and for the article at seventeen per cent. underproof 10s. per gallon.

The recent alteration which has taken place, renders the cash prices from the Rectifiers to the Trade, for the former strength 8s. 6d. per gallon, for the latter 9s. By some of our placarders and advertisers, Gin is now sold at the low price of 5s. 4d. per gallon, to enable them to do which, and to permit of its being vended at that sum per gallon, (allowing for the sugar and etceteras, used in sweetening and making up,) it takes *sixty-four gallons and a half of water*, and, further to admit of a profit of only 6d. per gallon, *sixteen gallons more*, of the same liquid, making a total of *eighty gallons and a half of water*, to every 100 gallons of Gin at 8s. 6d. per gallon. This calculation is offered to the Reader, to show, that, although the prices which relate to the article of Gin in this Treatise, differ from those, at present fixed by the Rectifiers, yet the circumstance, does not in the least affect the general statement of facts.

**WINE AND SPIRIT ADULTERATORS
UNMASKED.**

WINE AND SPIRIT ADULTERATORS

UNMARKED.

**WINE AND SPIRIT
ADULTERATORS UNMASKED,**

IN

A Treatise,

SETTING FORTH THE MANNER EMPLOYED, AND THE VARIOUS
INGREDIENTS WHICH CONSTITUTE THE

ADULTERATIONS AND IMPOSITIONS

EFFECTED WITH THE DIFFERENT

WINES AND SPIRITS

OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC,

THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF CHEAP PRICES,

BY MANY OF THE

ADVERTISING AND PLACARDING WHOLESALE
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS, AND GIN-SHOP-KEEPERS,
OF THE PRESENT DAY.

ALSO

SHEWING THE METHOD BY WHICH THE NOTICE OF THE

EXCISE IS EVADED,

AND AFFORDING

A VARIETY OF OTHER VALUABLE INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT.

“Pro bono publico.”

BY ONE OF THE OLD SCHOOL.

—◆—
LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, BY J. ROBINS AND CO. IVY LANE,
PATERNOSTER ROW.

1827.

WINE AND SPIRITS
ADULTERATORS UNMASKED.

D Treatise

SETTING FORTH THE MANNER EMPLOYED AND THE VARIOUS
INGREDIENTS WHICH CONSTITUTE THE

ADULTERATIONS AND IMPOSITIONS

WINE AND SPIRITS

OF THE
THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF GREAT
AND THE MIDDLE OF GREAT
OF THE PRESENT DAY
AND I HAVE BEEN
THESE ARE THE
THESE ARE THE
THESE ARE THE

BY ONE OF THE OLD SCHOOL

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR BY A. BENTLEY AND CO. 17, ST. MARK'S PLACE, LONDON.

1832

I.

IN addressing the Public on a subject of such importance as the detection and exposure of fraud, especially when the health and comfort of all classes of the community is concerned, it is necessary, to a forcible and efficient appeal, that the person so addressing himself have considerable experience relative to the nature of the frauds intended to be exposed, and that he be able to produce facts in support of the arguments which he may see it necessary to advance.

That I can enforce the object I have in view, in both these respects, I have every expectation; and I trust, that my labours may operate as some check to the continuance of that which really exists, as a most serious evil.

That the sale, through the medium of advertisements and printed bills, of a spurious article for the genuine, deserves the exposure of every honest tradesman, and, if the fact be proved, the reprobation of every member of society, I should think no one will attempt to deny, as the character of the former, and the health and pockets of the latter, both essentially suffer by the system.

As an old Wine and Spirit Merchant retired from business, with a competency, acquired by fair trading, no feeling of pique, as to the injury caused to my own pursuits by the system I feel it my duty to reprobate, can be supposed to have suggested the idea of opening the eyes of the public, to the fraudulent practises it conceals; or, in so doing, to influence me in offering any other, than an impartial and matter-of-fact statement.

Having a few leisure moments on my hands, and from my youth having been accustomed to an active life, I was induced, in order to occupy my leisure, to commence this treatise* for the information of my own circle of acquaintance; nor should I have been prevailed on, to offer it to the notice of the public, but for a late trial in the Court of Exchequer, for adulteration,† and the additional incitement, occasioned by a conviction of the influence which the present system of imposition (through the means of advertisements and printed bills) is gaining on the public mind.

We have lately witnessed mining and other wild speculations, by which the pockets of hundreds have been emptied, and their estates ruined. We

* Since penning the chief part of this treatise, I have observed some clever articles on the same subject in Nos. 516, 517, 518, of the Literary Gazette.

† Attorney-General *versus* Oldfield, to which I shall have occasion to refer when I arrive at another part of my subject.

have seen too, the long advertisements, in which great and splendid advantages were offered to those who chose to embark in them:—the most unbounded wealth promised and expected.

In those instances, however, the results have discovered the impositions, and exposed (though conveyed under fine high sounding expressions) the adulteration of principles (if I may be allowed the term) to what has been proved to be, false and empty purposes. We have blamed those persons who, under the supposition that all the professions were genuine, were induced to embark in such undertakings, and who found, by sad experience, they had been deceived by spurious articles.

Notwithstanding, the credulity of the public is not exhausted. Other and not less egregious impositions are now placed before them by *Advertising and Placarding Wine and Spirit Merchants*, the falsehood of whose pretensions, are, in some respects, more easily detected, as the Duties on Wines and Spirits, and their cost at the Docks, are generally known; and it must therefore appear, in a great degree, extraordinary, to persons unacquainted with the intricacies of the business, how it is possible, for those advertisers and placarders, to sell their articles at a less price, than their real and apparent cost. I think, I shall discharge a valuable duty, if I clear up the mystery, and prove, that, instead of vending on lower terms than others, and gaining less profit, they are absolutely realizing larger profits than re-

spectable persons in the trade, although they resort to so expensive a plan, as that of advertising in the newspapers, and distributing printed bills, &c.

But, as my object in this treatise is as much to expose the adulterations and impositions which are practised with Spirits as well as with Wine, I will commence with a few remarks on the former, and illustrate my position by calculation, whereby the public will be enabled, to see behind the curtain.

And here, I wish it to be clearly understood, that, as one professing the feelings and principles of a fair tradesman, and who can conscientiously affirm that he has been such, and only such, it is not my intention to bear hard on the whole of any one class of Advertising and Placarding Wine and Spirit Merchants, indiscriminately, for the delinquency of a part, any further than I am supported by unanswerable facts; but merely to show, that, such impositions and adulterations do exist, and in what manner, and by whom, they are chiefly practised; to the detriment of the honest trader, and the sacrifice of the health and pockets of those to whom 'ignorance is bliss.'

It is, however, a singular fact, that the majority of our *Spirit* Advertisers and Placarders is composed of Gin-shop-keepers; but, as there is no spirit whatever so much adulterated, or with which, (through the medium of cheap prices,) so much deception is practised, as with the article of Gin, it may not appear altogether so extraordinary that,

having attained a proficiency in the art of selling the one at less than cost price, they should form the majority also of those, who advertise Wines on the same curious terms.

But, as I have already stated, that my aim is not against any class of dealers in particular, any further, than the facts themselves extend to them; but, to protect my fellow citizens from imposition, and the honest Wine Merchant from the charge of exacting extravagant profits, I will first endeavour to show, the relative facility possessed by the Advertising Wine Merchant, and that by the Advertising Gin-shop-keeper; though, with respect to the article of Spirits, I fear it will almost exclusively apply to the latter, as one of the most essential requisites on which to found the means must be a *Retail License*;* and to those, therefore, of my readers who belong to the middling and poorer ranks of society, and others, who purchase at these receptacles, under the supposition that they are served with the genuine article, at a cheaper rate, this part of my subject may be considered, as of more particular and vital importance.

The only means whereby adulteration can be successfully and securely carried on by the Retail or Gin-

* In addition to this retail license, any Gin-shop-keeper may possess a wholesale license by paying ten pounds per annum extra, and may conduct the two branches of business attached to them on one and the same premises; thus, from this circumstance alone, he is placed far above an equality with the Wine Merchant who has only a wholesale license.

shop Advertiser and Placarder, is by making use of the decreases, which daily occur in his stock, between the periods on which his Excise Officer surveys it; and, as he is not obliged to render any account of such decreases, or, if in any particular article the officer should find no decrease from the last stock (although it should be well known to him that a portion of it had been sold), why a decrease in that article should not appear, the facilities for avoiding any detection of adulterating practices are great indeed.

With the cheap advertiser, however, possessed only of a Wholesale License, which does not allow him to send out a less quantity than two gallons, the case is widely different; for, not only is every article of Spirits, with its strength, which is sent from his stock, taken an account of, but for any decrease that may appear in that stock, (no matter from what cause,*) beyond five gallons per cent. he is subject

* One of the first convictions that took place under this regulation, was, I believe, with a Wine Merchant who had a large connexion in the navy, and who pleaded (on a decrease of more than five gallons per cent. being found in his stock of spirits) that he had been treating a number of his naval customers with punch, &c. but as the commissioners did not think he possessed a sufficient number to cause the decrease, his plea was rejected: what makes the circumstance exceedingly singular, was his having been one of the persons who proposed and assisted in the framing of the Act. The object of entailing a penalty for this offence, was for the purpose of protecting the Gin-shop-keeper against the wholesale dealer acting as a retailer; but as the former has no difficulty with his decreases, (although having a wholesale license in addition to his other), as he has only to account for them as having been oc-

to a heavy fine. Hence it follows, that, very few persons indeed, if any, having only Wholesale Licenses, are found to advertise cheap Spirits; and, if they do, it is at considerably higher prices than those quoted by the class of Gin-shop-keepers; and their means of doing so at all, may be considered, with but few exceptions, to arise more from the inferior quality of the Spirits, than from any great extent of adulteration. To begin, however, with the article of

COGNAC BRANDY.

The prices, as I have gathered them from sundry advertisements and placards, and from the numerous printed bills left at my house (to the great annoyance of myself and servants), at which the advertising dealers propose to sell the very finest qualities of this brandy, are 27s. 6d.; 26s.; 25s. 6d.; 24s.; and 23s. 6d. per gallon; but, when I shall have shown to my readers, as I will do, that, notwithstanding all the heavy expences which attach to this article, and that, although no description of it is to be purchased at anything like even the highest of the advertised prices, an enormous profit is realized by the placarders, I almost question whether many will not feel a desire to engage in such an extremely lucrative

casioned by what he has sold over his bar in small quantities, how amply to his benefit the object is fulfilled I leave others to surmise.

traffic. In order, however, to enable the reader to understand the manner in which the adulteration of this article is performed, I shall describe, shortly, the materials, which enter into the composition of the spurious Brandy, which generally comprises the stock of the Advertising Wine and Spirit Merchant.

The methods, by which Cognac Brandy is adulterated, are various; but, they are all effected by the admixture with such portion of it, as will answer the intention of the cheap seller, of the following articles. In some instances the whole, in others, only a part of them are introduced; and the number, quantity, and proportions in which they are used, are regulated by the experience, which the placarder has acquired, of the public taste.

Spanish or Bordeaux Brandy. Brandies of very inferior quality to Cognac. They are but seldom used by the advertising retailer, as they pay the same duty as Cognac, and therefore, approach too nearly the same expense, to serve as a profitable basis. I believe, however, that they are frequently sold genuine (except only a *slight* reduction in strength) by the *wholesale* Spirit advertiser, under the title of '*Curious old soft flavored Cognac, ten years old.*'

Old Neutral-flavored Rum. Neutral-flavored Rum, is such, as possesses the least flavor. It must be of the finest quality, and the highest marks of Wedderburn's Rums are generally preferred as being of that description. Their prices vary from 13s. 9d. to 14s. 6d. without the overproof, if purchased by the puncheon; but if in smaller quantities, the cost is at a higher rate.

**Rectified
Spirits.**

By rectified Spirits, is not meant the usual Spirits of Wine, though now sold by our rectifiers, in some respects, under the same regulation. The difference between the two articles in their manufacture is, that the rectified Spirits of which I now speak, is distilled from better and cleaner Spirits, and afterwards rectified to extract the essential oil, in order to render it as *tasteless* as possible; whilst Spirits of Wine is generally made, from the feints and refuse of all other Spirits and Compounds put together; and undergoes, only the simple process of distillation. It is sold under the denomination of plain Spirits, and is to be bought at twenty-five per cent. overproof for about 15s. 7d. per gallon, including the overproof; and, therefore, when reduced to proof, costs only 12s. 5¼d. per gallon, as the following will show:

	L.	s.	d.
100 gals. of Rectified Spirits at			
15s. 7d.	77	18	4
25 gals. of water to reduce it to proof			
makes up <u>125</u> gals. proof Rectified Spirits at			
12s. 5¼d. $\frac{2}{5}$ is	77	18	4

It may be requisite, however, just to observe, that, all dealers are restricted from keeping Rectified Spirits in stock, or sending it out at a less strength than it is received in at. But as the retailer has to render no other account of its disposal to his Excise Officer, (should there be a decrease), when the stock is taken, than is afforded by the permits he has had occasion to draw for sending out two gallons of it or upwards, such a restriction does not in the least interfere with his means of using it in any Spirit he pleases.

**British
Brandy
Bitters.**

British Brandy Bitters is used to fill up the flavor, but comparatively in small quantities, as it is exceedingly powerful: it is usually composed of

Rectified Spirits, Camomile Flowers,
Cassia, Orange Peel,
Carraways, &c. &c.

The cost is about 9s. 6d. per gallon.

British Brandy.

An imitation of French: the compound of which, previously to distillation, consists generally of the following proportionate ingredients:

80 gallons of Rectified Spirits, 50 overproof.

7 gallons of Vinegar.

12 ounces of Orace Root.

15 pounds of Raisins.

2 pounds of Vitriol.

The cost price is from 13s. to 14s. per gallon, twenty-two per cent. underproof.

Cherry-laurel water.

This is intended to answer the same purpose as British Brandy Bitters, but is more generally made use of, because the quantity of it applied does not prevent a trial of the strength of the Brandy by the hydrometer. Its qualities are highly pernicious, and even poisonous.

Extract of Almond Cake.

Extract of Almond Cake is prepared by keeping a quantity of the cake in Spirits of Wine for a long time. It is intended to impart to adulterated Brandy a taste resembling the fine kernel flavor which the genuine article possesses.

Extract of Capsicums, or Extract of Grains of Paradise.

Known in the trade by the denomination of 'Devil. The Extract of Capsicums is made by putting a quantity of the small East India Chellies into a bottle of Spirits of Wine, and keeping it closely stopped for about a month. The same process is performed with Grains of Paradise. The purposes of both are obvious from their natures. They are used to impart an appearance of strength by the hot pungent flavor which they infuse into the Spirit requiring their aid. They are mixed separately,

according to the opinions of the maker-up as to which answers the purpose best; their properties being similar, with respect to their giving a hot taste in the mouth, which passes for strength with the persons imposed upon.

Colouring, Sugar, &c. ✓ Colouring consists merely of a preparation of burnt sugar. It is employed to bring up the colour of Brandy which may have become too pale by the preceding mixtures. It is used to answer the same end with Rum. The reasons for the application of *sugar* will be seen in the course of my remarks.

My Readers being thus necessarily informed of the ingredients which compose the various adulterations of Brandy, after a few further remarks, in order to render them still better acquainted with the nature of the subject on which I am treating, I will offer to their notice such examples as shall clearly prove the facts I have advanced.

By a late Act of Parliament all dealers are allowed to reduce Brandy, Rum, Arrack, Hollands &c. to any degree of strength not less than seventeen per cent underproof,* by Sykes's Hy-

* My acquaintance with the Wine trade has been very extensive, and enables me to state that I have never known any of those individuals who carried on what may be termed the more respectable business, (that is, where the Wine Merchant depended more on the quality of his article than on any extraordinary cheapness in price,) to keep their Brandies and Rums, &c. at a less strength than six or eight per cent. underproof, although they were allowed by the Act to reduce them to seventeen per cent. underproof. ✓

drometer : † but that trade must be very poor indeed that does not allow a retail dealer to keep, (without the fear of detection,) a stock of ten or twenty gallons of both Brandy and Rum always on hand,

† I have borrowed the following extract from Accum's *Culinary Poisons*, (page 235), as affording the clearest definition of the terms underproof and overproof, and the nature of the hydrometer: he says, 'By the Excise Laws at present existing in this country, the various degrees of strength of Brandy, Rum, Arrack, Gin, Whisky, and all other spirituous liquors, chiefly composed of little else than Spirits of Wine, are determined by the quantity of alcohol, of a given specific gravity, contained in the spirituous liquor of a supposed unknown strength. The great public importance of this subject in this country, where the consumption of spirituous liquors adds a vast sum to the public revenue, has been the means of instituting many very interesting experiments on the subject. The instrument used for that purpose, by the Customs and officers of the Excise, is called Sykes's hydrometer, which has superseded the instrument called Clarke's hydrometer, heretofore in use. The specific gravity or strength of the legal standard spirit of excise is technically called *proof*, or *proof spirit*. "This liquor (*not being sweetened, or having any ingredients dissolved in it to defeat the strength thereof*), at the temperature of 51° Fahrenheit, weighs exactly $\frac{1}{3}$ parts of an equal measure of distilled water;" and with this spirit, the strengths of all other spirituous liquors are compared according to law. The strength of Brandy, Rum, Arrack, Gin, and other spirituous liquors *weaker* than proof, or *below proof*, is estimated by the quantity of water which would be necessary to bring the spirit up to proof. The *hydrometer* is calculated to show the per centage of strength above or below proof; as the case may be, of the Spirit submitted to trial. The stem of the instrument is graduated, and so subdivided, as to meet every variety in the strength of the liquor to be examined which may fall between the weights (nine in number) used with the instrument; the divisions and subdivisions on the hydrometer, which remain above the surface of

at twenty or even twenty-five per cent under-proof.* The duty on Brandy, per imperial gallon,

the liquor in which the instrument is made to swim, being added to the number on the weight used, and together forming the indication. But as the difference of temperature affects materially the specific gravity of spirituous liquors, a thermometer and tables of the concentration of strength, as denoted by the hydrometer, are used in the application of the instrument. The officer of Excise has, therefore, only to turn to the tables opposite the indication, and immediately under the temperature he finds the per centage of the strength of the liquor; for example,

Weight used	50
Subdivision shown by the hydrometer	$1\frac{2}{10}$
	$51\frac{2}{10}$
Temperature by the Thermometer	68°

Opposite $51\frac{2}{10}$ in the column of indication, and under the 68th degree of temperature, is $8\frac{4}{10}$ per cent. above or over proof; "*had, however, the weight 60 been required, instead of weight 50, at the same degree of temperature, the indication would have been $61\frac{2}{10}$, and the strength $6\frac{2}{10}$ per cent. below or underproof.*"

'Brandy and Rum is seizable if sold by, or found in the possession of the dealer, unless it possess a certain strength, (seventeen per cent. under proof by Sykes's hydrometer).' The following are the words of the Act, (30 Geo. 3, c. 37, sec. 31.) No distiller, rectifier, compounder, or dealer, shall serve or send out any *foreign spirits* of a lower strength than that of one in six, under hydrometer proof, according to Clarke's hydrometer, (*equivalent to seventeen per cent. below proof according to Sykes's hydrometer*) nor have in his possession any foreign Spirits mixed together, except Cherry or Raspberry Brandy, of lower strength, than as aforesaid, upon pain of such Spirits being forfeited, and such Spirits, with the casks and vessels containing the same, may be seized by any officer of Excise.

* As a proof that I do not exaggerate facts, about a week

is 22s. 6d.; and the cost at this time of good fair Brandy from 4s. 6d. to 5s. per gallon, independently of the usual reckoning of 10d. per gallon as interest on duty: for example—

	L. s. d.		L. s. d.
Duty	1 2 6	Duty	1 2 6
Cost	0 4 6	Cost	0 5 0
Advance of money	0 0 10	Advance of money	0 0 10
	<u>1 7 10</u> per gal.		<u>1 8 4</u> per gal.

Thus, then, the first costs 27s. 10d. per gallon, the latter 28s. 4d.; to which, if we add the expence of cartage, servants' wages, waste of strength, &c. (but without any allowance for the *trifling* charges of advertising, &c.) as at 8d. per gallon, it renders the average cost 28s. 6d. and 29s. per gallon. The prices at which this is sold by the equitable Wine Merchant to his private customers is at an advance of from 3s. to 4s. 6d. per gallon; on which he has to give six, twelve, and, in many instances,

since, when in town, I sent my servant to purchase a bottle of brandy and rum, at one of our largest Advertising and Placarding Gin-shops, by way of experiment. On trying their relative strength, I found the Rum thirty-two per cent. underproof, the Brandy I supposed about twenty-eight or thirty per cent. under; but as the latter had been sweetened, which prevents its being proved by the hydrometer, I was obliged to decide by comparing its apparent strength with that of the Rum. The taste of both, however, was so filled up with artificial heat and flavor, that it would be a difficult matter for any one unacquainted with the secret to tell, by the palate, whether or no, either of them were not considerably stronger.

eighteen months credit ; and, to those of his connexion, who (as dealers) have to sell it again, at an advance only of from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per gallon ; but, when it is considered, that, with regard to the latter, very heavy bad debts* are frequently incurred, I do not think, at the very outside, the profits realized average more than from five to six and a half per cent. per annum ; and the only reason which I can conceive for the sale of an article (attended with so small and disproportionate a profit for so great a risk of loss) being continued, by those who sell it genuine, is, that, it frequently becomes the means of introducing the sale of other commodities, to which a greater remuneration is attached ; in short, it is what is usually denominated in the trade, a leading article.

Having thus, however, shown what the cost of the article is, to supply it of fair and genuine quality, (the correctness of which must be known to several, and may be easily ascertained by all my readers,) I will now proceed to give some examples, which will disclose to the public the golden secret, by which the placarding dealers are enabled to sell, as Brandy at 24s. per gallon, that, which costs about twenty per cent. more.

* In many concerns I know it to be a fact, owing to the enormous advance of money for duty on Brandy, which renders a bad debt with this article extremely heavy, that, so far from gaining any per centage at all, upon a calculation of the profits and loss for a twelve-month, the loss has exceeded the amount of profits as much as ten and fifteen per cent. and, in some instances, considerably more.

Example 1:—

To make up 100 gallons of 'full proof Brandy,' to cost				
only 21s. 4¼d. $\frac{52}{100}$.				
50 gals. of fine Cognac Brandy,	s. d.	L.	s.	d.
proof	at 29 0	per gal.	72	10 0
31 gals. of Old Neutral-flavor-				
ed Rum, previously reduced				
to proof	-- 13 0	—	20	3 0
9 gals. of Old Neutral-flavor-				
ed Rum, twenty-five per				
cent. overproof, including				
overproof	-- 16 6	—	7	8 6
10 gals. of British Brandy,				
twenty-two per cent. under-				
proof	-- 13 6	—	6	15 0
<hr/> 100 gals. of full proof Brandy	at 21s. 4¼d. $\frac{52}{100}$	—	106	16 6
To the above must be added—			20	
1 pint of Colouring.		100)	2136	(21.4¼ $\frac{52}{100}$)
¼ pint of Cherry-laurel water.		gals. 200	per gal.	
⅓ pint of Extract of Almond Cake.			136	
			100	
			36	
			12	
		100)	438	(4d.)
			400	
			38	
			4	
		100)	152	($\frac{1}{4}$)
			100	
			52	

Thus, then, by the process I have described, may be produced 100 gallons of 'Full Proof Brandy,' which will bear to be tried by the hydrometer, and the cost of which is, but 21s. 4¼d. per gallon, imperial measure. When this quantity shall have

been reduced to seventeen per cent. underproof (the lowest strength at which government allows it to be sold), by the addition of seventeen gallons of water, with a larger proportion of *Colouring*, *Extract of Almond Cake*, *Cherry-laurel Water*, and *Extract of Capsicums*, it will have cost only 18s. 3d. per gallon, as the following will show.

Example 2 :—

100 gals. of proof made-up Brandy, as in Example the first, at 1l. 1s. 4¼d. $\frac{52}{100}$	L. s. d.
	106 16 6
17 gals. of Water.	20
* $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{1}{2} \text{ pint of Colouring} \\ \frac{1}{2} \text{ pint of Ex. of Almond Cake} \\ \frac{1}{4} \text{ pint of Cherry-laurel Water} \\ \frac{1}{2} \text{ pint of Ex. of Capsicums} \end{array} \right\}$ additional.	117) 2136 (18. $3\frac{60}{117}$ gals. 117 per gal.
	966
	936
<u>117</u> gals. of Brandy, seventeen per cent. underproof, at 18s. 3d. $\frac{60}{117}$ per gallon.	30 12
* The quantity of the article increased by these ingredients pays their expense.	117) 366 (3d. 351
	15
	4
	<u>60</u>

The reader will also perceive, by the calculation in example the first, that, by increasing or diminishing the different proportions of either one or the other of the articles used, a corresponding difference in the cost price, may be obtained accordingly.

Thus, by adding twenty or twenty-five gallons of water, instead of seventeen, with a still greater proportion of the flavoring ingredients mentioned, to the 100 gallons of proof made-up Brandy, we have the prices reduced to 18s. and 17s. 1d. per-

gallon. As, however, it can only be done to the extent of the first example, by the largest of our Gin-shop Placarders, without the danger of discovery, it is by others, whose consumption is not so extensive, usually made up in quantities of ten, fifteen, or twenty gallons, as opportunity serves.

And here it may very naturally be inquired, how this can be done without the Exciseman (whose duty it is to prevent such imposition) being able to detect it. I will propose a short case, which I think will fully explain why, there are so few chances of his doing so; and the rarity of such detections is notorious. 'A Retail and Wholesale Licensed Dealer's stock is taken on the eighteenth of November: we will suppose it then to consist of,

Proof Cognac Brandy, 110 gallons.	Proof neutral-flavored Rum, 100 gallons.	Neutral-flavored Rum, 25 per cent. underproof, 50 gallons.	British Brandy, 22 per cent. underproof, 40 gallons.
--------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------

The officer does not again survey him for a period of twenty-eight days; and he has sold during the intermediate time, in quantities of *less** than two gallons, as follows:

Proof Cognac Brandy, 60 gallons.	Proof neutral-flavored Rum, 35 gallons.	Neutral-flavored Rum, 25 per cent. overproof, 20 gallons.	British Brandy, 22 per cent. underproof, 3 gallons.
-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------

* For any quantity which a Gin-shop-keeper, who is possessed of a wholesale license, may send out from his stock of two gallons

These several amounts, deducted from his stock on the eighteenth of November, leave the amount of what his stock should be, when his Exciseman surveys it. For example,

Stock as taken on the 18th of Nov. when the officer last surveyed.	Proof Cognac Brandy,	Proof neutral-flavored Rum,	Neutral-flavored Rum, 25 per cent. overproof,	British Brandy, 22 per cent. underproof,
	110 gals.	100 gals.	50 gals.	40 gals.
Sold or sent out in the intermediate time.	60 ditto	35 ditto	20 ditto	3 ditto
Amount of what the stock should be when his officer surveys it.	<u>50 gals.*</u>	<u>65 gals.†</u>	<u>30 gals.‡</u>	<u>37 gals.§</u>

Previously however to his officer's visit, he adds, as in example first,

- † 31 gallons of Proof neutral-flavored Rum,
- ‡ 9 gallons of neutral-flavored Rum, 25 per cent. overproof,
- § and 10 gallons of British Brandy, 22 per cent. underproof, to his remaining
- * 50 gallons of Proof Cognac Brandy,

or upwards, he is obliged to draw a permit, the same as those who are exclusively wholesale dealers; and, if he had to account for the decreases occasioned by what he disposes of in smaller quantities, or, if the system were so altered as to admit of some such check, he would be equally as much restricted from adulterating, as those are who are only wholesale dealers. As, however, any account of the kind cannot be kept under the present regulation, and the Gin-shop-keeper is constantly diminishing his stock over his retail bar, it does not in the least affect his means of adulterating any article he pleases, as he is still able to do it, to within a very little (for the sake of appearances) of what he has sold in quantities of less than two gallons; or, in other words, to nearly the extent of such

Thus rendering his stock as consisting of

Proof made-up Brandy, but taken as Cognac, 100 gals.*	Proof neutral- flavored Rum, 34 gals.†	Neutral flavor- ed Rum, 25 per cent. overproof, 21 gals.‡	British Brandy, 22 per cent. underproof, 27 gals.§
----------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------

* This, we perceive, should be only *fifty* gallons, according to the decrease occasioned by what has been sold; yet as the addition of the above articles, though rendering the retailer's stock as *one hundred* gallons instead of *fifty*, still enables him to retain a decrease of *ten* gallons from his last stock, for instance,

	gals.
Last stock	110
Present stock	100
Decrease	. 10

He has thus managed to introduce, without the fear of detection, fifty gallons of manufactured Brandy, which, when exhausted, he can again make up as circumstances permit.

† This, by looking at the account of what the stock of proof Rum ought properly to be, we see, should appear as sixty-five gallons. Thus, at the same time, the proper decrease of *thirty-five* gallons (the quantity the dealer has sold) is altered to *sixty-six* gallons, by his having taken *thirty-one* gallons more of the same Rum to transform into Brandy.

‡ The same may be said of this as of the proof Rum. The dealer has taken *nine* gallons to assist him in manufacturing his Brandy, consequently making the quantity he has sold appear as *twenty-nine* gallons instead of *twenty*, and altering his stock, which should be thirty gallons, to twenty-one gallons only.

§ This, we see, should be thirty-seven gallons. Our retailer, however, having occasion to take ten gallons to add to his Cognac Brandy, thus lessens his stock of it that quantity, and causes the amount of what he has sold of it to appear as *thirteen* gallons instead of three gallons only. The officer supposes he has sold eighteen gallons, and, as it is not part of his duty to require an account of the decreases (however disproportionate), overlooking its impossibility under the present system, its correctness is never questioned.

The Exciseman attends, and takes this as the Dealer's stock; he finds there is no increase in any of

decreases in his stock, as are not accounted for, by the permits he has drawn. In the case above stated, in order to render it plainer to my readers, I have supposed, that, no quantity requiring a permit, has been sold or sent from the stock.

the articles since his last visit; concludes it is all right; and, without any possible means on his part to prove it otherwise, it is passed as correct.

Thus then we see, that, even without any diminution of strength, the opportunities which a Gin-shop Advertiser has of adulterating his Brandy, are so great, that to do so, is neither a matter of much difficulty, nor attended with any great risk of detection.

In making up low Brandies for what is termed the bar, or, as the Retailers themselves express it, '*the glass and bottle trade,*'* the best judges invariably sweeten them; not only in order to conceal the strength, but, by the fullness it imparts to the palate, to prevent a discovery of the etceteras, used in their composition.

It is necessary also, that, I should explain, that whenever sweets, such as *British Brandy Bitters*, *British Cherry Brandy*, Sugar, &c. have been mixed with Brandy, its strength cannot be proved by the hydrometer. But, as the Dealer, by a late regulation, has to keep the per centages of the strengths of his Brandy and other Spirits marked on each of the casks, which contain any Spirituous Liquors, and he takes care, that the strengths, shall

* For the information of those who may be unacquainted with the meaning of these terms I must explain to them, that the '*glass trade*' refers to that class of consumers entitled dram-drinkers, the '*bottle trade*' to those customers who apply for Spirits and Wine in the separate quantities of pint, quart, gallon, or upwards.

not appear as below the standard prescribed by Act of Parliament, from the time it would otherwise consume, it is only in the event of an information, or when the Exciseman has any very great suspicion, that he makes a trial of such strengths, by the hydrometer ; or if, from any suspected spirit having been unlawfully sweetened, he can obtain no satisfactory result by that instrument, of ascertaining its *real* strength by distillation ; which is the only process, under the circumstances I have mentioned, by which it can be truly discovered. Should the officer be able to find that a Spirit has been sweetened, which has not been admitted by him to be either a British or a Foreign Compound (independently of a penalty, should he find it of an illegal strength), he can enforce one, which, by a late Act, has become attached to all Traders who are detected of effecting this alteration, with such Spirituous Liquors as do not rank under the head of Compounds. The comparatively small quantities, however, of Brandy, &c. which the Retailers manage to have on hand, made up in a sweetened form, or of an illegal strength, when the officer surveys their stock, render any detection extremely rare.

The method therefore, of making up sixty-three gallons of Brandy without the possibility of its strength being proved by the hydrometer, and to answer the end, of concealing in some degree such of the ingredients as would otherwise be too powerful, is given in the following

Example 3:—

	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>L. s. d.</i>	
25 gals. of proof Cognac Brandy at 28 6 per gal.		35 12 6	
7 gals. of proof Bordeaux Brandy -- 25 6 —		8 18 6	
10 gals. of proof Neutral-flavored Rum -- 13 0 —		6 10 0	
To fill up, and soften the flavor	{	1 gal. of British Brandy Bitters, 22 per cent. underproof -- 9 6 —	0 9 6
		1 gal. of British Cherry Brandy, 22 per cent. underproof -- 10 0 —	0 10 0
		5 gals. of British Brandy, 22 per cent. underproof -- 13 6 —	3 7 6
		14 gals. of Water.	
63 gals. of Brandy, at 17 <i>s.</i> 7 <i>d.</i> $\frac{1}{3}$ per gal. (strength, if distilled, about 22 per cent. underproof.)		55 8 0 20	
	63)	1108(17. 7 gals. 63 per gal.	
To this must be added—		478	
8 lbs. of Lump Sugar, or Candy-Foote.		441 37	
$\frac{1}{2}$ pint of Colouring.		12	
$\frac{3}{4}$ pint of Extract of Almond Cake.	63)	444(7 441	
$\frac{3}{4}$ pint of Extract of Grains of Paradise.		3 4 12	

This, is of capital quality, but may be deteriorated as much as 1*s.* 5*d.* per gallon, by introducing *proof Rectified Spirits*, at 12*s.* 6*d.* per gallon, in lieu of the Bordeaux Brandy. Another very profitable source, is also obtained, even from the very

staves of the Brandy puncheons. As soon as the Brandy is racked from the puncheons, four or five gallons of water are immediately put in, and allowed to remain three or four weeks, at the expiration of which time, they have imbibed a considerable portion of spirit; this material is called *Cowe*, and is chiefly used in the adulteration of *Cape* and other Wines; but, as that will be treated of when I arrive at another part of my subject, I shall now proceed to the article of

RUM.

And here, I may observe, that, with regard to the opportunities for its adulteration, the same facilities exist as in Brandy, the same impositions are practised in point of strength, and the same means possessed and resorted to of evading the notice of the Exciseman. I should, however, inform my readers, that, as sweets are but seldom or never used in sufficient quantities with Rum (owing to the peculiar flavor of that Spirit) to prevent a trial of its strength by the hydrometer, and which consequently renders it more liable to the surveillance of the Excise Officer, the Advertising Cheap Dealers, as some alternative, are therefore in the habit of keeping on hand a less stock of it, of an illegal strength, *though no diminution* takes place in the quantity sold, as the punishment entailed on the offence (and the same with *Brandy, Rum, Hollands,*

&c.) barely amounts to a restriction; the utmost penalty extending no further than the forfeiture of whatever Spirits there may be in stock, of an illegal strength, together, with the casks or vessels containing the same.* I may here also add, that to prevent this, requires but little ingenuity or foresight, as Gin-shop-keepers, and particularly those on a large scale, are generally aware of the time their stock is to be taken, a few hours before the officer pays his visit;† and they have, therefore, nothing more to do (if they think he suspects them) than to pour into those casks, con-

* 30 Geo. 3, c. 37, sec. 31. No distiller, rectifier, compounder, or dealer, shall serve, or send out, any foreign Spirits of a lower strength than that of one in six under hydrometer proof, according to Clark's hydrometer,* nor have in his possession any foreign Spirit, mixed together, except Cherry or Raspberry Brandy, of lower strength than as aforesaid, upon pain of such Spirits being forfeited; and such Spirits, with the casks or vessels containing the same, may be seized by any Officer of Excise.

† The periods now appointed for the surveying of Dealers' stocks are once in every twenty-eight days; but occasionally what is termed a check stock is taken, which generally happens about seven days before or after the regular visit has been paid; consequently, there is but little difficulty (except in cases of strong suspicion) of ascertaining nearly the precise time; or, in the event of a surprise, as the dealer has generally a few minutes to spare (which is all that is requisite) whilst the Exciseman is examining and entering the permits of such goods as have been received into stock since the last survey, the vigilance of that officer, to whom no blame can be attached, and which, considering the numerous duties he has to perform, is exemplary in the extreme, is altogether baffled.

* Seventeen per cent. underproof, according to Sykes's hydrometer.

taining what Spirits they have of an illegal strength, the proper quantity of the same Spirit, at proof, to cause the strength to ascend to within the standard prescribed by Government.

The impositions practised with Rum, generally consist in purchasing the low-priced Leeward Island Rums, and by artificial means, such as the use of the following articles, vending it as fine old Jamaica Rum of peculiar softness and flavor—

Ale, Porter, Shrub,
 Extract of Orace Root,
 Cherry-laurel Water,
 Extract of Grains of Paradise, or Capsicums.

Another way is, by adulterating low-priced Jamaica Rums, by the admixture of Rectified Spirits of Wine and Leeward Island Rum, together with whatever is necessary of the flavoring ingredients I have named, to improve and render it saleable.

Leeward Island Rums* are but seldom brought to this country at a higher *rate* of strength, than eight or ten per cent. overproof.

The prices at which they may generally be bought are from 1s. 3d. and 1s. 9d. to 2s. per gallon; the duty is at 8s. 6d. per gallon, which is

* It should be observed, that Leeward Island Rums, and the generality of low-priced Jamaica Rums, are of so coarse and rank a nature, as to render them almost unsaleable, unless, altered in their flavors by artificial means, or blended with others of a better description.

charged as well on the overproof; the expenses may be reckoned at *3d.* per gallon. An example, therefore, of the cost at *proof* of 100 gallons of Leeward Island Rum at ten per cent. overproof, and examples also of the various prices to which it may be further reduced, are given as follows:

Example 1—

100 Gallons of Lee-	s. d.	L. s. d.
ward Island Rum, at 1 9 per gal.	8 6	8 15 0
Duty on 100 gals.	-- 8 6	42 10 0
*10 Gals. of overproof	-- 8 6	4 5 0
Expenses on 100		
gals.	-- 0 3	1 5 0

* For this 10 gals. of overproof, 10 gals. of water are put into the cask, which thus makes up . . .

110 Gallons of <i>proof</i> Rum, to cost	} 56 15 0
10s. 3¼ <i>d.</i> ³⁰ / ₁₁₀ per gallon .	} 20
110) 1135 (10.3¼ ³⁰ / ₁₁₀	
gals. 110. per gal.	
	35
	12
	110)420(3
	330
	90
	4
110)360(¼	
	330
	30

Example 2—

To reduce 55 gallons of the *proof* Rum in the preceding example, at 10s. 3½d. $\frac{30}{110}$ per gallon, to cost 9s. 5d. per gallon; strength about 10 per cent. underproof.

55 gals. proof Leeward	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>L. s. d.</i>
Island Rum, at . . . 10 3½ $\frac{30}{110}$ per gal.		28 7 6
1 gal. Porter 2 0	—	0 2 0
½ gal. Shrub 9 0	—	0 4 6
4½ gals. Water.		
½ pint Colouring	} Quantity increased pays their expense.	28 14 0
½ pint Orace Root		20
¼ pint Extract of Capsicums		61)574(9. 4½ $\frac{41}{110}$ per gal.
		gals. 549 say 9s. 5d. per gal.
61 gals. Rum, at 9s. 5d. per gallon; strength about 10 per cent. underproof.		25 12 61)300(4 244 56 4 61)224($\frac{3}{4}$ 183 41

Example 3—

To reduce 55 gallons of the *proof* Rum in Example 1, at 10s. 3¼d. $\frac{3}{110}$ per gallon, to cost 8s. 8¼d. per gallon; strength, 17 per cent. underproof, the lowest at which Government allows of its sale.

55 gals. proof Leeward	s. d.	L. s. d.
Island Rum, at . . . 10 3¼ $\frac{3}{110}$ per gal.		28 7 6
1 gal. Porter 2 0	—	0 2 0
½ gal. Ale 4 0	—	0 2 0
½ gal. Shrub 9 0	—	0 4 6
9 gals. Water.		
¾ pint Colouring	Quantity increased pays their expense.	28 16 0
¾ pint Orace Root		20
⅛ pint Cherry-lau- rel Water		66)576(8. 8½ $\frac{6}{8}$ per gal.
⅛ pint Extract of		gals. 528 say 8s. 8¼d.
Capsicums		48 per gal.
		12
<hr/>		
66 gals. Rum, at 8s. 8¼d. per gal- lon; strength, 17 per cent. underproof.		66)576(8 528 48 4
		66)192($\frac{1}{2}$ 132 60

Or if fifty-five gallons of the proof Rum in Example 1st be further reduced to twenty-five and thirty-two per cent. underproof, (the former strength referred to in page 17, and the latter in note * page 17), by the addition of the proper proportion of water, and a larger proportion of the flavoring materials and Extract of Capsicums, the prices would be 7s. 11d. and 7s. 2d. per gallon.

The terms on which Rums are advertised for '*Ready money only*,' are 10s. 4d. ; 10s. 8d. ; 11s. 6d. ; 12s. ; and 13s. 4d. per gallon (at the two latter prices, the strength of the article to be '*proof*'); and I scarcely need, therefore, pursue my calculations for the purpose of showing my readers, the various and enormous profits obtained on Rum, by our cheap Placarders and Advertisers, and the impositions practised on the health and purse of the public, under the plausible pretext that '*Ready money only*' enables the modest Dealer to dispose of these fine articles at prices so low. In offering, however, one more example of a mode of making up a Rum of '*exceedingly fine flavor*,' I wish to observe, that a restriction exists, only, as regards the admixture of the Rectified Spirits I have alluded to, in my remarks on Brandy, but that all Rums of whatever quality, may be, what is termed, blended together. Hence it is, that a Wholesale Spirit Advertiser, is unable to make use of the article of British Rectified Spirits with Rum, be-

cause, if he ventures to draw a permit, in order to account for a decrease, and does not send the goods,* he is liable to a heavy penalty if discovered; or, should he succeed in obtaining a sufficient decrease to answer his purpose, he is as equally liable to have the corresponding increase occasioned in his Rum, not only forfeited, but also accompanied with a similar heavy penalty; † whereas, the Gin-shop-keeper, who can send out whatever he pleases from his retail bar, without having to render any account, may use it with impunity; and, as he does not apply it any further than as the decreases on his Rum will allow, he is above all fear of detection. ‡

* 21 Geo. 3, c. 55, sec. 21. Dealers taking out a permit, and not sending away the goods, nor returning the permit within the time of its limitation, forfeit treble the value of the goods; and the goods also, if on taking stock there shall not appear a sufficient decrease to answer such permit.

† 21 Geo. 3, c. 55, sec. 29. Dealers having an increase in their stocks, over and above what the officer found on the last preceding survey, such decrease is to be deemed as brought in without permits or certificates, and an equal quantity is to be forfeited, with the penalty of 50*l*.

‡ To what extent he may occasionally make use of the article of British Rectified Spirits, I refer my readers to the case I have cited, showing the facility and security with which Brandy may be manufactured, see page 23.

Example 4—

To make up as fine Jamaica Rum, 101 gallons, to cost 11s. per gallon; the strength, *proof*,

	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>L. s. d.</i>
30 gals. Jamaica Rum, at 25 per cent. overproof, at 2 6 per gal.	2 6	3 15 0
Duty on 30 gals.	8 6	12 15 0
Duty on 7½ gals. of the overproof (proportion on 30 gals. at 25 per cent. overproof)	8 6	3 3 9
30 gals. Leeward Island Rum, at 8 per cent. overproof	1 9	2 12 6
Duty on 30 gals.	8 6	12 15 0
Duty on 2½ gals. of overproof (the proportion on 30 gals. at 8 per cent. overproof)	8 6	1 1 3
20 gals. Rectified Spirits 56 per cent. overproof, including the overproof	19 6	19 10 0
21 gals. Water, being the proportion requisite to reduce the whole to proof		55 12 6 20
1 pint colouring	Quantity increased pays their expense.	102
½ pint Ex. Orace Root		101
¼ pint Cherry-laurel		1
Water		12
<u>101</u> gals. of <i>fine Proof Rum</i> , at 11s. per gallon.		18 4 <u>72</u>

101)1112 (11 ²²/₁₀₁ per gal.
gals. 101 say 11s. per gal.

This, reduced to the relative strengths of ten, seventeen, twenty-five, and thirty-two per cent. underproof, with the proportionate quantities of Ale or Porter to soften it, and Extract of Grains of Paradise, or Capsicums, to give it the appearance of a greater strength than it possesses, costs 10s.; 9s. 5d.; 8s. 9½d.; and 8s. 4d. per gallon; and my Readers may, therefore, (when they consider, besides, that the incalculable expenses of advertising, &c. are not reckoned in any of the foregoing examples,) form some notion of the extent, to which the tempting opportunities of adulteration are pursued with this article, and the profits which such practices enable the unfair Dealer to realize at the placarded prices.

Without enlarging, however, on the frauds practised with *Hollands*, by the admixture of a proportion of two-thirds of Rectified Spirits to one of *Hollands*,* and as well also with *Compounds*, such as *Peppermint*, *Cloves*, &c. we now arrive at that grand climacteric of all adulteration in the article of *Spirits*, viz.

BRITISH GIN.

It will no doubt appear an extraordinary circumstance, to such of my Readers as are unacquainted with the nature of the concerns, at which

* Rectified Spirits costs about 12s. 6d. per gallon, if reduced to proof. *Hollands* pays the same duty as Brandy, and is usually to

so large a proportion of this compound is consumed, when *I state the fact* (well known to all persons connected with the trade) *that sums, of from one thousand, to three thousand pounds, and, where Wine trades have been attached, as much as from three to six thousand pounds have been given, for the good-wills of Gin-shops, possessed of only twenty-one years' leases, depending solely on the will of the magistrate for their licenses being renewed, and held at rents from 75l. to 200l. per annum.* But I have little doubt, that, all surprise will cease, when, in addition to the profitable adulterations which, as I have shown, are practised with Brandy and Rum, I have exposed those also, which are carried on with this article, and that of *Wine*:

be purchased (if by the puncheon) at about 25s. 6d. per gallon, full proof strength, thus—

	s. d.	L. s. d.
20 gals. of Rectified Spirits, at proof.	12 6	12 10 0
10 gals. of Hollands, at proof	25 6	12 15 0
<hr/>		<hr/>
makes up 30 gallons of proof Hollands,		25 5 0
to cost only 16s. 10d. per gallon, being 5s. 8d. per gallon less than the duty on genuine Hollands;		20
and which, if further reduced only to 10 per cent. underproof, costs but 15s. 3½d. per gallon.		30)505(16 10 per gals. 30 gal.
		<hr/>
		205
		180
		<hr/>
		25
		12
		<hr/>
		30)300(10
		300
		<hr/>
		0
		<hr/> <hr/>

In order, however, to convey a sufficiently clear notion of the impositions to which this Spirit is peculiarly exposed, I must premise a few observations on its nature, and on the regulations it is subjected to, from the earliest period of its manufacture.

The Malt Distiller (who belongs of a different class to the Rectifier, and whose business, it must be borne in mind, is altogether distinct and separate) is the person, who first commences the manufacture of Gin. It is most commonly made from malt, and consists in placing a wash, prepared from the grain, in a state of fermentation, to deprive it of all saccharine matter, and after it has gone through this process, in distilling it into what is usually denominated *Malt Spirit*, or *Whiskey*.

The enormous duties, however, with which the trade of Malt Distillers is chargeable, they being compelled to distill above a certain quantity of Spirit of immense bulk at a time, and the large capital which is required, rendering it possible only for a few individuals of great wealth to engage in this business, the natural consequence has been, to produce a monopoly* and community of interests

* This monopoly of the Malt Distillers attracted the attention of Government, and, as some restriction, they have permitted the distillation of Gin, from Rum, or *Scotch* or *Irish Whiskey*; but as the Malt Distillers have reduced their prices to the same level, and their article is generally preferred, the terms at which it is sold, though lower, continue as invariable as previously to the restriction. Another circumstance, which also confines it as a mo-

amongst them; to preserve which, from the invasion of competitors they have introduced the practice of fixing a stated price for their goods, (from which none of them depart,) and of periodically, or according to circumstances, raising and lowering those prices, to the whole of the trade of Rectifiers indiscriminately.

This Spirit is sold by the Malt Distiller, at a certain definite overproof strength, to the Rectifier, who, by a second distillation, deprives it of its essential oil; and then again, by a third process through his still, (with the addition of *Juniper Berries* and other ingredients,) he converts it into the article called *British Gin*.

In consequence of this system, the Rectifiers, into whose hands the Spirit next passes, and who make it into Gin, are obliged to adopt the same course; and, therefore, set that price to their Gin-shop customers, and others of the trade, which will yield them a fair profit, and at which no competitors can undersell them, except at a partial loss.

nopoly, is this: no sooner does any Rectifier attempt to undersell the stated price which has been given out, than he is immediately refused any further supply of Spirit from the Malt Distiller; and should he evade the obstacle thus thrown in his way, by manufacturing his Gin from Scotch or Irish Whiskey, or Rum, the whole of the trade immediately lower their prices to a standard considerably below that at which he is selling, (however great the sacrifice may be at which they do it,) until he is compelled, from the prospect of either losing the whole of his connexion, or suffering himself to be totally ruined, to give up the contest, and return to the old price.

There are two strengths only, at which the Rectifier sends this article of *unsweetened* Gin from his stock; these are seventeen, and twenty-two per cent. underproof; and, as any variation from them would only occasion a proportionate alteration in price, none is ever made. The cause, which produced the seeming inconsistency, of having these two strengths in particular, was as follows:— The first Act of Parliament relating to this subject, provided, that British Brandy, Gin, and all liquors under the head of Compounds, should not exceed in strength twenty-two per cent. underproof, and a penalty was inflicted on persons selling it at any higher rate of strength. Subsequently, however, another Act was passed, which altered the limitation to seventeen per cent. underproof; thus, making the article of unsweetened Gin saleable, at a degree five per cent. stronger. But, the traders generally having become accustomed to buy their Gin at twenty-two per cent. underproof, and the penalty attaching only on the Spirit being sold at a higher per centage than laid down in the last Act, both strengths are retained, in order to suit the choice of the purchaser, though by far the greater proportion, is still disposed of, at twenty-two per cent. underproof.

With Gin, after it is sweetened, no restriction, as to any particular strength, continues to prevail, as it then constitutes, what is termed Cordial, or sweetened Gin, it cannot be tried by the hy-

drometer ; and is sold by the Rectifier, Wholesale Dealer, or Gin-shop-keeper, at any reduced rate of strength, under the two just mentioned.

But, as to purchase it in this state is, the most unprofitable, as well to the Wholesale, as to the Retail Dealer ; it is, with scarcely any exception, bought by them at either of the strengths, seventeen or twenty-two per cent. underproof, and they afterwards sweeten or make it up themselves.

The present fixed and stated cash price, after all deductions, to every description of trade consumers, indiscriminately, is for the former strength 10s. per gallon, and for the latter strength 9s. 4d. per gallon ; and my Readers must, therefore, when they see Gin advertised at 5s. 9d. ; 6s. 6d. ; 7s. 6d. ; and 9s. 4d. per gallon, be naturally somewhat curious, to learn the extent of reduction, and the means by which that reduction is effected, so as to render it either saleable or drinkable (saying nothing of its wholesomeness) *at such prices*, and at the same time to enable the advertiser to derive a clear average cash profit of from 1s. 6d. to 2s.* per gallon.

To clear up this mystery is my task, and the first point, to which I shall direct attention is the flavor, that most essential particular in the art of making up Gin ; after which, I will present a scale, showing the different proportions of *aqua puræ* (pure water) necessary to reduce 100 gallons of

* This, I can vouch for as a fact, having myself distilled a portion of what is termed Gin at the prices quoted.

Gin to the prices at which it is advertised and placarded, and the further reduction requisite to clear the profit of 1s. 6d. per gallon.

The list of ingredients used in flavoring or making up the Gin as advertised, is somewhat startling, not less for its length than for the articles of which it is composed. They are as follows:

Oil of Vitriol,	Sulphuric Æther,
Oil of Turpentine,	Extract of Orace Root,
Oil of Juniper,	Extract of Angelica Root,
Oil of Cassia,	Extract of Capsicums, or
Oil of Carraways,	Extract of Grains of Paradise,
Oil of Almonds,	Water, Sugar, &c.

With respect to the first mentioned of these articles, viz. *Oil of Vitriol*, it is perhaps the most important of the whole list, as, from the pungency it imparts to the Spirit, it mainly assists in keeping up the appearance of strength, when applied to the nose, as the *Extracts of Capsicums* or of *Grains of Paradise* do when applied to the taste. Hence it is, that, in smelling a bottle containing Gin, in the flavoring of which *Oil of Vitriol* has been employed, the pungency is so great, immediately after the bung has been taken out, as almost to make the eyes water, which is never the case, even with Gin at its highest strength, previously to its being sweetened.

The quantities in which it is applied are various, according to the judgment of those, who have occasion to require its aid, though I have every reason to believe it is used in the greatest proportion to

those Gins, which are reduced to the lowest strengths and prices, and by those persons, who are considered the most knowing.

Before, however, it is mixed with the other flavoring ingredients, it is altered in its form by a process, in which either *Sour Cyder* or *Lime Water* is employed; and under which alteration it is, I believe, added in the proportions of from one to four pints to 100 gallons of Gin.

As regards *Oil of Turpentine* and *Sulphuric Æther*, (the *Turpentine* having been changed from its oily state, by means of *Lime Water*, the *Whites of Eggs*, or *Spirits of Wine*), they are included in the measure of about one eighth of a pint of the former, and half a pint of the latter, (with the other materials used for the flavor,) for 100 gallons, and chiefly, for the purpose of mingling and concealing the *Oil of Vitriol*, in the made up Gin, and giving it what is termed 'a delicate flavor!'

The *Extracts of Orace* and *Angelica Roots* are used, for imparting a fullness of body and flavor to that vast proportion of the Compound, which is merely *water*; and, by their relative bitters, keeping the taste, as nearly as possible, to that of the Gin previously to any reduction. They are applied with the other ingredients in quantities of about a quart of each, to the 100 gallons of manufactured gin.

The remaining *Oils*, named in the list, require the nicest discrimination in their application; and that their forms be altered by the same means, as

are employed with *Oil of Turpentine*. They are all exceedingly powerful, and the proportions made use of, with the rest of the materials, (previously to their having undergone any change,) seldom exceed a quarter of an ounce of the *Oils of Cassia, Carraways, and Almonds*; and of the *Oil of Juniper*, one ounce.

With the nature and properties of the *Extracts of Capsicums, and Grains of Paradise*, my Readers are already acquainted. They are added, with the other ingredients, to the 100 gallons of made up Gin, (if reduced to the lowest price,) in quantities of about a quart of either.

That the proportions of the different ingredients I have named, are varied according to the judgments and tastes of the Advertising Wholesale Dealer or Gin-shop-keeper, as well, as that, sometimes several articles are struck out altogether, or their places supplied by others equally deleterious, there can be little doubt; but, that the materials are as numerous, and used in as considerable quantities, is proved beyond all question, by this simple calculation: it requires *forty-eight gallons of water* to reduce 100 gallons of Gin, purchased at its cheapest rate, to one of the prices at which it is advertised, (that at 6s. 6d. per gallon,) and the still further addition of *forty-four gallons more of water (making a total of ninety-two gallons)*, to allow of the profit of 1s. 6d. per gallon.

This alone must be conclusive to every mind,

that practices, such as I have pointed out, do exist; and when it is considered that the evils consequent upon them fall most heavily on the poorer classes of society, no one will deny that this system calls loudly for the interference of the Government. The idle reply, that the weaker such a compound as Gin is made, the less injury it is likely to work, is no answer to such a case; because, although strong Spirits may be mischievous to the health and morals of the lower classes, the drinking such compositions as I have described must also be pernicious in the highest degree to the constitution and comfort of the people; and tends only to enrich a class of the community, who have neither honesty nor usefulness enough, to entitle them to the wealth they obtain.

In presenting my Readers with a scale, showing the different proportions of *water* necessary to reduce 100 gallons of Gin, twenty-two per cent. underproof, at 9s. 4d. per gallon, to the relative prices at which it is advertised, viz. 9s. 4d.; 8s.; 7s. 6d.; 6s. 6d.; and 5s. 9d. per gallon, I should premise that, although I have set the limit at that quantity, for the sake of conciseness, the best judges, or those whose consumption is the most considerable, make it up in vats; and that the larger the dimensions of the vat, the greater extent of reduction the Gin will bear, and the better is the fictitious flavor concealed. The quantity of lump sugar used to 100 gallons of Gin, varies from twenty-five to thirty-five pounds, according to the

taste of the maker up; but, for the sake of accuracy, I have reckoned thirty pounds in the following scale, as being the proper proportion, and I have considered the ingredients to pay their own expence.

A SCALE,

Showing the quantity of Water necessary to reduce 100 gallons of Gin, at 22 per cent. underproof, to the various Prices at which it is Advertised and Placarded, and the still further reduction requisite to allow the Profits as stated.

	<i>L.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
100 gallons of Gin at 9s. 4d.	46	13	4
30 pounds of Lump Sugar, at 11d.	1	7	6
Flavoring, &c. pays itself in the quantity increased	0	0	0
	48	0	10

If reduced, to cost—

Prices as advertised.	Profit derived extra.		Quantity of Water required to 100 gals. of Gin to reduce it to the price advertised.		Further quantity of Water required to the 100 gals. of Gin to allow of the profit.		Total quantity of Water requisite to reduce the 100 gals. of Gin to the profit per gal. below the price advertised.		Per centum of strength underproof.
			gals.	qts.	gals.	qts.	gals.	qts.	
per gal.	per gal.								per cent.
<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>								
9 4	2 0	Takes	3	0	28	0	31	0	40½
8 0	1 6		20	0	27	3	47	3	47
7 6	1 6		28	0	32	0	60	0	51
7 0	1 6		37	1	37	2	74	3	55
6 6	1 6		47	3	44	1	92	0	59
5 9	1 0	*	67	0	35	2	102	2	61½

In this scale, it will be seen, that, even to reduce the hundred gallons of Gin, so as to be saleable at

* On distilling a gallon of each of the Gins advertised, at these prices, through a small experimental still, I found, on calculation,

one of the higher prices at which it is advertised, (viz. at 8s. per gallon), it takes *twenty gallons* of water; and, to allow the profit of 1s. 6d. per gallon, the further addition of *twenty-seven gallons and three quarts* more, of the same liquid, causing, a total of *forty-seven gallons and three quarts of water*; and making up (within one quart) one hundred, and forty-eight gallons of Gin, to sell at 8s. per gallon, attended with a cash profit of 1s. 6d. per gallon.

The extensive adulteration requisite to render such a compound capable of being drank, as Gin, must be so obvious, that I consider it superfluous to add more on this part of the subject.

By an Act of Parliament, all individuals whose incomes, convenience, or any other circumstance, enables them only to purchase their spirits in quantities of less than two gallons, are obliged to resort to the places at which so much adulteration is practised; for, should they apply to a Wholesale Dealer, and manage to obtain the quantity they require of what is good and wholesome, if it be under

the relative profits considerably more, than stated on some of the prices in this scale: for the sake, however, of having no misstatement, I have supposed the whole, only as laid down; and, that, I am correct in my assertion the fact will sufficiently prove, that some Officers of Excise have, on one or two occasions, made seizures of Gin at as low a strength as 92 per cent. underproof, concluding it to be illegal; but, which was afterwards returned, as there is no law to limit the strength of this compound, in point of weakness.

two gallons, he is open to an information from the purchaser for a considerable period ; and, on conviction, to a heavy penalty. The single fact that the quantity of genuine Spirits which passes into the hands of Gin-shop-keepers,* previously to any adulteration or reduction, amounts to a proportion of more than two-thirds of the whole of what is sold in the united kingdom, ought to point out the necessity of some restriction, which can only be rendered effectual by placing the trade of the Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchant on a more equal footing with that of the Retail Dealer *possessed of a Wholesale License*. And, if I may be allowed to hazard an opinion respecting the latter, I would observe, that, let the limitation with regard to the smallest quantity of Spirit, which a Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchant should be permitted to sell, be fixed at one quart or a gallon† (instead of two gallons, the present extent), let *the strictest inquisition be instituted, to prevent any greater opportunity for adulteration or imposition*, than he possesses at present, and cause him to pay for this additional privilege in the same ratio as the Gin-shop-keeper does for the advantage of a Wholesale License, and a considerable check, both to the

* This is supposed to include as well all under the head of Public-house and Tavern-keepers.

† It may be as well to remark here, that, with regard to Wine, the Wholesale Wine Merchant's license enables him to sell it in quantities as small as a single bottle.

system, and its consequences, would at once be raised; for, as the respectable Wine Merchant, who depends more on the quality of his article, than on any high sounding pretensions, would then have as customers for Spirits, such of his connection as, through necessity (from their being consumers of quantities under two gallons), are now obliged to resort to the Gin-shops, and the chance of the quality of his goods bringing to him many others, who have found out the nature of the trash they have been used to purchase, it would at once, create a competition of quality, instead of price; which would soon reduce the cheap placarders and advertisers of Spirits, to be as few in number, as there are now of cheap wine venders who are not Gin-shop-keepers.

The Public would be enabled to purchase a bottle, half-dozen, or dozen, as their convenience suited, of those whose livelihood (*as they do not pretend to sell at less than cost price*) depends on their disposing solely, of that which is of good quality; nor would the Dealers, thus placed on a fair level with Gin-shop-keepers, have that class for customers, who are dram-drinkers (and who pay but little attention, to what they pour down their throats, so long, as their palates are satisfied) to render such Dealers at all indifferent as to whether the description of what they vend be good or bad. The proposed alteration, would not afford them any increased facilities for adulteration, that might not

be prevented, by regulations, that could be provided for the purpose ; and how any measure of the kind, to accomplish so desirable an end, could be considered an act of injustice to the Retailer, appears to me difficult to conceive ; whilst he is allowed—independently of his other business, and in the possession of a Wholesale License, (for which he pays but 10*l.* per annum)—to enjoy advantages, infinitely superior to those of the Wholesale Dealer, inasmuch, as from the means afforded him, by his Retail department, for adulterating *the whole* of his Wines and Spirits, to any extent he pleases, he is enabled, completely to undersell the fair and respectable trader. I leave this suggestion to the judgments of my Readers, and shall be more than satisfied, if the representation I have made, may engage the attention of that Government whose duty it is, and whose inclination it is professed to be, to place every branch of trade on the broadest and most equitable basis, and whose interest, not less than its duty and its inclination, are involved in the present case ; because, if some such alteration was once adopted, a much greater proportion of the genuine Spirit, which pays the regular duty, would necessarily be sold ; and some of that money, which at present goes exclusively into the pockets of the Advertising Gin-shop-keeper, would then find its way into the coffers of the State.

Another method, however, whereby the Public might perhaps be still better preserved, from the

consequences of these deceptive practices, than offered by that which I have already proposed, deserves particular mention; as it is one which has received the sanction of the Legislature, and would in all probability, have been carried into effect before this time, but for the machinations and co-operation of a powerful body of men, to the detriment of the Wholesale Dealers; but than whom (speaking of the latter), as a class, who ought to unite in every effort for the maintenance of their rights against the encroachments of the Gin-shop-keepers possessed of Wholesale Licenses, none evince greater supineness or want of energy; and who, instead of publicly exposing, as they ought to do, the base frauds which are practised (and which, owing to the facilities afforded to the Retailers, are even sanctioned by the Legislature under the present system), are suffering their very means of subsistence, to be gradually and imperceptibly undermined and destroyed. A remarkable instance of this indifference to their interest, on the part of the Wholesale Dealers, was shown on the passing of the Distillery Act lately framed, and now in force. It was contemplated to introduce into that Act a clause, by which all persons possessed of Retail Licenses should not be allowed to vend goods, under a Wholesale License, on the same premises on which he retailed them; but, that whatever Retailer was desirous of retaining both Licenses, should be placed on a par with other Wholesale Dealers,

by being compelled to conduct the wholesale department of his business, separately, and at a certain distance from the place at which his retail trade was carried on; thus, not a little evidencing the suspicions entertained by Government on the very subject I have been discussing. The Gin-shopkeepers, however, alive to this annihilation of their means of deceiving the public any longer, by a deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and by representations (the importance of which, to their own individual interests, must be pretty clear to my Readers), procured the obliteration of this obnoxious clause, unanswered by the proper and correct counter-statements, which ought, and could have been made, on the part of the respectable Wine and Spirit Merchant, and which, there can be little doubt, would have had the effect of causing the completion of the Act, in its original form.

The following explanation, however, which places the case on its own merits, and as it really stands, will enable my Readers to draw their own conclusions on the points I have submitted to them, with respect to this portion of my subject, and may not perhaps, altogether, be considered uninteresting.

The present mode by which a Wholesale Spirit Dealer's stock is taken, is such, as not only to render it impossible for him to adulterate his goods, or by any means to defraud his customers, but even to place needless difficulties in the way of his business, though nothing more be desired by him, than to

conduct it on a fair and equitable basis, whether with regard to the Revenue or the Public; whilst the person who is possessed of a Wholesale License, united with his Retail one, is *enabled to impose on both* with impunity; *his* wholesale stock being taken as connected with his retail trade, and on a principle totally different, to that arranged for those who belong to the other class.

To enable my Readers thoroughly to comprehend this difference, it may be necessary to explain it in a technical way, as more clearly elucidating the extensive latitude afforded, where the wholesale and retail businesses are conducted on one, and the same premises.

Of a Wholesale Dealer's stock (who is exclusively such), an account is taken in what is technically termed *Proof Spirit*, which is thus:—The separate per centages of spirit contained in his Brandy, Rum, Gin, &c. is ascertained by means of the hydrometer, and is equalized so as to appear *a whole quantity*, under each particular head, according to its sort; whatever is brought into stock of spirits, the permit must either specify the per centage of strength of the article, and the quantity, or only the total quantum of Proof Spirits, which is contained in the bulk of the goods protected by it; and in sending out Spirits, the Dealer is obliged also to express, on his request note, what per centage of strength the liquor is of, before he can obtain the permit. On the Exciseman's attending to take the

stock, he receives all the permits by which the Dealer has had in Spirits, since the last survey, notes down the total quantity of Proof Spirits they denote, under the proper distinctions, to which is added the amount of Proof Spirits, of each kind, which formed the balance of the last stock. The quantity of Spirits, whether Brandy, Rum, &c. contained in the various casks, and their different strengths, is then ascertained; and, together with the amount of what has been sent out (of which the officer has a previous account from the vouchers, or request notes, left at the Permit Office by the Dealer for all the permits he has had occasion to draw, since the last time of taking stock, and which must be so left, before he can obtain any of such permits), reduced, so as to exhibit the total quantum of *Proof Spirits*, of each description. Should this, on being deducted from the total, formed by the last balance, and what has been had into stock since added together, show any excess, (6 Geo. 4, c. 80, sec. 109,) ‘Such excess shall be deemed and taken to be spirits illegally received, and a quantity of spirits of the like kind shall and may be seized out of any part of the stock of such Wholesale Dealer,* by any Officer or Officers of Excise; and the Wholesale Dealer in whose stock, custody, or possession, such excess shall be found, shall forfeit and lose the sum of twenty shillings

* This Act also includes Rectifiers and Compounders.

per gallon, for every gallon of such excess: *and if there be any decrease in such stock, not duly accounted for by the spirits sent out with permit, and exceeding five per centum on the balance or stock left on hand at the last preceding account, together with the quantity since lawfully received, the Wholesale Dealer in whose stock such decrease is found shall forfeit and lose the sum of twenty shillings per gallon, for every gallon of such deficiency.*

Thus we see that a Wholesale Dealer's chance of defrauding the public, with respect to deteriorated Spirits, is a very slender one indeed; because, should he either wilfully, or in error, state the strengths on his permits, for the goods he may send out, at a higher rate than is correct, an increase to the same amount, as occasioned by such errors, is sure to be found in his stock, by the officer on the next survey; or, if at a less rate, or any accident occurs, by which a portion of Spirit is lost, a decrease would appear in the same manner, for which, we perceive, on reference to the Act, the dealer is as liable to punishment as though he had obtained an increase by receiving into his stock a quantity of smuggled goods.

A Retailer's stock (although a wholesale business may be supplied from it, and conducted on one, and the same premises), receives no difference in the mode of its survey from that of a person who is entirely or exclusively a retail dealer. The techni-

cal term by which this method of taking stock is distinguished from that adopted for the wholesale dealer, is its being surveyed according to the bulk of gallons, without reference to the relative strengths of the Spirits, so long as they are not below the legal standard, nor is any further account taken of the strengths of the Spirits, in a Retail and Wholesale Licensed Dealer's stock, under this regulation, than may be said to amount to a nominal preventive, for his having any very large quantity on hand, of an illegal strength, when the officer pays his visit.

The Spirits a Retailer may receive into stock, are taken according to the bulk or number of gallons contained in the cask, or casks, permitted to him, and whatever the strength may be, whether underproof or overproof, he is allowed credit to reduce or keep it, at any standard he pleases, not exceeding seventeen per centum underproof, if it be foreign Spirits, such as Brandy, Rum, &c. but if British, such as Gin, or Compounds, such as Noyeau, Shrub, &c. to any reduced rate of strength, that may be necessary to meet his views.

For any kind of Spirits, he may have occasion to permit out, he is obliged to state on the request note, for the permit, (and which is again transcribed on the latter by the Excise permit-writer) the strength of such Spirits, but for no other purpose, than to render the goods seizable, if they should be stopped by any officer, and the strength

stated by the Dealer, and that which the liquor really possesses, be found not to agree.

The Retailer, on having his stock surveyed, is only liable, if, upon ascertaining the number of gallons in stock, and what has been sent out by permit, there should appear any increase beyond his last balance, and what has been had in since, added together, or to have seized on account of being deficient in strength, only such Spirits, as are found to be so, when the officer entertains a suspicion, and chooses to make an examination;* and with respect to having any increase discovered, as the Retail and Wholesale trades, are both supplied from one and the same source, and a constant sale is taking place over the Retail bar, there is but little danger of the officer, meeting with such a result at the time of his visit, (nor indeed at any other), as the Dealer always manages to retain a small decrease from his last stock, (for the sake of appearances), on whatever article he may have deteriorated, and to render himself always safe, he never makes an addition to any of his goods, in the way of adulteration, until he is afforded sufficient room, in such goods, (by what has been re-tailed of them), to admit of that addition, without exceeding his credit.

(But as nothing can better illustrate, or more

* How easily this is to be avoided, although the offence be committed to a considerable extent, may be gathered from the commencement of my remarks on Rum, and from note † (page 29.)

truly explain the small chance of detection, which exists under the present system, and the manner in which a Retailer, possessed of a Wholesale License, is enabled to carry on his impositions, to so great an extent, and with so much impunity, than the case I have cited, in the adulterations of Brandy, (page 23,) to that I refer my Readers, with the certainty of its opening their eyes, to the means by which our Gin-shop-keepers are able to placard cheap Spirits, at such extremely low prices, and, also, that it must bear convincing testimony, to several of the most important facts, I have hitherto advanced.

In thus, however, apparently advocating the cause of those fair dealers, who are injured in their sale of Spirits, by the cheap prices, and specious pretences, of the Advertising and Placarding Gin-shop-keeper, and in publicly exposing the means, by which alone the different impositions are effected, situated as I am, it is a matter of little importance to me, personally, whether or not my motives may be appreciated, by the individuals whose mal-practises I have attacked. The value of my observations, must depend on the truth of the facts, and the force of the arguments, I have adduced. That abuses do exist, that these abuses originate, in the undue and mischievous facility afforded to Gin-shop-keepers, and other Retail Dealers, I think I have proved, and I apprehend it is no less satisfactorily made out, that some alter-

ation should be made in the system, for the sake of the fair Trader, for the benefit of the revenue, and for the protection of the public health. I feel it, however, due to many respectable and worthy Gin-shop-keepers, who are neither cheap sellers nor advertisers, who vend at a moderate price, and who, by fairly earned and equitable profits, maintain themselves, and their families, to state, that although the facts, with regard to the facilities for adulterating, apply to the whole of their class, as a body without a single reservation, yet that the circumstance of those facilities, being rendered subservient to base purposes, will rest more strongly on the individuals, who are ready to bear down, all of the same trade, whether belonging to their own community, or not—who live by fair dealing, or who happen, unfortunately, to be less knowing than themselves; and, before I conclude this division of my subject, I cannot but bear testimony from my personal experience, and knowledge, of the exceptions, which the methods resorted to, in the conduct of business, by the more honourable individuals, to whom I have alluded, form, to the profligate, and dishonest contrivances, of their placarding rivals.

I cannot but expect, that this Treatise, will excite the rancour of the advertisers, and be construed to be, as indeed it in some measure is, an attack upon them. This consideration is one which is far from discouraging, because it is by the outcry they

may make, that the Public will be enabled to estimate their pretensions; they who have most reason to fear exposure, will naturally cry out the loudest, or, as in the old adage—

‘The worst spoke in the wheel will crack first.’

Leaving, however, the facts to speak for themselves, and my Readers to draw their own conclusions from those facts, I shall now proceed to the second, though not less important, part of this Treatise.

may make, that the Public will be enabled to esti-
mate their pretensions; they who have most reason
to fear exposure, will naturally cry out the loudest,
or, as in the old saying—

The worst estate in the world will crack first.

Leaving, however, the facts to speak for them-
selves, and my Reader to draw their own conclu-
sions from those facts, I shall now proceed to the

II.
WINE.

“One glasse of drink, I got by chance,
“’Twas Claret when it was in France,
“But now from it moche wider:
“I think a man might make as good
“With green crabbes, boyl’d in Brazil wood,
“And half a pinte of Cyder.”

An Old Song.

USED in moderation, and as dispensing by its
cheering influence, an additional zest to several of
our social enjoyments, Wine may be said to form
one of the blessings of life. That it constitutes a
luxury, to which more consideration is attached
than to almost any other whatever, is sufficiently ob-
vious to need any extraneous remarks to prove it,
so, nor do I think it by any means less clear, that,
in the existing state of society, it is an article
which has almost become a necessary of life. X The
object, however, of this Treatise, is not to point
out the benefits which the rational use of Wine
confers on mankind, but by guarding the Public
against the pernicious adulterations which are prac-

X and has become so exceedingly
depressed &c

tised upon it, to prevent that, which may and ought to be a blessing, from being converted into a curse.

† That so widely diffused, and in such general demand, as Wine is, its abuses, therefore, deserve to be exposed; and a stop put to its being rendered baneful, without misapplication, no one can doubt, nor, that an individual thoroughly acquainted with the subject, is fulfilling more than his duty to the community, when he holds up to public reprobation, that class of persons, who, not content with the gains which fair dealing in Wine, in its genuine state, would yield them, seek to reap large and disproportionate profit, by the most base and fraudulent means, whereby they are not only undermining the character and livelihood of the honest Tradesman, in respect to his exacting unnecessarily high prices, but they are also cheating the pockets of those, who are so easily gulled, as to put faith in their pretences.

To discharge this, which I conceive to be a duty, is now my intention, and I have every expectation that I can place sufficient, both of facts and arguments, on this head, before my Readers, to convince all those, who are too nice to drink a compound of *Red Cape, Benecarlo, Figuera, and Inferior Port Wines*, mixed together, under the name of 'genuine *Old Port*,' or a mixture of *Cape, Brandy Cove, and Coarse Brown Sherry*, with the colour extracted by means of *Lamb's Blood*, for '*Fine Pale Amontillado Sherry*.'

To persons, indifferent as to what they place on their tables for Wine, so long as the taste somewhat resembles the denomination it bears, fact and reasoning would be alike uselessly addressed.

In the first place, as regards the facilities for the adulteration of Wine, they are, with little difference, possessed as equally by the Wholesale Dealers, as by the Gin-shop cheap Wine venders, unless where the retail consumption of the latter, or what they sell in glasses, is so large, as to give them, in this respect, a great advantage. The Wholesale Wine Merchant's License, enables him to dispose of Wine in quantities, as small as a single bottle, and does not enforce his drawing a permit, but for quantities amounting to more than one dozen, the additional opportunity, therefore, which the Gin-shop-keepers have, and which must account for their forming the majority amongst our Placarders and Advertisers of cheap Wine, arises from what they retail by the glass, or in measures less than a bottle, but which consequently, can only be of any very great benefit, where much is sold in that way. In other respects, he is subject to precisely the same regulations, as to drawing a permit, &c. as the Wholesale Dealer.

It may, however, be proper to remark here, that although upon the whole, both classes are open to facilities, almost as available to the one as the other, yet, comparatively, but little chance of adulterating their goods, exists, with those who carry

on a fair business, even if inclined to do so, as the Advertising and Placarding Gin-shop-keepers, and Wholesale Dealers, by their wonderfully cheap prices and pompous assertions, are sure to attract that description of persons as purchasers, who form the principal means of enabling them to adulterate with the least possible risk of detection, that is to say, such as buy only small quantities at a time, and with whom quality is quite a secondary consideration, so long as the price is low.

With respect to the measures adopted to evade discovery from the Excise Officers, the evidence in the trial alluded to, at the commencement of this Treatise,* will best explain some of the artifices

* *From the Times Journal of December 1, 1826.*

In the Court of Exchequer, November 30, 1826.—The Attorney-General versus Oldfield.

The information consisted of four counts, the first for procuring a permit, under pretence of transferring a certain quantity of Wine to a Mr. Buckby—it would appear by the evidence, that Mr. Buckby was not the purchaser of any such quantity of Wine, and that the permit had not been returned to the Excise Office.

The second count was of a similar nature: in this, the supposed purchaser was Mrs. Oldfield, the mother of the defendant.

The third count arose out of the preceding ones: it complained of these permits not being returned to the Excise Office.

The fourth count alleged the adulteration of certain Wines, the mixing of Cape with Sherry, and selling the mixture as pure Sherry.

The first witnesses which the Attorney-General called, were several persons, connected with the Excise, who proved that two permits, in the names of Buckby and Mrs. Oldfield, were obtained, and never returned to the Excise Office.

Mr. Buckby, examined by the Attorney-General.—He (Mr. B.)

employed. On referring to the note containing the abstract of this trial, it will be seen, that, although the flavoring and mixing of Cape Wine with a portion of Sherry, to make the mixture sell for genuine Sherry, was not brought home to the

knew the defendant Oldfield; had frequently bought small quantities of Wine of him, but never, at any one time, so large a quantity as to require a permit. He never bought, altogether, so much Wine of him as 288 gallons. He never saw the permit for 288 gallons of Wine, purporting to have been bought by him of the defendant.

Mr. Tooke, examined by the Attorney-General.—He (Tooke) knew the defendant; these permits were obtained with the knowledge of the defendant, *and for the purpose of accounting, for the disappearance of a large quantity of Cape Wine, which was mixed with Sherry, and sold under the name of the latter. It was not sufficient to mix Cape and Sherry alone; any one would detect the imposture.* The mixture thus formed, must be doctored, before it could be made to pass for Sherry. The mode of doctoring, was by mixing with the Wine, a composition, made of Bitter and Sweet Almonds, Powdered Oyster Shells, and Chalk; the Bitter Almonds gave the Wine a rough taste, which the Sweet Almonds, in some degree, softened; the Powdered Oyster Shells, and Chalk, refined the mixture. *There was a large vat, in which the mixture was made. The vat was erected for this purpose; the mixture and doctoring were both made with the defendant's knowledge and approbation. Oldfield was then in the King's Bench Prison; witness had frequent conversations with the defendant, in prison, and carried him samples of the Wine thus mixed; the ingredients for doctoring the Wine were bought by witness; the bills then produced in court, were the druggist's bills for the same; witness was remunerated for these ingredients, by Porter, Oldfield's clerk. The defendant, Oldfield, carried on the business of a Wine Merchant, under the name of the Westminster Wine Company. There were two mixtures of this Wine made in June 1823. Oldfield went to prison in February 1822. There were*

defendant Oldfield, yet, the drawing a fictitious permit, in order to account for the disproportionate decrease, which would be occasioned in his Cape

mixtures of this nature before Oldfield went to prison; Oldfield assisted at these mixtures before he went to prison. Cape Wine was worth about 1s. 6d. per bottle, Sherry 3s. 6d.

The following witnesses were called for the defence:—

William Porter, examined by Mr. Lawes.—Was requested by Tooke, to write the request note for Buckby's permit; *never saw Oldfield mix wines.*

The same witness examined by the Attorney-General.—He was a clerk, and kept the accounts; never paid Tooke for Almonds and Oyster Shells; did pay him for a bottle of stuff called flavor, which he afterwards heard contained such things; the flavor was put into the Wine.

By Mr. Baron Garrow.—Recollects Wine being transferred to Mrs. Oldfield, but could not tell how much. He charged Mr. Oldfield with the flavor for which he had paid Tooke; entered in the cash book so much paid for flavor.

George Bedell, Samuel Mole, and James Garven, servants of Oldfield, were called, and swore that they never saw any mixing of Wines going on.

The Attorney-General replied, and in the course of his observations, said he would not press for the penalties for not returning the permit. The Jury then retired for about a quarter of an hour, and, upon their coming into court again, returned a verdict for the crown, on one permit—that of Mr. Buckby's.

In this note is contained the whole of the trial, as it appeared in the 'Times,' with the omission of the speeches of the counsel, and the charge of Judge Garrow to the Jury; likewise an examination of Tooke, not for the purpose of controverting his statement of facts, but to weaken his evidence by lowering his moral character.

Had the Jury found Oldfield guilty on all the counts, the first and second would have subjected him to a fine of 500*l.* each; the third count, consisting of two offences, for not returning the permits 100*l.* each; and the fourth count, for mixing the Wines, 300*l.*

Wine, was clearly established to his conviction. The way in which he had obtained room in his Sherry, to admit so much Cape Wine, without an increase appearing, must have been by his not drawing permits for the quantities of Sherry, or any other White Wines (not being French or Cape) which he had occasion to send out, between the period at which the Excise Officer had surveyed his stock, and the time when the mixing took place, together with the assistance afforded him, as being an advertiser, by the quantities he had sold under one dozen.

That this system of adulteration had been frequently practised before, appeared also on the trial; and it may readily be inferred therefrom, (not to mention any thing of the extent to which it is carried, by others, through the medium of *vats*, much more capacious in size than those used by Oldfield,) that the profits are sufficiently adequate to occasion the risk of a casual detection, and penalty, of no very great consequence, particularly, as there are several ways known to the skilful, of preventing its publicity; or should any doubt exist, on that which I have thus advanced, a further insight into the subject, will, I think, easily remove it.

It may, perhaps, be said, that to allow of any opportunity for carrying on the mixing of Wines, (or at all events in such large quantities as by the defendant Oldfield,) the exposure is too certain, and the temptation of receiving half the penalty,

attached to the offence, too strong for the persons, who are ordinarily employed where such practises are carried on, to withstand, without paying them most exorbitant wages to purchase their secrecy. If my present limits would permit, I could detail many plans by which these difficulties are to be surmounted. *The singular fact, however, that the detection of this nefarious traffic was owing entirely to the disclosures of an accomplice, who was influenced by motives of revenge, and that the three men, besides the clerk, employed in the business, and on the premises, by Oldfield, swore in the course of the trial, that they had never seen any mixing of Wine whatever, going on, (although the fact had then been clearly established in the preliminary step to adulteration, of which he was convicted,)* will, I apprehend, be conclusive enough as to there being no lack of means, in respect to the finding of opportunities for adulterating, without my perplexing my Readers with technical statements.

In proceeding to give an account of the various modes of adulterating Wine, and as a reason for my rendering the proportions in the illustrative examples, relating to this part of the subject, on so large a scale, it is perhaps requisite to premise, that one of the grand secrets in the art of cheapening Wine, is by the *vatting*, or keeping a number of large vats in the which to mix and adulterate the different Wines.

It is an old saying, 'That good Wine needs no bush;' but when some of the uses to which these vats are applied, are fairly explained and understood, I think it will not be less obviously trite, 'That good Wine needs no vat.'

The present plan of adulterating, and particularly where the advertising concerns are large, is by the aid of vats, which vary in their contents from 800, to 1000, gallons each, and of which, to describe fully the whole of the advantages derived from them, would require much greater space, than the limits of this work afford. To give my Readers, however, some idea of their general utility, it must be understood that they are of excellent service in enabling the cheap Wine vender to adulterate to a greater extent, and more easily to combine the different compositions, intended to be introduced into them. The immense body of Wine lying together, tends greatly to assimilate the flavors, and more effectually to conceal from discovery, any extraneous matter which may be mixed in it. The Wine, by a judicious and varied selection, is made to possess a roundness of flavor, and to form a basis, as to body, sufficient to admit of a great deal, which costs little or nothing, and from their use, arises the numerous plausible arguments which are brought forward, to justify the appearance of such highly questionable reservoirs, by those advertisers who have them in their possession; but the dangerous purposes, to which

they may be, and are applied, are quite sufficient to deter every fair dealer (if only for the sake of his credit), from resorting to their aid, and to induce every purchaser, decidedly to discountenance their use.

That, inferior Wines might be improved in vats, by being blended with good, if it was possible to prevent even their being adulterated, there can be but little doubt to those acquainted with the nature of Wines in general; but, alas! no one except our modern adulterators themselves, and the very bung-holes of their vats, are acquainted with the nature of all the different articles of which the latter are made the receptacles. Brandy and Rum Cowe, (the rinsings of the puncheons as soon as the Spirit is taken from them,) slops of all descriptions, Cape Wine, Cyder, Colouring, Sal Tartar, with any thing else, which is, or is thought to be, capable of forming a tolerable basis, or in any other way useful in manufacturing a resemblance of the particular denomination of Wine, intended to be sold, are occasionally mixed together in their capacious bodies, and discharged again as genuine Port or Sherry, according to whichever Wine, the contents of the vat, have been made up to represent.

On applying to a cheap Wine vender, possessed of such highly advantageous and necessary utensils, the first thing of which he speaks, is the wonderful extent to which his Wines, although originally

of the finest quality, are improved by lying together in so large a body; the next, that his selling exclusively for *ready money* only, enables him to part with his Wine at so low a price, and that it scarcely affords him any profit at all. The Wine tastes full to the palate, is of brilliant colour, and if Port, the purchaser is assured (and with truth, from obvious reasons which shall be shown to my Readers,) that it will be quite crusted in two or three months. These, and other like assurances, conclude with a gaurantee, that the Wine is warranted to turn out as represented, and that the cash, with all expences, will be returned, if it does not prove to do so; though, be it observed, the seller cunningly manages to retain the nine points of law in his own favour, (namely, possession of the cash,) leaving only the poor remaining one to the purchaser, the value of which, he may probably have to estimate to his cost. The many quibbles, by which this bargain is afterwards evaded, alone forcibly illustrates the notorious remark once made by an individual belonging to this famous class of advertisers, 'That a customer once, forms the extent of their expectations;' or, in other words, 'That the first application of a person to purchase Wine of them, is by their address; that a *second* visit, from the same party, and for a similar purpose, is by good luck!'

From the 'flattering tale' thus told, and which

I have but imperfectly described, the result is, that the buyer is satisfied, concludes the purchase of the Wine for which he has been treating, *and as nothing else will do, pays down the cash for it*; whilst the placarder, (who has palmed on him, a spurious article for the genuine, the quality and flavor of which, is, to the taste of a person acquainted with the true quality of Wine, as unlike those of the genuine article, as it is spurious in its composition,) is all the time laughing in his sleeve, at the credulity of a customer, who, while he thinks he makes a bargain, is giving an impudent knave, a cash profit of forty per cent. only because the prices of his goods are twenty per cent. below those of a respectable Wine Merchant. If any doubt still remains, and further to prove the sum total of that which I have stated, as to the excellence and value of these vats, as a new contrivance for gulling the Public, and defrauding the Revenue, I need only refer to the placards and advertisements of those who are known to have adopted the vat system, and request my Readers to observe the difference between the prices quoted by them, and those, by others of their fraternity, who, although they have the same advantages in respect to purchasing, yet, having no vats, happen not to be possessed of the same valuable means, to enable them to vend, on quite so low a scale as their more fortunate rivals.

An additional method, however, which I ought

not to pass over without a few remarks, as forming another source from whence a considerable profit is derived, and by means of which, it will be seen a tolerable degree of imposition can be practised, is with respect to the size of bottles. From my long connexion with the Wine Trade, I have necessarily been brought in contact, and become intimately acquainted, with many Bottle Merchants, from whose information, coupled with my own judgment and experience, I can state several facts on this head, which have a near relation to the exposures I have already made. The bottles, as measured off, by the workmen employed for the purpose, consist of six various sizes; but which, as making no real difference, still retain their titles as applying to the old measure. The terms by which they are known in the trade, are

Full Quarts,	Small Fourteens,
Thirteens,	Fifteens,
Fourteens,	Sixteens,

and, in giving a Scale, showing the relative number of bottles of each size, required to take three gallons of liquid, according to the *old measure*, to fill them, and setting forth the proportionate alteration, which may be occasioned in the price per dozen, by the use of either size in bottling a pipe of Port, supposed to stand the Dealer in 76%. with all expences, and allowing three gallons to be taken off as bottoms, it is with the most perfect conviction that a considerable portion of the mystery of our

advertisers vending at such extraordinary prices, will be explained to the satisfaction of my Readers.

A SCALE,

Showing the number of bottles of either size required to take three gallons of liquid, according to the old measure, to fill them, and the proportionate alteration in price, occasioned by the use of each of them, in bottling a pipe of Port of the standard quantity of 138 gallons, (equivalent to 115 gallons of the new Imperial measure), supposed to cost the Dealer 76*l.* with all expences included, and allowing three gallons (agreeable to the old measure) to be deducted as the bottoms :

Denomination by which the different sizes are known.	The number of Bottles of each size, capable of containing 3 gallons of liquid, old measure.	The relative prices per doz. as occasioned by the use of each size in bottling a pipe of Port as stated.		The total number of Bottles of each size the pipe would run when bottled.
		s.	d.	
Full Quarts	12	33	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	540
Thirteens	13	31	2	585
Fourteens	14	28	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	630
Small Fourteens	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	27	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	652 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fifteens	15	27	0 $\frac{1}{4}$	675
Sixteens	16	25	4	720

It will require but a very slight glance at this Scale, to observe the difference which may be made by the bottles alone, to enable the cheap sellers to advertise at a lower rate, and with reference to the distribution of the various sizes to each class of Dealers, it may be stated as a fact, no less notorious to every individual in the trade, than it is to all the Bottle Merchants in London, that by far the greatest proportion of the two latter sizes, viz. Fifteens and Sixteens, are sold to the

Gin-shop and Wholesale cheap Wine venders, that the Full Quarts are in more general use for Spirits, and that the remaining sizes, with but very few exceptions indeed, are purchased by the respectable Wine Merchant, the Wine Cooper, and those of the Gin-shop-keepers, who serve, as they would be served.

Leaving, however, in the hands of my Readers, the many inferences that may be drawn from this plan of defrauding the Public, of their fair and reasonable measure,* I will now commence as to the adulterations of

PORT WINE.

The most usual mode of adulterating this Wine, may be said to consist, in admixing with whatever

* In treating on this subject of short measure, with regard to bottles, it may not be amiss to mention a circumstance relating to a part of the profits of many of our modern Gin-shop-keepers, arising from a mode they have of cheating their poor dram-drinkers, out of their fair allowance of Gin, &c. It bespeaks the state of refinement, to which their ingenuity has arrived, in this respect, and the fact is, of itself, not a little curious. The means by which a certain additional profit is obtained, is technically called in the trade 'by the turn of the glass,' and may be thus explained.



The glasses made use of for the poor people, to drink their Spirits from, are shaped thus; the counter of the bar is covered with lead, perforated with holes, having a communication with a 'cask. Now as for obvious reasons, the glasses, although scarcely holding the measure when filled to the brim, are seldom so filled, at least to within

different qualities and quantities of it in its genuine state, are required to answer the views of the cheap Wine seller, the following articles in various proportions, viz.—

BENECARLO,* a strong coarse Spanish Red Wine, known by the denomination of *Spanish Black Strap*, to be purchased, including duty, at about 38*l.* per pipe of 115 gallons.

FIGUERA,* a Red Wine from the province of Estremadura, in Portugal, of intermediate quality between *Black Strap* and inferior Port, bearing a

the eighth or sixteenth of an inch, from the chance, that in all probability as much would be spilled, and run into the cask placed to receive it; a quantity equal to the portion contained in three quarters of an inch or more, at the bottoms of what are termed their half-quartern glasses, is thus saved to the seller, and an extra profit reckoned at about seven and a half, per cent. derived therefrom, amounting to not a very inconsiderable sum of money, even where there is only a tolerable consumption.

* It will be proper to remark, that no restriction exists as to mixing one Red Wine with another, providing they both pay the same rate of duty, or one White Wine with another, under a similar proviso; but White Wines cannot legally be mixed with Red, nor can any Wines, whatever, be put together, unless under the circumstance of their duties being equal. Benecarlo and Figuera Wines, pay the same duty as Port, and the fact of an enormous quantity being used of them, and of their being applied to the purposes I have described, and no other, could be fully proved, by a return from the London Dock Company of the immense number of pipes of both Wines, which, as is notorious to all of the trade, are yearly imported into, and cleared from thence, to the premises of our cheap sellers, although we never see them mentioned in any of their placards or advertisements, under the denomination which they bear.

nearer resemblance to the latter, and generally to be bought at 45*l.* per pipe of 115 gallons, duty included.

RED CAPE, which, from its low rate of duty, may be had, including that charge, for about 32*l.* per pipe of 91 gallons, consequently, forming a profitable ingredient.

MOUNTAIN, a small quantity, if required, to soften and give an appearance of richness.

SAL TARTAR, a portion to occasion the compound, when bottled, to crust firm and soon, dissolved with a proportionate quantity of _____

GUM DRAGON, to impart a fullness of flavor and consistency of body; and to give the whole a face.

BERRY-DYE, a colouring matter extracted from *German Bilberries*, and known under this name. In addition to these may be introduced,

BRANDY COWE, explained at the close of my remarks on Brandy, and which costs nothing, in the proportion of about three gallons to every hundred gallons of made up Wine. Another ingredient that may also be mentioned, is,

CYDER, but, as this is only made use of where a second quality of manufactured Port is required, it may be unnecessary to render any other illustration than I am about to give, on purpose to show the application of this, as one of the articles used, particularly as that which constitutes an example of the best and most general method of adultera-

tion, will sufficiently explain, to my Readers, the value of our Advertiser's and Placarder's concerns. In order, however, properly to combine the several ingredients mentioned, so as to answer the Dealer's purpose best, (in the variety of respects already named,) it is necessary to erect a vat which will contain from 500 to 1,000 gallons. Into this may be racked as follows:

	Imperial gallons.		£		Imperial gallons.		£	s.	d.
2 Pipes of Benecarlo . . .	230	at	38	per	115	costs	76	0	0
2 Pipes of Figuera . . .	230		45		115		90	0	0
1½ Pipes of Red Cape . . .	137		32		91		48	3	6
1½ Pipes of Stout Good Port	165		76		115		109	0	10
1 Pipe of Common Port . .	115		63		115		63	0	0
Mountain . . .	20		60		105		11	3	7
Brandy Cowe . . .	20		0		0		0	0	0
Colouring . . .	3		0		0		0	3	1
*Etceteras . . .	0		0		0		0	4	0
— Extra allowance for loss by the bottoms . . .	0		0		0		2	0	0
8 Pipes of Port, of 115 gals. each Pipe, are . . .	920	Imperial gallons					£400	0	0

* 2½ pounds Sal Tartar, dissolved in water, with about 3 pounds of Gum Dragon, and introduced with the finings.

The value of the empty pipes and hogsheads, which is 5l. 5s. not being deducted from the amount in this Example, are supposed to pay all expences of cartage, that part of the etceteras which may not be sufficiently charged, or paid for, by the water used to dissolve them, and which is sold as Wine, and for any additional loss which may be sustained by the bottoms.

Thus then, we have eight pipes of *superior Port Wine*, made up, according to the best and most approved plan, and which stands our Advertising and Placarding Dealers only in 50*l.* per pipe of 115 Imperial gallons, every expence included, and reckoned at the very outside; or should even this be manufactured at too high a price, to render their profits sufficiently adequate to support that degree of modesty for which they are so famous, a slight variation, in the proportion of any of the ingredients, need only be made, to produce a considerable alteration in their favour.

By a very simple calculation it will also be shown, that the Wine thus made up, if drawn off in bottles of the size of *sixteen* to the three gallons, old measure, and adding a charge of 6*d.* per dozen extra, for corks, would cost only 16*s.* 9*d.* per dozen—if in the size of bottles termed *fifteens*, 17*s.* 9*d.* per dozen; and the mystery, therefore, of their advertising *genuine Port Wines* at 23*s.* 6*d.* and 24*s.* per dozen, and in pipes, hogsheads, and quarter casks, at the rate of 63*l.* and 65*l.* per pipe, is at once explained. Should, however, any further confirmation be still required, the following Scale, showing the cost per dozen, to the Advertising Dealer, of Port Wines in the London Docks, duty paid, and reckoned from such as are scarcely drinkable, to those of the finest quality, if cleared home and drawn off in one of the smaller size of bottles in use, (*viz. fifteens,*) must clearly convince

my Readers, that no other than this adulterating system is practised, particularly as nothing is calculated in the Scale, about to be submitted, for the expences of advertising, placarding, and distributing printed bills, and independently of the fact, that the lowest quality of Wines in dock, are by no means saleable to the Public, until they have undergone a course of doctoring, &c. *in the large Wine vats*, to say nothing of the facilities which certain Dealer's possess of doing so.

A SCALE,

Showing the cost price, per dozen, of Wines in dock, from such as are scarcely drinkable, to those of the finest qualities, if cleared home and bottled in fifteens, (three gallons, according to the old measure, to be deducted from each pipe of 138 gallons, old standard, equal to 115 gallons new, as bottoms,) the value of each cask supposed to pay the expences of clearing from the docks, and cartage, sixpence per dozen being added for charge of corks, and fivepence per dozen more, for expences of bottling, laths, sawdust, &c.

Cost prices per pipe, of PortWines, from the lowest drinkable qualities to those of the finest description.	Cost prices by the dozen of each pipe, if bottled as stated in Fifteens.	Cost prices per pipe, of PortWines, from the lowest drinkable qualities to those of the finest description.	Cost prices by the dozen of each pipe, if bottled as stated in Fifteens.
	per dozen.		per dozen.
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
60	22 5	85	31 1½
63	23 3½	90	32 11
65	24 0½	95	34 8½
70	25 9½	100	36 5½
75	27 7	105	38 3
80	29 4½	110	40 0½

Leaving my Readers, however, to decide after inspecting this Scale, whether a profit of 1s. 3d. or 1s. 9d. per dozen, (and without reckoning the expences of advertising, &c.) be adequate to support the extensive establishments, these placarding concerns have become, and yet, at the same time, to allow of splendid fortunes, being realized, and having proved the existence and manner of the adulterating practices with respect to Port Wine, which, in part facilitates the accomplishment of that end, and sufficient, to induce every individual, (before he is prevailed on to part with his money for an article, adulterated to a degree, the extent of which, but very few have any idea); to weigh well the pretensions of those placarders and advertisers, who profess to sell so much below the respectable Wine Merchant, who possesses quite as extensive a knowledge of the market as themselves, and equal means of purchasing as advantageously, I now proceed to expose the adulterations of

SHERRY.

Since the Pale Sherries have become so much in fashion, the operations of our adulterators, have chiefly been confined, to making up their compositions to advertise and sell, under this denomination. For this purpose, the basis most generally employed, has been the coarse highly brandied *Brown Sherries*, as they are to be purchased much

lower than the Pale, although such as are of a superior kind, fetch prices altogether as much higher.

To a portion of this low description of Brown Sherry, is introduced *Cape, Brandy Cowe*, and numerous other ingredients, in varied proportions, according to the tastes of the different makers up, and their experience, as to what will best assist in deceiving the Public. My object, however, will be to point out, as I have done respecting Port Wine, that which is considered, by our cheap sellers, the most effective mode of doctoring and manufacturing a fictitious resemblance of Pale Sherry, leaving my Readers to infer therefrom, the means which are employed to prepare or adulterate any other kind of Sherry, whether to be sold as *Brown* or *Amber-Coloured*, and also from the illustrative Scale which I am about to submit, (although only calculated as to what is supposed to make up the best imitation of the genuine article, and adopted but by a few of our more knowing Advertising Dealers,) to form some slight estimate of the profitable nature, and general character, of the concerns at which such mixtures are vended.

✓ Pale Sherries, in general, as possessing scarcely any body, being less prominent in point of flavor than the Brown, or as they are commonly termed, being light delicate Wines, on which accounts they are usually preferred to the darker Wines of the same name, allow perhaps of a greater extent of adulteration than almost any other Wine whatever, and

a ready sale for them, is aided in no trifling degree, by the circumstance of so much depending on pleasing the eye as to colour, than with respect to which (and paleness of colour, in particular), nothing is more easy to accomplish, in fictitious, and manufactured White Wines.

To the requisite proportion of coarse Brown Sherry, which may be purchased at about 60*l.* per butt, of 108 Imperial gallons, the articles made use of, in what is considered the best mode of making up a resemblance of Pale Sherry, or where the number of spurious ingredients employed for the purpose, are fewest, and in the smallest proportions, consist of the following, in relative qualities—

CAPE, (to be bought, including duty, for about 22*l.* per pipe of 91 gallons,) previously fined, and racked bright from the lees.

BRANDY COWE, which costs nothing, but is useful in lessening the body of the mixture, so as to give it the appearance of being a light-bodied Wine.

EXTRACT OF ALMOND CAKE,* (used also in

* On reference to the trial of Oldfield, it will be seen that the composition applied by him to impart the proper flavor to his adulterated Wine, was formed of a mixture of Sweet and Bitter Almonds, with Powdered Oyster Shells and Chalk, the two latter ingredients being added, to bind and concentrate the whole. By those, however, of our advertisers, who, are even more knowing than Mr. Oldfield, the Extract of Almond Cake is usually preferred, as not having so great a tendency to alter the face of the Wine, or render it less transparent, and also as it is supposed to impart a more delicate flavor.

the adulteration of Brandy), to impart a nutty flavor.

CHERRY-LAUREL WATER, a small quantity, generally in order to check the predominance of the Almond Cake, and to give a roundness of flavor; or, if it be *Brown Sherry* that is to be adulterated, or manufactured, to enable the vender to sell it as such,

GUM BENZOIN* is often made use of, in the place of Extract of Almond Cake, as it causes the mixture, to bear a nearer resemblance to the particular flavor, possessed by the Brown Sherry, as distinguished from the Pale: if, however, the composition be intended for *Pale Sherry*, it is supposed to be completed, after the several ingredients (with the exception of the latter), have been well rummaged together with the Wine; and when, (in order, to extract a sufficient portion of the colour, to render it pale,)

LAMB'S BLOOD† has been employed with the

* This article is a component part of the mendicament, called Friar's Balsam; it is used in the manufacture of Spurious Arrack, as well as for the purpose I have here pointed out.

† The properties of this article, will almost exceed belief:—The chemical decomposition of colour, which it occasions in the Wine, which receives its aid, is so extremely rapid, that, in the course of five or six hours, the Wine becomes completely changed, from brown, to pale; and, such is the power it possesses, that, comparatively, only, a very slight increase, in the quantity of it usually employed to manufacture Pale Sherry, is required to reduce a dark brown Wine, to the colour of tinged water. By a few of our Adulterators, Skimmed Milk, has been employed, to answer

finings. This is done in the proportion of three pints of blood, to every hundred gallons of the compound, if it is to appear distinctly as Pale Sherry; but if it is only meant to pass for Amber-coloured Sherry, one pint and a half, of this delectable ingredient, is enough. The whole mixture, however, after lying ten days or so, is bottled off, or racked into quarter casks, &c. and is then considered fit to be advertised, and sold as *genuine* Sherry, under whichever character, as to colour, it has been made to represent. Another article sometimes introduced, and supposed to be a capital material to assist in the manufacture of fictitious Sherry, on the best system to deceive the Public, is,

BRITISH RAISIN WINE; but as my information is not so conclusive as to this being much in use, any further than with a very few, even of those who are considered the cleverest adepts; for the sake of accuracy in detail, I have not included it, in the Example, I am about to submit.

For the purpose of mingling, and intimately combining, in the most effectual manner, the different ingredients, for the making up of spurious Pale Sherry, which I have thus placed before my Readers; the erection of a vat, or vats, is not less necessary and advantageous, than for the fabrication of Port; independently of Sherry, being a

the same purpose as Lamb's Blood, but its effect has been found to be so very deficient in several respects, that, I believe, its use, is now entirely superseded by the latter more valuable ingredient.

Wine, almost as much in demand as the latter, and therefore, required to be made up in quantities nearly, if not quite, as large. Thus, into a vat containing from 800 to 1000 gallons, may be racked as follows: (the pipes of Cape mentioned in the Scale, having been previously fined and drawn off bright from the bottoms; for which expence an allowance is made in the cost price.)

	Imperial gallons.		£		Imperial gallons.		£	s.	d.
3 Pipes of Cape (quite clear from the lees) .	273	at	25	per	91	costs	75	0	0
4 Butts of Coarse Brown Sherry	432		60		108		240	0	0
1 Butt, of better quality .	107		65		108		64	8	0
Brandy Cowe	50		0		0	}	0	0	0
Extract of Almond Cake	1½		0		0		1	12	0
Cherry-laurel Water .	0½		0		0		0	0	0
Allowance for loss by the bottoms	0		0		0		3	0	0
8 Butts of Sherry, of 108 gallons each butt, are	864	Imperial gallons . .					£384	0	0

In order to extract the colour from this compound, so as to render it Pale; three gallons of Lamb's Blood (the sooner it is used after the animal is killed the better), must be beat up, with the proper proportion of finings, (viz. four gallons,) introduced into the vat, and well stirred round with its contents.

According to this Scale, which is a true and correct example of the plan generally adopted, as partaking of the least adulteration, we have eight

butts of 108 gallons each, of a most delightful mixture, which costs only 48*l.* per butt, at the very outside; the expences being much more than paid in the value of the casks, (5*l.* 5*s.*) which has not before been taken into consideration, or deducted from the total amount, to lessen the cost per butt; and in the course of a few days after the finings and Lamb's Blood have been put in, it is ready to be advertised as '*Fine Pale Sherry of peculiar delicacy and flavor!*' If bottled in '*fifteens,*' and 6*d.* per dozen, be added for charge of corks, the cost price, per dozen, would be 18*s.* 2½*d.* if in the size of bottles termed '*sixteens,*' 16*s.* 11½*d.* per dozen. As stated by our different advertisers and placarders, the prices for sale are 24*s.*; 25*s.* 6*d.*; 27*s.*; 28*s.* 6*d.*; and 30*s.** per dozen; and, without dwelling on the variety of inferences that may be drawn from this point, the following Scale, showing the cost prices, per dozen, of genuine Sherries, both Pale and Brown, in dock, duty paid, from the lowest qualities to the highest, and although purchased in the cheapest manner, if cleared home

* It should be observed, that another mode these worthies have of increasing their profits, is by selling the same Wine; which is advertised at so low a rate, for that for which a higher price is quoted, thus, in applying for a quantity of Wine at 30*s.* per dozen, you are supplied with identically the same Wine as is advertised, and sold, at 24*s.* per dozen. If you apply for some, the price of which is stated as at 36*s.* or 42*s.* per dozen, you are served from that, which is occasionally sold as of tempting quality, at 30*s.* per dozen, and so on through their whole scale of prices.

and bottled in 'fifteens,' (6*d.* per dozen being reckoned for corks, and 5*d.* per dozen more for expences of bottling, laths, saw-dust, &c. the value of each cask supposed to pay for cartage and clearing from docks,) will, I apprehend, as fully establish the fact, as to the universal existence of the adulterations, practised with this Wine, amongst our cheap sellers, as a similar Scale has already proved their existence in Port Wine. With respect to both instances, nothing can be more barefaced and glaring, because it will be seen, that the cost, per dozen, even of the lowest qualities of the genuine Wines, and of such as are at all drinkable, are, much too high to permit them to be advertised, and sold, at the prices, at which they are offered: still less, that such prices should enable the venders to support the numerous charges and expences, to which the nature of their traffic, unavoidably subjects them.

and bottled in 'fifteens,' (i.e. per dozen being reckoned for corks, and 5*l.* per dozen more for expences of bottling, laths, saw-dust, &c. the value of each cask supposed to pay for cartage and clearing from docks, as fully

A SCALE,

Showing the cost prices, per dozen, of genuine Pale and Brown Sherries, from the very lowest qualities and prices of such, as are at all drinkable to those of the highest description, if cleared home and bottled in 'fifteens.' Each butt is supposed to contain the new standard quantity of 108 Imperial gallons; equivalent to 130 gallons of the *old standard measure*. Two gallons and four fifths, according to the latter measure, deducted in the calculation, as the bottoms; sixpence per dozen reckoned extra for corks; fivepence per dozen more, for expences of bottling, laths, saw-dust, &c.; and the value of each cask, to pay for cartage and clearing from docks.

Cost prices per dozen of genuine Pale Sherry, from the lowest drinkable qualities to the very finest description.	Cost price by the dozen of each butt, according to the quality, if bottled as stated.	Cost prices per dozen of genuine Brown Sherry, from the lowest drinkable qualities to the very finest description.	Cost price by the dozen of each butt, according to the quality, if bottled as stated.
Per butt.	Per dozen.	Per butt.	Per dozen.
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
65	25 5¼	58	22 9½
70	27 3¾	60	23 6½
75	29 2½	63	24 8¼
80	31 1¼	68	26 6¾
85	32 11¾	72	28 1
90	34 10½	78	30 4
95	36 9	82	31 10¼
100	38 7¾	86	33 4¼
105	40 6¼	92	35 7½
0	0 0	98	37 10¾
0	0 0	105	40 6¼
0	0 0	110	42 5

Having thus, I think, effectually proved by minute explanations and calculations, the truth of my assertions, as to the adulterations practised by the majority of our advertisers and placarders, with the two leading articles of Wine, viz. Port and Sherry, it may not be necessary, any further than in a general way, to go through the minutiae, of the same practises, with regard to other Wines; as similar facts and arguments, will exactly apply to them, as well, whether it be, with respect to the circumstance of their being adulterated, or to the convincing testimony which the following affords: *That* even the lowest, and scarcely drinkable, quality of Wines, must stand our advertising gentlemen in prices too high, to allow of their being retailed in quantities of a few gallons, or dozens, and in a genuine state, at the terms quoted in their placards and advertisements,' except where the impositions carried into effect, is by substituting one Wine for another, which can only be done, where the character and flavor of each resembles the other; and even then, it is only adopted where there is sufficient difference in cost, to render it worth the while of the Advertising Dealer. At the head, therefore, of the remaining Wines, which it is my intention to notice under their respective titles, but in a general way, I shall commence with,

EAST INDIA MADEIRA.

The character and description of this Wine, as considered the best, and bearing the highest price in the market, is, that possessed of the greatest richness and flavor, without any of that apparent tendency to acidity and want of body, by which the lower qualities of it are distinguished. The most approved of the *West India Madeira Wines*, though seldom purchased at so high a price, in many instances, rank, in point of quality, before those, which belong to the inferior class of East India Madeiras, and one of the frauds, therefore, committed on the Public, through the medium of the extraordinary cheap prices we daily see advertised, is, by the substitution and sale of the article of West India Maderia, for the finest quality of the one, on which I am now treating.

The method whereby the adulteration, or rather the manufacture of a spurious imitation, of East India Madeira is performed, is, by admixing a portion of the genuine Wine, with a quantity of *Vidonia*, or *Direct Madeira*, and *East India Cape*; fined, and racked bright from the lees; the latter, though bearing a much higher price, than Cape, which has not had the benefit of a voyage, from the Cape of Good Hope to the East Indies, and thence back to London, forming a valuable ingredient, to assist in lowering the cost, so as to enable the advertiser, to placard the composition,

(which, however, bears no kind of relation, either in costliness or quality, to the genuine article), as ‘*Fine Old East India Madeira*, at unprecedented cheap prices, for ready money only.’ With respect to

WEST INDIA MADEIRA,

Which ranks next to the article on which I have just remarked; if intended to be made up, so as to partake of the least adulteration, and to be, as our cheap sellers term it, ‘of capital quality,’ the following is the mode in which it is treated: to a portion of good West India Madeira, is added a quantity of *Old Thin Direct Madeira*, which would otherwise be unsaleable, and to which, if too nearly approaching to acidity, a few ounces of *Carbonate of Soda* is applied, in order to rid it of that quality, and render it more fit for use. After being well rummaged together in the cask or vat, if it be thought by the maker up, too poor, a small quantity of *Mountain*, is introduced to enrich it. The whole, however, when thus mixed up, on the plan to answer the views of the most conscientious of our advertisers, constitutes the article, sold under the title of ‘*Fine Old Soft-flavored West India Madeira*,’ at prices, which leave a profit, of, at least twenty-five per cent. although if genuine, it would cost an equal per centage more. The Wine, to which I have now to proceed, as possessing the next relation in point of character, is

MADEIRA,

Commonly distinguished by the name of, *Direct Madeira*; on account of its being shipped direct from the Island of Madeira to this country, without the benefit of a voyage, to the West or East Indies. A very little, however, that is sold by our cheap advertisers and placarders as Madeira, possesses any part of it, in the composition, which they dispose of under its title. The best manufacture of a fictitious resemblance of the real Wine, is said to consist, of a combination of *cheap Vidonia*, with a proportion of about one twentieth part of *common dry Port*, one tenth part *Mountain*, and about a fifth part *Cape*, the whole being mixed together. This compound, when properly fined, is considered excellent; and, with that modest assurance, which distinguishes the whole tribe of advertisers, is sold under the denomination of '*Old London Particular*,' or, any other appellation, by which they choose to designate it, with the greatest success; which is aided, in no trifling degree, by the curious circumstance, of their prices being twenty per cent. less, and their profits ten per cent. greater, than the more scrupulous Wine Merchant, who does not attempt to adulterate. It will be necessary only shortly to notice the

VIDONIA WINES,

As they are termed, which are brought from the

Island of Teneriffe ; and are sometimes called by the latter title, because, the only difference which exists between their adulteration and that of Direct Madeira, (both Wines, when genuine, greatly resembling each other,) is merely the addition of a portion of *Cyder*, or *British made Wine* ; if the former be used, all tendency to an acid taste, is to be taken from it by means of *Carbonate of Soda* ; and all chance of its retaining any fixed air, or effervescent quality, by the application of one gallon, of strong *Neutral-flavored Rum*, to every twenty gallons of *Cyder*. Thus, in making up a cask, or vat, of this Vidonia Wine, add, as with Madeira, one twentieth part of *Common Dry Port*, one tenth part *Mountain*, one tenth part old *Cyder*, (after being prepared, as described) and about a fourth part *Cape*, to the relative proportion of inferior Teneriffe Wine ; and, according to the opinions of our advertisers, after it is fined, we have a most excellent sample of the ‘ Old Vidonia Wines,’ ready for sale, on the most inviting terms, as to character and cheapness.

BUCELLAS.

Previously to my speaking of the adulterations of this Wine, I would make one remark as to an imposition, very generally practised, in order to avoid the trouble of making up a composition, and also to advertise the articles, as of the choicest quality. This is by the substitution and sale of *Thin Dry*

Lisbon, a quantity of which, during the last season, (in consequence of there not being a sufficient supply of inferior Bucellas, to meet the demands of those who required a second description), was, I understand, made up to bear some likeness to the genuine Bucellas, and in some instances, the better qualities of it were actually shipped as such. The method of manufacturing a second-rate quality of spurious Bucellas, to the Dry Lisbon I have just mentioned, so as to pass for the genuine article, is, by the admixture of *Cape Bucellas*; (a Wine, which bears some resemblance, in point of character, but which still retains the earthy flavor by which all Cape Wines are so well known) a portion of *Thin Dry Lisbon*, and a quantum of *Brandy Cowe*, which latter is highly serviceable in diminishing the body, and giving the whole a light, delicate appearance. This composition, with a proportion of about one half of the genuine Wine, produces that which is advertised, and sold, as '*Fine Old delicately pale Bucellas*,' remarkably cheap, for *ready money only*.

TENT.

So little, that is disposed of, by our advertisers and placarders, under this denomination, is the *foreign and genuine Tent Wine*, that although upon the whole, in comparison with other Wines, but a small portion is sold; yet, the impositions, of which it is made the medium, deserve a short no-

tice in this Treatise, more particularly, as the greater part of its consumers, who are the sick and invalid, are led to believe, (except in a very few cases,) that it is the foreign Tent which they purchase. The chief, and most general imposition practised, is the substitution and sale of British Tent; a compound, manufactured by the Rectifiers, and as unlike the foreign (which is from the juice of a grape), in flavor and *beneficial* quality, as can well be imagined in two things intended to resemble each other. By those cheap sellers, who, may be supposed to possess a larger share of conscience, Cape Tent is substituted, or the foreign and genuine Wine occasionally disposed of, in a mixed state only.

RED CAPE,

Advertised under various denominations, such as *Cape Port, Pontac, &c.* It is but very recently that this Wine, has become an article of sale, in the placards, and advertisements, of our cheap sellers, and the object of its being introduced there, is not a little obvious, to all acquainted with what are termed the secrets of the trade; particularly, as no extraordinary low prices are quoted for it, (except in a very few instances), nor is it in any way made a leading article, as is the case occasionally, with Cape Madeira and Cape Sherry. The adulteration of it, when required, is performed by the admixture of that proportion of *Cyder*, and the

colouring matter called *Berry-dye*, necessary, to answer the extent, to which the placarder wishes to reduce the cost price. The chief end, however, in view, in advertising it for sale, is, in order to give as plausible a face to the possession of it as possible, so that when the adulterator, uses it in his Port Wine, in which a requisite decrease has previously been obtained, the disappearance of a nearly similar quantity of Red Cape, to occupy the place of that decrease, may not have any singular or suspicious appearance; which would be the case, did he not give some reason, (by placarding or advertising it,) to suppose that a similar quantity might have been sold. With those of our advertisers and placarders, who are Gin-shop-keepers, the facilities for thus imposing on the Excise Officers, are very great, as they are able to avail themselves of the interpretation, to which they are always open, of having disposed of some considerable quantity over their counters, without having been under the necessity of drawing any permit, which would expose them to a greater risk of detection.

CAPE MADEIRA, and CAPE SHERRY.

Singular as it may appear, that Wines, the better qualities of which are sufficiently indifferent, when in a genuine state, and of themselves, should be made a source of profitable imposition, through the medium of adulteration, it is not less the fact,

that few Wines are deteriorated to a greater extent than the Cape Wines on which I am now treating. With regard to the distinction which is made in their denominations, those termed *Cape Sherries*, are selected more immediately from the Wines, which, in point of flavor, bear the greatest resemblance to real Sherry; the remainder constitutes what are usually entitled *Cape Madeiras*, and the adulterations of each are so qualified, as still to preserve the separate characters, which have been assigned them.

To lay down any particular plan of adulterating the generality of Cape White Wines, is almost impossible, as with them, in most cases, are blended (as a means of conveying away, and turning to good account) whatever is useless or unsaleable of other Wines; and which practise, consequently, renders the quality somewhat dependent on circumstances. In order, however, to give my readers some idea of the usual mode of adulterating this Wine:—into a Cape vat containing any indefinite proportion of the Wine, is introduced the *drippings of the cocks, from the various casks*:—*White Wines, of any description that may have been spoiled by having been put into bad or musty vessels, and the filterings of the lees of all the different Wines in the cellar*, after these ingredients have accumulated for a certain length of time, a few gallons of *Brandy or Rum Cowe*, and, occasionally, *Cyder*, are added: if, when tasted,

the mixture is found of a quality too indifferent to be saleable, an additional proportion of the genuine Cape, immediately brings it up to the necessary standard:—If it be desirable to advertise a portion as *Cape Sherry*, the introduction (after such portion is racked into another vessel) of a small quantity of *Extract of Almond Cake*, produces the wished for result;—if, to represent a very pale Wine, a little *Lamb's Blood*, mixed in with the finings, at once enables the cheap seller to placard it, as delicately Pale Cape Sherry, or Madeira, at astonishingly low prices, &c. &c. The illustration thus afforded, of the value of Cape Wine, whether it be as an individual source of profit, as an admirable basis on which to adulterate other and more expensive Wines, or as offering a ready and profitable mode, of getting rid of any thing, which an Advertising Dealer, may have on his premises, in the shape of Wine, &c. which is spoiled, or otherwise unsaleable, is so obvious, that I think it needs no further comment.

Having thus opened the eyes of my Readers, to the adulterations of the major part of the Wines (exclusive of French,) for which such low prices are quoted by our placarders, &c. and sufficiently so, to enable any one to draw a pretty clear inference of the general nature of the practises of those gentlemen, I will just glance at the means adopted, to deceive the Public, with *deteriorated Claret* and *fictitious Champagne*, as a specimen,

that even, the most costly Wines, are neither protected from the mischievous ingenuity of our cheap sellers, nor forgotten in their adulterating vocabulary.

Whether the importations of *Cape Burgundy*, *Cape Hermitage*, *Cape Hock*, *Cape Santerne*, &c. which frequently arrive in this country from the Cape of Good Hope, may constitute any basis, from the use of which, an extra profit is derived on the Wines, to which they are made to bear some slight resemblance, I shall not pretend to say; a view of the means employed to advertise *cheap Claret*, and more particularly *cheap Champagne*, will, I doubt not, fully answer the purposes of this Treatise with respect to French Wines.

CLARET.

The adulterations of this Wine, as carried on, in the cellars of our placarders and advertisers, may be summed up in few words; a small quantum of *Spanish Red Wine*, and a portion of *Rough Cyder*, (the latter, I am informed, being an article not unfrequently applied in the making up of cheap Clarets abroad,) is introduced into a cask containing inferior Claret, a colour being previously added to the *Cyder*, by means of *Berry-dye*, or *Tincture of Brazil Wood*, the difference in duty and cost price, and a little management in the apportioning what is used of the *Spanish Red Wine* and *Cyder*, at once enabling the cheap sellers, to reduce the

prices on their placards to what scale soever they please. They have, besides, this circumstance in their favour, that, although they may occasionally advertise Clarets in the London Docks, on as low, or perhaps lower terms, with regard to price, than that which they manufacture, (the means of doing which it is also my intention to lay before my Readers,) the latter is much better, as possessing apparently greater body, less chance of turning sour, and being altogether of a more saleable nature, and though by no means approaching even to the middling qualities of genuine Claret, they are able to advertise it, as of an exceedingly fine description. Since the reduction of the duties, the avidity with which our English cheap sellers, have laid hold on any article of Wine that afforded them the least chance of imposing on the Public, has given rise to a most cordial co-operation on the part of several French Dealers in the same *honest* design, in order to facilitate the sale of manufactured French Wines, and which it is evident (from the bare-faced assurance with which they are puffed off, and from the want of a caution against the serious effects of this coalition) has fully answered the purposes of both parties, particularly as the profits attached to this kind of business, (notwithstanding the prices are quoted at so low a rate,) it will be seen, are tolerably remunerating.

It will, no doubt, excite some surprise, when it

is mentioned as a fact, which can be supported by the testimony of some of our first-rate importers and French Wine growers, that the cost to the manufacturers, of the inferior Clarets thus shipped, is not more (at the outside), than two sous per bottle; that the charge from them to our English cheap sellers, is at about ten or twelve sous per bottle, equivalent to 5s. or 6s. sterling per dozen; that the expences of bottles, case, and freightage, do not exceed 4s. 6d. per dozen more; and the duty and other charges, at the utmost calculation, 19s. per dozen. Thus, supposing a case of this Wine to cost as follows:—

	L.	s.	d.
3 dozen <i>prime</i> Claret, at 5s. 6d. - - -	0	16	6
Expense of bottles, case, freightage, &c. at 4s. 6d. - - - - -	0	13	6
Duty on 3 dozen, and Landing Charges, &c. at 19s. - - - - -	2	17	0
One 3 doz. Case of <i>prime</i> Claret, at 29s. per dozen, is - - - - -	4	7	0

The means by which they are enabled to advertise it at the low prices we see, and the extent of profit derived from this *reputable* branch of the cheap seller's business, may be at once estimated; whilst a short insight into the mode of its manufacture, will clearly prove that the French adulterators are by no means less deficient in the art of imposition, (although their efforts are confined but to one or two articles of Wine), than their brethren, the English adulterators.

The Wine, (if it can be so called) which is now brought over to the London Docks, advertised at so cheap a rate, and so conveniently situated for re-shipment to France, should the Dealers be so unsuccessful as not to find people foolish enough to become purchasers, is, as I have satisfactorily ascertained from the best authority, which must quite refute the silly assertions and borrowed explanations, made use of in our modern cheap Wine advertisements; nothing more, than a compound of the refuse of various French Wines, thrown together, with a portion of French Cyder, which, though comparatively an expensive ingredient, is admirably adapted for the purpose of giving an appearance of body; to this is added, as some further qualification, a proportionate quantity of what is termed 'third quality wine,'* a description, which,

* The class of Wine here referred to, as forming a component part of the mixture which is now shipped for *Claret* to this country by some of our advertising dealers, may in some measure be estimated from the manner in which the manufacture of it is performed in France. At the proper season of the year, when the grapes have arrived at maturity, they are gathered, and deposited in large vats. The juice which is detached from them by their own pressure, and which runs into a vessel placed to receive it, constitutes the base of that which the vintners term the '*first quality*,' and is carefully secured in separate utensils, the utmost attention being paid to its fermentation and subsequent treatment. After this vinous liquid has drained from the vat, till no more can be obtained, a number of men are employed in that vessel to tread out the grapes which have been deposited therein, which process is performed with the *naked feet*! and without even the slightest arrangement as to cleanliness—the necessity of which, when it is

in the districts where the Wines are made, was considered so utterly worthless, even as the most ordinary beverage amongst the lower classes, before our Placarding Dealers provided so excellent a channel for its consumption in England, that the *sin* was frequently committed of *throwing large quantities of it away, to the great pecuniary loss of our advertisers, and the privation of the tastes of our consumers.* The composition thus described, after the requisite portion of coarse inferior Brandy, has been introduced, (to prevent it turning sour,) and the whole of the mixture has been properly coloured and flavoured by a prepa-

considered that the chief of the wines are made in the south of France, may be better conceived than described. The juice which is thus procured, produces that which is called the '*second quality wine.*'

The third quality, which is that made use of in manufacturing the extremely cheap Wines, now shipped to England in such vast profusion, is derived by a *retreading* of the remains of the grapes, contained in the vat, with the *naked feet*, and by the occasional addition of large quantities of water, which, by washing the pulp of the fruit, becomes impregnated with some portion of vinosity. This liquid, after being fermented, and undergoing its proper treatment, forms the '*third quality wine,*' and not only assists in manufacturing a commodity of French Wine, to sell at a very cheap rate in this country, but also offers itself to our advertisers in its genuine state, to afford them the means of giving their customers the choice of a Wine at rather a higher price, and as of a superior quality, should such be required in preference to the lower priced Claret, which, as I have described above, is made up of various materials, though now so modestly disposed of, by several of our Advertising Dealers, as genuine '*Vin de Bourdeaux.*'

ration, which, from the acknowledged ingenuity of French Chemists, must be considered in both respects, elegant in the extreme, is ready to be racked into casks, or drawn off into bottles, and to be shipped to this country, accompanied with all the instructions, &c. necessary to render the advertisements and placards, respecting it, sufficiently attractive. Let my Readers make a few inquiries as I have done, of individuals who must be intimately acquainted with the growth and manufacture of French Wines, and on whose veracity they can depend, and they will find, that I have neither made any exaggerated, or incorrect statement, of the prices at which this excellent quality of Claret is to be purchased, nor of the component parts and nature of its composition; but, on the contrary, that I have forborne enlarging on some facts, too disgusting to appear on paper.

CHAMPAGNE.

As is the case with several of the foreign Wines on which I have remarked, one of the frauds committed on the Public with this costly description of Wine, through the attraction of cheap prices, is, by substituting another article for it, (the cost of which is very considerably lower,) and disposing of such, as the real Wine.

Gooseberry Wine (which, though genuine in itself, and bearing, in some respects, a slight resemblance, yet by no means to be compared,

either in cost or actual quality, to the real and genuine Champagne,) is usually employed as the substitute; but, as this may be said to form the chief imposition, with regard to the vending cheap Sparkling Champagne, *from the premises of the Dealer*, my principal object, in the first place, will be to explain the manner in which this Gooseberry Wine is admitted into the stocks, even of our largest advertising and placarding concerns, and sold from thence as genuine Sparkling Champagne, and afterwards proceed to expose the admirable basis from which the Sillery and Still, together with the Sparkling Champagnes, are puffed off to so great an advantage, as being in the London Docks. It is no very difficult matter to suppose that many of my Readers would have no objection, occasionally, to drink Gooseberry Wine, when that Wine is really fine and of good quality, yet, very few, I imagine, with their eyes open, would quietly submit to pay treble its value, because sold under the title and form of cheap Champagne. The disclosures, therefore, which I am about to make with respect to it, will, I trust, prove amusing, if not serviceable, to those who have hitherto so easily suffered the money to be taken out of their pockets, only to fill those of the advertiser of cheap Wine. It is well known as a fact, to many in the trade, that, at this time, large parcels of Champagnes are lying in the docks, in the names of certain individuals in London, which,

as Champagne, or in its present state, can never be drunk, and the intention with which such Wines (which in France must have cost a mere trifle), have been sent to this country, cannot be mistaken.

To illustrate, however, the object I have in view, with respect to the tricks practised with this Wine, (and of which I shall give an Example on a small Scale, for the sake of conciseness,) let it be supposed that I order in France, six dozens of the poorest Champagne I can procure, and just of sufficient quality to allow of its being admitted into this country, under the name it bears. This I should be able to purchase at the rate of about twelve francs, or 10s. per dozen, (not at all the lowest price,) the bottles, case, and freightage, might stand me in about 4s. 6d. or 5s. 6d. per dozen, and the landing charges and duty, 19s. per dozen more. On getting it home, I immediately draw the corks, and empty the bottles of their contents into my *Cape vat*, and supply their places with others, ready filled with the best Gooseberry Wine, the corks of which, are cemented and marked at the ends to resemble *real* Champagne, and which stands me (with every expence included) in about 21s. per dozen.

Now, as I have the dock permit to protect it, and I do not attempt to substitute this fictitious Wine, except between the period on which my Excise Officer last surveyed me, and the time of his coming again, nor start the unsaleable Cham-

pagne until I have sent out sufficient of my Cape without permit, or used enough in any of my foreign Wines, to admit it, so as not to cause any increase, I am under little danger of being discovered; and, the more particularly, as for every quantity, not exceeding one dozen, that I send from my premises, of real Champagne, (which is sold as of a very superior quality, and at a higher price,) and for which quantity no permit is required, I am able to receive into my stock, in the same manner, (with regard to its being unpermitted), a like number of bottles of this fictitious Wine, to all outward appearance similar to that which is genuine, and *without having any larger proportion in stock than I have credit for, or the trouble and additional expence (except where a large order is to be executed) of clearing home my bad Champagne.*

Thus, should I be enabled, frequently, to derive most enormous profits, because, as the quantities which I send out of a dozen, half dozen, &c. of my cheap Champagne (and in which quantities it is more generally purchased), is of course the Gooseberry Wine, which I have got into my warehouse, without having subjected myself to the extra expence of the duty, freight, and cost, &c. of the indifferent Wine which I have in the docks, the counterfeit Champagne, therefore, stands me only in 21s. per dozen, (which is the total cost of the Gooseberry Wine) and leaves me in possession

of a profit of 42s. per dozen, that being the difference between the cost price of 21s. per dozen and one of those at which it is advertised, viz. 63s. per dozen. The lowest price of the middling and drinkable quality of Champagnes, in the London Docks, and of the next class to that used for the purpose I have just mentioned, is about 13 guineas per case of six dozens, which, with the duty and other charges, amounting to 19s. per dozen more, renders the total cost of it, at 64s. 3d. per dozen. How they can, therefore, advertise a Wine, as the primest Champagne, at 60s.; 63s.; and 65s. per dozen, the following Example, which applies to any quantity, however large, though confined to six dozens, for the sake of conciseness, will clearly elucidate:—

EXAMPLE.

	Francs	s. d.	L. s. d.
6 dozens of Champagne, (in- different quality) . . .	at 12 or 10.	0 per doz.	3 0 0
Expense of Bottles, Case, and Freightage of ditto . . .	say at	5. 6	1 13 0
Duty on ditto, and Landing charges	— --	19. 0	5 14 0
Deduct 6 dozens of Cape, supposed to be made by this 6 dozens of bad Champagne being put into the Cape Vat	— --	12. 0	3 12 0
Add the charge of 6 dozens of the best Gooseberry Wine, to supply the place of the bad Champagne which has been mixed with the Cape	— --	21. 0	6 6 0
			<u>13 1 0</u>
			20
			6 doz.) 261 (43s. 6d.
			24 per doz.
			21
			<u>18</u>
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			6)36(6
			<u>36</u>

6 dozens of Champagne, at 43s. 6d. is 13l. 1s.

Thus, shall I have introduced six dozens of this fictitious Wine, protected by the same dock permit which accompanied the indifferent Champagne from the docks, and which places me beyond all liability of detection from any Excise Officer. The Wine is sparkling, and, to the generality of its consumers, appears to possess all the requisite character of real Champagne; and, aided by that eager confidence which is placed on the truth of the assertions contained in my captivating placards and advertisements, I am able to dispose of this substituted and fictitious article, the total cost of which, at the outside, is no more than 43s. 6d. per dozen, at a cash profit of 16s. 6d. if I advertise it at 60s. or if at 63s. per dozen, the *small* remuneration of only 19s. 6d. per dozen.

The dangerous nature and tendency of the Wine, which is occasionally puffed off to so much advantage, by the aid of Extracts from Theoretical Treatises on Wine, the introduction of a little of the jargon of the numerous French agents, who are constantly dunning the trade with their professional disquisitions, and the never failing attraction of cheap prices, requires only to be generally known, to put a decided stop to a system, which conceals as great a portion of fraud and imposition, as exists in almost any other branch of the adulterator's business, particularly as from the circumstance of the Wine being in the London Docks, a greater reliance is placed on its genuine-

ness, and the appearance of any deception is more easily glossed over.

The whole of the cheap Champagnes made up in France, but more immediately the cheap Still Champagne, may be said to be of a kind, which, from the nature of its composition, is, perhaps, more highly deleterious to the health, than any other Wine whatever, excepting such of the cheap Sparkling Champagnes, as are made up on the same plan, with regard to some of the materials that are used.

It has been remarked by French physicians, as they have occasionally been called in to attend English patients, that in most cases, the indisposition of our countrymen, when they are in France, can only be ascribed to the Champagne which they drink, and which, owing to the avidity with which the English people indulge themselves in its consumption, is not only more frequently, than otherwise, supplied to them of an indifferent kind, but of a sort, possessing properties which have the most pernicious and injurious tendency, possible, to the constitution. A little examination into the nature of some of the ingredients, employed in the manufacture of the cheap Still, and Sparkling Champagnes, in France, will fully prove the truth of their observations.

The properties of Lead, in refining some particular descriptions of Wines, the various quality of which, as compared with that of others, is widely different, (and among which, these inferior

Champagnes may be ranked,) for rendering bright such as have turned foul or ropy, or for preventing the increase of any ascescent quality which a Wine may have acquired, has been so frequently noticed in previous publications, that, perhaps, any lengthened discussion of its merits may be deemed superfluous. In Accum's *Culinary Poisons* (page 95) this article is mentioned; he says, 'The most dangerous adulteration of Wine, is by some preparation of Lead, which possesses the property of stopping the progress of ascescence of Wine, and also of rendering White Wine, when muddy, transparent; I have good reason to state that Lead is certainly employed for this purpose; the effect is very rapid, and there appears to be no other method known of *rapidly recovering ropy Wines*. Lead, in whatever state it be taken into the stomach, occasions terrible diseases; and Wine, adulterated with the minutest quantity of it, becomes a slow poison.' In Watson's *Chemical Essays*, (vol. 8, page 369,) it is stated, 'That a method of adulterating Wine, with Lead, existed at one time, so generally, in Paris, as to have become quite a common practise.' In *Medical Essays*, (vol. 2, page 80,) the consequences of the use of this ingredient is related, in the case of thirty-two persons, having severally become ill, after drinking White Wine, that had been adulterated with Lead, and, also, that one of them became paralytic, and another died. In Grahame's

Treatise on Wine Making, (page 31,) and in the Vintner's Guide (4th edition, 1770, page 67,) the modes and uses of its application are fully detailed.

It has been only since the duties have been lowered, that the cheap trash of Wines of all descriptions, which we now see advertised to so great an extent, has been imported, nor has it been till since the demands of our London Adulterators have been so great, (owing to the competition amongst them for any novelty in the article of Wine, calculated, in a cheap form, to aid them in carrying on their system of imposition against the Revenue and the Public, until their own pockets are filled, and their customers satiated,) that the vast quantities of Sparkling, and other Champagnes, which are annually spoiled in France, from their turning vapid and ropy, have been found to constitute a valuable basis, on which may be re-manufactured an article exactly suited to the closest views of this *most worthy* class of people. How far a composition made up, by adding to these spoiled Wines a portion of the low Wines, from the indifferent vineyards, or of the 'third quality Wine,' which I have described in my remarks on Claret, (the whole undergoing a fresh fermentation, and receiving the action of some strong chemical agent, in order to destroy the vapidness, precipitate the ropiness, and give to the whole a face,)

may be estimated as a Wine, evidently depends only upon the skill of the advertiser, in rendering his advertisements attractive, as this process comprises the manufacture of the article, of Champagne, alluded to, as that which is offered to the Public at so cheap a rate. That no great art is required to make this mixture bear a resemblance to Still Champagne, must be pretty obvious, and I doubt not from the following more particular review, of the manner, in which the operations, I have just partially described, are carried on in France, quite as clear an inference will be drawn of the ease, with which Sparkling Champagne is revived out of that, which had been considered useless and unwholesome.

The whole of the vapid, ropy Wines, and such as in any other way may have become spoiled, are specially collected together for the purpose, by the Wine Factor, and after selecting from them, those which, from their condition, are capable of being re-converted into saleable Sparkling Champagne, they are thrown into separate reservoirs. A portion of third quality Wine, of each kind, and of the last vintage, is then added to refresh them; a partial re-fermentation is occasioned in that intended to represent the *prime* Still Champagne, which renders it of a dryer character, and destroys any latent tendency to retain fixed air, and the application, to both, of strong chemical agents, in

order to refine, and reduce them to a fit state for bottling, at once finishes the manufacture of these delectable mixtures.

That one of the chemical agents, which is used if not most carefully applied, must be highly deleterious, I am satisfied of, from my being already acquainted with two instances, in which some individuals were made ill, and the cheap Champagne they had been drinking, found, on analization, to contain a portion of Lead, in its worst form ; and were the cases, which must frequently, in a greater, or less degree, occur, to be made Public, by the sufferers themselves, a most beneficial result would, probably, ensue to the community at large.

The prices paid to the Frenchmen, for these two descriptions of prime Champagne, is at the rate of about eighteen francs, or 15s. per dozen, the cost of the bottles, case, and freightage, at about 5s. 6d. and the duty, and landing charges, 19s. per dozen more, making a total cost of only 39s. 6d. per dozen. The profits, I leave my Readers to estimate.

Before, however, I conclude this Treatise, and in order to leave no part of the ground unturned, it may, perhaps, be necessary to render some general account of the method, by which several of our Advertising Dealers are able to placard up other *cheap* Wines, in dock, because it is a scheme which conceals an additional imposture, with

which it is expedient, that every one should be made acquainted. Many people imagine that, by purchasing Wines, (no matter of whom,) so long as they are in docks, where there is no opportunity for adulteration, they must necessarily be of good quality. This is by no means the case, and I firmly believe, several persons have found it so to their cost; because, it often happens, with the description of Wines, for which such low prices are quoted, that the quality, even of such as are made up, and manufactured of spurious ingredients at home, is superior in body and taste.

At the time the last reduction in the duties took place, some hundreds of pipes of Wine, lying in the London Docks, and never considered of value sufficient, to pay the then rate of duty, viz. 54*l.* per pipe, were immediately bought up by interested individuals, for a purpose by no means difficult to understand. The characters of some of these Wines, were such, as to hold out the presumption, that if they were moved, and the lees disturbed in them, their transit to something of the nature of vinegar, would be extremely rapid; others consisted of nothing more than a compound of thin meagre flavorless Wine, with a large portion of bad Brandy, the whole, however, to be purchased for a very few pounds, and of parties glad to get rid of them on any terms. Lately, and only since the disturbances have taken place in Portugal, a vast quan-

tity* of Figuera and other inferior Wines have been smuggled into Oporto, for exportation to England, although, to prevent the illicit traffic, which this is considered to be, by the Portuguese Government, the utmost power had been vested in the hands of the Royal Oporto Wine Company, and, from the measures adopted by it, the purpose had always been fully effected, until the period when the unsettled state of the country almost threatened the demolition of Oporto, and suspended the jurisdiction, of a great part of its authorities. The principal portion of these Figuera Wines, which were then, with some degree of security, purloined into Oporto, and its immediate neighbourhood, have since been shipped to this country, under Oporto bills of lading; and, by means of the quibble which is afforded by such a document, they are now offered, by dishonest English Wine Merchants, as genuine Port Wines, although known by them to be what they really are. The total cost of these Figuera Wines, including the duty, does not exceed 45*l.* per pipe, and the admirable use to which they can be applied, independently of the assistance they afford in manufacturing fictitious Port Wine, in stock, will presently be seen.

A similar practise to that just described, is also carried on with respect to cheap Sherry. The Malaga Wines, which are the production of a

* The total number of pipes of these Figuera Wines, which have been smuggled into Oporto, as described, in some accounts is said to exceed 4000.

place, bearing the same name, and situated some degrees to the east of Cadiz, and the districts where the real Sherries are grown, by a little management on the part of some of our Spanish Merchants, have been, and still are, shipped in no inconsiderable quantities to this country, under Cadiz bills of lading, as if (as far as their article is concerned), their efforts to impose on the British Public, through the medium of our advertisers, should be out-rivalled by none.

The objects to which the whole of these precious Wines are, and have been, applied, by our Advertising Dealers, are two-fold, the first as a cheap article, to combine with others in their large Wine vats, the second, to act as *decoy ducks*. Since the law, with regard to quarter casks, has been brought into operation, by a representation to the London Dock Company, leave can be obtained, to rack in the docks, either one hogshead, into two quarter casks, or, one pipe, into two hogsheads, which, therefore, if they please, enables our cheap sellers to offer the same enticement to different classes of buyers. It should, however, be observed, that as *decoy ducks* alone, and not for any purpose of sale, are a great portion of these wretched Wines intended, because, if the advertiser, could even prevail on his customers to become purchasers, he would be at the loss of two great advantages, the first, that of having their assistance in manufacturing his vat Wine, and secondly, their possession as a means of con-

tinuing a temptation, for the public to enter his receptacle.

A person applies to a Wholesale Dealer, or a Gin-shop-keeper, who has a Wholesale License in addition to his Retail one, and who may have a placard up, announcing cheap Wines to be sold in dock, and requests an order to taste them. The seller manages to provide him also, with an order, or two, for some other Wines, a little higher in price, the consequence is, the purchaser tastes the whole, finds a material difference, calls again on the seller, and is either persuaded to take a cask of that, at the advanced price, or else, to be supplied out of one of the large *Wine vats*, on the same terms as stated for the lowest quality of those in dock, being assured that it is a similar description of Wine, only improved so much, by lying in so great a body.

Thus, we see that whether the operations of our placarders and advertisers, be confined to the art of adulteration, that of displaying in their advertisements to the greatest advantage, the superior qualifications, they so modestly claim to themselves, above all other dealers, in the knowledge and mode of purchasing, and disposing of Wines and Spirits, in deceiving the Public with pompous offers, (the conditions of which, however, are so framed, that only one point of law is given to their customers, whilst the sum of the remaining nine, viz. possession of the cash, is retained by themselves), or

in conducting any minor impositions, in the sale of their goods, the most consummate address is displayed.

In submitting, as I have done, these various facts to the notice, and for the benefit, of my Readers, it has by no means been my intention to implicate the whole of any class of Dealers, for the delinquency of a part, nor that part, any further than supported by clear and distinct evidence. Such evidence I have afforded, nor can this, therefore, be said to apply to any Dealer, whether Retail and Wholesale, or Wholesale exclusively, who, although, announcing the sale of Wines, yet, from his scale of prices, may fairly be allowed the supposition, that though, perhaps, not of the finest quality, they are at least unadulterated. Neither can it be permitted to refer to that class, known by the denomination of Publicans, individuals, who possess what are termed Brewer's houses, and than whom, (speaking of the majority,) no description of men, are so much oppressed and borne down, I may say, to a degree that would almost render the term of Brewer's slaves,* more applicable to them,

* A man, who has, perhaps, saved 400*l.* or 500*l.* is persuaded by one of the Brewer's myrmidons, specially employed for the purpose, to take a house which may be to be let, the value of a lease on which, he is informed, is about 2000*l.* Under the prospect of the great advantages represented to him, and the inducement that the Brewer will accommodate him, by advancing the requisite sum, besides what he can spare himself, to make up the purchase money, the man is prevailed upon to take it; first of all,

in their present state, than any other, and would almost justify, on their part, if any thing can justify, the very mode of procedure, which I have been exposing to reprobation. The contents of

however, executing a deed of assignment of the lease, to be held by the Brewer, as security ; together with a bond in judgment, on the whole of his furniture, and other property, as another guarantee for a large additional sum, for which the man has received no value, but which is considered necessary to prevent all chance of loss to the Brewer.

With the little remaining money, which the poor Publican may have left of that, from which he has paid for the fixtures of the house, and as deposit for the lease, he has to defray the whole of the expenses of drawing up the lease, bond, and all other necessary documents, and after he has paid, besides, half the charges of the broker, for his valuation, the same proportion of the fees of the Broad Cooper, and Guagers, &c, (servants of the Brewer) which fees usually amount, as the incomers share, to the sum of three or four guineas to each; and in addition to which, he is expected to be at half the expense of furnishing the whole of the party with a handsome dinner and plenty of Wine, he is allowed to remain in quiet possession. If his payments do not happen to be altogether regular in amount, the Broad Cooper, or some other servant of the Brewer, enters the house, without any notice, demands the key of the cellar, and proceeds to take an account of his stock of beer, in order to ascertain if he has paid according to the quantity he has sold. If the Brewers choose to lower the price of their commodity, a notice is sent round to each of their Publicans, directing them immediately to lower the prices of their beer as well, no matter what stock they may have on hand at the time, and woe be to him, that hesitates to do so. If the consumption of beer happens to fall off, without reference to what the cause may be, or however deserving the man, a representation is made to the Brewer and his partners, in full committee, by the managing clerk, (whose favour, be it remarked, is of the utmost consequence, and his own individual importance not less so),

this Treatise can only point to the cheap Advertisers and Placarders of Wines and Spirits, who, by plausible assertions, and high-sounding pretensions, (as empty as they are pompous,) en-

orders are issued, and before the man has, perhaps, been in the house twelve months, (if it so happen), his goods are seized by the warrant of attorney; his lease retained possession of by the deed of assignment; the other creditors are cheated out of their just claims, of a share in the proceeds of the estate; and the poor man, who has lost his all, is sent to prison, irretrievably ruined. Whether an alteration is not required here, and by what other title, as truly applicable, the majority of this class of Dealers can be distinguished, I leave to the judgments of my Readers. It is quite time, some remedy should be proposed in the House of Commons, and in a way, in which it could be uninfluenced by the Brewers, who are members of that house, to diminish an evil of so gross a nature.

Independently, however, of the hardships which this system enforces on the poor Publican, he is subject to others, by no means, less severe in their operation as regards his interests, nor less unjust to his situation as a member of society. One of these hardships, in particular, it becomes necessary to make known to the Reader, as it, in a great measure, comprehends and points out the difference which exists between what are termed Public-houses, and such as are distinguished by the appellation of Gin-shops. The original intention of all Inns, Public-houses, Liquor-shops, &c. was, that they should be houses for accommodating travellers, and labourers, with rest and refreshment. Our modern Gin-shops, however, and particularly those on a large scale, possess no qualification of the kind, nor do they offer any, but from the temptations, which are held out by their proprietors, for the subversion of the morals of the lower classes, by facilitating the sale only of Spirits, to the exclusion of the more wholesome beverage of Porter, the means of doing which, (as they are compelled to have the latter article in stock), they attain, by keeping it so bad; or sour, as to be quite undrinkable; not only is the end, alluded to, fully accomplished, but the Publican, who is, or ought to

deavour to cheat the Public, and enrich themselves. My object has, alone, been to expose the tricks, by which fraudulent dealers are enabled to cover the system of adulteration and imposition they practise, and which they induce the Public to patronize, only by the effectual aid, which is afforded them, by the extraordinary low prices they are (as I have shown) so well qualified to advertise, and through

be made, the only legitimate retailer, is materially injured in his business. Thus, a labouring man will now, at his usual dinner hour, call at a Public-house, (the keeper of which dare not refuse him entrance), in order to cook his victuals at the Tap-room fire, for which no charge is made, although, as some remuneration, and which is the least that can be expected, he probably purchases a pint, or half pint of Porter, the total profit on which, is about one penny. No sooner, however, is his dinner concluded, than from the superior attraction offered in the article of Spirits, he immediately resorts to a Gin-shop, very likely, situated within a few doors of the poor Publican, and, as is generally the case, without even so much as a seat, on which to sit down. Here, the labourer partakes of his two or three glasses of Gin, out of which the Gin-shop-keeper clears a profit, nearly equal to the whole amount which has been received by the Publican, although the latter deals in precisely the same articles, and has to afford the greatest accommodation, without any extra charge. To so great a length, indeed, has the evil, inflicted by these Gin-shops, arrived, that, with few exceptions, it is now only by those persons who hold leases under Brewers, that the Public-houses so held, have not been converted into Gin-shops, or the necessary and proper accommodation, discontinued to the poorer classes of the community. It is, also, a singular fact, that in the late depreciation of property, it has been only the Public houses, that have so materially suffered, Gin-shops, still maintaining the enormous prices, which the value they have acquired, by the means I have shown, enables their proprietors to obtain.

the medium of which, it is not only the supplying of spurious and deleterious articles, for which considerably more is paid than they are really worth, and filling their own pockets by practises so disreputable, but undermining, as well, the very subsistence of those, who are too honest to descend to such means for obtaining a livelihood. It is to the individuals only, who, from outward circumstances, evidently follow such practises, that the fact of the disgraceful proceedings I have detailed, being carried into execution, can be attributed.

That I have advanced no more than the plain truth, the numerous convictions which have taken place under the Excise Laws, for adulterating Wines and Spirits, or for imposing in any other way on the Revenue and the Public, with respect to those articles, would fully evidence, and in a list of which, it would be found, that the Dealers, whose practises I have exposed, form, by far, the largest majority, although, I have forbore obtaining and publishing that list, lest, from the individuals whose names it contains, my motives in offering this Treatise to Public notice, should be misconstrued, and supposed to be, of a personal and malignant nature.

From the facts and arguments, alone, which I have submitted, I leave the Public to gather some idea of the extent, to which these fraudulent adulterations have been, and still are, practised, with the honest conviction, that should they appear of

sufficient weight, to induce many to apply where the genuine article is *sold at a moderate price*; a more effectual stop, would be put to this most unjustifiable system, than could, perhaps, be done by any other method whatever.

Should it be urged, in reply to these facts, by any of the class to whom what I have here stated applies, that I have divulged secrets which ought strictly to have been confined to the Trade, I answer, that by no honest Wine Merchant (such an one, who makes the quality and genuineness of his goods, and the moderation of his prices, the test of his respectability), are the different materials for adulterating, and the method of their application, with which he may have become acquainted, from long intercourse with all classes of Dealers, considered by any means secrets, either as belonging to the trade, or worth the keeping; and although, the reasons which induce me to publish this Treatise anonymously, will be better estimated, by those in the trade, or, who are more intimately acquainted with the description of people, from whose guilty practises I have removed the veil, yet, as to all persons, in a greater or less degree, it must be evident, that in an open discussion, in which the class alluded to, have nothing to lose, but a source of profit unworthy of honest men, and which, besides, is calculated, whether as a means of conveying fresh advertisements of their pretensions to the Public, as an extra opportunity for

puffing off an additional portion of their adulterated trash, or, in other respects, so much to answer their purpose, and which, to me, can possibly produce no similar result, the same estimation, without any impeachment of my motives, will, I trust, be formed by every individual, into whose hands this publication may fall.

To refute the substance of that which I have stated, would be no easy task—the whole of my arguments are deduced from facts—the facts speak for themselves—the conclusions I leave to my Readers and the Public. In submitting this statement, I consider I have fulfilled no more than a duty to my fellow-citizens, and that it, therefore, may operate as some check to the wrong which is done them, and as a lesson to the perpetrators of the wicked and fraudulent practises it details, is the sincere prayer of

A WELL-WISHER TO HONEST TRADERS.

ERRATA.

Page 7, line 8, for *principles*, read *principle*.

Page 28, line 9, for *that*, read *this*.

Page 30, line 15, for *Rums*, read *Rum*.

Page 51, line 1, for *that*, read *which*.

Page 57, line 18, for *it*, read *them*.

Page 57, line 19, for *it*, read *they*.

Page 84, line 14, for *qualities*, read *quantities*.

Page 95, line 27, for *articles*, read *article*.

A WELL-WISHER TO HONEST TRAVELERS

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