

T H E
C A S E
O F

William Astell,
One of the late South-Sea Directors.



DURING the time of the Dependance of the South-Sea Bill for the Scheme, I was Two Months in my Lodgings, or out of Town, under the Pressure of that Heavy Affliction that befell me and my Family, by the Fire in *Austin-Friars*, and was no ways concerned in the Scheme, nor assisted in soliciting the same; nor of the Committee appointed for that purpose; and wholly ignorant of the taking in, selling, or holding Stock for any Person whatsoever: I acted in the Committee of Accounts, and knew not of the Excesses of the Loans, or selling any of the Stock or Subscriptions that were pledged as Security, till it was declared by the Committee of Secrecy; nor was it possible I could, those Books never coming under my Inspection; and having fate in that Court many Years, and never observed or heard of any ill Practices, had no mistrust thereof.

The Increase of the First and Second Money Subscriptions, and Decrease of the Third and Fourth, after the Declarations, were unknown to me till after they were done.

What I agreed to in the Court of Directors, I did believe was for the Interest of the Company, and the Publick, and had no particular Views to any private Interest of my own, as may appear by my acting in my own private Affairs, wherein it appears by my Account of Stock and Subscriptions delivered in, that I have not been a Negotiator therein, nor sold at High Prices.

What third Subscription I sold, I agreed to re-pay the Money upon the Reduction, and by the Stock and Subscription which I have reduced to 150 *l. per Cent.* I am a Loofer upon the Account, and by the many great Losses I have sustained, my Estate is much lessened, since this unhappy Scheme, as my Accounts make appear.

NB. I have Three small Children.

