

THE MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, May 31, 1753.

To the PEOPLE of Maryland.

COUNTRYMEN,

CONSIDERING how much Men differ in their Sentiments in general, how apt too many are to take up Opinions upon Trust, and to be influenced by those of others, in whom they repose too much Confidence, without Enquiry; it is not to be wonder'd at that People should be divided in Opinion, upon so important a Subject as our Inspection Law: Some imagining that were it to be dropt, it would be no Detriment, but rather an Advantage to the Country: Others, that upon the Continuance of it, the Welfare of the Country depends. I acknowledge that my own Sentiments are the same with the latter, for which I will candidly and honestly give such Reasons, as at present occur to me; but before I do so, as I shall submit what I have to say in support of my Opinion to the Consideration of the Public, so I wish that those, who are of a different Opinion, would, with equal Candour, submit their Reasons to the like Consideration. If they will not do this, I will venture to affirm, that it proceeds from a Conscientiousness, that such Reasoning, as they may insinuate to weak and ignorant People, will not bear the Test of a public Examination; or that they are actuated by Views different from and inconsistent with the Public Welfare. By communicating our Sentiments to each other with Freedom and Candour, Mistakes are discovered and rectified, and Things established upon the solid Foundations of Reason and Truth: Whoever, therefore, refuses or neglects, to communicate his Thoughts, on so interesting a Subject as this is, does not discharge his Duty to the Society of which he is a Member; and as Accuracy of Style, or Depth of Learning, is not necessary upon this Occasion, because every Planter can very easily judge of the Reasonableness or Unreasonableness of what is honestly and plainly laid before him, on so well known a Subject; so Silence is inexcusable. He, therefore, who will privately insinuate what he dare not publicly avow, must have very pernicious Views.

Having premised thus much, I now proceed to give such Reasons as at present occur to me, in support of my Opinion.

First, I affirm that all trading Nations, so far as we have any Accounts of them, have found it necessary to make, and have made, Laws, to regulate every Branch of their Trades and Manufactures, and more especially, their Staple Commodities, to prevent Frauds and Deceits in them, to punish those who commit such Frauds, and from Time to Time have amended and altered such Laws in all Instances, wherein they have been found defective.

Secondly, That whatever trading Country or People neglect to do thus, will certainly lose their Trade; or, which is the same Thing, bring it into such Disreputation, that Foreigners will not deal with them for their Commodities, when they can be supplied with the same Sorts, in other Places, under proper Regulations. And,

Thirdly, That such Regulations are no Violation of Liberty, but very consistent with it, and absolutely necessary to secure every Man in his Property.

1. That all trading Nations, so far as we have any Accounts of them, have found it necessary to make, and have made, Laws, to regulate every Branch of their Trades and Manufactures, and more especially, their Staple Commodities, to prevent Frauds and Deceits in them, to punish those, who commit such Frauds, and from Time to Time have amended and altered such Laws in all Instances, wherein they have been found defective.

To begin with our Mother Country; there is not one single Branch of Trade or Manufacture, without an Act of Parliament for the Regulation of it. To mention all these Acts would be too tedious, and to mention none, would, perhaps, be called a positive Assertion, without any Proof

to support it: To guard against Tedioufness and the Objection of want of Proof, I will take Notice of several Statutes, many of which, perhaps, some People, very wise in their own Imagination, may think below the Dignity of a Parliament to take Notice of.

Affix of Fewel, in London and Westminster, 7 Ed. 6, cap. 7. 9 of Queen ANNE, and several others.

Bakers and Bread, 2 and 3 Ed. 6, cap. 15, and at least 8 or 10 other Acts.

Beer and Ale, Penalty on Brewing with corrupt Hops, 1 JA. 1, cap. 18. On using Broom, Wormwood, &c. 9 of ANNE, cap. 12, and many others.

Bricks and Tiles, of what Dimensions, how the Soil is to be taken off, when the Ground to be dug up, 17 Ed. 4, cap. 4. 10 G. 1, and many others.

Butchers, many Statutes about them.

Butter and Cheese, the same.

Cables, Halfers, Cordage, and Cable Yarn; none to make Cables of overworn Stuff, 35 ELIZ. cap. 8. Cable Yarn, 2 W. and M. cap. 24.

Cloth and Clothiers. [It would be endless to mention all, or one tenth Part of the Statutes, relating to them, and therefore shall only observe, that Care is taken of Medley Broadcloths, white Cloths, colour'd Cloths, Kerseys, Streits, Fullians, and other Cloths; in particular of those made in the Northern Counties. In Coventry, Herefordshire, Shrewsbury, and Worcester. In Devonshire, and Cornwall. In Kent, Essex, Reading, and Suffex. In Norfolk, Norwich, and Suffolk. In Somersetshire, Bristol, Dorsetshire, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Wiltshire, and Wales. Since the Union, the Names of many Sorts of Cloths, not known before in England, are taken Care of and regulated.]

Several Statutes, relating to Cottons, their Length, Breadth, and Weight, and particularly of Welch, Lancashire, and Cheshire Cottons.

Dyers and dying Drugs, many Statutes about them.

Fish and Fisheries, many Statutes about them.

Hats and Caps, many Statutes about them.

Hides and Skins, the same.

HORSE BREAD, 13 RIC. 2, cap. 8.

4 HEN. 4, cap. 25. 21 JA. 1, cap. 21.

Linnen, many Statutes relating to it.

These shall suffice, and if it should be suggested, that there are not such Statutes, and a great many others, it is a very easy Matter for any that doubts to satisfy himself, by applying to the County Clerk, where he lives, who hath the Statutes at large (purchased at the County Charge) in his Possession, to peruse, which every Man has a Right, and by only looking into the Index of the 6th Volume, he will be satisfied, that I have not attempted to impose on him.

We know that they have, and for many Years have had, an Inspection Law of Tobacco, in Virginia: And we had one here in 1640, which was but seven or eight Years, after the first Settlement of the Province.

We know that they have Laws in Pennsylvania for the Inspection of Bread, Flour, Beef, and Pork. We know they have a Law there for well tanning, and currying and manufacturing of Leather: And also to prevent Frauds in Tobacco. They have a Law there for encouraging brewing good Beer, and to prohibit the mixing Melasses and other Ingredients, under Penalties.

It is not to be doubted, that they have Laws in New York, and New England, to regulate their Exports.

Sir William Temple tells us how careful the Dutch are, and by what Means they have increased their Wealth and Strength, and how their Trade contributed to it, he mentions the Causes; one great one, applicable to the present Subject, the Reader shall have in his own Words, to prevent Mistakes: "Order and Exactness in managing the Trade, which brings their Commodi-

ties in Credit abroad. This was first introduced by severe Laws and Penalties, but is since grown into Custom: Thus there have been above thirty several Placarts,

about the manner of Curing, Pickling and Barrelling of Herrings. Thus all Arms made at Utrecht, are forfeited, if sold without Mark, or marked without Trial. And I observed in their Indian House, that all the Pieces of Scarlet, which are sent in great Quantities to those Parts, are marked with the English Arms, and Inscriptions in English; by which they maintain the Credit gained to that Commodity, by our former Trade, where it is now lost, or decayed." [1 Vol. p. 64.]

The same Author (in p. 116), in a Letter dated July 22, 1673, to the Earl of Essex, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, which is called, An Essay upon the Improvement of Trade in Ireland; after mentioning the bad Management in the Exports from thence, says, "For the Miscarriages mentioned in the making up those several Commodities for foreign Markets, they must likewise be remedied by severe Laws, or else the Improvement of the Commodities themselves will not serve to bring them into Credit, upon which all Trade turns. First, the Ports, out of which such Commodities shall be shipped, may be restrained to a certain Number, such as lie most convenient for the Vent of Inland Provinces, and such as are already, or are capable of being made regular Corporations. Whatever of them shall be carried out of any other Port, shall be penal to the Merchant that delivers, and to the Master that receives them. In the Ports allowed shall be published Rules, agreed on by the skillfullest Merchants in those Wares, to be observed in the making up of all such, as are intended for foreign Transportation, and declaring that what is not found agreeable to those Rules, shall not go out. Two Officers may be appointed, to be chosen every three Years by the Body of the Corporation, whose Business shall be to inspect all Barrels of Beef, Tallow, Butter, and all Packs of Hides, and put to them the Seal or Mark of the Corporation, without which none shall be suffered to go abroad; nor shall this Mark be affixed to any Parcel, but such as they shall have view'd, and found agreeable, to the Rules, set forth for that Purpose; whereof one ought to be certain, that every Barrel be of the same constant Weight, or something over. If this were observed for a small Course of Time, under any certain Marks, the Credit of them, both as to Quality and Weight, would rise to that Degree, that the Barrels or Packs would go off in the Markets they used abroad, upon Sight of the Mark, like Silver Plate upon Sight of the City's Mark, where it is made."

It is very well known, that the People of Ireland, by Means of their Laws, and a just Execution of them, have established the Reputation of their Commodities abroad; they make as good Linnen as any in Europe, and have retriev'd their Circumstances; and, notwithstanding the Restraints they are under, as to their Woollens, are in a very flourishing Condition.

II. That whatever Country or People neglect to do thus, will certainly lose their Trade; or, which is the same Thing, bring it into such Disreputation, that Foreigners will not deal with them for their Commodities, when they can be supplied with the same Sorts, in other Places, under proper Regulations.

This I take to be a self evident Truth, and, therefore, in Strictness, requires no Proof; however, I will mention some Instances of it. In New-York they had a Law to regulate their Bread and Flour, before they had any such Law in Pennsylvania,

A Placart is a Proclamation or Ordinance, which has the force of a Law in Holland.

From England

m: the Sub-
lies below Fibing
unday the 26th of
V: a large Cance,
m, has two Seats,
iled to her Bottom
m Line, two new
Outside of her Bot-
been newly trim-
on the Outside of
Bed Cord for her

e to Capt. William
Kent Island, or to
e upper End, shall
e Subscriber, shall

os Reynolds.

March 13, 1753.

Time limit-
ection of Tobacco,
without it should be
ver; and as that is
is timely Notice to
indebted to me, in
co, That they do
e, by the first Day
; and if any Per-
Payments by the
nd, I shall put such
s to myself and Far-
rd Snowden.

LLAGE,
ER,

near the Church in
inkie formerly kept

s of STAYS,
and as cheap as can
aving several good
in London, and large
y, Silk, and every
n the Business, put-
ill certainly be more
to have their Stays
an to send for them,
may be sooner sup-
nd better fitted, by
want,
les Wallace:

rn in the said House,
'd to frequent the
accommodated, and
of. He has good
of Liquors, &c.

March 1, 1753.

having erected
s and sells RUM
Continent, at Two
Gallon, by the Hog-
stoles weighing four
27 s. Mill'd Dollars
vania Money equal
son wanting Copper
or Copper Worms,
llings and Six Pence
cock Bigger.

a likely Negro
Years of Age, who
ell, and do House

here is a Va-
Queen Anne's County
himself a Member
capable of teaching
ithmetic, and good
itors of said School,
agement as the Law
support them in.

Wright, Reg.

Charles-street;
of a moderate
after for Con-

X
4

X
6

X
7

X
12

21