

ing be admitted, that we derived an Advantage from it 'til the Year 1750, or 1751, and ever since, it has become unprobable: But how has it happened that the same Provision has had such different Effects? It cannot positively be accounted for, and, therefore, 'tis to be apprehended, that the Foundation of this Reasoning is defective; and, if it be true (which for Decency Sake I shall not gainsay), That Mr. Q. in the Corner has had lower Accounts of Sales for two or three Years, last past, than he used to have before the Inspection Law: This very Fact furnishes an additional Proof of what I have suggested, that the present low Price of Tobacco does not proceed from any real Inefficaciousness of the Inspection Law; for not even Mr. Q. can not so much in his Corner, as to imagine, that his Tobacco has been depreciated by the Inspectors Stamp.

Mr. Q. may enjoy great Complacency in his Corner from the Supposition, that his Objection is unanswerable, he may raise his Crest, swell, and plume himself, in the Raptures of self Admiration; but his Objections are now as much ridiculed, as his former Professions were laughed at. Whatever may have been the Price of Tobacco for two or three Years, last past, it will still remain to be proved, that the Inspection has not enhanced the Profits of the Planter, during that Time, until some probable Argument shall be produced, by which it may be reasonably shown, that Tobacco would not have been at a lower Price, if the Inspection Law had not then existed.

Mr. Q.'s next Objection to the Inspection-Law, is, that it bears hard upon the poor Tenant; for (quoth he) it may happen, that the Terms of his Lease may oblige him to pay seven or eight Hundred Pounds of Tobacco per Annum, and he may not be able to make near that Quantity to pass Inspection, consequently he will have no Tobacco (that is, he will not have Tobacco enough) to pay his Landlord, and support his Family; but if there was no Inspection Law, altho' the Tenant should not make such Tobacco as his Landlord would receive, yet he might get something for it. As Mr. Q. has too much Vivacity to be restrained by the Rules of Grammar, I am not much surprized that his Conclusions are not exactly logical; but it not being my Design to show his Insufficiency in these Respects (which indeed would be a needless Undertaking), I have collected out of the Rubbish of Absurdities, with which it is overwhelm'd, the Objection the poor Man has heard, and honestly intended to retail.

If any Tenants have experienced a real Inconvenience, it cannot be fairly attributed to the Inspection Law, but ought to be charged to the Rapaciousness and Oppression of such Landlords, as have reserved a higher Rent than their Tenants, by a reasonable Application of Industry and Frugality, are able to render. If any Tenants clamour against the Law for no better Reason, than that it has deprived them of the Opportunity of acting dishonestly, their Complaint ought to be treated with, as it deserves, Contempt.

It was impossible for the Legislature, by any Regulation, to ascertain, what Rents should be paid upon future Leases, those were necessarily to be left to the Stipulation of the Parties: However, I cannot believe, that the Greediness of Landlords, and the Necessities of Tenants, are such as that any unequal Advantage can be generally gain'd by Landlords; it is apparently against the Interest of the Landlord, to exact a Rent, that his Tenant cannot pay, and support his Family; nor is it likely that the Tenant would submit to the Oppression in a Country, where Land may be had upon very easy Terms; or, if the Inspection Law should drop, Oppression would die with it, when it might be palliated under a thousand Pretences, and Temptation and Opportunity would both concur to encourage it.

The Inspection Law does not oblige Tenants to pay off their Rents in Tobacco of a superior Quality to that, which every honest and fair dealing Man would pay, were there no such Law: For none can suppose that any Landlord, when he reserves his Rent in Tobacco, intends to receive Trash. All Tobacco that may be termed merchantable, always ought, and it actually does, pass Inspection: ought the Landlord who reserves merchantable Tobacco, to be paid in Trash? Whose then is the Hardship, or Iniquity? But Mr. Q. says farther, that if the Landlord would not receive this Trash Tobacco, before the Inspection Law, the poor Tenant might sell it to another: By this he would seem to infer, that there is no Fraud, or Dishonesty, when Parties agree to bargain and sell, the Quality of the Tobacco being exactly known; let us grant him this Conclusion, and suppose it never happens, that this honest poor Tenant (who

will not trick his Landlord, when he cannot), imposes upon an ignorant, or careless Buyer, yet the Affair, I am afraid, will terminate at last in either a public or private Fraud: May not the poor Tenant's Chap purchase this Trash to impose upon another? But suppose even that does not happen, it must at least end in this, that this poor Tenant's Trash being sold in the Market, with Tobacco of a better Quality, will necessarily strike down the Price of the latter, by not only augmenting the Quantity of the Commodity, but affecting the general Credit of it, which is a plain public Injury, and therefore a Fraud. Tobacco is considered among us as a Medium of Commerce, and more or less, in every Part of the Province, passeth in Lieu of Money. We all acknowledge the Necessity of framing the severest Laws, and enforcing the most rigorous Execution of them, against those who counterfeit Money, or diminish from the Weight of it; and would think it unjust, if a Landlord should reserve a Rent of fifty Shillings Sterling, and be paid off in a Coin not worth fifty Farthings, or indeed in any Coin, not equivalent to the Sum reserved; but yet it seems, there are some among us, who think it, or rather would represent it (to draw them into a Subserviency to their factious Views), as an extreme Hardship, that Tenants are not left at large to pay such Rents in Trash, as have been reserved in merchantable Tobacco.

The Villain who attempts to pass upon me a Coin of a baser Metal for Gold or Silver, it is allowed, ought to be capitally punished; but, alas! what a grievous, what a cruel Severity is it, that poor Tenants should not only not be permitted to cheat their Landlords, or at least the Public, but that their darling Trash Tobacco, the Cankerworm of our Trade, should be destroyed.

I remember to have heard a Story of a Highwayman, who complain'd at the Gallows of the Indistinctness of the Law, in inflicting the same Severity and Infamy of Punishment upon Highwaymen, and Housebreakers; the Fellow was laughed at for his Partiality; but might not a Money Coiner, under our Highwayman's Circumstances, with more Reason, exclaim loudly against the partial Rigour of our Laws, to Persons of his Craft?

I know some Landlords, who in their Turn, complain of the Inspection Law, as injurious to their Interests: They are now obliged to accept any Tobacco, that has undergone an Inspection; but before the Law, nothing would satisfy them but the Choice of their Tenants Crop: This could easily be contrived; and that it was the Practice of many Landlords, and others, before the Inspection Law, to insist upon, and actually to cull, the Choice of their Debtors Crops, no one is ignorant.

The Inspection Law is therefore, so far from being injurious either to Tenants or Landlords, that had it no other Effect, it ought to be highly valued, for the Equality it establishes between both, since it guards against the Oppression of the one, and the Fraud of the other.

The Landlord, who before the Law, was the sole Judge of what Tobacco his Tenant ought to pay him, is now obliged to submit to the Determination of the Inspectors, who must be supposed to be indifferent to both, they being under the sacred Obligation of an Oath, to execute their Office with the utmost Impartiality.

As the rest of Mr. Q.'s admirable Performance, that I have not animadverted upon, has already been obviated by others, and it is not my Purpose to enter into a Detail of the manifold Advantages we have reap'd from the Inspection Law, or a general Discussion of all the Topics, that have been urged for, and against it, I must take my Leave of him, with an unfeigned Declaration, That I equally admire his Modesty, Candour, and peerless Ingenuity.

A PLANTER.

FRANCKFORT, April 22.

A Report prevails these two Days in this City, that a Body of Spanish Troops landed in the Island of Corsica immediately on the Departure of the French, and took Possession of the Posts they quitted: But as they neither tell us at what Port they landed, nor give us any Particulars of their Landing and subsequent Reparation, we imagine this Piece of News is a Conjecture of our Politicians, who have given us many concerning the Fate of the Corsicans.

LONDON, April 20.

Extract of a Letter from Scotland.

O Yes! and that's e'e Time; O Yes! and that's twaa Times! O Yes! and that's third and last Time: All Manner of Pearson and Pearsons whatsoever, um draw near, and I shall let 'um kenn,

that there is a Fair to be held at the muckle Toown of Langholm for the Space of eight Days; wherein if any Hültrin, Culltrin, Land-Louper, Dub-keuper, or Gang the Gatefwiinger, shall breech any Urdam, Durdam, Rabblement, Brämblement, or Squabblement; he shall have his Lugs tacked to the muckle Iron, with a Nail of twaa-penny, untill he doaps, and pray to Hea'n, neen times God bless the King, thrice the muckle Loard of Kelton, paying a Groat to me, Jemmy Ferguson, Bailly of the aforesaid Mannor. So yere heard my Proclamation, and I'll haam to my Danner.

Gosport, April 27. The Officers and Men belonging to the Assurance Man of War have lost all their Effects, but it is hoped the greatest Part of the Merchants Money will be saved, for Buoys and Buoy Ropes are fixed to all the Chests, &c. She struck about half an Hour after Seven in the Morning, and by her beating, the Pumps were presently rendered incapable of being work'd: soon after, three of the Deck Beams broke; about Twelve they cut away her Masts to ease her, when the Sea continued breaking over her, and the Chests swam between Decks: As soon as possible after she struck; a Boat was ready to carry Governor Tre-lawney and his Lady on Shore to Yarmouth in the Isle of Wight, which was happily effected. No sooner had the Gentleman conveyed his Lady to the House of Thomas Holmes, Esq; than immediately, without refreshing himself (notwithstanding the Badness of the Weather) he set about preserving the People on board the Wreck, for which End he hired two Sloops, and waited on Shore himself to take Care of at their Landing. Carr Scrope, Esq; Captain of the Ship, in this dreadful Dilemma acted with great Conduct, Humanity, and Fortitude, giving his Orders with Calmness and Resolution, seeming regardless of his own Life to save the Ship's Company, who give him the Character of a humane worthy Commander, not using his Men ill himself, nor permitting any one else so to do; all the rest of the Officers behaved in a Manner worthy the Trust reposed in them. Mr. Patterson, the Master of the said Ship, in general bears the Character of a skilful Seaman and Artist, and a worthy, sober, and well behav'd Man.

ANNAPOLIS.

Last Sunday we had several Thunder Gusts; and a Boat which was then going from hence to Talbot County, with six Persons in her, was taken with a sudden and violent Squall of Wind, about four o'Clock in the Afternoon, within a Mile of the other Shore, which immediately overset and sunk her; and Mrs. Margaret Flemming (who was going over with her Husband to her Father's Reaping), John Gordon, Blockmaker, a laborious sober Man, and a French Refugee, who had been but a Fortnight in the Country, were all three drowned; Mr. Flemming, one of his Men, and a Negro Wench, were saved by holding to the Top of the Masts, which were just above Water, 'til they were taken up by a Schooner which happen'd to be at Anchor just within reach of their Call. Soon after they were taken up by the Schooner, there happen'd a Clap of Thunder, at which Mrs. Flemming's Body came up to the Top of the Water, and was taken in by her Husband; as she was a loving prudent Wife, about 20 Years of Age, not long married, and about 5 Months advanced in her Pregnancy, his Loss and Trouble must certainly be very great. This is the fourth Time that Boat has been overset; and she has drowned several Persons before this Accident.

One Day last Week, a Man in Frederick County, about 4 Miles from the Town, whose Name was Henry Footney, having just slept out of his House, at the latter End of a Thunder Gust, to a Gate at about 3 or 4 Yards Distance from the House, to see if the Storm was all over, a Flash of Lightning kill'd him on the Spot as he was leaning on the Gate: One Child outside the Gate close by him was unhurt; one other standing at the Door, and another between him and the House, were both struck down, but soon recovered, and the Rafter at one End of the House were split, and some of the Shingles turn'd the thick End upwards. There was no Mark to be discovered about his Body, only that his Beard was a little singed; for he had a long Beard, being one of the Sect call'd Dunkers, who never shave nor clip their Beards.

We hear that a Ship is just arrived, in eight Weeks from London, on the other Side the Bay, who brings advice, that our Governor was to sail in Capt. Cockson, on the Tuesday after him; so that he may be every Day expected.

The Managers of the ANNAPOLIS LOTTERY hereby give Notice, That not having as yet received

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