



The Maryland Gazette

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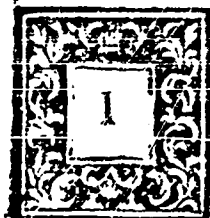


From Tuesday March 25, to Tuesday April 1, 1729. (Numb. LXXXI.)

Patuxent, March 31, 1729.

To the Gentlemen of MARYLAND.

S I R S,



Presume you are not insensible that some Persons (whether out of Interest or Malice I know not,) have of late, with the utmost Art and Industry, endeavour'd (by sly Insinuations, uncharitable Conjectures, strain'd Constructions on Words accidentally dropt in Conversation, pretended or real Letters from Persons in England, and many ridiculous and scandalous Reports) to render Mr. Hyde as disagreeable as possible to the People of this Province. And altho' Mr. Hyde's Friends, in these Parts, are generally satisfied of the Falsity of them; yet, as many of them live very remote, I thought it my Duty to set the Case between Mr. Hyde and his Calumniators, in a true Light: Which I shall endeavour to do with all Brevity, and Impartiality.

THE first Thing Mr. Hyde is charg'd with, is, His being concerned in a Contract, or Partnership, with the French Farmers, to supply that Kingdom with Tobacco: And that this Contract, or Partnership, is the sole Occasion of the Lowness of the Price of Tobacco. In Answer to which, I refer the Reader, to Mr. Samuel Hyde's Scheme, which they will find in a Book lately publish'd by Mr. Darnall, entituled, *A just and impartial Account of the Transactions of the Merchants in London, for the Advancement of the Price of Tobacco, &c.* p. 30. There he proposes to the rest of the Merchants, to have all Tobacco view'd; and a Price fix'd on it, by two Men, chosen by the Majority of the Merchants; of which there should be a Record kept, and the Merchant oblig'd to make good the Price so fix'd, to the Proprietor; to which he might have Recourse, if at any Time he should have Cause to suspect the Integrity of the Merchant to whom he consign'd his Tobacco. Here you see Mr. Hyde offers to put it in the Power of other Men to set a Price on his Tobacco: Which, had he been in the French Commission, or Contract, and consequently his Interest to keep Tobacco low, he certainly never would have done. But, as Mr. Hyde was apprised of this Report before I left London, and being resolv'd to clear himself of so vile an Aspersions, he publickly required, at two several Meetings of the Trade, that the Author would declare himself, if present; which no one did: And the following Minute was order'd the first Time, and Sign'd by the Persons present the second Time, and is recorded in the Record of the said Society:

WHEREAS Mr. Hyde has been reported to have been concern'd with a Person in Holland, and Mr. Cavallier, in a Contract with the Farmers in France, to supply that Kingdom with Tobacco; and he having clear'd himself from that Aspersions, it was agreed, by the Gentlemen present, that they believe the said Report intirely false and groundless.

THE Above is a true Copy of the Minute, sign'd at a Meeting of the Trade, the Twentieth of June, 1728, by John Falconar, and the rest of the Gentlemen present.

THE next Charge against Mr. Hyde, is, that he has broke thro' Agreements made by the Trade, and sold his Tobacco at an under Price; and that notwithstanding (they say) he knows that such a Breach is charg'd on him, he has not endeavour'd to clear himself of it, or give his Correspondents here the least Satisfaction in relation to his Conduct; from whence it is insinuated, that he either contemns those Gentlemen, or is guilty of the Charge.

Mr. Hyde knew nothing of this Charge when I left London; but, being apprehensive that a Person who could be so base to invent such a Story as the former, would stick at Nothing; and being willing and desirous to render his Friends here the utmost Satisfaction; he furnished each of the Masters of his Ships, with a Letter containing an Account of his Conduct from Beginning of the Society; with Orders to communicate it to them on their Arrival in Maryland, which has been already done, to as many of them as they have had Opportunity; and with which they are generally very well satisfied: And, if any Gentleman doubts whether there is such a Letter, I shall be very ready to convince him by a Sight of it; and I can appeal to several Gentlemen who correspond with another Merchant (and who have compared their Letters with Mr. Hyde's) for Confirmation of the Contents.

I think this is a sufficient Answer to Mr. P. P.'s Letter to Mr. Parks, publish'd in a late GAZETTE, No. 77. where he introduces one of Mr. Hyde's Masters, saying, *That he was not to be trusted with the General Letter from the Trade; and another of them is made to say, That if any Questions were ask'd him in Relation to Mr. Hyde's Conduct, that Mr. Hyde bid him say nothing, or not mind it.*

Capt. Mudge said, (as he informs me) that Mr. Hyde told him, that if any designing Person should raise any Reports to his Prejudice, that he believ'd Mudge need not much mind them, for that they would soon be detected, or Words to the same Effect.

FOR my own part, I freely declare, That being in a Conversation some time after I arrived, and having heard many of the scandalous Reflections that had been cast on Mr. Hyde; a Gentleman in the Company, ask'd me, Why I had not brought the said Letter, being one of the first Ships? To which I reply'd, in a jocular Way, that I supposed I was not to be trusted with it: That Letter is since arrived, and hope Mr. P. P. is satisfied that it might have been very safely trusted with me, or any one else; for in that Letter the Merchants say, "That the Largeness of the Quantity of Tobacco, is the Grand Cause of the Lowness of the Price; and that whilst it is so large, all that they can do, will be but palliating Cures: For the Weight of the Quantity, will break their strongest Resolutions." I should not have mentioned so trivial a Story, but to let you see how ready some People are to catch at the least Appearance of an Advantage; and am very glad they can charge Mr. Hyde with nothing more material, than (to make the most of it) the Folly of the Masters of his Ships.

ANOTHER Report, which tho' a very improbable one, was thought proper to be made use of for some Time; which please to take as follows: It was said, that a certain Person who had been in Virginia, saw a List of Debts in a Gentleman's Hands there, due from Sundries in Maryland, to Mr. Hyde, amounting to a very large Sum; from whence it