

was infer'd, that Mr. Hyde was going to sue every Body that owed him any Thing, and consequently to leave off Trade: And the Reason assigned for sending the said List to a *Virginian*, was, that a *Marylander* would perhaps be inclined to use too much Lenity towards his Country Men. If Mr. James Donaldson of Annapolis, said so, I think he has deny'd it, as you will see by the following Letter, which I received a few Days ago.

SIR,

Annapolis, March 8. 1728.

**A**M inform'd, by a Gentleman in this Town, that you intend to sue me; for which Reason have retained Mr. Jennings, and another Lawyer. But, before you throw a needless Charge on your self (asent which you may use your Pleasure) I here inform you, that I have heard that Story, for ought as I know, at the sixth Hand, with a great many large Additions, which have a Tendency to Prejudice, such as I never heard, spoke, or dreamt of. I leave the Issue to your own Inclination, and

Sir, Your most

Humble Servant,

James Donaldson.

P. S. What I heard was from creditable Gentlemen in Virginia, and for ought as I know, the Original Story may be from Maryland.

IF this be not a very plain Denial of the Story; I know not what can be; for the Original of it was the said List in Virginia; which List if he had seen, (surely) he would never have said, That for ought as he knew, the Original Story might be from Maryland.

I have since seen Mr. Donaldson's Explanation of the above Letter; and am content (with him) to leave the Unbiased World to judge of it, and its Author; and hope, that if any Gentlemen have heard Mr. Donaldson tell such a Story, that they will do themselves, and him, the Justice to insert it in the Publick Prints, as they heard it.

AS to the Declaration lately publish'd by Nicholas Ridgley, which by the Imperfection of it, both as to Time and Persons, seems to have been lately trump't up, I believe no Body will give any Credit to, even tho' he should produce the Testimony of half a dozen as reputable People as himself; because that Part of it which relates to Mr. Handbury, and Mr. Bradley, is contradicted by a Certificate under the Hands of about Twenty of the Merchants; whereof Mr. Black is one; a Gentleman with whom I presume Mr. Ridgley has had some small Acquaintance. The original Certificate (as I am inform'd) is in the Hands of Mr. Philip Thomas, of West River.

INDEED, I have been inform'd, that Two Agreements have been made by the Merchants, relating to the Price of Tobacco, and it is currently reported that they have been both broke; and Mr. Ridgley has charged Mr. Hyde, and some Others, with the Breach of them.

FOR my part, I know nothing of the Breach of any such Agreements; but I shall endeavour to make it appear, from Reason and undeniable Proofs, that Mr. Hyde has not broke them.

THE first Agreement relating to the Price of Tobacco, (according to my Information) was, That no Tobacco, even the very worst, should be sold under Two-pence Half-penny per Pound; the second was, that no first and second Leaf should be sold under Two-pence Three-farthings per Pound, that is, (if I understand it right) in equal Quantities; or which is the same, the best at Three-pence, and the second Sort at Two-pence Half-penny per Pound: This Resolution (I think) put an End to the former, by which, the very worst was not to be sold under Two-pence Half-penny per Pound; whereas, by this, the second best Leaf is allow'd to be sold at that Price; and I believe it will be granted, that the very worst sort of Scrubs or mean Tobacco is not worth so much by Three-farthings or a Penny per Pound, as the second best Leaf; if so, then Three Half-pence or One Penny Three-farthings is an equivalent Price for that Sort. This being allow'd, (and I believe it cannot be deny'd) I dare appeal to several Gentlemen, who consign Tobacco to Mr. Hyde, and can produce several of their Accounts, should my Veracity be question'd, whether they have not Three-pence, and some of them Three-pence Farthing per Pound for best Leaf, and Two-pence Half-penny, or Two-pence Five-

eighths for second Sort, and Two-pence Three-eighths, Two-pence Farthing; and Two-pence for ordinary, and so down to One-penny Three-farthings, (which is the lowest I have heard of) for the very worst of all. — If it be objected, that some Gentlemen, who sent large Quantities, had but little sold at Three-pence and Two-pence Half-penny per Pound, I answer, that those who make most Tobacco, seldom make the best; their Slaves being generally under the Care of Overseers, some of whom may possibly be very careless.

IF this be true, that Mr. Hyde has sold his best and second Sort of Tobacco at Three-pence and Two-pence Half-penny per Pound; or, which is the same, his first and second Leaf together, at Two-pence Three-farthings per Pound, I submit to the Judgment of every unprejudic'd Person, whether he has broke the said Agreement, or not.

AS to what Mr. Ridgley says, of Captain Randolph's abusing Mr. Hyde, I shall only say, that if Mr. Ridgley would have been thought an impartial Story-teller, he should have been so ingenuous to have given us Mr. Hyde's Answer (for he says, Mr. Hyde sat silently by all the Time; after he had given his Answer) to the Chairman, who, I presume, is the proper Person for every one to address themselves to in such Assemblies. And if Mr. Hyde declared, that some Persons then present had wrote into *Maryland* to his Prejudice, I believe, that will hardly be deny'd now, tho' Mr. Hyat was then pleas'd to say, it was only a Surmise, and Pretence, to evade answering the Question.

I should not mention the Story of the Ship Globe, invented by a vile Impostor at Annapolis, (nor would I be thought in the least, to reflect on any of those worthy Gentlemen who were impos'd on by him,) but to put you in Mind that all that has been said against Mr. Hyde, is not true, but rather the contrary; and therefore should the Malice or Interest of any, put them upon further Inventions of this Kind, I doubt not, but every prudent and impartial Man will, at least suspend their Judgments, 'till they thoroughly inform themselves in the Matter.

And now Gentlemen, as this is the first Time of my appearing in Publick, and that I assure you, not without the utmost Reluctance, proceeding from a Consciousness of my own Inabilities in an Affair of this Nature, I hope you'll be so Candid as to pass over any Errors or Incorrectness in the Style, and not expect from a Sailor what you might from a Scholar; especially when I declare, that it was neither with an Intent to shew my Wit, (to which I have not the least Pretence,) or my Spleen, as some have done of late, but out of a just Sense of the Duty I owe to my Employer, and the Country; and if it should prove a Means of disabusing any, who may, by those false Reports, have been aggravated out of their Reason or Interest, I shall think my Time well spent.

I shall only add, that if any one, who having more Leisure than good Nature, should think it worth their while to make Remarks, or criticize upon what I have said, that my Affairs will not permit me to answer them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient,

Humble Servant,

Walter Hoxton.

P. S. If Mr. P. P. is not yet satisfy'd, I refer him to the first and second general Letters from the Trade, the first whereof having been in the Country some time, or at least Copies of it; and I have some Reason to think, that the second cannot be far off, and I hope, in safe Hands.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Copenhagen, Dec. 11. The Prince Royal having judg'd that the Sum's of Money come from divers Parts, are not sufficient to support the Necessities of the poor People ruined by the late Fire, propos'd a few Days ago to