

3. By forbearing to plant every Fourth or Fifth Year. The first, we think, on many Accounts, the most eligible; but the Method how, you will consider of, whether by restraining to so many Plants for every Working Hand, or by taking a part of your Hands entirely off from making Tobacco, and employing them upon some other Produce, as Hemp, Flax, &c. which, in our Opinion, will be most adviseable; for really your Country grows too populous to depend altogether upon Tobacco; and 'tis a Pity your Industry should be your Ruin.

As to the second Way, we apprehend it liable to some Difficulties; for after the Tobacco is made, every one will be unwilling to have his Labour destroyed; and there will be many Ways to evade the Law; besides, it may happen to a poor Man's Lot, to make none but such Tobacco, as the Law will condemn; in that Case it will be hard to destroy all a poor Man's Labour, without giving him some Satisfaction, as 2 or 3 Shillings per Hundred, which may be raised by a small Duty per Cent. on all the Tobacco ship'd to Great-Britain; and yet this Way has its Inconveniences; the surest Way, is never to let it be planted, but either restrain to Plants or to Pounds: If that should be thought hard, in Regard to those that are in Debt for Tobacco, and yet restrain'd from making enough to pay their Debts; the only Way we can think of, to solve that Difficulty, is to turn all Tobacco Debts into Money Debts, and he that makes but 500l. of Tobacco, may chance to get as much Money for it, as will discharge his Debt for 1000l. of Tobacco originally. Indeed, we think it will be the Interest of your Province, that all Debts be contracted in Money; it is now Time to leave off the old Way of Barter.

As to the third Way of lessening the Quantity, if you should resolve to give your Lands a Jubilee every Fourth or Fifth Year, we think the sooner you begin the better; indeed, one Year's Forbearance, were it only for that one Year, and never more, would produce mighty Effects: In the first Place, what came Home before that Jubilee Year, would yield a double Value, and lay a Foundation for a good Trade for many Years afterwards, by emptying the Markets. As Things are, we really think one such Year will be absolutely necessary; and that the very next Year will be the properest Time; but then we hope you will be so good to give us timely Notice, that we may not send our Ships; we will gladly let them lie a Year, to attain so great a Good.

If this last Remedy should be your Resolution, we need not put you in Mind to persuade your Neighbours of Virginia to come into the like Measures; without their Concurrence, what you can do will be of little Effect, your Interest are one, and therefore in all Things you should act in Concert.

We have now said enough as to lessening the Quantity, the next Consideration will be to mend the Quality; as to that Point, we need say the less, because, if the Quantity be lessened, that will naturally mend the Quality; only thus much we think necessary to say, that it will be at all Times your Interest to have your Tobacco truly pack'd; by that we mean not only the handsome handling and neat packing into the Hogsheads, but also, that there be but one Sort of Tobacco in a Hogshead, as all first, second, and third Leaf in Hogsheads by themselves; and the like for the several Sorts of Colours and bright Tobacco, and not divers Sorts, as Leaf and dry Colours, &c. mixt through one another; for the Buyer will always value the Hogshead according to the meaner Sort.

We hope you will pardon our presuming to direct you in the Management of your Tobacco; we should not have taken that Liberty, had you not so earnestly desired us to be free in our Remarks; which leads us to mention the melancholly Circumstances of our Ships, by which we have been so great Sufferers, occasioned by the Lowness of Freight, and by a long and unnecessary Delay in their Loading, which last is no Benefit to you, nor is it possible they can be supported under Eight Pounds per Tun at least, even in peaceable Times.

As to the Dispatch, we must crave your Patience, to let us enlarge upon that Article, your Interests being equally concern'd with ours, to have the Time when to begin, and when to leave off Loading, certain and fixt.

We have found by Experience, That Tobacco coming to Market all the Year round, has been of very bad Consequence; it not only distracts the Buyers, and puts it out of our Power to keep up the Price, but your Tobacco, by Winter Passages, has been much damaged, and render'd Unsaleable, to your very great Loss, as well as ours; by having our Ships torn to

Pieces by stormy Weather. This Loss to you, and us, may very easily be prevented, by fixing a Time, before which no Tobacco shall be taken into the Ships; and a Day after which (for that Season) no Tobacco shall be put on Board any Ship, or Vessel, bound to Great-Britain; No, nor Purchase Tobacco for the Owners Accounts; but all Traders to come under the same Regulation.

The Time for Beginning, we think, should be the First of February in every Year; and the Ending, the last Day of July; which we think full enough, rather too much. If the Time could be shorter, 'twould be never the worse. That need not hinder your People from getting your Tobacco ready when they please; but will oblige them to be more Industrious than they have been, to get their Tobacco stript in the properest Season; and That we judge to be as soon as possible after it is once fully cur'd; that very Thing would in a high Degree of it self mend the Quality of Tobacco. Your Neighbours of Virginia, have almost all their Tobacco stript and pack'd by Christmas. We can see no Reason why you may not do so too. We are sure it would be highly your Interest: You might have your Tobacco at the Summer Market as well as the Virginians; and there is as much Reason your Tobacco should be as soon at Market, the Summer being the properest Time for your Sort of Tobacco, when most Buyers at Market lay in their Winter Stocks; especially Countries that are subject to early Frosts. And besides, by thus having certain Times for the Ships going out, and Returning, the Buyers would know when to come to Market, which will be a mighty Accommodation to Trade, and great Encouragement to them to lay in great Stocks; and not to keep buying, as they do now, from Hand to Mouth. This will also be an Advantage to your selves, by allowing more Time for other Employments, after the Tobacco is got ready.

Another Thing that will highly oblige us, and we think will redound as much to your Advantage as ours, is, That no Tobacco be Rolled; but that all Tobacco may be brought to Rowling-Houses upon the Water Side, by the Proprietors thereof, or at their Charge: And that need not be very chargeable to them; They have Horses plenty, and may have Carts and Sledges, on easy Terms. If they would reflect how much Damage must unavoidably happen to their Tobacco by the old Way of Rolling (not to mention the Plunderidge, or Loss of Tobacco, that often happens by that Method) they would never suffer their Tobacco to be brought to Landings, by any Body but themselves, who to be sure will best take Care of it. This is now the common Way in Virginia; which gives us Hopes you will copy after so good an Example. This will be a great Ease to us, and we shall esteem it as a particular Favour granted at our Request.

We have taken the Liberty you gave us, of remonstrating what Grievances lay upon us, and what Part thereof lies in your Power to remedy. We pray you will take the like Liberty with us, being resolv'd to amend every Thing in our Power, and to follow your Directions as far as in us lies; which keeping your Tobacco as long as you require, may sometimes not be; unless you will be so kind to enable us to do, and not make bad worse, by drawing Bills, and sending for Goods before your Tobacco is sold; which you cannot be unfeeling has many Times hastened the Disposal of your Tobacco not to your Benefit. We are not the richest People in the World. The Freight and Customs without any other Pressure, is heavy enough for us: We know you will not expect Impossibilities from us. All in our Power you may depend we will act for your Interest.

So, with a hearty Desire for a Continuation of this publick Correspondence, and sincere Wishes it may turn to our mutual Benefit, as surely it naturally must, We conclude,

London, Nov. 7,  
1728.

Gentlemen,

Your obedient, faithful

Servants,

Micaja Perry,  
John Willis,  
William Hunt,  
Jonathan Searth, and Son,  
Robert Cruickshank,  
Jeremiah Quare,  
Thomas Sandford,  
John Perry,  
John Noor Reed.

John Govan,  
John Searth, Junr.  
Christopher Smith,  
Philip Smith,  
John Hanbury,  
John Maynard,  
John Brooks,  
Edward Randolph,  
Thomas Hyam.