



MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**The Maryland Gazette**



From Tuesday April 22, to Tuesday April 29, 1729. (Number LXXXV)

Mr. Parks,

I am a Reader of the *Maryland Gazette*, and am surpris'd and concern'd at the unprecedented Method that is therein used, (by one that subscribes P. P.) to render Mr. Hyde odious to the People of this Province.



IS reasonable to think, that if the Merchants in *London* knew, that Mr. Hyde had acted any thing wilfully to the Damage of the Tobacco Trade, that they would have accus'd him in their General Letter to the Gentlemen and Planters of *Maryland*. But as they have laid no such Thing to his Charge, but on the contrary, attribute the Low Price of Tobacco, to several other weighty and substantial Causes; 'tis very hard that he should suffer for any Thing, that one or two prejudic'd Merchants may write against him, to their Friends in private; when they have contradicted what they have so written in their Letter in publick; or that any of Mr. P. P.'s little, inconsistent Understrappers, and Petty-fogging Knights of the Post, may say or swear.

Calumny and Reproach, when the Author conceals himself, are known to proceed from an Accuser, who either dares not, or cannot support his Accusation; and is always a certain Mark, that the Accusation is unjust.

I believe, Mr. Hyde has the largest Share of Consignments from this Province, of any Man that is concern'd in the Trade; and Mr. F— (as I am inform'd) has very little; which, in all Probability, is the grand Grievance and Cause of all those little and unjust Ways and Means now made use of, to deter People from continuing their Favours to the former, in order to advance the Interest of the latter.

For, if Mr. P. P. has nothing to say of Mr. Hyde, but that he knows to be true, why does he conceal himself? What Credit can a Sett of Accusations against any particular Person deserve, which the Author or Publisher of them, is either afraid or ashamed to own? — Here are very scandalous Accusations and Insinuations brought before the whole Country, in the most publick Manner, against a Gentleman, who is as yet unacquainted with them: The Accuser is not known; the Country is very much press'd and persuaded (by him) to determine upon the Reputation of the Party accus'd; and to put a speedy Stop to his growing Interest: His pretended Character is given us by his profest Enemy; and the Character of that Enemy is altogether unknown: And if so, what Credit can such a Writer possibly be to any Cause, even supposing he could come to the true Knowledge of the Facts he pretends to write about? Or that he is as Honest and Impartial enough, to write nothing, but what he thought to be true, and not to suppress any Part of the Truth: But when we consider, how very remote this Writer may live from the Source of Action, how liable he may be to be impos'd upon, both as to the Nature and the Reason of Things; and when it is considered, what Sort of Passions they generally are that engage People behind their backs, and in the Dark, will not the thinking Part of *Maryland*, be ashamed of such a PATRON IN COGG? — If Mr. Hyde is thought to have acted any Thing that is base and treacherous, let him be accus'd, fairly, and let him answer

for himself; but let us not condemn and execute, before he is heard, (because Mr. P. P. calls out for it.) This is but bare Justice; and what is allow'd, even to the worst of Criminals: And will not any impartial Man think it hard, that he, who has bore the best of Characters for these many Years past, should not be allow'd an equal Privilege with such? A much milder Treatment, one should think, so extraordinary a Behaviour might justly claim, in a Case so dubious as the present; which consists of Suggestions, rather than Accusations, brought in (as I am afraid) with an Intent to advance the Interest of a Party, rather than the Publick Good.

Mr. P. P. has labour'd very much in this Method of Revenging either his own private Grievances, or Mr. F—'s, or, as he would have us believe, those of the Publick. — In the mean while, the unfortunate Gentleman, who receives the Blow, can neither defend himself, nor offend his Antagonist, and let his Innocence and Abilities be what they will, they are equally unserviceable, at this Time and Distance: And this Mr. P. P. is very sensible of, and therefore calls upon the Country, to do themselves Justice with Speed and Vigour, before the Edge of Resentment goes off, and the Offender has Leisure to fortify himself by new Rogueries; that is, before the Person accus'd, can have any Possibility of saying a Word in his own Defence. How agreeable such hard Usage as this may be, to the Rules of Justice and Honesty, I leave the World to judge.

Who Mr. P. P. is, I know not; and tho' I do not think this Behaviour in this Attempt upon Mr. Hyde's Character, very Gentlemanlike, yet I have thought fit to annex the Epithet of a Gentleman to his fictitious Name, because I am desirous, that all Men should be treated (at least) with common Humanity; tho' some there be among them, whose Carriage is so Designing, Treacherous, and Inhuman, (towards Persons of a different Interest from their own) as to be unworthy of so generous a Treatment. I am,

April 20, 1729.  
 Sir,  
 Your humble Servant,  
 James Morgan.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Copenhagen, Nov. 26. The King applies himself indefatigably to ease the Sufferers in the late Fire, and concert proper Measures for speedy rebuilding the City of Copenhagen. Several Plans have been presented to his Majesty, but we do not hear that Any yet has been agreed upon. Mean Time an Order has been issued forbidding the rebuilding of any Houses, till the Manner of Building is settled, and the Ground for the Streets adjusted and marked