

Sense contained in a short but nervous Speech of a brave Scotch-  
General, in *Gustavus Adolphus's* Time, to his Men, when the  
Enemy appear'd; See ye those Lads? either fell them, or they'll  
fell you. This Speech is taken Notice of by no less a Man  
than Mr. Pope, in his Notes upon the *Iliad*, and compar'd with  
one of *Agamemnon's* upon a like Occasion. Either fell 'em, or  
they'll fell you, would make an excellent Text for a Quaker's  
Sermon, if some of the Green Apron Women, of the greatest  
Influence in *Pennsylvania*, was moved by the Spirit to exert her  
Eloquence upon that Subject. After all, as Charity covers a  
Multitude of Faults, if they could be persuaded to furnish the  
poor Soldiers with warm Winter Waifcoats, it would no doubt  
be look'd upon as a prudent and commendable Action, and miti-  
gate, at least, if not altogether take off, the Odium which  
must otherwise be thrown upon them, as being the principal  
Cause why that rich and populous Province contributed so little,  
so much less than might reasonably have been expected from  
them, to assist in this noble Enterprize.

I come now, Sir, to the only Paragraph in your Perform-  
ance, to which I have any Objections; and that is the one  
which relates to the Province of *Maryland*. In the first place I  
must beg Leave to observe, that you have made use of a very  
unwarrantable Expression, in saying the Design of this Expedi-  
tion is, to extirpate and destroy the People of *Canada*; this, in  
my Opinion, is giving a very shocking and unchristian Account  
of it. I apprehend the Design of it is, to reduce that Country  
to his Majesty's Obedience, using the same Generosity and Mod-  
eration to the Vanquish'd, which *British* Conquerors, like the  
old *Roman*, have always been famous for; in *Horace's* Words,  
*Tacentem lenis in hostium*. *Cape-Brton* was taken, but it's In-  
habitants were not extirpated and destroy'd; they were treated  
with the utmost Humanity, and carefully conducted home to  
their own Country. Tho' the much greater Number in *Canada*  
might render that Method not so practicable, yet no doubt some  
other Expedient would be fallen upon, equally honourable, and  
consistent with that Compassion and Charity we owe to our fel-  
low Creatures. But that Expression, I hope, was only an in-  
advertent Slip of your Pen. In the next place, you have al-  
leged that, there being only three hundred Men sent from this  
Province, was owing to the great Number of *Roman Catholics*  
among us; They are numerous 'tis true, tho' your Calculation  
is too large by more than one half, according to the best Infor-  
mation I can get, and I have taken some pains about it; but be  
this as it will, Justice is due to all Men; that they were not, in  
any Degree, the Cause of it, is evident from the following un-  
deniable Facts. The Sum of Money and Number of Men to  
be rais'd, were limited by the Assembly; *Roman Catholics* are  
not admitted there, and there were actually more Men enlisted  
than the Number required, Part of which were sent into *Virgi-  
nia*, and the Remainder disbanded; besides, it is the current O-  
pinion here, that a thousand Men might have been rais'd in  
this Province, if we could have found the Money; I say, Sir,  
if we could have found the Money, for we really could not;  
and the Assembly went as far as the Purse and Circumstances  
of the Country could well afford; yet seeing all the Forces have  
been longer dependent upon the Governments than any Body  
expected, our Assembly have stretch'd a point upon this Occa-  
sion, and generously granted them a further Supply. I believe  
I may be safe in affirming the *Virginians* to have had so many  
Advantages over us in the Tobacco Trade, for several Years  
past, that they were much abler to defray the Expence of a thou-  
sand Men, than we that of three hundred: From whence this  
Proceeds, would be foreign from the present Purpose particu-  
larly to shew; I shall only mention in general, that it is not from  
their better Soil, or greater Skill in manufacturing the common  
Staple; we have confessedly the Advantage of them in the for-  
mer, and are at least upon an Equality in the latter; but it is

owing solely and entirely to the better Regulations they have  
put their Trade under. Notwithstanding this is evidently the  
Reason why their Tobacco sells high, and ours for little or no  
thing; why they are rich and flourishing, and we are poor and  
miserable: Yet such is the conceited Fondness of some, for new  
untried, and at best precarious Schemes; that they keep up  
Wrangle for these, in Opposition to one which Experience  
has proved to be well calculated for raising the Value of the  
Staple; I mean a Warehouse Law, such as they have in *Virgi-  
nia*. By this unhappy Means, tho' all are convinced a Regu-  
lation is necessary, we can come to no Agreement about the  
Method; and in the mean time the Trade is suffer'd to go to  
Ruin. It may be a good one perhaps, when once it is brought  
to bear; but, to use an old trite Proverb, *While the Grass  
grows the Sced starves*: There is another one too, no less sig-  
nificant and applicable to this Dispute (which has been chiefly  
about the cheapest Way of effecting a Regulation); it is this  
*Many People are Penny wise, and Pound foolish*. The Question  
is not, What Scheme will be attended with the least Expence  
but, What, upon the whole, will be most advantageous to the  
Country; what is the surest, the most experienc'd, and best  
Way, to procure Dispatch for the Ships, and prevent Irish  
Tobacco being sent to Market? The latter would certainly  
raise the Price of it at home, and the former would enable the  
Merchants to take a lower Freight, and perhaps make them  
little more moderate in their Commissions; that is the general  
Phrase I can find to express my Meaning. If a Vessel is long  
retained in the Country, and consequently at a considerable  
Expence in getting loaded, the Planters may flatter themselves  
as much as they please, that it does not come out of their pocket  
; but as the whole of the Money received for the Cargo  
when sold, comes through the Merchants Hands (who are gen-  
erally part or sole Owners), many Men (being convinced by  
that powerful Argument, Heredit), would yet think it unrea-  
sonable; it is at least laying them under a strong Temptation  
to reimburse themselves out of the first of the Proceeds: They  
ought not to be thought an uncharitable Surmise, if it be con-  
sidered that some Men will act very different parts, when laid  
under Difficulties, from what they otherwise would have done;  
besides, that in fact it appears, the Cargoes of long detained  
Ships seldom turn to any good Account, for which Reason a  
prudent and experienc'd Planter are very cautious in this Mat-  
ter. To remedy these Inconveniencies, the best Way would  
certainly be, to have all the Tobacco at stated Landings, within  
an appointed Time; this would infallibly expedite the Loading  
of Ships: And to prevent the Roguery of false Package, by  
which the *Maryland* Tobacco has lost it's Credit at home, no  
thing could answer that End more effectually, than to have  
all taken out of the Hogheads at the Warehouses, after it  
comes out of the Planter's Hands, and inspected from Top to  
Bottom, before it is put on board of the Ship, by Officers ap-  
pointed for that purpose, who shall be liable to be call'd to  
Account for whatever shall afterwards appear amiss in it: This  
admits of no Evasion, unless the Inspectors are Kraves; and  
if they are, they may be detected and punished. What signi-  
fies a Scheme whereby a Penny or two may be saved on every  
Taxable, if a Back door is left for evading the main Design of  
it, by which the Labour of that Taxable may be rendered some  
Pounds less in Value, than otherwise it would be? This is no  
only fulfilling the Proverb last mention'd, but likewise acting  
directly contrary to another received Maxim, *viz. He who does  
not know when to lose a little in Trade, is not fit to be a Merchant*.

I hope, Sir, you have good Nature enough to excuse this  
long Digression, when you reflect where this Letter was to make  
it's first Appearance: But to return, the true Reason then, why  
the Province of *Maryland* did not send a greater Number to as-  
sist in the *Canada* Expedition, was not because the *Roman* Ca-