

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

TUESDAY, May 12, 1747.

Mr. GREEN,

I HAVE often wonder'd, that none of those who have wrote and said a good deal for and against an Inspection Law, especially the former, have not been at the pains to represent the advantage, which the country would derive from having a good market at our own doors, in the light so important a point ought to be represented. This inattention may probably be owing to one, perhaps to both, of these two causes; *First*, That mens thoughts are too busily employ'd, in endeavouring to support their different and favourite schemes, by such reasons and arguments as they believed most conducive to that end, to be attentive to what they look'd upon as a necessary consequence from their reasoning; and that therefore there was no occasion for any further explanation: Or, *2^{dly}*, That some of them may possibly have thought, that it would rather be an advantage than a prejudice, to those who can afford it, to export their own Tobacco at their own risk. That whether it would be for the public welfare, to put our Tobacco upon such a foot, as would encourage buyers to come among us; or to force those who can afford it, to sell it at all events and hazards, I think, deserves our great attention. But before we attempt to discuss this point, it will not be amiss to premise, that if the Inspection Law, which is now contended for, takes place; those who will rather chuse to ship their Tobacco, than sell it in the country, will still have it in their choice to do so, as much as they now have; and consequently, of acting suitably to their own inclination or convenience. And as to those, whose circumstances oblige them to sell in the country; be the price what it will, it seems to me to be very plain, that nothing can possibly contribute to their getting a better price, so much as to encourage buyers to come among us; and that unless we do so, people must not only be content with the present low and miserable price, but expect worse.

I WILL now proceed, with the greatest candour, to consider this question; *viz*: Whether it would contribute most to the public happiness and welfare, that those should export their own Tobacco, who can afford it, or the contrary? And I reas' think, the more we could export, the better it would be for us; could we be our own carriers; or (which is the same thing), we had ships of our own, built by ourselves, to export our Tobacco; and that the money for building, fitting, and victualling these ships was to circulate amongst us, as well as the freight; that we had factors of our own, in whom we could confide, not only to sell our Tobacco to the best advantage, but also to buy such goods for us, at the best hand, as we want, and to place the rest of the proceeds of our Tobacco where we should have it placed. But as our condition is the reverse of this, and that we have not ships of our own, nor the choice of our factors; but on the contrary, are forced to ship our Tobacco to any one who will send ships to carry it; tho' we don't chuse the man: That we are obliged to acquiesce in such accounts as he sends, burth'ned with such charges as he thinks fit to load us with; to take such goods, and at such rates as he charges; tho' we know the goods may be bought for much less than we must pay for 'em: That when he sends us such accounts of sales as he pleases, and we think we have a living price, we must take for granted that we may safely venture upon an advantageous purchase, and draw Bills of Exchange for the money, which our Tobacco has produced; our Bills, instead of being paid, are protested, and we are told that the buyer of our Tobacco is Bankrupt, and that we not only have nothing for it; but that we are also in debt for freight, charges, &c. 7 or 8 l.

or more, *per* hoghead; and that instead of being able to pay for what we bought, we are in debt, and some of us undone. If we ship Tobacco, and it gets safe home, we are charged with Insurance at 20, 25, or more, *per* cent, tho' we gave no directions to make any Insurance, nor had any notice or intimation that any was made; and that if we gave directions for an Insurance to be made, or have been advised of any, and acquiesced in it, if a loss happens, we are told that no Insurance could be made, or not for so much as we desired.

IF some among us, by all the pains and industry which they could use, in the prime of their years, have got some money beforehand, more than they had immediate calls for, lodged this money in the hands of merchants, in whom they placed the greatest confidence; lived hospitably, and suitably to what they thought their circumstances to be; and consider'd this money as a certain fund, not only to support themselves handsomely in their advanced age, but also as a means to introduce their children into the world in a reputable way of living; if these men, in their (imaginary) happy situation, receive news that their favourite merchants are Bankrupt, that their all is gone, without any other resource, but what they can, or hope to, get by scrambling for this Bankrupt's effects (wherein none can reasonably hope to succeed but the few who have had the best intelligence, and they but partially), which involves them in law suits with their neighbours or friends, and at last adds the charges to their first loss, and ends in being upon ill terms with those whom they formerly liked, and consider'd as their friends and good neighbours. That this has been too often the case needs no proof, and the confusion and destruction it must have occasion'd in families, is much easier to be imagined than expressed.

IF upon a due reflection on calamities of this sort; those among us, who have money to spare, may be induced (rather than trust their money in such precarious hands) either to venture it in trade, or lend it on good security, for principal and legal interest, to others who would venture it; which would occasion the circulation of it in the country, and the profits arising by it to be added to the common stock. It seems to me to be as plain as any self evident proposition, that nothing can be of more real advantage to us, or so much, as encouraging a trade among ourselves, and buyers to come to us; and that in our present situation, nothing can possibly procure us this desirable end, but an Inspection Law on the *Virginia* Plan. These are the real Sentiments of the

MARYLAND PLANTER.

Talbot County, August 4, 1747.

Mr. GREEN,

As the inclosed Paper of Instructions to our Members of the Assembly, will shew what we in our County think of a Tobacco-Law, I desire you'll insert it in your next Paper, and thereby oblige,

S. I. R., Your humble Servant,

A GOOD PLANTER.

To Messieurs Nicholas Goldborough, William Thomas, Robert Lloyd, and John Goldborough, Representatives in the General Assembly of the Province of Maryland, for Talbot County.

GENTLEMEN,

TOBACCO, the Staple Commodity of this Province, is by the Badness of it's Quality brought to so low a Price in all foreign Markets, that the Planters can scarcely live by it's Cultivation; and must expect inevitable Ruin, unless some spe-