

## MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

TUESDAY, May 26, 1747.

Mr. GREEN,

CONSIDERING how much has been writ and said about an Inspection Law, and the advantages and disadvantages of it; it seems very strange to me that after the advocates for it have (in my humble opinion) demonstratively proved that (upon a just and reasonable regulation of fees, and deduction of the 40 per poll, with Tobacco payments) such a Law would contribute greatly to the happiness of the country; and that there is no more expedient to retrieve the reputation of our Staple; than that those who are avow'd enemies to it, have loudly asserted that it would be ruinous to the country, that yet they have not given (if they are able) any better reasons in support of their assertion, than those of their late champion, the deceased *Quaker Corner* (peace to his name), which I think have been satisfactorily answered.

REMEMBER a story of a waggish fellow, who in the dead of night, when every body was in bed and asleep, ran about in a town, and in a loud voice cried out, *Fire! Fire!* several times, which waken'd the people, and made them run into the streets in the greatest consternation, and ask where the fire was? the waggish fellow, with the alarm he had occasioned, merrily told them, that altho' there was no fire then, yet there may be possibly, in a little time or other, as may burn their houses, and fill their beds, if they ever went to sleep again. If a fire should really break out, the discoverer of it would have been a great and benefactor to the inhabitants; but as there was none, he receiv'd chastisement, as an impertinent fellow, and a disturber of their repose. So in the case before us, if the enemies to an Inspection Law say what they really think, why are they so diligent as to conceal the reasons, which induce them to oppose the consequences they have mention'd, since by disclosing them they may possibly convince those who are on the other side of the question, or be convinced by them that their fears are groundless, and that there is no foundation for them in reason or the nature of the thing? If they will still continue to oppose, and to stir up sedition, therefore they do so, what can they expect men, who have the happiness and welfare of their country at heart, will think of them?

FEAR, so far as it is governed by reason and prudence, to avoid real dangers, is rational and commendable; but Fear, in any other sense, is a slavish passion, and as a learned author says, *as it is a danger to enemies, to human minds, so it is a passion in others which is unprofitable*; and is too apt to betray those who are influenced by it into real dangers, to avoid such as are only imaginary. Hence it follows, that every prudent and wise man ought to examine very carefully into the foundation of his fears, as such an examination may probably dissipate them, and convince him they are creatures of a disorder'd imagination, and not the effect of reason and judgment. If this of the interest of every man who is, or may be, possessed with fears of his own, how careful ought he to be to guard against being actuated by the fears, either real or pretended, of other men, and to insist on their giving satisfactory reasons for them, whenever they attempt to intrude them into the minds of others.

WELL, but some have, in view of adding weight to their general assertion, that an Inspection Law will be injurious to the country, asserted, that it is a government scheme, and that it ought to be oppos'd for that reason only. Every sensible man cannot but think this a most extraordinary argument, and calculated merely to ferment differences and animosities between the government and people, and to make some few men seem con-

siderable, who (if that harmony was established between the government and governed, than which nothing can be more beneficial to both) would be buried in oblivion or obscurity.

ALL mankind, in a state of nature, were upon an equality; but when they became numerous in the world, they found by sad experience, that the weak and virtuous were exposed to the insults and violence of the strong and vicious: This situation oblig'd men to form themselves into societies, and to institute laws to be the rules of their conduct and actions. These laws were no more than a dead letter, without the appointment of proper persons to put them in execution: Such persons were appointed, which was the origin of magistracy: This alone would not do without different degrees, and consequently a subordination; and at last, lodging the supreme executive power in one or more persons, who, in virtue of that power, might punish the guilty, and protect the innocent; and this was the foundation of civil and legal government, and is the greatest trust that can possibly be reposed in any man, or number of men. Hence it follows, that every man, who is thus intrusted, is oblig'd by all the ties of honour, justice, and conscience, to be solicitous for the welfare and happiness of those under his or their government; and to promote every thing that may contribute to that end, as it is the true and ultimate end of government; and all men, who, in the administration of government, have acted, or shall act, in this manner, deserve immortal honour: Whereas those, who neglect to discharge so necessary a duty, forfeit their character, and instead of being fathers, benefactors, and protectors of the people, are their greatest and most dangerous enemies; and therefore their destructive measures ought to be oppos'd, and their names transmitted to posterity with infamy.

LET us then suppose, that a person or persons, in whom this great and important trust is reposed, to be determined to discharge it faithfully and honestly; and that he or they is or are faithful, the means of establishing, or, at least, contributing to the felicity of the people are within reach, but not attainable without the assistance and concurrence of the people themselves: would it not be the greatest insatiation to refuse such assistance and assistance, because, and only because, it is proposed by the government? Should such a pernicious doctrine be oppos'd, it would effectually destroy all the good ends of instituting government, and nothing could ever be done for the advantage of the people; but the government and governed would be in a continual state of war, which must at last involve them in one common ruin. Oh! but the government may have some latent views, and therefore the people ought to be upon their guard. The fellow who awakes the townsmen out of their sleep, with equal reason, told them, that they never could go to sleep, lest a fire should some time or other happen, that may burn them and their houses; especially as these cautious men cannot, with all their sagacity and penetration, produce one single argument, or the shadow of one, that the government can possibly have any view in promoting the scheme propos'd, separate or distinct from the public and general good: Is it not then very ungenerous, not to say dishonest, in these men, to intrude jealousies into the minds of the people, for which they can give no reason? Those who act in this manner from a weakness of judgment, ought to be pitied, and it is but charitable to suppose they would act better if they knew how; but for those who really know better, and make use of their superior understanding to delude and impose on weak minds, they are so far from deserving any indulgence, that on the contrary they justly merit the contempt and detestation of every honest man, and should be look'd