

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

TUESDAY, July 14, 1747.

Mr. GREEN,

HEN I sent you the Letter, publish'd in your Paper N^o. 110, I did not imagine that any Man could, and more particularly that any one Writing on Mr. *A Planter's* Principles would, have wrested my Expressions to such a Meaning as I find he hath since done. If I may be allowed to know my own Sentiments, I am as sincere, I might perhaps justly say as zealous, an Advocate for an Inspecting Law as Mr. *A Planter*. We both plead on the same side of the Cause, and should leave Clashing and Injurious Language to the opposite Party. If he thus treats his faithful Allies, what Usage must others expect at his Hands who have no title to his Favour? Is the Character of a *Draw-anser* so amiable that he should affect it so strongly? And does he really think it consistent with that spirit of Benevolence he recommends, to spare neither Friend nor Foe? Some Disputants we find are like Game-Cocks, who cannot bear to see any thing that looks like themselves: They are for smiting down all before them; and surprize quiet well-meaning People as much with their quarrelsome Behaviour, as the honest *Irishman*, who could not account for his Master's Cocks falling foul on each other, seeing they were all of a side. This Writer however hath taught us a useful Lesson, and shewn us by his own example, that a spirit of Disputation may hurry a Man to as wild a degree of Enthusiasm as a spirit of Knight Errantry; and that when once a Person hath raised himself by the strength of Imagination, to the honourable Title of *Restorer of Wrongs, and Corridor of public Grievances*, he shall become capable of seeing a formidable Army in a harmless flock of Sheep, and discover Giants and Monsters in the Windmills of his own distemp'rd Brain. Gentlemen of the Law do indeed insist on a Right to take all Advantages, and to say or suppose any thing which may promote the good of their Cause, or annoy the opposite party: Tho' I never heard of their quarrelling at Bar with Lawyers on the same side of the question, or making a formal Answer to any thing they had advanced. If they apprehend a Brother to have let fall something amiss they rather excuse it or drop it as decently as possible. But supposing such mad proceedings were admitted at Bar, it does not, surely, follow that *Planters* and *Factors*, who profess only to declare their Sentiments in a plain artless manner, should fall into such methods, as if the Success of the Cause they are jointly embark'd in, depended upon pushing it, and laying hold of forced Meanings and Innuendoes to disguise the Truths they pretend to support: Or as if they would be enabled to carry their Point, and do their Country service, by abusing and misrepresenting one another. Does it not seem hard, because Mr. *A Planter* hath Read Mr. LOCKE and other great Men on Government, &c. (as he takes great pains to inform us) that no other well-meaning Subject who pretends to no more than plain Common Sense, shall be permitted to communicate what he thinks will be for the Benefit of the Community without incurring the dreadful Penalty of Mr. *A Planter's* Indignation and Fury? I have always look'd upon a Society or Body Politick, as composed of a number of different Members united together by the Bonds of Government, for their mutual Protection and Advantage; in which the Interest of each ought duly to be considered so far as it may be consistent with the good of the whole. Hath not every Member then a Right of representing how far any Laws under consideration will in all likelihood affect his Property, and state his case to the Public without being unmercifully abused for making use of that natural Right? Mr. *A Planter*, if he thought my Representations were inconsistent with his Interests, had the same Right of Remonstrance, in a fair candid Way of Argument; and the Legislature would have judged whether he or I had exceeded the Limits of Reason, or in other Words, how far one Member was desirous of carry'g Matters to the Prejudice of another. I have already declared myself a sincere Friend to an Inspecting Law: and as such, have endeavour'd to promote it to the

best of my Power. If then Mr. *A Planter* hath been so grossly mistaken, as to single me out as a mortal Enemy to the Cause in general, and dealt with me accordingly, he may be equally liable to mistake my Sentiments in Particulars; and that he hath done so may plainly appear to any Person, who is not so far gone in the Enthusiasm of Dispute as himself, upon a bare impartial Perusal of my Letter. When Factors speak feelingly of their Losses by Insolvencies, why is it so hard to discover what they mean? or how can their Complaints be mistaken?—Wit, when it's well known they are but too well founded?—I agree with this Gentleman in his Observation upon Runaways from this Province (as well as in many other Points advanced in his Letter publish'd in your Papers, N^o. 113 and 114); but must beg Leave to inform him, that we suffer more by Persons who die insolvent than by Runaways: For he must needs know by this Time, that when the Effects of the Deceased are not sufficient to satisfy all the Creditors, the Country Debts are to be first discharged.

He accuses me of libelling the Government on Account of Officers Fees, and of Absurdity in alledging that they were taken without Law or Contract. An Allegation which, if he'll look again into my Letter, he'll find to be none of my own.—I have said no more upon that Head, than what I have (and I dare say, what Mr. *A Planter* himself, if he has Candour enough to own it, has) frequently heard from Persons of all Ranks amongst us: And I am very much mistaken, if I have not seen something like it in the public Proceedings of this Province; but I never knew, 'til now, that it amounted to Libelling the Government.—And tho' Mr. Locke, and those other great Men, with whom this Writer tells us he is very familiar, had never given the Hint; Common Sense would have taught me this plain Maxim, at least, *viz.* That I ought not to libel any Government, under which I live and am protected.

His other Charges are of so foul and gross a Nature, that a bare Recital of them; compared with my Letter, is a sufficient Confutation; and by Artifice to impose upon the Public:—That I have executed this Artifice bunglingly:—That I practise little juggling Tricks in dark Corners; and strive, by wicked and desperate Attempts, to sacrifice the Prosperity of a whole Province to my own selfish, paltry By-Ends, &c. &c. &c. —For what Reasons he hath exhibited this dreadful Charge against me, is best known to himself; for he hath not advanced the least Fact, or even Shew of Argument, to support it. As then the Truth of these heavy Articles depends upon this Writer's bare Assertion, it must be granted that I have an equal Right, at least, to be credited, when I declare, that I had no other Intention in my Letter, than to put the Case of the Factors in it's true Light:—That I had not the least thought of reflecting upon the Government, nor did I take upon me to dictate to, or endeavour to mislead any Branch of the legislative Power:—That I did not hope or attempt, by any means to have the Fees reduced so low as to obstruct the Law;—That I never would, or did, make any Objections against a Reduction of Debts, as this Writer himself hath put the Case, when he says, *Let it not be imagin'd, Excuse'd for a greater Deduction of Debts, than what is strictly just, &c.*—That I always wish'd most sincerely to see the Law take place, as I was convinced it would be for the public Good; and do at the same Time most heartily wish, that Mr. *A Planter* had a little more of that Spirit of Benevolence, without which (as he justly observes) from his Acquaintance amongst the greatest Philosophers) no Society can long subsist.—If, as this Writer has intimated, he laid hold on the Opportunity of my Letter to introduce his Performance into the World, it not only accounts for it in some Measure; but takes away great part of the Asperity of it, as it is plain he never meant any particular Reflection on me. The poor Man it seems was big, mighty big indeed, with Thought; and plung'd into hard Labour of the Brain; could not be delivered without a Misavert:—Accordingly he looks