

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, September 13, 1749.

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Considerations on the proposal for the better peopling Nova-Scotia, in North-America; with an Account of the Country, its Produce, &c.

THE treatises of the learned, concerning the several forms of government; their respective advantages and disadvantages, are generally so perplex'd with ambiguities, or involve in error, that a wise man can scarcely read them without some kind of disgust or dissatisfaction! What, say they, is the principal end and design of government? *It is, to make the people governed, prosperous and happy.* Whence then all this mighty bother about forms and models of government? Since that must, in the very nature of the thing, be the best, which contributes most to the welfare and prosperity of the Subjects. Britain, therefore, may justly boast of the best constitution now subsisting, all whose laws have a direct tendency to promote the good of her people.

I shall only here take notice of the zeal and affection of every true Englishman for his present majesty; which nothing has more contributed to brighten, than the laudable scheme, now on the carpet, for establishing a civil government in New-Scotland, and for the better peopling that province. A scheme! which has been favour'd with his majesty's approbation; who is most graciously pleas'd to give virtuous encouragements; to all such Officers and private men, whether soldiers or sailors, who have been lately dismiss'd from the service of their country: A scheme! of such importance to the welfare of the nation in general, as well as to many private persons and families, as ought not to be pass'd over in silence. Never was a scheme better concerted; never a more favourable opportunity of putting it in execution.

Whoever will give himself time to reflect upon the vast number of idle hands, strolling about the streets of this city and suburbs, as well as in divers other parts of the kingdom, lately discharged from their usual employments, and having no visible way of supporting themselves and their families, if they should be tempt'd to take unwarrantable measures for present subsistence, who can be surpris'd to see our daily papers fill'd with the melancholly relations of daily robbers? Hunger will break thro' stone walls, nor will the gallows terrify the starving sinner. Ought we not therefore, thankfully to acknowledge the compassionate disposition of his majesty? Ought we not to applaud the wisdom of his ministers, in thus providing for the necessitous? Who, by these means, instead of being burthenfom to their several and respective parishes, or become nuisances to the public, will be intul'd to a comfortable provision, and also be thereby render'd beneficial to their native country.

The great advantages accruing to the nation, from the peopling and planting of these colonies, from the importation of foreign commodities of their growth, and from the exportation of our own manufactures thither, might be manifest beyond contradiction, by laying before you the annual profit arising from our Sugar and Tobacco plantations: But as the present trade of Newfoundland seems most suitable to my purpose, I shall here give you a short account thereof.

It is comput'd that we make at Newfoundland, one year with another, above two hundred thousand quintals of fish, which will sell for one hundred and twenty thousand pounds, clear of all charges; and which may be reckon'd as clear gain to this kingdom, for the oil would pay for salt, &c. Nay farther, all this sum is actually got by our labour, and therefore is of much more service to the nation, by breeding up useful seamen, than if so much was to be dug out of the mine, with a

foundland great quantities of furs; namely, Seal, Deer, Otter, Fox, Bear, Mink, and some Beaver.

I shall now proceed to Nova-Scotia, which bounded on the north-east and north-west by the bay and river of St. Lawrence; on the east by the Atlantic ocean; on the south by the bay of Fundy; on the west by Canada, and part of New England. From north to south it is about five hundred miles long; from east to west it is about three hundred miles broad, and is divid'd from New England by the river Penobscot. This country is not divid'd into counties, and still remains uncultivated; except a few places near the sea coast, all the rest is a forest. The principal towns now are Port-Royal, or Annapolis, in the bay of Fundy; the other call'd Canto, opposite the island of Cape Breton. Port-Royal has an excellent harbour, capable of containing a thousand ships: In some places eighteen fathom water, in others seven. This town is tolerably well fortified, in which the governor resides, with a garrison of five hundred English.

Canto lies in the east of Acadia, and will doubtless by this scheme be soon made a very considerable town, on account of its being contiguous to an excellent fishery: And, I am inform'd, that the inhabitants of New-England have of late not only built and peopled this city, but manage the fishery to great advantage; however, the other parts of the country remain unplanted.

The chief part of the European inhabitants are French, who have taken the oaths to the crown of England. Now understanding this country lies more to the southward than we do, yet is their winter colder, and their summer much hotter than with us. The face of the country is high and mountainous, and cover'd with woods of pine, fir, &c. and if it was peopled and plant'd by the English, it would not only yield us all manner of naval stores, great plenty of rich furs and skins, but preserve to us the finest fisheries in the world, secure Acadia from ever being attack'd by the French from Cape-Breton; and, with the assistance of an English Squadron in time of war, protect the coast of the northern colonies.

Here, therefore, will be a sufficient and generous provision for all those who have contribut'd either to the glory of his majesty's arms, or the renown of the nation he governs. Is it not meritorious goodness, to export an indigent man, incumber'd perhaps, with a numerous family, from a land in which he has no possessions or prospect of living, to one where he is intul'd to both, without expending a single farthing; to be supply'd with necessaries for making himself and family happy, and to be secur'd in the peaceable possession of his acquisitions, by the forces of a powerful prince? Is it not a blessing to be removed from the contempt which always attends poverty, to a state and condition of life, in which every man is not only his own master, but may soon, in all probability, be the master of hundreds? This is the very essence of a good government. This is extensive charity! the highest external act which God has granted to our rulers, and consequently to be prefer'd before all others; and, as such, to be intul'd to a reward in the next life. Herein consists the worth and excellence of a wise and good king, whose sole aim tends to the benefit of the whole community, abstracted from all private views: excus his succession beyond comparison, and places him, as it were, in an oblation, suitable to his dignity. Happy Britons! under the care and direction of such a sovereign. Happy sovereign! who has found out a way to reign in the hearts of his subjects.

H A G U E, May 15.

WE begin to enter here a little into the secret of affairs, the consequences of which will grow more and more perceptible. It seems the resignation of the grand passionary

We likewise from New-