

MARYLAND GAZETTE

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, March 21, 1750.

WHEREAS Reports have been industriously spread abroad, tending greatly to the Prejudice and Discredit of *Anthony Bacon*, of *London*, Merchant; it has been thought proper to publish the following Testimonials, together with the Substance of the said Reports, that upon a View of both, it may fully appear how groundless they have been, and thereby put a Stop to the farther Injury which *Mr. Bacon* may suffer in his Character and Business, from the Belief they may gain among those on whom his Employment, in the Way of Commissions, may depend.

THE Intent of this Publication is, to vindicate the Cause of injured Innocence, and to relieve honest Industry, labouring under the Pressure of the gross & Fallacious, and undesired Calumny. If this Method of Justification looks any thing like a Recrimination, the Authors must blame themselves for it; there being no other Way of checking the Current of Wrongs of this Sort, than by making the Defence as public as the Defamation, and putting the Antidote into as many Hands as the Poison has reached: And if, upon the whole, the World should judge, that those who have been concerned in dressing up, and spreading these Reports, had no other Foundation for them, than such as Persons of Honour and Integrity would blush to rest upon; they may thank their own Conduct if they suffer in the Opinion of all candid honest Men, and meet with an unexpected Shock from the Recoil of their own overloaded Pice.

WHEN it is called to Mind, that personal Friendship, or an Opinion of our Affairs being in a safe prudent Hand, are the only Inducements for employing any particular Factor, it will easily be perceived, that these Reports were purposely framed to ruin *Mr. Bacon's* Business, in the Way of Commissions, irrecoverably; they being calculated precisely to tally with these several Motives.—To report that he had said very rude and shocking Things of the Inhabitants of this Province in general, was enough to dissolve his personal Union with the most, and raise a general Resentment and Indignation against him. But lest the Knowledge of his Integrity and fair Dealings should outweigh a supposed Affront with many, who, from the Satisfaction he had formerly given them, might think it worth their While to continue to employ him; another Report must be tacked to it, representing his Affairs in so bad a Condition, as must needs frighten considerate People from trusting their Substance in the Hands of a Person said to escape out of England by Night, and described upon his Return, as hawking about his Tobaccoes, in order, as might be supposed, to raise Money at any Rate to supply his present Exigencies.

It is hoped that all *Mr. Bacon's* Friends, who have favoured him with Commissions, will do him Justice upon this Occasion, both in public, and in their private Opinion of him.—If any have conceived Resentment or wrong Notions of his Conduct in Trade, or Worth in the World, these Testimonials from Persons of known Probity, Honour, and Fortune, it is expected will set them right, and convince them of his Innocence, Credit, and Sufficiency.—Of which last his fair undiminished Character in *London*, his Remittances, to his Correspondents, and large Dealings in this Province, are an undeniable Proof.

LET every Man, who casts his Eye upon these Papers, consult his own Heart: Let him think what Emotion to virulent an Attack upon his own Reputation would raise in his Breast: Let him consider, that a Merchant's Bread depends upon his Character; and what wounds the one, must of Necessity hurt the other: Let him reflect, that himself, as a Man, lies open to a like Assault: since it appears, from the present Instance, that the strictest Innocence, Honour, and Integrity, are not sufficient to ward off a secret Blow at the very Root of his Credit, and surely his Reputation, the Authors of such

Springs of human Nature are all set in Motion upon a rude and sensible Touch of this Sort.

THE whole is submitted to the candid Judgment of the Public; and tho' *Mr. Bacon's* Anxiety, as well as the Injury received, has been very great; yet his Friends here cannot but observe, with some Satisfaction, that the Extremities he has been pushed to, have made it necessary for him to take such Methods of asserting his Conduct and Credit in the World, as must establish them for the future beyond Contradiction. And tho' he has suffered considerably for the present; yet, his Enemies, by forcing him upon a Defence, have miscarried in their main Design: And their short lived Triumph must end in a shameful total Defeat. Whereas, had they been more modest in their Charge, they might have carried on their Scheme more effectually: The Injury would have been sure, tho' slow in working; and Things of less Importance, tho' sufficiently pernicious, might have passed over, as not worth particular Notice. Thus is this mighty Edifice of Mischief ready to tumble down upon the Heads of the bringing Burdeners; who had no more Sense, than to clap such a huge unwieldy Mass upon a Foundation, which, when examined, appears to be no better than a Quick Sand.

London, November 6, 1749.

WHEREAS, we are credibly informed, that sundry Reports are spread in Maryland, tending to the Defamation of *Mr. Anthony Bacon*: Particularly, that at the House of *Mr. James Buchanan*, he said, in the presence of *Mrs. Buchanan* and *Mrs. Anderson*, that there were not three honest Men in Maryland; and spoke in such disrespectful Terms of a Brother of *Mr. Anderson*, that the Ladies desired him to go out of the Room. Now we do hereby declare, that the above is false; and that *Mr. Bacon's* Behaviour, or Conversation, never deserved such Kind of Treatment from any of us.

JAMES BUCHANAN,
JANE BUCHANAN.

London, November 7, 1749.

WHEREAS, by Letters from Maryland, dated August 30; produced this Day, the Credit, Character, and Conduct of *Mr. Anthony Bacon* have been greatly traduced and injured. This is to certify, that we have known and traded with the said *Bacon* for many Years; and that he is now, and always has been, in good Credit, and esteemed a Man of good Character and Conduct; and has justly the Regard of his Acquaintance, due to a Man of Integrity.

JASPER MADDITT, and Co.
RAWLINSON and DAVIDSON.

London, November 8, 1749.

WHEREAS, by Letters received from Maryland, on or about the 4th Instant, now produced, highly reflecting on the Character and Conduct of *Mr. Anthony Bacon*, of this City, Merchant.

This is to certify, that I have been Agent to and for the said *Anthony Bacon* for many Years, during the Time he has been abroad, or out of England; and therefore well know that he was in, and always has been, well esteemed and respected by all who know him, without any Imputations on his Conduct; and he fell credit with all those, who have any Transactions or Concern with him; to which he has a just Claim.—Having, to my certain Knowledge, many Hundreds of Pounds in the Funds, for above twelve Months last past, is a full and plain Indication of his being in easy Circumstances.

Therefore, every Assertion tending to prejudice the Character of him the said *Anthony Bacon*, or any others with whom he is concerned, must appear malicious, false, and injurious; and the Author thereof shall be liable to a Punishment suitable to so a