

unwilling to be under any, which may have the least Appearance of lessening the Quantity of Tobacco they make; under which general Denomination, all manner of Trash, tho' unfit for anything but manure, is included, and so intermixt with what is really merchantable, as to render the whole of little Value; and in many Instances been so far from clearing the Proprietors any thing near what it cost them, that it has brought them in Debt, and given Maryland Tobacco in general a very bad Character at all the European Markets

The Virginians finding by Experience, as We do, that when People are left at full Liberty to do as they please, they will give in to such and so many fraudulent and corrupt Practices, as will debase any Commodity or Manufacture, and ruin the Reputation of the most valuable yea of Every, valuable Branch of Trade, made several Laws to regulate theirs and after a great many Attempts and Experiments, have at last been so fortunate as to make a Law, that has put their Staple upon such a foot as gives them all the Advantages which they have over Us. These Advantages are so evident that even the Common People (who are generally Enemies to all restraining Laws) are thoroughly reconciled to, and fond of this Law, and would consider any Man or Men, who would attempt to deprive them of the Benefits they derive from it, as the greatest & most dangerous Enemies of their Country

Several Attempts have been made in this Province to regulate Our Staple, which were not so well concerted as to answer the Ends for which they were designed, and as the People did not derive any sensible or immediate Advantage from them, so they soon grew Weary not only of them, but opposed any Amendments or Alterations which in a length of time might render them useful, and at last it became a generally received Opinion that an Effectual Regulation was quite impracticable

Sometimes a short Crop occasioned by the Unseasonableness of the Weather, or other Accidents, has occasioned a Rise of Tobacco, which induced too many to think that not only a Providential, but the only Remedy that could be reasonably hoped for or expected; which Notion however wild and extravagant, has contributed a good deal to fix an Aversion in the Generality of the Common People; and indeed in too many of their Representatives, to any Regulation at all: But now, that the Difficulties under which the Country labours are increased, and that every individual Person is sensible of them, and that those who have given themselves the trouble of enquiring into the Success of the Virginia Law, are convinced of the Necessity of some such Regulation here, and that without it the Country is in apparent Danger of being absolutely ruined; It is to be hoped that they would act so reasonably,

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