THE

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

Numb. 425.

THURSDAY, *June* 28, 1753.

THAT the Continuing or Dropping the Inspection Law is of the greatest Consequence to *Maryland* that can well happen, none, I suppose, will deny; and, that my Mite may not be wanting, towards putting so interesting a Subject in a clear Light, I will endeavour to state the Advantages and Disadvantages in so very plain a Manner, that they may be clearly understood by every Body; and I don't know any Way of doing this so effectually, as by shewing in *Numbers*, the great Saving to the People, in the Payment of their public Dues and Fees.

	Inspected Tobacco.	Uninspected Tobacco.	The Difference.
The Public Levy, as settled by the Lower House the last Session, payable in Inspected Tobacco, - - - - - - - - -	2444027		
This Levy cannot be paid till after the Expiration of the present Law, and if it be not continued, must be paid in uninspected Tobacco, and will amount to		3055033	611006
There are 47834 Taxables in the Province, whose 30 *per* Poll, if paid in Inspected Tobacco, comes to - - - - - - - -	1505030		
If paid in Uninspected Tobacco, comes to - - - -		1912360	407360
	3943057		
Suppose the Chancellor's, Secretary's, and Commissary's Fees, to amount to 250000 yearly; if paid in Inspected Tobacco, will come to - -	187500		
If in Uninspected Tobacco, - - - - - - - -		250000	62500
The County Levy, as assessed in *November*, 1752, in *Anne Arundel*, *Calvert*, *St. Mary's*, *Baltimore*, *Prince George's*, *Frederick*, *Kent*, *Dorchester*, and *Worcester*, payable in Inspected Tobacco, - - - -	947121		
Queen Anne's, 1751, - - - - - - - -	189343		
In *Charles*, *Somerset*, and *Talbot*, in 1750, the Levy Bills for 51 and 52 not being return'd from these Counties, - - - - -	333370		
	1469834	1837292	367458
Cæcil wanting.			
14 County Clerkships, computed at 30000 each, - - - -	420000	522500	102500
Suppose the Lawyers' Fees to amount to as much, - - -	420000	522500	102500
Saved in the Sheriffs Commissions on the Public and County Levy 4 *per Cent*,			156552
Allowed for convenient Pay 10 *per Cent* upon the whole, - -			495886

If the Chancellor's, Secretary's, Commissary's, and Clerks Fees, should be calculated to more than they amount to, which may possibly be the Case, as the Amount of them can only be guessed at, it is to be observed that there are considerable Deductions in the Land Office, Sheriffs, and (I believe) Surveyors Fees; which 'tis supposed will amply make up for the Excess in the others, if there be any. Upon this Calculation there is a Saving to the People in one Year only 2315562 Weight of Tobacco, which comes to 2315 Hogsheads of 1000 Nett each Hogshead, which at 5 *l.* Sterling *per* Hogshead is 11565 *l.*

It is no small Advantage to the Planter who buys Necessaries, to carry his Crop in his Pocket, to what Store he pleases, where there can be no Disputes about false Tare, or false Packing.

These are but some of the Advantages; to which may be added, that by a Continuance of the Inspection-Law, our Staple will be upon an Equality with that of our Neighbours of *Virginia*; whereas, were we to drop it, the Consequence would be, that we should be reduced to the same melancholy Condition we were in before we had one. The principal Disadvantage I have heard of, has been the Charge of Inspection. If this be too great, as perhaps it may be, it is easily remedied; and it ought to be considered that a great Part of this Expence is borne by those who purchase Transfer Tobacco, or those to whom it is paid.

It has been alleged by some (as I have heard), that People, who used to false pack Tobacco, or impose Trash, instead of merchantable Tobacco, upon their Creditors, have not under the Inspection-Law, an Opportunity of continuing the same wicked Practices; to put an End to which, was one very great End of the Law.

Some others allege, that sometimes People had an Opportunity of selling their Trash publicly and fairly, and that it would be hard to deprive them of that Advantage; to which I answer, that that hardly ever happen'd but when there was a great Scarcity; and in plentiful Seasons, that for every Penny that was got that Way by some Individuals, was more than threefold lost to the Community; as the carrying Trash in any considerable Quantity to foreign Markets (and thither it must be carried), must infallibly depreciate the Value of all the good Tobacco, carried from the same Country; besides bringing the Commodity under a lasting Disreputation abroad, than which, nothing can be of worse Consequence, and therefore ought, by all Means, to be prevented.

I am a sincere Well-wisher to the Prosperity of Maryland, A. Z.