

For the Encouragement of this Commerce, the Government of England laid a heavy Duty on Foreign Rice, exempting that of its own Colonies; but the Cultivation of Rice coming to be thoroughly established, it was made subject to a Duty, and if I mistake not, Foreign Rice totally prohibited at the same Time; and this Duty includes only the Rice for Home Consumption, the Transportation of it from the Colonies all over the Mediterranean, and Spain and Portugal being permitted, on Condition that the Ships shall directly return to England; from the same Principles, Rice imported into England, for the North of Europe, or any other Part, pays no Duty.

Thus the English Traders are enabled to sell their Rice cheaper than that brought from the Levant, formerly a great Market for it; but now by the Wisdom of the English, this Trade is at a very low Ebb.

If these Laws stood in Need of any Addition it is a dispensing Clause in the Return of Ships to England, when the Owners intend to sell them, the Sale of Ships in England being such a considerable Branch of Commerce, that it is highly the Interest of the Nation to facilitate the Means of selling them, for the greater Encouragement of building more.

From North to South the English are in Possession of a Chain of Colonies, reaching to Spanish Florida, and very advantageously situated for Trade and Navigation. Our Possessions indeed are of larger Extent, stretching themselves, without Bounds, up the Country, where they enclose all the English Settlements, and the Spanish in Florida; our Colonies may be said to form a Kind of a Bow, of which those of the other two Nations are the String.

The English Colonies in these Parts are Nova-Scotia, New-England, New-York, Pennsylvania, the two Jerseys, Maryland, Virginia, Carolina, and Georgia: These different Colonies have their respective Governments both Civil and Military; they are independent and separated one from the other, but the Subjection of the military Government, in regard of the Civil, will be an eternal Bar to any Coalition of their Forces for acting harmoniously under one Chief.

Every Country being govern'd by its own inhabitants there, mind only themselves, with little or no Concern about their Neighbours; it is not the Authority of the Governors, or even of the King himself, which, without the Consent of the Assembly of a Colony, can march its Troops and Militia to the Assistance of any other which may be attacked.

The Military Power of a Country, where there is such a slender Subordination, is little to be feared, yet it is the only one which might be formidable from the great Number of the Inhabitants, did not their Inclination tend rather to be Pyrates than Soldiers; besides, every Point of the Military Government, it is certain, that we are vastly superior to the English.

The flourishing Settlement of Pennsylvania, was the Work of a single Person, named William Penn, by Religion a Quaker; a single Instance of what a private Person is capable of achieving, when seconded by the Government, and how necessary it is to a Minister to be capable of properly placing his Distinction, and especially, that he should be very attentive not to discourage those whom their Application, their Zeal, and perhaps their Talents, may render capable of doing good Service to their Country.

The Products of Nova Scotia, New England, New-York, and Pennsylvania, are nearly the same, as is their Commerce; but of all these Colonies, New-England make the most considerable Figure; the peopling of these Colonies has cost England but a few Men, an infinite Number of Palatines and other Germans having transported themselves thither, and still continuing to do so every Year.

From the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE, for August, 1754.

H O L L A N D.
MOST of the Branches of our Commerce continue to decline, and murmurs and factions increase every Day; private Persons withdraw from the Provinces, complaining that Taxes, Customs and Excise are so heavy, Interest and Rents so low, and Provisions so dear, that they are unable to continue in the Dominions of the Republic, and are therefore retiring into those of the King of Prussia. Houses and Lands are daily sold, as it were, for a morsel of Bread. The House, called Rapporff, belonging to the Heirs of the late Lady Cadogan, worth 100,000 Florins, was lately sold for 29,200, and the fine Seat built by the Resident from Saxs Gotha, at Alphan, which cost 150,000

Florins, has been sold for 20,000. Estates in general are sold for half their worth, nor is there any Prospect of a Remedy, so long as private Interest takes Place of public Virtue.

The Court of France seems to be under no Apprehensions of its Union with that of Spain being dissolved by the Change in the Spanish Ministry. Mr. Wall, they say, will not chuse to attempt to dissolve them; and many People here are of the same Opinion. A foreign Gazette has given us the Decree of his Catholic Majesty against the Marquis de la Ralepada, and what that disgraced Minister is accused of: It does not appear thereby that any Thing very heinous is laid to his Charge; but it's not to be doubted but that Time will discover more of his Intrigues, over which the Court of Spain thinks proper, at present to draw a Veil.

The Parliament of Paris is at length returned from its Exile to Paris, just in Time to partake of the Rejoicings which are making there for the Birth of the Duke of Berry. We shall soon see what passes at the Sitting of that Court of Justice. It's believed by many that there will be great Debates there, and that Things will not yet go altogether to the Satisfaction of that Body.

It will be yet some Time, it's feared, before the Affair of the Tutelage be settled; the Prince of Wolfenbuttel has Reason to be well satisfied with the Resolutions of the States of Guelderland in relation to that Point: However, may it please the Almighty to preserve the Life of her Royal Highness the Governante.

The Citizens of Amsterdam banter those of Rotterdam on Account of the brilliant Reception which these last made to the Court of the Stadtholder; they say they are too much English; and the People of Rotterdam accuse the other of being too much French. 'Tis to be wished that these Bickerings may not have bad Consequences.

It's reported here that the two grand Slices at Dunkirk are broken down. It is generally wish'd here that this Piece of News may prove true, as much frenchified as the People here are said to be.

D E N M A R K.

His Danish Majesty having repurchased from the West-India Company their exclusive Privileges, has appointed a Committee of Council to consider under what Regulations it will be best to put that Trade, in order to render it most beneficial to the Nation. A Ship is just arrived in the Port from Iceland with One hundred and forty eight Falcons on Board, of which twelve are Milk white.

S P A I N.

Our Ministry intend to use their utmost Endeavours to dislodge the English from the Forts they are erecting upon the Musketo Shore; and some Men of War now in the Bays of Honduras and Campechy, will be sent upon that Expedition.

W I L L I A M S B U R G, December 15.
Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman of Credit in Antigua, to his Correspondent here:
"Mr. Sharp, our Agent in England, informs us, he is afraid we shall have a War with France; he thinks all this ill Treatment we have received from the French cannot be overlooked; he writes, that the French have lately sent 3000 regular Troops to Canada, to act against Virginia; and a Squadron of Ships of War to the East Indies." "The Spaniards too, have sent out a Squadron of Ships to scour the Bays of Campechy and Honduras, and drive away our poor Wood-Cutters; this will be bad for the Northern Parts of your Continent, as great Part of their Trade is that Way." "We hear by a Ship just arrived from London, that Mr. Greenville, Governor of Barbados (now in England), has purchased the Island of Tobago from the King, and that it is to be guaranteed by the Government. It is a very fine Island, and if the Lands there are granted on good Terms, will soon be settled, and be of great Use to North-America; new rich Lands afford much Melasses, and of Course, Rum."

Various Letters received from England, by Capt. Payne, advise, that Transport were taken up for bringing to Virginia 1000 regular Forces, to be drafted from the several Regiments in Britain; and that Commodore Keppel, in a 50 Gun Ship, was appointed Convoys to the said Fleet; and may be expected very soon.

A N N A P O L I S,

December 26.

A S S E M B L Y A F F A I R S.

ON Wednesday (December 12. A. M.) Fifty-four of the Gentlemen returned to serve in the General Assembly convened at the Court House.

Two of the Gentlemen returned to serve as Delegates, waited on his Excellency, to acquaint

him, that a sufficient Number of Delegates returned, were assembled in the Court House.

Two of the Gentlemen of the Upper House, and the Clerk, came to the Court House, in which Presence the above 54 Members, took the Oath of Allegiance to his Majesty King George the Second, and also took the Oaths of Abjuration and Abhorrence, repeated the Test, and subscribed the Oath of Abjuration and Test.

After which, one of the Members of the Upper House, came and acquainted the Members of the Lower House, that his Excellency required their Attendance in the Upper House.

The Members all went up; And his Excellency directed them to return to their own House, and make Choice of a Speaker.

They returned, and unanimously made Choice of the Honourable Col. Henry Hooper, and placed him in the Chair.

Two Members were sent to acquaint his Excellency therewith.

One of the Members of the Upper House, came and acquainted the Members of the Lower House, that the Governor required their Attendance in the Upper House to present their Speaker.

They accordingly went up.

His Excellency approved their Choice:

And then made a Speech to both Houses of Assembly. [Printed in Gazette, Number 501.]

Mr. Speaker, and the Members, returned to their own House; and unanimously made Choice of Mr. Michael Macnamara, for their Clerk. The Governor approved of their Choice; and he was qualified in the usual Manner, by taking the Oaths to the Government, and an Oath of Office.

The House then appointed their Sergeant at Arms, and Doorkeeper, (the same as last Session) who were qualified for their respective Offices, in the usual Manner.

The Governor's Speech was read. Mr. Philip Hammond, for Ann-Arundel, appeared, was qualified, and took his Seat in the House.

Then the standing Committees were appointed, viz.

Mr. Stoddert, Mr. Smallwood, Mr. J. Gallborough, Mr. Hyland, Mr. M. Tilghman, and Mr. Williamson, a Committee of Elections and Privileges. [Who chose Mr. William Wilkins, Clerk.]

Dr. Carroll, Capt. Addison, Mr. Muddock, Mr. J. Goldborough, Mr. Stoddert, Mr. Smallwood, and Col. Fitzhugh, a Committee of Grievances and Courts of Justice. [Who chose Mr. Wilkins, Clerk.]

Dr. Carroll, Col. R. J. Henry, Mr. M. Tilghman, Mr. C. Goldborough, Mr. Hall, Mr. Borden, Mr. B. Tilghman, Mr. Chase, Mr. Lloyd, and Mr. Hammond, a Committee of Laws. [Who chose Mr. Thomas Jobson, Clerk.]

Mr. Muddock, Mr. J. Goldborough, Mr. Stoddert, Mr. Edge, and Mr. Hawkins, a Committee of Accounts. [Who chose Mr. Beale Nicholson, Clerk.]

Capt. Addison, Mr. J. J. Mutchall, Capt. Crabb, Mr. Frazer, and Capt. Jordan, a Committee to inspect the Arms and Ammunition. [Who chose Mr. Benjamin Beal, Clerk.]

Mr. Dulany, Mr. Earl, Col. J. Henry, Mr. Edge, Mr. Beal, and Mr. Handy, a Committee to inspect the Accounts and Proceedings of the Commissioners of the Paper Currency Office.

The Hours of Sitting agreed to be, A. M. from IX to XII, and from II to V, P. M.

Post-Meridieum. The Governor's Speech was again read, and the Committee of Laws were ordered to prepare an Address thereon.

A Petition of some Gentlemen in Charles County, of an undue Election had for the said County, was preferred; and a Hearing thereon was ordered to be had on Tuesday next, at the Bar of the House: And Ordered, That all Parties concerned, have Summons for what Witnesses they may want, on Application to the Clerk of the House.

The House adjourned.

Friday, December 13.
All the Members appeared, as Yesterday, except one.

Mr. John Pace, for Baltimore, appeared, was qualified, and took his Seat.

Post-Meridieum. The House ordered, That their Thanks should be returned to the Rev. Mr. Stilling, for his Sermon preached this Day before his Excellency the Governor, and both Houses of Assembly, and that he would give a Copy that it may be Printed.

The House adjourned.

Saturday, December 14.
Mr. William Gowans, for Baltimore, appeared, was qualified, and took his Seat.

An Address to his Excellency was brought in, approved, and ordered to be ingrossed.

Post-Meridieum. The Governor's Speech was brought in, and signed by the Hon. Spe.

Gazette.

The Address was presented to the Conference Chamber, by Twelve more Members.

Ordered, That the Subject of the Governor's Speech be taken into Consideration on Monday next.

Leave given, to bring in a Bill, For the more effectual Government within this Province.

The House adjourned till Monday, December 15.

His Excellency communicated the Address of the House. [See on

The House Resolved into the whole House, to take into Consideration the Ways and Means whereby to

Mr. Speaker left the Chair. After many Arguments in the Speaker resumed the Chair.

Mr. Lloyd, Chairman of the whole House, delivered Mr. setting forth, That the Comm

to take into Consideration the them by the honourable Hou

had Time to compleat the the House that the said Com

to proceed further on the said On Consideration of the Rep

the House will, on the Morrow into a Committee of the who

father on the Affair. **The House adjourn'd.**

Tuesday, December 16.
According to the Order of Y

Resolved itself into a Committee and after many Debates and Arg

re-assumed the Chair, when

man of the Grand Committee, Committee not having had T

time, prays Leave of the Hou

gain.

Post-Meridieum. The House a Committee of the whole Hou

Mr. Speaker left the Chair. After a further Consideration

Mr. Speaker re-assumed the Mr. Lloyd, from the Commi

speaker the following Report, Committee of the whole Hou

mittee had taken into Confir

Matter contained in his Excel

of Ways and Means to ass

Resolved, That the Sum of 7

be raised for his Majesty's

Resolved also, That the s

shall be raised by an Emis

for his Majesty's Service.

And Resolved, That the F

7000 l. be established by the

as expressed in the Act, for

made in July Session, 1754

be continued (after all the

therein contained shall be

complied with), until the Sun

proposed and intended to be

cancelled, vacated, and sunk

Chairman to report the same

with which the House concu

Leave given, to bring in a B

of 7000 l. for his Majesty's

The Hearing of the Petition

County Election, was put o

Morning.

The House adjourned.

Wednesday, Decem

Capt. Henry Waggaman, for

was qualified, and took his Seat.

The Order of the Day bei

proceeded to take into Consid

against the Charles County Ele

Post-Meridieum. After a full

the Question was put, Whether

Delegates for Charles County, t

would, or not? Carried in the

Yes 23.

Resolved, That the Petition

at the sitting Members are du

The House adjourned.

Thursday, Decemb

Mr. Talley had leave to go h

A Committee was appointed

the Officers of the House, a

their Attendance, on the

the