

# MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, March 16, 1758.

Remainder of the ESSAY on the Means of Improving the Trade of MARYLAND, begun in our last.

### SECTION III.

**O**UR Considerations, with Respect to the Ports abovementioned, have been hitherto confined to the Influence they would have on the TOBACCO-TRADE: We shall now endeavour to shew the good Effects they would produce in every other Branch of our Commerce; and, as we proceed, shall occasionally touch upon some other Advantages attending them.

I. FIRST then, such a Regulation would render this Colony superior to any other in the GRAIN-TRADE.

THERE are now in Maryland, exclusive of the white Females, about 40000 Taxables, i. e. Persons above the Age of 16, of whom about 15000 are Slaves; who, all together, according to the Rules of political Arithmetic, may be reckoned equal to 60000 Working Hands; not including such, whose Circumstances set them above the Necessity of common Labour. Of these, 24000 would be sufficient for the TOBACCO-BUSINESS; and if, of the Residue, 18000 only were to be employ'd in raising of WHEAT, and each of these would only make 120 Bushels to send abroad, the whole would amount to above double the Quantity of Labour that has been ever exported from Pennsylvania in any one Year, as will appear from the Accounts of it's annual Exports published there.

PENNSYLVANIA has but one navigable River, and therefore but a few of the Inhabitants can have the Benefit of Water-Carriage; and the rest of them being settled at a considerable Distance from the Capital, who must transport their Produce thither by Land, which is an intolerable charge on bulky Commodities, are therefore obliged to sell upon coarse Manufactures to cloath themselves; and so they raise very little more for Exportation than what barely furnishes them with Rum, Sugar, and Salt; and in many Places, their Care hardly extends beyond the last Article.

The Disadvantage that Pennsylvania lies under, in Point of Water-Carriage (an Inconvenience that we are not subject to), is the reason that it's Exports are so small in proportion to the Number of the Inhabitants, said to be many more than here: But the Settlement of their Merchants in one Place, where the Planters are always full of ready Money for their Produce, and the Vessels are never delayed, is the Advantage they have over us, which enables them to carry away a Trade, in which, with a like Advantage, and but with the fourth Part of our Numbers, we might, and certainly would do twice as much as they, with their united Forces, possibly can; for it is through the Want of such an Encouragement only, that we now idle away above half our Time.

EXCEPT TOBACCO, the Produce of our Plantations is generally of very little Worth. Those who come here to purchase our Wheat are a long Time in collecting it, while their Vessels lie at a great Expence, and therefore they can afford to give us but a Trifle for it, which were it not for the Loss of some West-India Commodities, we should intirely neglect beyond our own Consumption. If we had a Market for our Wheat, we should get much more, by it than the Planters in Pennsylvania can; for the Expence of carrying the Commodity by Land to Philadelphia, is from many Places as great as the Charge of making it; and therefore, tho' we should have but an equal Price with them for our Wheat, we would nevertheless receive a great deal more for our Labour than they do. Besides we should then be sure of selling our Produce for ready Money, which we

might lay out with whom we please, and for what suits us best. Such Incitements to Industry as these would soon rouse the most indolent amongst us out of their Lethargy.

WERE two Ports established, one on each Side of the Bay, only with a View to the TOBACCO, they would in Time draw the GRAIN-TRADE thither: But if the Commodity was to be carried to Magazines in the County where transferable Notes should be given for it, and from thence transported to the principal Ports; Maryland would immediately become the greatest Mart for Grain in America.

THESE Notes might be given with less Inconveniency for Wheat, when it is weighed, than for Tobacco; this being very variable in it's Quality, and that not. The Advantages flowing from them are so great, I need not scruple to affirm, that since the Invention of Money, Trade cannot boast of a more useful Discovery.

II. THE Establishment of these two Ports would soon enable us to carry all our Produce abroad in our own Bottoms.

THE great Resort of Shipping to these Places would immediately draw many Ship-Carpenters to settle there, for the Profit that is got by repairing, which is a very considerable Article in the commercial World; and thus the great Delay the Vessels now often meet with here on that Account, would be avoided, and the Expence much lessened, which would contribute to bring down the Price of the Freight.

BUT these Ship-Carpenters being drawn together, would soon be employed in Building. We have with the Timber the other chief Principals, Hemp and Iron, amongst ourselves, in the greatest Perfection, and lying upon the Water. To all other Ship-Yards on the Continent, some of these heavy Materials are either transported from abroad, or come loaded with a heavy Expence, occasioned by the Land Carriage. We might therefore fit out Ships with much less Labour, and consequently cheaper than any other Colony in the British Dominions.

IF 42000 of our People should be employed in raising of GRAIN and TOBACCO, there would be 18000 remaining, a Number sufficient, not only to Build and Man whatever Vessels our Produce might require to transport it abroad, but also to manufacture great Quantities of Hemp and Iron for Exportation besides.

III. THUS we should not be obliged to run all upon one Commodity, that may be overdone, and for which every Man's Land cannot be fit; but each of us might apply himself to that Article for which the Quality of his Soil is best adapted, or for which he might find the greatest Call; and thus there could be no Danger of our answering the Quantity of Tobacco, in a greater Perfection than the Amendment of it's Quality may enlarge the Demand for it.

IV. THESE two Ports would in a few Years rise up into great Cities; but without such a Regulation, none of us that are now alive can expect to see any considerable Town in Maryland.

THE several Places laid out for Towns, of which there is one or more in each County, being all on navigable Rivers, are generally equally well situated for Commerce; and therefore a Town in one County cannot draw to it much of the Trade of another. Now a Town must owe it's Existence and Support either to Trade, or to Manufactures.

AS to Manufactures, we have very little of them, and shall have Occasion for less after an Inspecting Law; for that will enable us to purchase more, even of the coarsest Sorts that come here from England, with the Produce of our Labour from Tobacco; than we can with the same Labour make them ourselves. But I would not insinuate, that Women and Children, and such weak Hands, should not be employed in spinning

and working up our Wool and Flax for ordinary Use; for unless they are so exercised in filling up their vacant Time, the greatest Part must remain in a State of Idleness, which has the worst Influence on the Morals of both Sexes; when they grow up. It would even be an Advantage to Great-Britain; for as it would remove no Hands from the Field, it would be the Means of increasing the Consumption of the finer Sorts of Goods, for which Workmen get the best Wages. But such Manufactures as are carried on by private Families for their own Use, and only to fill up vacant Time, can be of no manner of Support to our Towns. They must therefore rise by Trade, or not at all. Now as to our Trade, which consists in exchanging our Produce for British Wares, and some West-India Commodities, three or four good Stores in every County would suffice.

WHEN the People grow numerous, and come to want Territory, so that all cannot be employed in Agriculture, the rest must necessarily betake themselves to Manufactures, for Want of other Business; and then, and not 'til then, these Towns will be considerable. But Posterity will reap an infinite Advantage, from the wise Precaution of their Ancestors in laying them out; as it will oblige them to build in the most commodious Situations, and in a regular beautiful Manner.

OUR many Rivers are now, and will be for several Ages, an insuperable Obstacle to the Growth of any great Place of Trade, while it is left to shift for itself, unassisted by the Legislature: But under the Regulation proposed, those very Rivers, as they all run into the finest Bay in the World, would soon raise two Ports, one on each Side of it, into much greater Places of Trade than Philadelphia; for as there is little Difference in the Expence of carrying Goods seventeen or seventy Miles by Water, the remotest Plantations would find very near the same Advantage in sending their Produce to one or other of the Capitals as the nearest: And therefore, every Man in the Province might equally contribute by his Labour to the Exports, which would then be four Times more from each Port, than they can possibly amount to from Philadelphia.

LASTLY, THESE two Ports would soon become the Seats of Learning, as well as of Commerce. There Academies should be established; for the various Branches of Science requiring many different Professors, they cannot all be supported with a Decency suitable to their Characters, but by a great Number of rich Pupils, which a trading City can never want. Athens was the Center of the Commerce, as well as of the Literature, of ancient Greece.

BESIDES, without the Advantage of a learned and polite Conversation, which a wealthy populous Town will always furnish, the Knowledge derived from Books is often very crude, and generally more troublesome than ornamental or useful. Letters, says the wise Lord Bacon, do not sufficiently teach their own Use; but that is Wisdom, beyond and above them, gained by Observation.

THUS I have endeavoured to make it appear (and I hope it does, with the Light and Evidence of an Axiom), that the Execution of this Scheme, than which none was ever more simple, or less complex, would not only introduce Riches, but also Learning and Politeness, amongst us in a short Time.

THO' every Member of Society is immediately interested in the good or ill State of it's Trade; yet there are none so much affected by it as the Landholders. Take a View of the Globe, and you will find, that on every Part of it they are rich or poor according to the Nature and Extent of the Commerce carried on amongst them; which, therefore, demands their particular Attention,

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AS little Notice has hitherto been of an Advertisement frequently published in the Gazette, desiring all Persons indebted to Wollenbome, Merchant (now gone to come and settle their respective Accounts the Subscriber; This is therefore to that if they do not immediately come same, either by Cash, Bill, or Bond, best to be proceeded against according JOHN CLAPHAM, Attorney in Faith,

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