

THE MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the latest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, April 8, 1762.

James Taffer, Butcher, who came in to this place about 13 or 14 Years ago, and served time here with Daniel Wells, be Living, and apply to the Printing-Office, he will hear of nothing worth enquiring about. After he left ...

Baltimore County, January 4, 1762.

NOTICE is hereby given to all Persons who have taken, or subscribed their Names for of Ground, according to their Numbers, in a Plan for a Town joining Patapsco River, and County, near Baltimore-Town, Maryland, ...

EDWARD FELL.

SOLD at PUBLIC VENDUE, on Wednesday the Sixteenth of June next, at the ...

THE following Tracts of LAND, late the Estate of Mr. James Wardrop, deceased, lying in Frederick County.

Table listing land tracts with descriptions and acreage. Includes entries like 'A Tract called Hazard, lying on Conococheague, containing 790 Acres' and 'A Tract called Partnerskip, lying on the West Side of Manockass, below the Ford, 280 Acres'.

TO BE SOLD, THREE Tracts of Land adjoining, containing upwards of Twelve Hundred Acres, on Elk-Ridge about Eight Miles from ...

WHEREAS the Act of Assembly of this Province, made and passed in 1733, for ...

Signed per Order, ROBERT COUDEN, Cl. P. C. Office.

M RIND, at the PRINTING- Office may be supplied with this length are taken in and inserted in Proportion for long Ones.

Mr. GREEN,

March 30, 1762.

I HAVE, with much Pleasure, Read over, and again, the Letter of your ingenious Correspondent on the Benefit of Commerce, published in your GAZETTE, Numb. 879: And as he seems to have the Interest of this Colony in his View, should be glad a Gentleman, so well qualified for the Task, as his Essay bespeaks ...

He expresseth a Wish, that the Generality of Landed Men would turn their serious Thoughts upon Commerce, and endeavour to become better acquainted with it's Nature and Genius. I believe, Mr. Green, this is the common Wish of us Planters; for we see, from many unexpected Rises and Falls in the Market, a Mystery in Trade, which we would be very glad to find out, that we might be more upon a Footing with the Merchants we deal with, and thereby get better Prices for our Tobaccos, Corn, Wheat and Provisions, than they often care to give us. But how to come at this Knowledge, under our poor Circumstances, is the Question. My Parents, I thank God, besides a Plantation, House, and some Stock and Negroes, left me as good an Education as the Country usually affords; which enables me to read, and helps me to consider a little what I do read. But many of my poor Neighbours, who have been bred up to Labour from their Infancy, and find Employment enough in struggling hard with the World to rear up a small Family upon their little Tracts, have not the like Advantages; and can neither Read nor Think to any Purpose, without the Assistance of others. And as the Bulk of Planters and Farmers in this Province, is necessarily made up of these, they must depend on others, whose Judgment they rely upon, for all their Notions of Matters which lie ever so little beyond the Bounds of their ordinary Employments. And I believe it will be found in Fact, that the Generality of a Neighbourhood think and act in most Things as some one leading Man among them (of whose Understanding they have a good Opinion) instructs them, and whom they have accustomed themselves to look upon as an Oracle, whose Speeches are infallible. I myself have some little Influence of this Kind among my Neighbours, who are a plain, honest, well meaning Sort of People; and from a sincere Wish for their Welfare (as well as my own Interest) should be glad to be better instructed myself, that they might receive more certain Benefit from my Advice when asked. With this View I now apply to your Correspondent, in such Matters as my poor Abilities and Opportunities cannot reach to.

As I have always been used to a plain Way of Thinking, I will first lay before that Gentleman what simple Notions I have of these Matters, and then propose what I wish he, or any other capable Person, would make me acquainted with. And as a pure Desire of Information, in what I conceive to be of great Importance to us Planters and Landholders, has drawn me on to write this Letter; so I hope he will excuse my Plainness of Style, and whatever may, to him or others better acquainted with the Subject, seem tedious or perhaps trifling in my Manner of Reasoning, being the best my Education and Means of Reflection will afford.

People, like me, who have little Opportunity of conversing with those of better Knowledge and Experience, must draw their Observations from what passes under their own Eye, and appears most familiar to them. My own House and Plantation must therefore furnish me with such Thoughts as will help me to explain my Meaning.

My Piece of Land is tolerably good, and with proper Management of what Force I have, will afford me as good a Living as most about me. Let me now suppose it to be so situate as to be remote from any Neighbourhood, and without Communication with others. Let me farther suppose that I have a Carpenter, Smith, Weaver, Taylor, and other Tradesmen, in the Family, so that we could easily raise and provide the common Necessaries of Life within ourselves: And that I have besides a Sum of Money in my Chest. If, in this Case, I was to raise ever so much Tobacco, Grain, or Stock, more than the Family could consume, the Overplus of the Tobacco could only rot upon my Hands, and enrich some useless Spot of Ground: The Grain must either spoil, or become Food for Crows, Squirrels, Rats or other Vermis: The Cattle or Hogs, more than were just necessary for Family Use, must either become a heavy Burthen for me to support, or else run wild in the Woods for Wolves, Bears, or Panthers, to prey upon, or force me to hunt out and destroy them as Nuisances, to prevent the Damage they might do to my Inclosures and home Improvements. My Taylor, Weaver, Carpenter, &c. after just supplying the necessary Jobs in the Family, could have no other Employment; and, unless turned out into the Field to increase a useless Crop, must lie idle a considerable Part of their Time, and be so far a dead Weight upon the Labours of the rest. My Money (having no Communication with others) could never increase so as to make me richer, nor could it be of any Value, having no Means of laying it out; so that I might indeed hammer my Dollars and Pistoles into little shining Plates, to hang about my own or my Wife and Childrens Necks, by Way of Ornament or Play-Thing, as the Indians

of Peru did with their Gold before the Spaniards came among them; unless I had a Quit-Rent to pay out of it: But that, if ever so small, must be a continual Drain upon my Cash, and make me poorer and poorer by every Payment till no more was left in the Chest; and when the last of it was gone (unless I could prevail upon the Lord of the Soil to take my Tobacco or Grain at his own Price) must give up the Land, and look out for some more favourable Place to work and thrive upon.

Now, suppose any Number of Families to be seated together in a Neighbourhood, having no Dealings but one among another, and it will amount in the whole just to the same Thing. One Family, indeed, by it's greater Industry, Cunning or Dexterity, might draw the little Cash, the superfluous Produce of Labour, the Slaves, and Substance, from another, and bring some to be Tenants, and others to become Servants to them, after getting their Money, Negroes and Lands; but this is only preying one upon another, like Savages or wild Creatures; and the Neighbourhood or Community, notwithstanding one or more becoming great, and lording it over the rest, is not a Penny the richer. The Wealth is the same, only has got into fewer Hands, and thereby puts it in their Power to do what they please, and build themselves stately Houses like Palaces, whilst other honest Men, who are become their Dependants, must either be their Servants, or, which is much the same, must live in little Huts or Log-Houses, and carry all they can raise above a bare Maintenance to the Great Man, to pay their Interest, or some Part of the Debts they have contracted; and in this servile State, with the Name of Freeman, are Slaves in Fact, and dare neither say nor do any Thing, which may be disagreeable to the Man who is got above them, for fear of his Resentment, or Loss of his Favour.

Instead of Neighbourhood, let us now put Kingdom or Province, and it gives me a familiar Notion of a People without foreign Trade. Some of them may become wealthier and more powerful than others; but in Proportion as they rise, others must fall into Poverty and Depression, the national Stock still remaining the same, only very unequally distributed; some Inhabitants grasping more than others, and leaving them the meaner Share, or holding their Fellow Subjects and Brother Freemen in Dependance: For it is plain that nothing more can be acquired without some Trade or Dealings with other Nations or Provinces, whereby to bring in some Addition to the common Wealth or Fund. And I can easily conceive how Maryland, with all it's Advantages of a rich Soil, navigable Rivers, healthy Climate, &c. if it had no foreign Trade to bring in a little Cash, or to gain it's Credit for Sterling Money in England, must, in Time, sink under the Weight of a Quit-Rent not amounting to a Farthing per Acre per Annum, and be deserted by it's Inhabitants, in Proportion as the provincial Stock of Money dwindled away from among them, by so small and scarce perceptible a Drain.

Let me now suppose two, three, or more Families to be so situate as to have a convenient Intercourse or Communication, and that the Lands are of such different Qualities, and the Planters of such various Occupations, as each of them to want something which the others can supply. If I deal with one of them for exactly the same Value of his Goods with one of them for exactly the same Value of his Goods or Labour as he receives from me, it is a Convenience to me so far as I am thereby furnished with what my own Land or Employment does not afford, but at the same Time we are neither of us a Penny the Richer, as our Accounts exactly Balance one another, and no Cash gained on either Side. If I deal with another for more of his Truck or Work than he takes from me, the Balance of that Account must be paid in Cash, and I become so much the poorer on making up every Account; which, unless I can find Means to raise from something else, must beggar me at the long Run. And if I deal with a Third for less Value than what he takes from me, the Balance so far increases my Stock; and if what I receive by him overpays what I lose by the former, the Difference of that Gain will be just so much Addition to my Wealth. But if what I get by the Third will not pay off what I lose by the Second; that Difference, however small, will be a fatal Drain to my Stock, and in the End quite impoverish and ruin me.

If for Families I now put Nations or Provinces, I can form a pretty good Notion of what is called the Balance of Trade between different Countries, and in what Manner it becomes for or against the one or the other; how a Nation may support a losing Trade in one Place, and even grow rich by what it overpays in another Branch of Business; and also how Individuals may become wealthy, by carrying on a Trade which is ruinous to the Public, and a Country be undone by the bringing in of Wares to a greater Value than that of the Commodities it sends out, and which, like Spain, could never hold up it's Head if it had not Gold or Silver Mines in it's Possession, to pay off it's foreign Debts: In which Case the Bullion raised in it becomes an Article of Commerce as much as the Tobacco is among us, and to be reckoned as a native Commodity.

The same Estate, under different Management, may be of very different Value: For Lands can never be of more Worth to those that live upon them, but in Proportion as they are worked, and their Produce convenient to a Market. Supposing then that I could sell off the Whole of what I can

raise, and that my Neighbours would bring their Horses, Carts, and Waggon, to my own Door, either to carry off what they want from me, or to bring the Truck I want, or am willing to take in Exchange; they will expect, and I must allow them (in the Price of whatever they bring or carry away) the Value of the Hire of their Teams, Cattle and Servants, otherwise they will look out for some cheaper Purchase elsewhere, and leave me to myself. But if I find Carriage, the Allowance must be made to me; which not only adds to my Profit, but enables me to increase my Number of Servants, &c. Now this gives me a clear Notion of the Importance of Freight in Dealings between one Country and another, and helps me to conceive how the Dutch, by their Shipping, must draw incredible Sums of Money from other States, in transporting their Produce to distant Parts, and becoming a Sort of common Carriers.

Another great Difference arises from the Condition in which my Produce is purchased. If I sell my Patch of Wheat as it grows, I must not only make large Allowance in the supposed Quantity, but also for Reaping, Stacking, &c. I must expect less for it if sold in the Stack, than when thrashed out and cleaned. If I have a Mill and make it into Flour, I shall have a farther Advantage, and a still greater if manufactured into Bread. If my Hides and Skins are sold green, they will afford me less Profit than if tanned and carried, and those still less than if I had a Saddler and Shoemaker to work them into their respective Wares. Now this gives me a Notion of the Importance it must be of to a Country, to send off it's Produce as highly manufactured as they can, which increases it's Value, by the whole Wages of so many Labourers and Artificers as get their Bread, and add Strength and Wealth to the Country, by their Numbers and Industry: All which Considerations explain to me what great Advantage our Neighbours the Pennsylvanians must gain from buying up our Grain, carting it over Land to the Branches of Delaware, making up large Quantities into Flour and Bread, and sending it away in their own Vessels to the West-India Islands, to the Increase of their Trade, Shipping, Sailors, and Profits. And I no longer wonder how a Pound of Tobacco sold here in the Country for Two Pence, should, being carried out and brought back again manufactured into Snuff, be valued at and sell for Five or Six Shillings.

If my Land lie within Reach of such a Market as will take off more than my present Force will raise, my Interest will prompt me to employ more Hands, that I may have the more to fell; and if my Estate be too large for me to work with my own Strength, the Certainty of a Market will invite Tenants to settle and improve upon it to the Increase of my Rents and the Value of the Soil. And this will always be in Proportion as the Neighbourhood is stocked with People of various Employments, which take them off from working in the Ground; for every Mouth must be fed. And they that raise no Provisions themselves must depend upon the Farmer, and give him their Work or Money for what Necessaries his Land supplies. Where much Trade is carried on, the Number of Sailors, Carpenters, Smiths, Sailmakers, and Artificers of various Kinds, as well as Boat-men, Jobbers, and Others, employed in Water Carriage, is multiplied; and consequently the home Consumption of our Commodities and Manufactures raised, as well as the Demand for what is carried abroad. From all which I gather the great Importance of Trade to the landed Interest, the Connexion between them, how they mutually aid and assist each other, and how a flourishing well-regulated Commerce increases both the Number and Wealth of the Inhabitants of any Country where it is established.

And now, Mr. Green, having laid before your Correspondent my Thoughts of these Matters in my own plain Way; I should be glad he, or any other worthy Gentleman, would be pleased to propose some Means of putting us in Possession of the Advantages arising from a Commerce suited to the Circumstances of this Province. When most Ships come into our Rivers, and most Merchants want to buy, I always get the best Price for my Tobacco, and can turn my Staves and Lumber into Money, which otherwise might rot in the Woods. When a West-India Vessel is loading near me, my Corn, Pork, &c. yield a better Rate. The Benefit is evident to, and felt by, every one. But how to bring these Purchasers, these Ships, and to secure this Trade among us, is the Question, and far exceeds my Knowledge. Our Neighbours to the Northward can carry on a gainful Trade upon our native Produce, or we should never see so many Pennsylvania Factors in the Country, or so many New-England Vessels selling off their trifling Wooden Ware, and stinking Spirits which debase the Morals and ruin the Constitutions of our honest, useful, laborious People, and carry off the Produce of our Lands in Exchange for Baubles and Poison. If any Remedy can be found out for such Evils, and our natural Advantages be improved to the better Employment of our Hands, the Increase of our Numbers, the Establishment of a natural and beneficial Commerce, and in Consequence thereof, the raising the Value of our Lands, and general Welfare of the Province; such Hints from those that are capable, will give great Pleasure to every honest well-meaning Marylander, but to none more than

Your humble Servant, A. COUNTRYMAN.