

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1768.

Prince-George's County, November 11, 1767. TO BE RENTED, THE PLANTATION, and Five NEGROES, lately belonging to NICHOLAS LOWE DARNALL, lying in Baltimore County, near the Fork of Gunpowder, and about 12 Miles from Baltimore-Town. The Land is good, and the Buildings upon it new, convenient either for Planting, or Farming. Any Person inclinable to Rent, may know the Terms, by applying to FRANCIS HALL.

To be SLOD. by the SUBSCRIBER, in George-Town, Frederick County,

A VALUABLE WATER LOT, with a good DWELLING-HOUSE. For Terms, apply to Mr. William Deakins, jun. in George-Town. T. ADDISON, jun.

Kent-Island, November 19, 1767. RAN away from the Subscriber, a Convict Servant Man, named JOSEPH HAINES, about 30 Years of Age, and about 5 Feet 5 Inches high, swarthy Complexion, short black Hair, and his Beard grey, his Body is much scarified, if well look'd into, his Cloaths are uncertain; it is thought he is a good Scholar, writes a pretty good Hand, and drolls in Speech. Whoever takes up and secures said Servant, so as his Master may have him again, shall receive Four Dollars Reward, paid by JOHN LEGG.

THIS is to acquaint the Public, that the Subscriber has procured himself good BOATS and HANDS, to cross the Bay, from BROAD-CREEK to ANNAPOLIS, and from ANNAPOLIS to BROAD-CREEK, on KENT-ISLAND, and will carry Passengers as follows: Man and Horse, at 10s. Single Man, 5s. Single Horse, 7s. 6d. Chair, 7s. 6d. He likewise keeps a House of Entertainment at BROAD-CREEK, on KENT-ISLAND, where Travellers may depend on being used in the kindest Manner, by JOHN BRYAN.

Prince-George's County, Sept. 7, 1767. STOLEN out of the Subscriber's Pasture, on Monday Night, the 31st of AUGUST last, a large light coloured grey Horse, near 15 Hands high, branded on the near Shoulder and Buttock B. He has a Ridge Mane and Bob Tail, paces, trots, and gallops, and has been used to draw in a Chaise. Whoever brings him to the Subscriber, shall have EIGHT DOLLARS Reward, with reasonable Charges, if brought home, and FIVE POUNDS for the Thief, if he be Convicted, paid by BENJAMIN HALL, Son of FRANCIS.

IMPORTED, In the NELLY, Capt. M'KIRDY, from GLASGOW, and to be sold by the Subscriber, at his Store, CHARITICO, ST. MARY'S County, for Tobacco, or a very moderate Advance, in Cash, or Bills of Exchange.

A LUMPING PARCEL of GOODS, consisting of coarse Broad Cloths, Forreit Cloths, Green Serge, Worsted Shag, and Trimmings, and a few Pieces of Kendal Cottons, and coarse Plaiding, to the Amount of Two Hundred Pounds Cost. PHILIP BRISCOE.

BALTIMORE-TOWN, Sept. 21, 1767. EDWARD PRESTON, STAYMAKER, from LONDON, At his Shop, opposite Dr. HENRY STEVENSON'S, GAY-STREET,

BEGS Leave to inform the Public in general, and the Ladies in particular, that he makes all kind of STAYS in the neatest Manner, and after the newest, most genteel, and best approv'd Fashions, at the same Prices formerly charged by Mr. CHARLES WALLACE, and with the same Abatement, if paid for within a Month after Delivery. Those Ladies who may be pleas'd to favour him with their Commands, may depend on being serv'd with Dispatch, as he has a proper Supply of every Material suitable for his Business, and a sufficient Number of Assistants. The Measure of STAYS, if not taken by himself, must be measured after the following Manner:

- I. From the Top of the Breast, to the End of the Peak.
II. From under the Arm, down as low as the Waist.
III. From the Top of the Back, to the Bottom of the Lace Holes.
IV. Round the Body, over the Breast.
V. Round the Body, over the smallest Part of the Waist.
VI. From Arm to Arm, over the Breast.

All Letters (Post paid) with Orders, will be punctually answered, by Their most humble Servant, EDWARD PRESTON.

M GREEN, at the PRINTING-Shop, 2s. 6d. a Year; ADVERTISEMENTS, by the Week's Continuance, Long Quotations, ready Printed, most kinds of BLANKS, and all Sorts, with their proper BONDS, and every other kind of PRINTING-WORK performed.

LETTERS from a FARMER in PENNSYLVANIA, to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies.

LETTER VII.

MY DEAR COUNTRYMEN,

THIS Letter is intended more particularly for such of you, whose Employments in Life may have prevented your attending to the Consideration of some Points, that are of great and public Importance; for many such Persons there must be, even in these Colonies, where the Inhabitants in general are more intelligent than any other People whatever, as has been remarked by Strangers, and it seems with Reason.

Some of you, perhaps, filled, as I know your Breasts are, with Loyalty to our most excellent Prince, and with Love to our dear Mother-Country, may feel yourselves inclined, by the Affections of your Hearts, to approve every Action of those whom you so much revere and esteem.

A Prejudice thus flowing from Goodness of Disposition, is amiable indeed. I wish it could be indulged without Danger. Did I think this possible, the Error should have been adopted, and not opposed by me: But in Truth, all Men are subject to the Passions and Frailties of Nature; and therefore, whatever Regard we entertain for the Persons of those who govern us, we should always remember, that their Conduct, as Rulers, may be influenced by human Infirmities.

When any Laws, injurious to these Colonies, are pass'd, we cannot with the least Propriety suppose, that any Injury was intended us by his Majesty, or the Lords. For the Assent of the Crown and Peers, to Laws, seems as far as I am able to judge, to have been vested in them, more for their own Security, than for any other Purpose. On the other Hand, it is the particular Business of the People to enquire and discover what Regulations are useful for themselves, and to digest and present them in the Form of Bills to the other Orders, to have them enacted into Laws. Where these Laws are to bind themselves, it may be expected, that the House of Commons will very carefully consider them: But when they are making Laws, that are not designed to bind themselves, we cannot imagine that their Deliberations will be as cautious and scrupulous, as in their own Case.

* Many remarkable Instances might be produced of the extraordinary Inattention with which Bills of great Importance, concerning these Colonies, have pass'd in Parliament; which is owing, as it is supposed, to the Bills being brought in by the Persons who have Points to carry, so artfully framed, that it is not easy for the Members in general, in the Haste of Business, to discover their Tendency.

The following Instances shew the Truth of this Remark. When Mr. Grenville, in the Violence of Reformation, formed the 4th George III. Chap. 15th, for regulating the American Trade, the Word "Ireland" was drop'd in the Clause relating to our Iron and Lumber, so that we could send these Articles to no other Part of Europe, but to Great-Britain. This was so unreasonable a Restriction, and so contrary to the Sentiments of the Legislature, for many Years before, that it is surprizing it should not have been taken Notice of in the House. However the Bill pass'd into a Law. But when the Matter was explained, this Restriction was taken off by a subsequent Act.

I cannot positively say, how long after the taking off this Restriction, as I have not the Acts; but I think in less than Eighteen Months, another Act of Parliament pass'd, in which the Word "Ireland" was set out, as it had been before. The Matter, being a second Time explained, was a second Time regulated. Now if it be considered, that the Omission mentioned, struck off, with one Word, so very great a Part of our Trade, it must appear remarkable; and equally so is the Method by which Rice became an enumerated Commodity, and therefore could be carried to Great-Britain only.

"The Enumeration was obtained, (says Mr. Gee *) by one Cole, a Captain of a Ship, employed by a Company then trading to Carolina; for several Ships going from England thither, and purchasing Rice for Portugal, resented the aforesaid Captain of a Loading. Upon his coming home, he possessed one Mr. Lowndes, a Member of Parliament (who was very frequently employ'd to prepare Bills) with an Opinion, that carrying Rice directly to Portugal, was a Prejudice to the Trade of England, and privately got a Clause into an Act to make it an enumerated Commodity; by which Means he secured a Freight to himself. But the consequence prov'd a VAST LOSS TO THE NATION." I find that this Clause "PRIVATELY got into an Act," for the Benefit of Captain Cole, to the "VAST LOSS OF THE NATION," is foisted into the 3d and 4th

I am told, that there is a wonderful Address frequently used in carrying Points in the House of Commons, by Persons experienced in these Affairs.—That Opportunities are watch'd—and sometimes Votes are pass'd, that if all the Members had been present, would have been rejected by a great Majority. Certain it is, that when a powerful and artful Man has determin'd on any Measure against these Colonies, he has always succeeded in his Attempt. Perhaps therefore, it will be proper for us, whenever any oppressive Act affecting us, is pass'd, to attribute it to the Inattention of the Members of the House of Commons, and to the Malevolence or Ambition of some factious great Man, rather than to any other Cause.

Now I do verily believe, that the late Act of Parliament, imposing Duties on Paper, &c. was formed by Mr. Grenville, and his Party, because it is evidently a Part of that Plan, by which he endeavoured to render himself popular at home: And I do also believe, that not one Half of the Members of the House of Commons, even of those who heard it read, did perceive how destructive it was to American Freedom. For this Reason, as it is usual in Great-Britain, to consider the King's Speech, as the Speech of the Ministry; it may be right here, to consider this Act, as the Act of a Party.—Perhaps I should speak more properly, if I was to use another Term.

There are Two Ways of laying Taxes. One is, by imposing a certain Sum on particular Kinds of Property, to be paid by the User or Consumer, or by rating the Person at a certain Sum. The other is, by imposing a certain Sum on particular Kinds of Property, to be paid by the Seller.

When a Man pays the first Sort of Tax, he knows with Certainty, that he pays so much Money, for a Tax. The Consideration for which he pays it, is remote, and, it may be, does not occur to him. He is sensible too, that he is commanded, and obliged to pay it as a Tax; and therefore, People are apt to be displeas'd with this Sort of Tax.

The other Sort of Tax is submitted to, in a very different Manner. The Purchaser of any Article, very seldom reflects that the Seller raises his Price, so as to indemnify himself for the Tax he has paid. He knows that the Prices of Things are continually fluctuating, and, if he thinks about the Tax, he thinks, at the same Time, in all Probability, that he might have paid as much, if the Article he buys had not been taxed. He gets something visible and agreeable for his Money; and Tax and Price are so confounded together, that he cannot separate, or does not chuse to take the Trouble of separating them.

This Mode of Taxation therefore is the Mode suited to arbitrary and oppressive Governments. The Love of Liberty is so natural to the human Heart, that unfeeling Tyrants think themselves obliged to accommodate their Schemes, as much as they can, to the Appearance of Justice and Reason, and to deceive those whom they resolve to destroy, or oppress, by presenting to them a miserable Picture of Freedom, when the inestimable Original is lost.

This Policy did not escape the cruel and rapacious NERO. That Monster, apprehensive that his Crimes might endanger his Authority and Life, thought proper to do some popular Acts, to secure the Obedience of his Subjects. Among other Things, says Tacitus, "He remitted the Twenty-fifth Part of the Price on the Sale of Slaves, but rather in Show than Reality; for the Seller being order'd to pay it, it became Part of the Price to the Buyer."

This is the Reflection of the judicious Historian; but the deluded People gave their infamous Emperor full Credit for his false Generosity. Other Nations have been treated in the same Manner the Romans were. The honest, industrious Germans, who are settled in different Parts of this Continent, can inform us, that it was this Sort of Tax that drove them from their native Land, to our Woods, at that Time the Seats of perfect and undisturbed Freedom.

Their Princes, enflam'd by the Lust of Power, and the Lust of Avarice, Two Furies, that the more they are gorged, the more hungry they grow, transferr'd the Bounds they ought, in regard to themselves, to have observ'd. To keep up the Deception in the Minds of Subjects, "there must be," says a very learned Author †, "some Proportion between the Impost and the Value of the Commodity; wherefore

Anne, Chap. 5, entitled, "An Act for granting to her Majesty a further Subsidy on Wines and Merchandizes imported," with which it has no more Connection, than with 34th Edward I. the 34th and 35th of Henry VIII. and the 25th of Charles II. which provide, that no Person shall be taxed but by himself or his Representative.

* Tacitus's Ann. Book 13, § 32. † Montesquieu's Spirit of Laws, Book 13, Chap. 8.

there ought not to be an excessive Duty upon Merchandizes of little Value. There are Countries in which the Duties exceeds Seventeen or Eighteen Times the Value of the Commodity. In this Case the Prince removes the Illusion. His Subjects plainly see they are dealt with in an unreasonable Manner, which renders them most exquisitely sensible of their slavish Situation."

From hence it appears that Subjects may be ground down into Misery, by this Sort of Taxation, as well as by the other. They will be as much impoverish'd, if their Money is taken from them in this Way, as in the other; and that it will be taken, may be more evident, by attending to a few more Considerations.

The Merchant, or Importer, who pays the Duty at first, will not consent to be so much Money out of Pocket. He therefore proportionably raises the Price of his Goods. It may then be said to be a Contest between him and the Person offering to buy, who shall lose the Duty. This must be decided by the Nature of the Commodities, and the Purchasers Demand for them. If they are mere Luxuries, he is at Liberty to do as he pleases; and, if he buys, he does it voluntarily; but, if they are absolute Necessaries or Conveniences, which Use and Custom have made requisite for the Comfort of Life, and which he is not permitted by the Power imposing the Duty, to get elsewhere; there the Seller has a plain Advantage, and the Buyer must pay the Duty. In Fact, the Seller is nothing less than a Collector of the Tax for the Power that imposed it. If these Duties then are extended to the Necessaries and Conveniences of Life in general, and enormously increased, the People must at length become indeed "most exquisitely sensible of their slavish Situation."—Their Happiness therefore entirely depends on the Moderation of those who have Authority to impose the Duties.

I shall now apply these Observations to the late Act of Parliament. Certain Duties are thereby imposed on Paper and Glass imported into these Colonies. By the Laws of Great-Britain, we are prohibited to get these Articles from any other Part of the World. We cannot, at present, nor for many Years to come, though we should apply ourselves to these Manufactures with the utmost Industry, make enough ourselves for our own Use. That Paper and Glass are not only convenient, but absolutely necessary for us, I imagine very few will contend. Some perhaps who think Mankind grew wicked and luxurious, as soon as they found out another Way of communicating their Sentiments than by Speech, and another Way of Dwelling than in Caves, may advance so whimsical an Opinion. But, I presume, no body will take the unnecessary Trouble of refuting them.

From these Remarks, I think it evident, that we must use Paper and Glass; that, what we use, must be British; and that we must pay the Duties imposed, unless those who sell these Articles, are so generous as to make us Presents of the Duties they pay.

Some Persons may think this Act of no Consequence, because the Duties are so small. A fatal Error! That is the very Circumstance most alarming to me! For, I am convinc'd, that the Authors of this Law would never have obtained an Act to raise so trifling a Sum as it must do, had they not intend'd; by it, to establish a Precedent for future Use. To console ourselves, with the Smallness of the Duties, is to walk deliberately into the Snare that is set for us, raising the Neatness of the Workmanship. Suppose the Duties imposed by the late Act, could be paid by these distressed Colonies, with the utmost Ease; and that the Purposes to which they are to be applied, are the most reasonable and equitable that can be conceived, the contrary of which I hope to demonstrate, before these Letters are concluded; yet, even in such a supposed Case, these Colonies ought to regard the Act with Abhorrence. For, who are a free People? Not those, over whom Government is reasonably and equitably exercised, but those, who live under a Government so constitutionally checked and controul'd, that proper Provision is made against its being otherwise exercised.

The late Act is founded on the Destruction of this constitutional Security. If the Parliament have a Right to lay a Duty of Four Shillings and Eight Pence on a Hundred Weight of Glass, or a Ream of Paper, they have a Right to lay a Duty of any other Sum on either. They may raise the Duty, as the Author before quoted, says has been done in some Countries, till it "exceeds Seventeen or Eighteen Times the Value of the Commodity." In short, if they have a Right to levy a Tax of One Penny upon us, they have a Right to levy a Million upon us: For, where does their Right stop? At any given Number of Pence, Shillings or Pounds? To attempt to limit their Right, after granting it to exist at all, is as contrary to Reason, as, granting it to exist at all, is

* See on Trade, P. 32.