

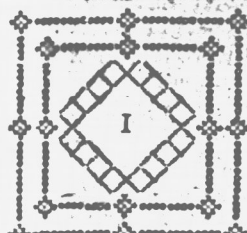
# MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, MARCH 19, 1772.

From the PENNSYLVANIA CHRONICLE.

Mr. GODDARD,

By inserting the following Observations in your Chronicle, you will, perhaps, remove the Apprehensions of some, and satisfy the Curiosity of others—many may be obliged—certainly none offended.



**I**t is the Privilege, as it ought to be the Inclination, of every Member of Society, to contribute, according to his Abilities and Opportunities, what he apprehends may be for the publick Good of his Fellow-Citizens. This, I flatter myself, will be admitted a sufficient Apology for the Publication of the following Sentiments on the Trade and Commerce of Pennsylvania, relative to a neighbouring Colony. It has been given as a Reason for the late very observable Diminution of our Wheat and Flour Trade, that immense Quantities of these Articles are now carried to Baltimore in Maryland—that, not only all the Inhabitants to the Westward of Susquehanna, but also a large Tract of the Country adjacent, on the East Side of said River, transport their Commodities to that growing Town—and that great Numbers of our industrious Farmers, and others, are continually deserting this Province, and removing to Maryland; by which Means Baltimore is become a dangerous Rival of Philadelphia in her foreign Trade.—These, I confess, are Evils, which, if true, ought certainly, in sound Policy, to be diligently attended to. But, I apprehend, it will appear from the following Observations, that Reports have been greatly exaggerated, and that we are not in that Danger of losing our valuable Wheat Trade, which some over credulous People are apt to imagine.—Being somewhat interested in the Affair, I determined not to trust to uncertain Report, but to inform myself of the true State of Things, by actual Observation on the Spot: For this Purpose I made a Tour lately to the Westward, as far as Pennsylvania is inhabited, and returned by Way of Baltimore to Philadelphia. The Result of this Journey, and my Discoveries in it, I will now lay before the Publick, confessing that my Ideas of these Matters are quite changed from what they were at my first setting out. Baltimore, so far from rivaling Philadelphia, has, in my Opinion, already arrived to her *ne plus ultra*. The Reasons which induce me to be of this Opinion are the following:—First, the Roads leading from our Back Settlements to that Town are at all Times inconceivably bad, sometimes wholly impassable. Obvious as this is, yet it is generally thought; and it is the universal Complaint of the People through that Country, that no sudden Reform in this Matter is likely to take Place. Highways are, or ought to be, the particular Care of a Legislature. Individuals, from a Diversity of Opinions and contending Interests, are seldom found sufficient to accomplish so important an Undertaking. The Delegates of Maryland are chiefly Gentlemen Planters and Lawyers, who, from the Multiplicity of other Business, in which they apprehend a Majority of their Constituents to be more immediately interested, are said not to pay that Attention to these Roads, which the Importance of the Matter would seem to require, so that it is probable no effectual Improvement will be made in the Article of Roads.—2dly, The Town of Baltimore itself is so inconveniently situated, both as to Land for building on; as Depth of Water for Shipping; that no extensive foreign Trade can ever be carried on at that Part. So great and almost insurmountable is this Obstruction, that although Wharfs, by the amazing Industry and Perseverance of the Inhabitants, have been extended near Four Hundred-Yards towards what is called their Channel, yet a Vessel drawing Five Feet Water, cannot either discharge or receive her Load at those Wharfs. The Expence, Delays and Uncertainty of Lighterage, we know, will baffle all Industry.—But, 3dly, the Merchants of that Province themselves do complain, and it is said very justly, that many of their Laws are unfriendly to Commerce; nay that some of them amount almost to a total Prohibition of it: Such are those, laying an heavy and certainly impolitic Duty on all foreign Bottoms. This of itself will for ever preclude Strangers from running their Trade into this Channel to any great Degree.—4thly, Another Cause of the Decline of Baltimore may arise from the Jealousy with which its Growth is viewed by many of the Towns in that Province. However strange and unnatural this may appear, yet, if my Information can be depended on, this Passion operates strongly against it even at the Metropolis. I will not mention the irregular or rather no internal Police of the Town itself, which perhaps would be reckoned invidious, and not very decent in me to suggest.—5thly, The Number of navigable Rivers and good Harbours, which everywhere abound in this Province, so equally dividing its Trade, and the utter Improbability of Baltimore being ever erected into a Port by Law, will, I conceive, always keep it in its present State of Mediocrity.

From the above Representations, which I believe no one will dispute, it is, I think, pretty evident, that,

under its present Circumstances, Baltimore can never much affect the Trade of this City. But I will suppose it to enjoy all the Advantages which might be expected to arise from the Favour and Protection of Government; yet if judging from the *past*, we can draw any Conclusion for the *future*, Baltimore, even so favoured, would exhibit no great Object of Envy.—We have seen (and I remember the time amongst us were somewhat alarmed at that Time) we have seen the whole Weight of a very wise and politic Assembly of Maryland, exerted in Favour of a Town at the Head of Chesapeake Bay, expressly with an Intention to draw Trade and Inhabitants to their Province. Immunities and Privileges, unknown to the rest of the Province, were granted, to allure and “invite Strangers of all Professions, religious Persuasions, Trades or Occupations whatsoever, to build and settle in said Town.”—Nay, “the People dwelling in said Town, were for ever exempted and discharged from paying the 40 per Poll granted to the Episcopal Clergy of that Province, and all other parochial Taxes and Dues whatever.” Yet, notwithstanding this reasonable and equitable Exemption—so wisely calculated to ensure Success—notwithstanding the many good and prudent Regulations, enacted by Four several Acts of the Legislature for the internal Government of the Place—yet, what I beseech you is Charles-Town?—a deserted Village, with a few miserable Huts, thinly scattered among the Bushes, and Daily crumbling into Ruin. If then Charles-Town, with all these enumerated Immunities, Privileges, and Exemptions, together with a fine Harbour and Sufficiency of Water, with Liberty of wharfing to the deepest Channel, has so soon fallen into total Oblivion and Desertion, what, I pray, can be expected from Baltimore, devoid of all these Advantages, and, if not labouring under the Frowns of, yet almost wholly neglected by Government?

But it is now said, and many of our Country People believe it, that a new System is to take Place with regard to said Town. It is, it seems, to be taken under the immediate Care and Nurture of the Legislature. Roads to all Parts of our Province are to be laid out—old ones repaired, and new ones cleared. A Charter of Incorporation for Baltimore, with valuable civil Privileges, &c. is to be granted—Nay religious Exemptions, of a most important Nature to the Increase of all young Colonies, are confidently talked of.—The Wisdom and Policy of such a Plan may induce a Belief that it is really designed. But is it so in Fact? No such Matter—I speak from Knowledge—the very Contrary will appear to be true. In speaking on this Subject, I hope I may not be understood officiously to intermeddle with the internal Polity of a Sister Colony. I only mean to undeceive the good People of this Province, whose Welfare I confess I have much at Heart, in a Matter which I apprehend very nearly affects them both in their temporal and religious Concerns; that they may not imprudently relinquish the immense Blessing of civil and religious Freedom, which they so fully enjoy in their own Province, on the uncertain, not to say vain, Hopes of experiencing the same Indulgence in Maryland.

For whatever Regulations a wise Policy may effect in civil Government, yet as to religious Matters (the grand Concern of every Man's Life) I believe it may safely be asserted, that no considerable Change is ever likely to take Place in that Province. I will not pronounce too confidently; but, whoever will consider the amazing Attachment of Mankind to any religious Custom, Mode, or Usage, once established and made venerable by Time, the secret Dread and inward Horror that haunts the superstitious Mind on attempting any Innovation, the narrow, contracted and bigoted Prepossession of the Populace, together with the Interests, Unanimity, and Power of those who are more immediately affected by such Establishments; whoever, I say, will maturely consider the Operation of these Principles on the Passions of Mankind, will, I apprehend, perceive the extreme Improbability of any Change in ecclesiastical Establishments.

The Truth of this general Reasoning, when applied to Maryland, concludes irresistibly, from a late Instance, where there is no Room left for Hesitation.

I have been informed on good Authority, that a very respectable number of Friends (injuriously called Quakers), Presbyterians, Baptists, and others, (who in that Province fall under the Denomination of Dissenters) inhabitants of the Town of Baltimore (which, it seems, is to be so favoured by Government), lately petitioned their Assembly for an Exemption from an unexpected Tax, proposed to be raised of the Parish for building a new Episcopal Church. They imagined their Petition was in itself reasonable, and so conducive in its Effects to the Increase of the Town, that they flattered themselves the Assembly would probably pay some Attention to it: What was the Event?—The Humanity of the House did not suffer the Petitioners to be long tortured with Suspense; a few Minutes, it is said, determined the Fate of their Petition; it was refused even a second Reading, with an Unanimity which precluded all Debate, and finally rejected with a Celerity, which bore the most evident Marks of the strongest Disapprobation. I would now ask: the warmest Advocate for Maryland and Emigration, whe-

ther, from this Instance, there appears the smallest Encouragement for the People of this Province (or indeed of any other) to expect any peculiar Immunities by becoming Inhabitants of Baltimore. The present Practice in Maryland certainly does not warrant such idle Expectation.

I know not whether it will be generally believed, in a Province where the Practice would be viewed with Horror, but it is certainly a Matter of Fact, that the Goods of a religious Sect of Christians, who have ever been allowed to be the most peaceable Subjects and valuable Members of Society, are Daily distrained and violently wrested from them, to pay for Services which the Immorality of an Incumbent has, perhaps, incapacitated him from performing, or, if performed, they never reaped the Benefit of it.

Let the Lovers of unrestrained Freedom in our own Province reflect on this, and let them not wantonly despise the invaluable Opportunity they enjoy, of serving their God according to their Consciences, free from the Molestation of Rapacity and Gripe of Violence. In this Land of extensive Liberty, what Independence, what Happiness, does not each one of you taste?—fitting (the undisturbed Masters of your Possessions) under your own Vines and your own Fig-trees, and none to make you afraid. Surely no Principle was ever more self-evident, no Privilege more inherent, than the reasonable Liberty which every Man ought to be allowed, of worshipping the Deity according as he is himself persuaded. Does he participate of this divine Right, this original Gift of Heaven, whose Possessions, earned by the hard Labour of his industrious Hand and painful Sweat of his Brow, are cruelly torn from him, to support Opinions which he cannot believe, and propagate a Faith against which his Judgment rebels? Not Revelation itself (were such a Case supposable) can vindicate the oppressive Establishment of fallible and disputable Speculations, at once violating the Light of Nature, and outraging the Laws of Humanity.

But to return from this Digression (into which I may have been perhaps incautiously transported, by the deep Impression with which the Importance of the Subject struck me), it is still alleged, that, whatever may be the Opinion and Conduct of the Lower House of Maryland, respecting these Matters, yet that an impartial Spirit of Freedom, unbiassed by Party, Place, or Connexions, characterizes the Honourable Members of the Upper House; that they are Friends to the unalienable Right of private Judgment and equitable Taxation; are (what indeed no one would have supposed them not to have been) Gentlemen of liberal Education, well acquainted with the Systems of foreign States, and fully sensible of the immense Advantages resulting from Freedom of Trade—and of Thought. I have not the Honour of an Acquaintance with any of those Gentlemen, but have collected these Sentiments of them from among the People, with whom I conversed in Maryland. Nor am I disposed to doubt the Justice of this Predilection of the People in Favour of the Upper House, when I consider that their Councils are animated by that firm and independent Spirit, which so uniformly actuates the patriotic Author of the most excellent Considerations.

But it remains still extremely problematical, whether these Gentlemen either have it in their Power or Inclinations, to take any decisive Part in the inconsiderable Affairs of Baltimore, fully employed as they are in the more important Matters of State.

Upon the whole, I am clearly of the Opinion, formed on the most careful Observation and Enquiry, that Baltimore is now at its Zenith, or rather on the Decline. Many have been disappointed in their Expectations of improving their Fortunes by a Removal to that Town. Some have actually abandoned the Place, while many others meditate the same Design.—With these Prospects, which will be found to be truly stated, and in no Case exaggerated, I leave it with my Countrymen themselves to judge, how prudent it would be in them to forsake Pennsylvania and Freedom, unaltered, for the precarious Hopes of advancing their Estates, or of (what is of infinitely greater Moment) securing their religious Liberty in Baltimore.

Philadelphia, PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 20, 1772.

PHILO-PENNSYLVANIENSIS.

C A D I Z, November 4.

THE Officers of our Customs stopped here, a few Days since, the Master of a French Vessel, on whom they found Papers, which proved that he had much specie on Board his Ship; but this Officer had the Address to elude his Keepers in the Night, got on Board his Ship and sailed immediately. A Swedish Ship, with contraband Goods on Board, was not so lucky, the Ship and Cargo both being stopped.

FRANKFORT, Nov. 19. Some People, who pretend to know publick Affairs, assert, that the Court of Berlin has notified to that of Vienna, that the Propositions of Peace made by Russia to the Porte were highly acceptable.

WARSAW, Nov. 30. The King's Uhlans have taken Eleven Confederates, who were about Five Miles from