

Pemalties. In a Word, that they prefer the Prosperity of
our Country, to all other Considerations whatsoever.

WHAT was done in Consequence of the Merchants Con-
tentions, was, that the worst Tobacco should not be sold
for Two Pence Halfpenny. Second Leaf, not under Two
Pence Three Farthings. And best Leaf, not under Three
Pence per Pound.

EVEN these Rates would hardly afford us a bare Sub-
sistence; for he that ships Three Hogsheds, of 800 Weight
each, out of the Crop of two Hands, and pays their Levies,
Carpenter, and Cooper, may be said to make a good
Crop.

THE Neat Weight of each Hogshed, if it escapes being
spoiled in the Ship, will be reduced by Sweating, Samples,
and other Deductions, to 668 l. at the Scale.

AND we will suppose one of the three Hogsheds to sell
at the lowest Rate, one at the Second, and one at the Highest.
The Accounts will come out as follows; or pretty near it.

One Hogshed, Neat Weight 668, at Two Pence Half-pen- ny per Pound, will clear the Planter	3	13	0
One Hogshed, Neat Weight 668, at Two Pence Three Farthings per Pound, will not clear quite	4	6	11
One Hogshed, Neat Weight 668, at Three Pence per Pound, will fall something short of	5	0	10

Supposing them to clear as above; the Produce of two Hands Crop, will be	12	0	9
There must be a Deduction for Cloathing and Tools.	5	0	0
There will then remain	7	0	9

THEN let us consider the Price we generally give for
Tobacco; that it's rarely under Twenty Eight Pounds Sterling
per Tonne; which for Two, is Fifty Six Pounds: That if they
were all to live to old Age, yet that the many Distempers
they are liable to (which occasion no small Expence) and
their Value decreasing every Year they live beyond Thirty:
I we shall find that Ten per Cent, per Ann. clear, is not
at all to Two and an Half per Cent. on Money; which is
a poor Profit; But the Reckoning does not end here;
there's nothing so destructive of our Land, and Timber,
Tobacco. Besides, How frequently do Pleurisies, and
other violent Distempers, sweep away great Numbers of
us? And how long Time, with the greatest Industry and
Fidelity, will it be before the Loss of one Negroe is retrieved,
the Profit of Ten Negroes Labour, is not easily deter-
mined. He that considers all these Things, (and they ought
to be consider'd,) will find that the Price agreed on by
the Members, does not exceed a bare Subsistence. Yet, hap-
pily would it be for us, if we could reach even That. But,
! we are not to hope for it, unless we exert our selves.
The Enemies to our being in any other Condition but Beg-
gary, and Slavery, think that Subsistence too much for us;
seem to me to be of the same Opinion with that cruel
English Minister, who told the King, *his Subjects were too happy,
but they were not obliged to eat Grass.* We are happy in a
fertile and Soil, that secure us from Want of Provisions.
How Three Half Pence per Pound for our Tobacco (a
Price that a great deal hath not exceeded) will furnish us
with other Necessaries, I cannot conceive.

THE chief Comfort we have, is, that we know the Au-
thors of our Miseries, and that we have no Reason to despair,
we are so just to our selves, as to put our Affairs into the
Hands of such as we have Reason to believe will not betray
us. And we know by Experience, such are not wanting. For
all of the Merchants in Trade have demonstrated, that
they wanted not Humanity to commiserate our Calamities,
Honesty to condemn the Management that occasion'd
them; to let us know who were our Enemies, and to use
all Endeavours to extricate us.

OUR own Incredulity prevented our taking proper Mea-
sures; for all the Intimations we have received, tho' strictly
we were liable to this Objection, That those who com-
municated any Thing to us, which it was our interest to
know, might have an Expectation to ingratiate themselves
with us, and to raise Business upon the Ruins of such as were
in possession of too much. But this, or any other Objection
ought not to frighten us; it might possibly (in my humble Opinion) affect
Ridgley's Relation; who, I think, deserves the Thanks
of every Man in Maryland.

TO be of a forgiving Temper, is really a Vertue in a pri-
vate Person; but to forgive Injuries that reach Society,

is dangerous; and often destructive. "For, (to use the
Words of a brave Asserter of Liberty) a Country to suffer
itself to be ill used, is of dangerous Example; whether
it be by its Neighbours, or its Natives: Patience, in this
Case, invites fresh Injuries; And that People, who will
not bear many unjust Burthens, must not bear any.

"A Country, as I said above, ought to do it self Justice
with Speed, as well as with Vigour: DELAY has often
rendered a Cure impossible, in the Body Politick, as well
as in Human Bodies: By DELAYS, the Edge of Re-
sentment goes off, and the OFFENDER has Leisure to
fortify himself by NEW ROGUES." I hope our
RESENTMENT will be as general as our CALAMI-
TIES are.

I am

March 20, 1728.

No. 3.

Your humble Servant,

P. P.

Annapolis, March 24, 1728-9.

Mr. Parks,

AT my Return from Virginia, about Seven Weeks since,
I told some of my Acquaintance here, what I had heard
and seen in Virginia, relating to a List of Debts, which
were due from some Gentlemen in Maryland, to Capt. John
Hyde, Merchant in London; which Report flying from one
to another, improv'd very much; and I was inform'd that
Mr. Hoxton, Commander of the *Tristan*, intended to sue me for
the same; whereupon I sent him the following Letter, which
is in Substance the very same as the Original, to which I ap-
peal. But it being reported, that I deny'd in the said Let-
ter, that I ever saw such a List; I therefore desire you to
publish it in your next Gazette, that the unbiass'd World
may judge whether the said Report be true or false.

Annapolis, March 8, 1728-9.

S I R,

I WAS inform'd by a Gentleman in this Town that you
intended to sue me; for which Reason I have retain'd
Mr. Fenins and another Lawyer. But before you
throw a needless Charge on your self, I here inform you
that I have heard that Story (for ought as I know from the
Sixtieth Hand) in a far different Manner than ever I heard,
spoke, or dreamt of, and seemingly tending to Prejudice;
however I leave you to act according to your own Inclina-
tion. And am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

James Donaldson.

P. S. What I heard or spoke, I had from credible Gen-
tlemen in Virginia; but for ought as I know, the original Sto-
ry may be from Maryland. I leave the Issue to you; and
am, Yours,

J. D.

For Mr. Walter Hoxton, Commander of the *Tristan*.

SOME Persons would infer my Denial, from these Words in
the said Letter, *that for ought as I know, I have heard
that Story from a Sixtieth Hand in a far different Manner
from my relating of it at first*; No, I thereby only alluded
to the great Additions and Alterations that may be, and com-
monly are made to Stories that pass thro' so many Mouths.
For I was ask'd by a Gentleman at Annapolis, last Provincial
Court, whether I had seen a List of such Debts due from
Gentlemen in Maryland to Capt. John Hyde, sign'd by him-
self (as he had heard) or Not? on which I reply'd, Not; and
am likewise certain, that I never said those Words. But
this I declare to be the Purport of what I saw and heard.

That being at a Gentleman's House in Virginia, after a
small Conversation about indifferent Things, he told me, he
was let to know, that the Province of Maryland was very
much indebted to Captain Hyde; on which I reply'd, that I
could scarce believe any such thing; and if it was so, it was
no more than what had been some of their own Cases
not long ago, with Mr. Perrie, and other Merchants in
London; he reply'd, did I doubt what he said to be a Truth,
he could shew it, with a List of sundry Peoples Names in-
debted as aforesaid; then he brought a Paper, which
he