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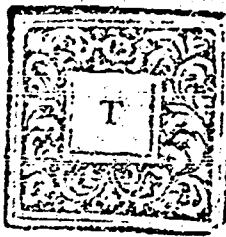
# Maryland Gazette



From Tuesday April 15, to Tuesday April 22, 1729.

(Numb. LXXXIV)

Mr. P. P. OF PHILOPATRIÆ,



H U S, Sir, I presume to stile you; for if this be not your real Name, That Publick Spirit which animates your Actions, and your generous Endeavours, at this critical Conjunction, to set the People right in their Judgment and Practice, very justly intitles you to it. The Subject you treat upon, is of the last Importance, our Felicity in a great Measure depending on the Issue of the present Cause between Us and the London Merchants; for, to use Mr. Falconar's Words, *As we have made a Beginning, and gone so far, should we now flag and recoil, our latter End will be worse than our Beginning; our Tasks will be doubled, we shall be laughed at for a foolish, unsteady People; and sit only to be made Burthen Bearers.*

O N these Considerations, Sir, the Gentlemen of our Neighbourhood expected to have seen the GAZETTE filled with Encomiums, and grateful Acknowledgements of an Undertaking so laudable and necessary: It is easy therefore to imagine our Surprise at the late Performance in Opposition to it; tho' thus much may be said in the Author's Vindication, that had he only attempted a fair Apology for his Employer's Conduct, it would have been commendable; but to maltreat, and revile his Opponents, to call Gentlemen of Figure and Reputation Calumniators, for no other Cause than letting us know the Enemies of our Country, and faithfully declaring a Series of scandalous Proceedings, Actions of Merchants in direct Opposition to the Trust reposed in them, deprectating our Staple, which it was their Duty to advance, and thereby ruining those very People by whose Favours they had amassed to themselves a vast Estate, This, I must say, is not to be born with; any more than his unmannerly Method of discrediting Mr. Ridgley's Declaration, tho' supported by the Gentlemen of this Country that were in London at that Time, confirmed by almost every Merchant in the Trade, and even the Tobacco-Buyers themselves, as Mr. Galloway declares. What a wretched Opinion must the Captain entertain of us, to think we could be so easily imposed upon, as to believe his Say-so, in flat Contradiction to such Evidence! — Oh! but Mr. Ridgley, says he, is contradicted by a Certificate under the Hands of about Twenty Merchants: This Argument might as well have been let alone; for the worst Construction that can be put upon Mr. Ridgley's Words, in relation to Mr. Hanbury, amounts to no more than an involuntary Error, which is not criminal, but may easily subsist without impeaching the Certificate. His Answer was, *That he had not sold contrary to the Agreement.* And being taxed by Mr. Bradley, with having sold a Parcel of about Twenty Hogshoads under the Price agreed on; he reply'd, *That what he had sold, would come out in an Average at the stated Price, which (he said) was conformable to the Agreement.* Now, this is plainly no more than a Misapprehension of the Agreement, not a wilful Breach, or Contempt of it. Could the Captain have said but *thus much* in Favour of Mr. Hyde's Conduct, it would have been more to the Purpose than all the Rubbish heaped together in his Epistle General. However, Mr. Hanbury is out of the Question, I could otherwise very easily clear up his good Conduct. But since the Captain builds so much upon this Cer-

tificate, give me Leave to tell you, Sir, it is not my single Opinion, but the Opinion of all those I converse with, that it was not calculated so much to defend Messieurs Hanbury's and Bradley's Conduct, as to point out to us the Person that broke the Agreement. That the Agreement was broke, is notorious, and the only four Persons accused thereof, were, Messieurs Jackson, Hanbury, Bradley, and Hyde. As to Jackson, there is no such Man in the Trade. Messieurs Hanbury, and Bradley, are declared innocent: Is it not evident then, that Mr. Hyde was guilty, in the Opinion of these 20 Merchants that Sign'd the Certificate? *We cannot, say they, in Justice deny complying to the Request of the Injured, viz. James Bradley, and John Hanbury, in declaring they did not break the Agreement.* It seems then, they did not apprehend Mr. Hyde injured: And it is to be thought the other Merchants, as well as the unprejudiced People in Maryland, are much of the same Mind. I suppose, Sir, You took Notice of the following Words in the Captain's Letter, *viz. As to what Mr. Ridgley says of Capt. Randolph's abusing Mr. Hyde, &c.* I profess I can find no such Words in Mr. Ridgley's Declaration; there is mention indeed of Mr. Hyde's abusing us, but as this Passage very clearly demonstrates the Trades Opinion of that Gentleman, Excuse me, Sir, if I repeat the Substance of it, which is as follows: *That Mr. Randolph, being desirous to keep up the Market, had offered Mr. Hyde more Money for a Parcel of Tobacco, than he afterwards sold it for to the French Man. That several of the Merchants present, publicly charged and upbraided Mr. Hyde with breaking thro' the Agreement, and being an Enemy to the Trade. — That Mr. Randolph in particular, resented Mr. Hyde's Conduct so far as to call him Rascal, and said that he deserved to be kick'd thro' London; and that he should take Care to acquaint the People of Maryland, how much they had been abused by Mr. Hyde.* Which, it seems, he has since done.

I am afraid, Sir, of trespassing on your Patience, shall therefore only take Notice of a poor Thing call'd an Argument, by the Remnant of Mr. Hyde's Interest, which, poor as it is, has travell'd, it seems, through great Part of the Province, not without Applause from the Abettors of that Party: The Argument is this; — *That he will This Year exert himself: Very concise truly; but if the Gentlemen speak proper, was it not his Duty to have done so hitherto? And if he has been deficient, is it not a Breach of Trust? A criminal Neglect? If they speak improper, they would insinuate and suppose one of these two Things; that he will now give us the Produce of our Tobacco, or more; if the former, it is but what the honest Merchants have done; And is it not more reasonable to expect they will continue to do so, than to argue that a Person will be Honest, because he has been otherwise? This puts me in Mind of Mr. A — Paca's Letter, some time ago, to Mr. Hyde, which odd, as it appeared then, contained, it seems, according to these Gentlemen, a just Way of Thinking. If I have been rightly inform'd, these are the Words: 'Friend Hyde, I like thee well, if thee wouldst give me a little more Money for my Tobacco; that is, a little more of that Money which my Tobacco fetches. — If the Gentlemen would insinuate, that he will give more than the Produce, it's what I dare say, has not been yet practis'd by himself, or any other Merchant; and it's ridiculous to imagine, that a Per-*