

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Containing the freshest Advices Foreign and Domestic.

TUESDAY, April 22, 1746.

Maryland, April, 1746.

Mr. GREEN,

Find in your Gazette, Number 49, a Scheme for an Inspecting Law, proposed by one Mr. A. B. wherein he seems to set forth the Necessity of a Regulation Law, to raise the Price of our Staple Commodity TOBACCO, which I agree with him in; but as to the Method of doing it, am far from concurring with him, because the Staple of Tobacco may be raised with much less Charge to the Country than by an Inspecting Law, which would rather impoverish the Makers, than be a Means of enriching them; and I think he is mistaken in his Calculations in his proposed Scheme. In the first Place, he supposes that 60 Warehouses will be sufficient; whereas any one, that will give himself but Time to view many great Rivers there are in this Province, would not be less than 100 to be sufficient: And he is as much out in his Calculations in Building; for I could venture to say, he would not meet with one Man in the Country, that would build a House of the Dimensions he has mentioned, for a less Sum than 800 *l.* so that instead of the Houses costing but 3600, he may very reasonably judge them to cost 8000 *l.* As to the Price of the Land, and Scales and Weights, he may perhaps purchase them at the Price he has mentioned; but as we must judge that it will be necessary, (if ever such a Law is made), for 100 Warehouses; so there must purchased 100 Acres of Land, which will come to 300 *l.* whereas he makes it but 180: So likewise there must be 200 Officers, which are called Inspectors, which will come to, at 30 *l.* per Man, 6000; whereas he makes it but 3000. And as to his Method of defraying the Charge of an Inspecting Law, I must also differ in Opinion with him, especially on Account of his laying a Duty on Rum (because I like a little of it now and then myself), he proposes to lay a Duty of 2 *d.* per Gallon on all Rum imported into the Province; now I should be glad to know who he thinks, in the End, is to pay this 2 *d.* per Gallon; whether the Seller will lose that in his Price, or make the Purchaser pay it: Yes surely, the poor Planter, who is generally the Purchaser, must pay it; and that still makes him less capable to support his Family.

As to a Law to lessen the Clergy's and Officers Fees, I readily concur with him to be highly necessary; but if it cannot be obtained without an Inspecting Law, I am for their Fees to stand as they are. And as to his Proposal in paying his Lordship's Quit Rents, he is much out in his Calculations; that

to the several Inspectors appointed; and the Inspectors to deliver the same to his Lordship's Agent; will, supposing the Quantity of 36000 Hogheads of Tobacco be exported, amount to 4950 *l.* which (he says) is an Equivalent to his Lordship's 'Quit Rents.' Now I will only ask him, if the People in paying the Quit Rents to the Inspectors, save any Thing by it, or if it is not the same as if they paid it to his Lordship's Agent themselves: I must confess, for my own part, I cannot see any Difference, or the least Advantage to the People by it; for it is equal to pay it to one as the other, if either has a power to receive it. But further, as to his Calculation in the Quantity of Hogheads that would be shipped yearly, which he supposes will be 36000: Now I am most positive, that Maryland never exceeded that Quantity, if ever it came up to it, in any one Year; and pray does he not think, that if an Inspecting Law is made, that the Quantity will not be greatly lessened? Surely it must, or else I don't see wherein we should reap the least Advantage by it; and then, instead of paying 2 *s.* 9 *d.* per Hoghead for his Lordship's Quit Rents, it would be perhaps 3 *s.* 9 *d.* or 4 *s.* per Hoghead, according to the Quantity of Tobacco that would be destroyed; for the Proprietor must, and ought to have an Equivalent for his Rents.

Thus have I briefly gone through the several Heads of Mr. A. B.'s Scheme for an Inspecting Law; and, as I said before, that a Tobacco Law is highly wanted, so I will propose one in few Words; which I will be bold to say, that three Parts in four of the People of this Province will join in Opinion with me, before they will with him for his Inspecting Law.

My Proposal, to lessen the Quantity and mend the Quality of Tobacco, is to have a Burning Law; that every taxable Person, that are Makers of Tobacco within this Province, shall be obliged to burn the Quantity of 150 *lb.* of Tobacco; that the Makers be obliged to cut up their Tobacco stalks, within ten Days after the principal Plant is cut down; and that there be a limited Time for shipping Tobacco; then the Merchants would know what Time to send their Ships here, and what Time to expect the Return of them back again; whereas at present they are at no Certainty, but their Ships kept here a long Time upon very great Expences; and some one or other going home all the Year round; which is a great Prejudice to the Markets at home. Now as I have pointed out the several Mistakes that Mr. A. B. has made in his Calculations, I hope it will be agreeable to the Readers, as they will see the great Advantage to be had by a Burning Law, and how it will mend the Quality of Tobacco (before the present Quantity is destroyed) and how it will mend the Quality of Tobacco.