

Containing the freshest Advices Foreign and Domestic.

TUESDAY, June 17, 1746.

Mr. GREEN,

Maryland, June, 1746.

Erasing your Gazette, N^o. 55, I find that my friend Mr. A. B. (friend did I call him? it is a mistake; he cannot be my friend, as he is for an Inspecting Law,) has appeared once again in Print, in justification of his scheme for an Inspecting Law; which I did not expect he would, because there was such a general disgust to it by the people: And I think he has now meddled the matter much; which is with such a parcel of stuff (so inconsistent with reason), that it's enough to give any man the gripes to read it. And I am surprized any man should be so assiduous, and use so much prevarication, for to draw any set of people, or a whole province, into a snare; such a one as will certainly be their utter ruin and destruction, out of a private view of emolument to himself, and a few others; and at the same time declares how much he has the welfare of his country at heart: Which I cannot look upon in any other light, but a malfeasance. And the method he has used in raising the charges on a Burning Tobacco Law, plainly shews the inconsequency.

In the first place, he says, there must be taxed on the people the sum of 3000 *l.* to pay those that are appointed to execute the office of a Burning Law. If the gentleman had charged so largely in his scheme for an Inspecting Law, I believe the people would have thought him more genuine. But I will plainly shew, that the charges on a Tobacco Burning Law will not amount to more than the sum of 900 *l.* yearly; which is but a trifle, in comparison with the emolument we should receive by such a law: For let us but look back into a law made in the year 1728, and there we shall find, that those that were appointed to count 7000 Tobacco plants for every taxable, were allowed but five pounds of Tobacco for their trouble: Also in the year 1730, those that were appointed to count 6000 plants, were allowed the same sum of five pounds of Tobacco, and no more; which is much more trouble than burning 150 *lb.* of Tobacco. But let us look into the law made in the year 1732, in the act for emission of our Paper Currency; and there I believe we shall find, that those that were appointed Tobacco-Burners, had no more allowed them than 6 *d.* Currency for every 150 *lb.* Tobacco they burnt; but the gentleman would have them allowed 20 *d.* Which puts me in mind of the great men in France, who are for carrying on their war, tho' at the ruin of the common people; and so I believe it is with Mr. A. B. that he don't care how great the charges are on his beloved Inspecting Law, so he can but get it: And I am sorry that the Gentleman should deprecate our Paper Currency, as to make it now 10 per cent. worse than it was at first; for I believe any person would be as willing to raise a pound of tax on the people, as to allow a poor taxman to receive a pound of tax, which is all that he can get, and yet he do affirm, that the whole province will receive on a Burning Tobacco Law, which sum is not much by 2000 *l.* as he makes the Inspectors to be allowed in his own scheme; which he can't deny: But it must be

an annual charge, besides the vast expence of building warehouses, purchasing of lands, and scales and weights. And as to the other charges that will (he says) accrue on a Burning Tobacco Law, they are most weak in themselves; as to make a charge of 1 *s.* 6 *d.* for every 100 *lb.* Tobacco to be stripp'd and burnt; 2 *s.* 6 *d.* for every 100 *lb.* Tobacco to mature lands; and 1 *s.* 6 *d.* per day for cutting up our Tobacco stalks: I should always think my servants labour worth something. But all this they can easily do, and the time never be mis'd in their crop. Besides, if it is money, I never had it; therefore don't pay it out of my pocket: Whereas the charges that accrue on an Inspecting Law is money, that I actually must pay out of my pocket.

But I wonder at Mr. A. B. that in his scheme for his Inspecting Law, he did not charge 1 *s.* 6 *d.* per day for our servants labour, for carrying our Tobacco to the Inspecting Houses, and their waiting and attending there: By the same parity of reason one ought to be a charge as much as the other. As to his saying that a Burning Law would not prevent Tobacco being distilled, and false packed: I do say, and will appeal to any person that understands the making Tobacco, that it is the only law that can be made to prevent trashy Tobacco being shipped; because it is impossible to ship it after it is burnt: And I am well assured, if we had an Inspecting Law, that I would pick 100 weight in every hoghead, and it should not be discovered: And as to my servants labour in cutting up my Tobacco stalks, I should think it well bestowed, because it would be an advantage to me; for my land would be more permanent, and likewise prevent both ground and horn worms from being much amongst my Tobacco.

And in regard to the quantity of warehouses, and the charge in building them, I do insist, that it will be necessary (if ever we have such a law) to have 100 warehouses, or very near it; and 80 *l.* is the least farthing any person can afford to build such a house for. As to his saying that he has been credibly informed by several persons, that the number of sixty warehouses would be sufficient, I give no regard to it; because I believe those few that have inform'd him so, are as much for an inspecting Law as he is himself: For let us but consider how many will be sufficient for Anne Arundel county, and we shall find that not less than eleven will do; which I will mention the particular places, viz. one at West River, one at London Town, one at the head of South River, one at the head of Severn River, one at the city of Annapolis, one on the north side of the Arden River, one at Morarty River, one at Patuxent, one at Elk River, and one at Jacob Lee's on this side of the Arden River, and one at a point on the north side of the Arden River, so that as Mr. A. B. says, that there is not a warehouse in all the county, we may reasonably suppose him to have done so in all the counties. That as there are 13 counties in the province, adding 3 more warehouses to each county, will make