

## MARYLAND GAZETTE.

Containing the freshest Advices Foreign and Domestic.

TUESDAY, December 23, 1746.

Mr. GREEN,

HE Wants of Men are innumerable; the quick-est Genius, by his sole Skill or *Industry*, could never furnish himself with one half of those Conveniencies required to make Life tolerably easy. Nature has formed us defenceless and weak, as well as needy; exposed, not only to the Severities of Climate and Air, but an easy Prey to every savage Animal. Therefore, to remedy this, we must have Recourse to *Art and Industry*, which arm us against all the Dangers and Difficulties that surround us: In united Societies, regulated by just Laws, every Individual is secured against the Craft and Violence of another; and where Arts prevail, and are encouraged, the Members of that Society mutually support one another, by furnishing the Necessaries of Life, the Product of their Industry: But, be ere a Man can expect to enjoy those Blessings of Life, he must labour for them, and bear his Part of the Burden. Hence *Industry* must precede our Happiness, for before we can expect to enjoy the Product or Manufacture of any Country or Society, we must have something of our own to dispose, which they set a Value upon, which is the Exchange we expect for the Exercise of their own.

*Industry* is the main Spring of national Power and Wealth. The more gain, Reputation, Riches, the Poverty and Weakness of every Country, turn out according to the Industry of its Inhabitants, and their Wisdom and policy in the Administration of public Affairs. Several Countries enjoy great Advantages over others, both in the Quality and Quantity of their productions; as private Industry and public Oeconomy can only give the Preference or Superiority; even those established Mediums of Money, *Gold and Silver*, equally valued by all polite Nations, are not the Proprietors of the Countries where they are produced; they are only *Labourers* for other trading Nations, and the most industrious do always acquire, or possess them in great Plenty.

The Product of any particular Part of the habitable Globe may, perhaps, be sufficient to supply the Exigencies of a certain Number of Inhabitants, which makes Indolence a prevalent Vice in most Countries thinly inhabited; but nothing less can satisfy the Wants of the more luxurious, than the Product and Manufacture of the whole World, which, by means of *Trade and Commerce*, is laid open, and possessed, by every particular Part of it. The *Philosopher* will say, *That half of those Wants are unreal and imaginary*; it is true, and many can vouch this, both from Speculation and Practice; but how few and inconsiderable are these *abstemious Sages* and retired *Anchorets*, when compared to the numerous Herd of Mankind? When Industry is furnished any Person with the indispensable Necessaries of Life, such as *Food, Raiment, and Lodging*, he rests not there, but proceeds to *Luxury*, the Bane of Wealth, to create new Wants, which are so far real, as they prompt and excite us to seek, and without it, Life could be scarce.

THE End every Man has in View, by Toil, Labour, and Assiduity in Business, is to acquire Wealth, and have it in his Power to gratify every Appetite, and every Desire; tho' those that are most eager in Pursuit of Riches, rarely or never do, but go on in the same endless Chace so long as they live: But indeed, Riches are of no Value, unless used in such a Manner, as to supply the Delicacies and Conveniencies of Life; for by that Means, the Labourer is encouraged in Industry, Money circulates, and the Society reaps Benefit by it; but Treasure can be of no Use either to the Possessor, or his Neighbours, when hoarded up in Chests and strong Boxes.

I would not be thought here to cry up luxurious and extravagant Living in general; I only say, that if Luxury was to be confined to the Rich alone, it might prove a great national Good, and a public Benefit to Mankind. Were sumptuous Expences confined only to Men of great Estates, it would contribute much to preserve the Balance of Property, by diminishing the Wealth of those who seem to have too much; for it is the better for every Country, the more equal the Distribution of Property is.

Do not magnificent and stately Buildings, costly Furniture, and Apparel, Confectionaries, Cookeries, Variety of Meats, Fruits, and other Delicacies for Diet, all contribute to communicate so much of the Wealth of the Rich, to the ingenious *Artist*, and industrious *Manufacturer*; and are not the *Porcelain* of *China* and *Japan*, the curious *Varnishing* and *Workmanship* brought from thence, the *Coffice of Turkey*, *Spices of Arabia*, the luscious *Sugar* and high priced *Wines of the Islands*, the *Tobacco* of the *American Colonies*, and even the *insipid Tea of China*, now universally used; all so many Subjects of Commerce, as serve to support so many *Merchants*, and greater Numbers of *retailing Shopkeepers*, who deal in these Commodities: These, and many more, needless to mention, may be in themselves unnecessary, and easily dispensed with; but Custom and Habit, which forms our Taste in every Thing, has made them so far necessary, that every one uses them in proportion to his Ability and Circumstances: No Man will part with his Property for Nothing; and whatever he esteems so much as to part with his Property for it, that Thing becomes so far useful; and the Price paid for it ascertains its real Value. *Glass Beads* and *Diamonds* may be in themselves equally unnecessary; but the real Value of each is settled by the Opinion of Mankind.

As Poverty treads close upon the Heels of Luxury, Property would be in a constant Rotation, from the Hands of the Profligate and Expensive, to the Possession of the Frugal and Industrious; and, as we find from Experience, that Mens Manners change often with their Condition, immoderate Wealth would not remain long with the same Person or Family; but where Luxury is in Esteem, Vanity, the prevailing Passion of Mankind, will diffuse it amongst Persons of all Ranks and Conditions; Men of all Ranks will live above their station, and