

THE MARYLAND GAZETTE

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Containing the freshest advices, Foreign and Domestic.

TUESDAY, March 24, 1747.

Having published in two former GAZETTES (see No. 78 and 83) some Remarks upon the Conduct of the several Governments; in relation to the Exportation; and an Answer thereto, in Vindication of the Province of Maryland, wherein were some Digressions concerning our Staple; it will not, I hope, be thought amiss to insert the following, which was revised and published at New-York; by way of Reply to the said Answer.

From the New-York WEEKLY POST-BOY. Feb. 9, 1747.

Mr. Parker,
SEE A Relation of mine in Maryland, hath made some Observations on a Paper that I published some Time since in your Post-Boy; I am well pleased to find you have reprint'd it in your Paper, for two Reasons: The first is, that the genteel masterly Manner in which he has handled the Subject must make the Performance agreeable to all your Readers: The second is, the Opportunity he has given me of publicly acknowledging my Errors:

I must confess, to extirpate and destroy our Enemies, is not the Custom of British Conquerors, nor agreeable to that Lenity and Generosity that Englishmen are famed for. The Methods the French have made use of, to persuade the Indians to treat the Prisoners they take from us, so contrary to the Rules of War, and the Laws of Humanity, made me exert myself in too warm and unbecoming a Manner on that Occasion; tho' if a Fault can be pleasing to the Person offending, this has been to me in some Measure, from the great Pleasure it gave in receiving for gentle and handsome a Reprimand: But I acknowledge my Fault, and think the Expression unwarrantable.

The Calculation made of the Number of Roman Catholics was only from Informations; and I have good Reason to believe, from the Candour and Impartiality that appears throughout Mr. Antistep's Performance, that the Account he gives of their Number may be depended on.

It gives me a great deal of Concern, to find so melancholy a Reason assign'd for the notwithstanding more Men from the Province of Maryland; but that Concern is much augmented, when it is seen that their Poverty proceeds from not having their Staple put under proper Regulations, for the Preferment of it's Credit, which makes the Proverb of *Penny Wise, and Pound Foolish*, truly applicable to them, as well as to most of the Northern Colonies; the great Neglect of their Staple is one of their most prevalent Faults, and the true cause of it may not be difficult to determine.

I have been told, the putting the Staple of Flour under proper Regulations, hath been more than once attempted in the Province of New-York; yet never could be effected; which I can't help thinking must be owing to a Want of true public Spirit in some of the Members of the Legislature, to absolutely necessary for the Well-being of every Community; that would make Justice and Equity a Basis for their future Posterity; and nothing in my Opinion will contribute so much to make the several Governments on the Continent rich and powerful as the making proper Laws for regulating of their Staple; by which Word I would be understood to mean, all the Produce of any Government that is brought to Market. Such Regulations would, in great Measure, put an End to that galloping Consumption and Bredry that hath so violently seized many of the Colonies on the Continent; to mean, the making of Paper Money, that Darling of the Necessitous and Indigent; that if speedily, proper Remedies be not applied, will much fear to British Parliament will be even baffled to effect their Cure; tho' they

are allowed the best Physicians in the World, for a ruin'd State. It has often been Matter of great Surprise to me, to find that some, who have large Properties in a Country, would not only consent to the Emission of great Quantities of Paper Money but become the principal Instruments in doing of it; tho' daily Experience convinces every reasonable Man; that it depreciates the real Value of his Estate, tho' not the nominal one; and these Colonies who have made the largest Paper Emissions, are most in Debt; therefore, it can be no Bull to say, That *these Colonies that have the most Money can really pay least*; which, tho' a seeming Paradox, is as demonstrable as any Proposition in Euclid.

But to return to my Staple; I have often heard it objected by those that have talked of Regulations, that it would be the greatest Hardship in the World, that they should suffer their Manufactures to undergo a Search; and the Arguments made use of upon that Head are, That it is only putting so much Money in a few Officers Hands, who must be appointed for that Service; that if you will bribe these Officers, you may sell or lend off the worst of Provisions under the Sanction of their Mark: I conceive this to be only a Bugbear, to frighten the ignorant unthinking Set of Men, but can have no Weight where the least Reason prevails: Who can be supposed to bribe these Officers? The Answer is plain; The Manufacturer, that his bad Commodities may pass under the Sanction of the Officers Mark as good: Which plainly shows the absolute Necessity of having every Commodity inspected that it exposed to Sale, or shipp'd off to foreign Markets: The little low Craft that prevails with many that barrel Beef, Pork, and Stubble, for sale, purely to get a little more for their Commodity, is the true Reason that most of them spoil before they get to the West Indies; or at least before they can vend them there. I have often heard it said, by some of your *West-India* Factors, that when any *Pennsylvania* Flour is to be sold, there is no Demand for *New-York* Flour; and that insensibly owing to the Regulation they have put their Flour under in this Province. Those who have seen many Parts of the World, and made their Observations of the People, generally allow the *West-Indians* to have a great deal of what they call *Mast*, *Wine*, and *Canning*; yet it appears, in many pieces of their Conduct, that they are even destitute of *Common Sense*.

Your humble Servant,
THOMAS FIFE

UTRECHT; Dec. 30.

WB have this day received the most exact information concerning the revolt of the Genoeze, and on 9th consequence; by two letters from Genoa; one dated the 1st and the other the 11th instant; when the commission that had been in the city was removed into the neighbouring villages: This account contradicts all we had before received from the city from Leghorn and Parma.

December the 4th in the evening, there were some appearances of a tumult in one of the quarters of the city of Genoa; they were raised by the common people, and occasioned by the clamours of some of them, who complained that the Austrian salubern officers had attempted to take them, upon their entry, to draw one of the mortars which the aristocracy of Genoa had ordered for Provence; down to the Pope. Nothing more was wanting to raise a combustion in minds already sufficiently fermented; the fire indeed was hidden, but in such manner, that the first spark was enough to make it general, for above of eight hundred squares of Genoa were full of people, whose