

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

TUESDAY, May 5, 1747.

Mr. GREEN,

HAVE perus'd the piece sent you by Mr. *Q in the Corner*, in relation to a regulation of our Staple, which, in my humble opinion, does not deserve a serious answer; yet, as the subject of it is of the last consequence to every man in Maryland, and this author, should his performance pass without any objection, may possibly triumph upon an imagination that his arguments are unanswerable; and mislead some untanking person out of his corner, to give into his sentiments, I have been he pains to make some remarks upon it.

This author sets out with a declaration of his opinion, that an Inspection Law will be a destruction to the whole country in general (except to a few particular persons), but has not pleas'd to explain the grounds of his opinion, rather than soundly asserting, that the expence of the first year will not amount to less than 17000 l. which he says, would be too great a sum, if we consider the small advantages we shall reap, and the many inconveniences we shall be put to by it. Well, Mr. *Q in the Corner* has found out that we may reap some small advantages from what will be destructive to the whole country; for I do not suppose, that in his *WE*, he intended to include his few selected particular persons: This discovery is worthy the favour of Mr. *Q in the Corner*. But to proceed, I really agree with him, that 17000 l. or any other sum, if it exceeds the advantages we shall reap by an Inspection Law, is too much, and if such Law would be of but small advantage, and attended with inconveniences equal to that small advantage, it ought to be made; but as we have only Mr. *Q in the Corner's* word for this, and as I am out of his corner, I own I am not convinced, and I hope nobody else who is in my condition, will pin his faith upon his sleeve, but rather consider for himself, and make use of the best lights he can come at.

He next material argument, next to the terrible sum of 17000 l. proceeds from Mr. *Q in the Corner's* charity and compassion for the poorer sort of people, who ought to be consider'd. That charity to the poor is an affecting topic, nobody will deny, as I believe no honest man will assert or think, that an obligation of being charitable or compassionate will justify misrepresentations in matters of fact, or false reasoning on any occasion. Whether there be any thing of this kind in Mr. *Q in the Corner's* state of the case of the poor man, will best appear, by laying that state before my reader, in Mr. *Q in the Corner's* own words: "Well, let us suppose a man [I suppose he intends a poor man, because he is to pay 800 weight of Tobacco for rent] has a wife and several small children to maintain (which is the case of many among us), and supposing him to make 1000 lb. Top Tobacco, and 500 lb. good Second Tobacco, which will be a good crop; when he comes to pay his landlord for his rent, he will have left 200 lb. Top Tobacco, and 500 lb. of Second Tobacco, to maintain his family, which is but a small quantity: But now let us suppose, that if we had an Inspection Law, what would he have then to maintain his family? Why, he would have but 200 lb. Top Tobacco, because his 500 lb. Second Tobacco must be destroyed; which, at the prices Tobacco sells at now, the Top at 12 s. 6 d. per cent, and the Second at 8 s. per cent, will produce him 3 l. 5 s. whereas, if he had but the 200 lb. Top Tobacco, allowing it to sell for 16 s. 8 d. per cent, he would only have 1 l. 13 s. 4 d. to support his family; which would be debarring the man of above half his profit, that he would get on his whole Crop, because if his Trash was destroyed, his Second would advance in price as well as his Top

"Tobacco." The expence of 17000 l. the condition which the poor People would be reduc'd to under an Inspection Law, and the small Advantages and Inconveniences which are not explain'd (as has been already observ'd) make up the sum total of this Author's Arguments against an Inspection Law, which I will now consider in their order.

As to the dreadful sum of 17000 l. which seems to have put him in a terrible fright, and that he would endeavor to frighten others with, I beg leave to ask him a few Questions. Pray, Mr. *Q in the Corner*, don't you know that if there was an Inspection Law, that there are several Men in the Country, who would be glad to build proper and convenient Warehouses at their own cost and charge, for the sake of the Rent which would become due for Tobacco to be lodg'd in them? Would not the building of such Houses, in such manner, lessen the sum of 17000 l.?

Do you not know, Sir, that we have a Paper Currency among us established by Law, and that it is in the power of the Legislature to apply as much of that Currency to the building such Warehouses, as will not be built by private Persons, and to replace that Money again, with the Interest of Four per Cent out of the Rent, which will become due for the Tobacco that shall be lodg'd in such Warehouses, without adding one Farthing to our Taxes? Do you not know, Sir, that when the Money and Interest of it are thus replaced, the future Rents of Warehouses may be applied to the lessening of Taxes? This I am inform'd is the case in Virginia, and I believe can be prov'd. A due consideration of these Questions will I hope induce you to abandon your Fears, and recover your Senses.

Now, Mr. *Q in the Corner*, let us consider your favourite Cause of the poorer sort, whom you have taken under your powerful protection, and permit me earnestly to intreat you to lay your hand upon your heart, and answer those who are out of your corner, Whether you could hope to impose on any of them, so far as to persuade them to fear, or even suspect, that all or any part of the poorer sort of People's, or any People's, good Second Tobacco, would be destroy'd under an Inspection Law; and that their Top Tobacco alone should escape the Flames? I think it is absolutely impossible you could suppose any number of Men in their Senses, and out of your corner, could be so stupid, as to induce you to entertain any such hopes; and if you could not, is it not astonishing that you would expose yourself, by advancing such a palpable and glaring Untruth in the public manner you have done? The condition of the poor Man who will have 200 wt. of Top Tobacco, and 500 wt. of good Second to lay out, in all human probability, under an Inspection Law, will be, that he will get as many Necessaries, or very near it, for those two Quantities, as he can do in the present situation for his whole Crop.

Now as to Mr. *Q in the Corner's* favourite Burning and Shipping Law; I suppose he means by a Shipping Law, a Law to limit or appoint a time when Tobacco may be shipp'd, and a restraint of shipping at any other time. Upon this supposition I may be allow'd to observe, that we have experienc'd both, that if the burning Law had been advantageous to the Country, it would not have been dropt as it was, and an Act pass'd to exempt a great many who had transgress'd it, from any Prosecutions. The Law to limit the Time of Shipping was soon repeal'd, and any limitation of that sort is impracticable in time of War.

It would therefore, in my humble opinion, be very imprudent to take up a Scheme which has been tried, and found not to answer the end proposed by it; as if would be not to come

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