

into one which has been upon long experience found by our Neighbours and Rivals in Trade, to be of the greatest advantage; especially as I humbly conceive, that no substantial Reason can be assign'd why the same Cause should not produce the same Effect here, as it has among our Neighbours.

Leaders seem to have disoblid'd Mr. *Q* in the *Corner*, by these Explications of his, "some will say that the Trading People will be greatly advantaged by an Inspection Law (but I hope we are not to consider them alone) and that they will give an advanced Price for our Tobacco, because it will have the Inspector's Stamp on the Hogheads!" And then this notable Question follows, "What can't the Merchants get Receivers that will do them as much Justice as the Inspectors? And the solution is as remarkable as the Question, *to wit*, "surely equally as just and honest." Now, Sir, if a Man who is at large should happen to meet you out of your *corner*, he may perhaps, after this preliminary quest on, Pray, Sir, have trading people interfered with you, or incur'd your displeasure, so far as to hurry you into absurdities? ask you these questions, How is it possible to consider trading people alone, as to the consequences of an Inspection Law, it will induce them to give us an advanced price for our Tobacco, because it will have the stamp of the Inspectors upon the hogheads? Is it not our interest to have an advanced price for our Tobacco, let it proceed from what cause it will? Is it not our interest to promote any cause that will produce this effect? Are the trading people alone consider'd, or are we not included in the consideration of the consequences of an Inspection Law? Will not you permit these trading people to judge for themselves, whether it is more to their advantage, to depend on the sanction which the Inspector's stamp on the hogheads will give, or to rely upon the justice and honesty of receivers?

I would ask you, Sir, whether you have had any considerable quantity of Tobacco received for you? If you have, whether you have not been sometimes imposed on by your receivers? If you have not; I will venture to affirm, that you have been more fortunate in the choice of your receivers than other people; but suppose you have been thus fortunate, have you not, when you have been out of your *corner*, heard many loud and just complaints of the negligence and knavery of Receivers? But let us suppose Receivers as honest and careful as any set of men can possibly be; I believe it is absolutely impossible for them, with all their care and honesty, to guard against the frauds of people who are skilful in the arts of false packing, especially where the Tobacco is very Leavy; they cannot guard against false taring, nor against the uncertainty of steyards, nor against uncalling good Tobacco and putting Trash in the room of it, nor against the damage it may, and frequently does sustain, in leaky houses, or lying on damp or wet floors, nor against the damage which is often occasioned by rolling Tobacco; not to mention that it often happens, that the heading comes out, and a good deal of it is stolen.

I hope people, who are out of Mr. *Q*'s *corner*, will consider, that all the staple, and other commodities, of Great-Britain, are under Parliamentary regulations, that not any thing passes without a stamp; that these Regulating acts cannot be carried into execution without charge. No reasonable man can imagine, that the English or British Parliament was not convinced of the necessity of these acts, to guard against the frauds of manufacturers, as the most proper, or rather only means of keeping up the reputation of the British manufactures in foreign countries. I have Sir William Temple's authority with me on this subject, who, speaking of the Dutch, expresses himself in these terms: "Order and exactness in managing their trade, which brings their commodities in credit abroad. This was first introduced by severe laws and penalties, but is since grown into custom." Thus there have been thirty placarts (which among them are of the same force as Acts of Parliament in Britain) about the manner of curing, pickling, and barreling Herrings. Thus all Arms made at Utrecht are forfeited, if sold without Mark, or marked without Tryal. And I observed, that in the Indian House, that all the peeces of bearded Let, which are sent in great quantities to those parts, are marked with the English arms, and inscriptions in English; by which they maintain the credit gain'd to that commodity by our former trade to parts where it is now lost or decayed."

Would it not be very imprudent in the people of Maryland, to suppose against all experience and common sense, that the best

and most effectual Regulation of their trade is not at all absolutely necessary, or that they ought not to imitate the example of the wisest trading nation in all ages, who have been attentive to the means or establishment of the reputation of every branch of the trade, as the Virginians have done; which that country is a very happy and flourishing condition, compare with ours.

I have not seen *Merrator's* calculation; to which Mr. *Q* in the *Corner* objects; nor do I understand his; and therefore have no inclination to grope in the dark with him, in or out of his *corner*. But I will endeavour to shew some of the advantages which, I am persuaded will flow from an Inspection Law.

1<sup>stly</sup>, It will induce traders to come among us, and to bring ready money, as well as goods, to purchase our Tobacco, as they do in Virginia; our people win by this means get money to answer their most pressing necessities, and, in particular, to pay their Quit Rents, which is a very difficult for them to do at present: And there will be no occasion for Revenue-Bills, or other expedients, to raise a fund as inequivalent for Quit Rents, which cannot be collected, without laying too heavy a burthen on Tobacco.

2<sup>dy</sup>, It will rescue many people from the griping talons of mercenary usurers, and remove the burthen which they too many are under, of submitting to the severe terms of such; which terms, in a little time, give the greedy usurer an absolute dominion over the property of those who fall into their hands.

3<sup>dy</sup>, As the soil of Maryland is much better than that of Virginia, and that there is no difference in the climate in prejudice of the former, our people may make better Tobacco than can be made in Virginia; which will give the Marylanders the same, or near the same advantages over the Virginians, as they now have over us.

4<sup>thly</sup>, Inspectors Notes, for very small quantities of Tobacco, would, as they do in Virginia, pass as currency in payments, as our Paper Money Bills now do; which would be a very great ease to people, who find it very difficult to get even our Paper Money, to answer the most urgent calls.

5<sup>thly</sup>, It will effectually secure to us the benefit of our Staple, which we are in manifest danger of losing, by the Virginians increasing the number of their slaves (of which they will purchase a great many from hence), so as to enable them to supply almost, if not all, the European markets with Tobacco; and whenever that happens to be the case, it will be in vain for us to endeavour, or attempt to retrieve the reputation of our Staple.

6<sup>thly</sup>, Those who owe Tobacco (which is the unhappy case of too many), cannot possibly, in the present situation, discharge their debt, and get common necessaries; for were they to pay all their Tobacco towards their old debts, they must unavoidably contract new ones, or starve; and their debts will increase upon them in the same proportion as their ability to pay them will decrease (which are certain consequences of the lowness of Tobacco, and dearth and scarcity of goods); whereas, if there was an Inspection Law, there would be a reduction of Tobacco debts, officers fees, and other Tobacco payments; which would enable an industrious man (who does not owe more than one crop) to pay off one half in one year, the rest the ensuing year, and subsist comfortably on the other half both years, and to keep up something every year afterwards; and would also enable our neighbour to assist another, or a friend, in distress.

7<sup>thly</sup>, It will prevent the great delay in loading of ships, which the freighters must certainly pay the charge of: It will reduce the quantity of Tobacco to such a degree of certainty, that those to whom it shall be consign'd will know what ships to send when to load, and expect the Tobacco home; when to send to the best markets, and how much will go to market: It will prevent the damages which are occasioned by Winter passages; and it will prevent our own Trash, as well as a great deal of Trash which is brought from Virginia, from going to market; which depreciates our best Tobacco, and will totally ruin the reputation of our Staple, and put it past retrieving or recovery.

I will own, that I foresee some inconveniences that will attend an Inspection Law, and I don't question but there may be others of the same nature; which do not occur to me at present; and therefore shall only trouble the reader with the following specimen.

1<sup>stly</sup>, I am persuaded the little trade we now have, which is in few hands, will increase, and be carried on by many; which will excite such an emulation, and to such industry, as will be

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