

THE  
**MARYLAND GAZETTE**

No. 110.

*Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.*

TUESDAY, June 2, 1747.

**Mr. GREEN,**

As I am a Well-wisher to the Trade and Prosperity of this Province, and consequently desirous of seeing an Inspection-Law take place, I am sorry that I am obliged to differ with any Person who seems desirous of having such a Law.

A WRITER who subscribes *A Planter*, in your Paper No. 108, I think shews very plainly, how ineffectual any other than an Inspection Law must be for regulating our Tobacco; but I think the Concessions he makes, in Behalf of the Merchants and Factors purchasing Tobacco here, will by no means be allowed by them. I have bought, and exported out of this Province, from 600 to 1000 Hogheads of Tobacco yearly, for ten Years past; and I am very certain, that so large a Share as a fourth or a fifth Part of that was no such Trash, as we may suppose will be destroyed after we have an Inspection-Law. I cannot allow, that any Contracts I have made for Tobacco have either been actually or virtually for any Part to be paid in Trash, for I have constantly stipulated with the Persons who have dealt with me, for good clean Tobacco, clear of all manner of Trash; and wherever I have been imposed on by having Trash paid me, so far I have been injur'd by the Planter, and it hath been my constant Custom to throw away all the Trash I have found; and charge the Person with it who paid it to me: I have often found it in heavy Hogheads (which I generally overhaul), and have thrown away one Half of them sometimes; and this Practice hath never once brought me into any Contentions, or litigious Suits, with my Customers; which could hardly have been the Case, had I dealt on a Supposition of receiving any Part of my Debts in Trash Tobacco. I doubt not but many Factors in the Province have dealt in the same Manner; and I wish I could add; that they have all done so.

I apprehend, the Virginia Law made in the Year 1742 will be thought a good Precedent for this Province, and surely, happy it is for us that we have such a Precedent; there is no Recouction at all of any outstanding Debts in that Law, whether there had been any in the Laws for regulating Tobacco there, preceding that, or not, I do not know; but as I remember, altho' there is a Reduction of the Officers Fees in that Law of 1742; yet there is an Exception in regard to such Officers as had contracted for good Tobacco in Cash, which was to be paid them without any Deduction; and all mercantile Contracts, I apprehend, must be of this Sort. I can see no Reason for joining the outstanding Debts here with the 40 per Poll and the Officers Fees; the People allege that the latter is taken from them by a compulsory Act; without Law or Contract, and hath for many Years been complain'd of as a very great Imposition. The 40 per Poll is look'd upon to be a very heavy Tax, and 'tis said, hath prevented many People from settling in this Province; and hath occasioned many others to leave it; and neither this Tax nor the Fees are liable to such Loties by Insolvencies, as all outstanding Debts must inevitably be. Many of our Fraternity think the Insolvencies would be a sufficient Deduction of all outstanding Debts contracted in the mercantile Way; and no Doubt all honest Planters will think in the same Way, if they have contracted with the Merchant they have dealt with for good clean Tobacco.

As I have mention'd the 40 per Poll, I cannot help adding on that Head (with great Submission to the Reverend Clergy, and others who may differ from me), that however it may be thought proper to reduce that Tax by an Inspection-Law, it may do well to have the Income of the Parishes to stand for the

future as they will then be, and then, as the Taxables of each Parish increase, the Tax will become proportionably lighter, and will in Time be paid without murmuring, by People of different Persuasions from the Establish'd Church; but this is going out of my Road, to give my Sentiments on a Measure which I apprehend hath a Tendency to the public Emolument, and will, no Doubt, be maturely consider'd by every Gentleman, vested with the Power of Legislation.

BUT to return to my Subject, how far our just Debts, which we expect to be paid in good clean Tobacco, for which we contracted, ought to be reduced on passing an Inspection-Law, does not become me to say, in this I shall readily submit to the Wisdom of the Legislature; but in an Affair of such Consequence to the Commerce of this Province, I think it is every Man's Business to inform the Public as far as he is able. I shall only add, that however an Inspection-Law may reduce the Quantity of Tobacco exported from hence, I shall expect to ship at least half as much more yearly, as I have hitherto done, and I doubt not; but the Business of other Factories will be proportionably increased.

S I R,

*Your humble Servant,*

AN EASTERN SHORE FACTOR

*HAGUE, February 24.*

THE conduct of count Brown in his late retreat, is generally commended by every body; even marshal Belleisle, who is unquestionably a competent judge, has given him great praise, in a letter which he wrote upon that subject to his most Christian majesty: In short, he did not lose a single man more than he would have done in an ordinary march. As to what was said relating to the chevalier de Belleisle, that he would attack the rear-guard of the Austrians, and drive them into the Var, it was no more than gasconading, this general not being very desirous of coming up to engage them. As for the States General, they have 44 squadrons of horse, dragoons and hussars, and 36 battalions; which together make 100,000 men, ready to march at an hour's warning, with the necessary artillery. The Hanoverian regiments are more than complete.

Mr. Macanas still continues to have conferences with the Earl of Sandwich, in which there is nobody but what is persuaded that Spain will make a separate peace. The news of the arrival of Mr. de Theil at Breda is continually expected. All the other ministers plenipotentiary have full powers and ample instructions, so that there are at least some glimmerings of a peace.

March 2. We have received advice, that the plenipotentiaries who are at Breda, had yesterday their first interview.

Paris, Feb. 24. Tho' we are assured, that within three Days past the king has received two couriers relating to be Affairs of Genoa, not a word transpires at court upon that subject; and yet we are certain, that those affairs are one of the chief objects of the conferences which are so frequent among our ministers, and that expressions relative thereto are continually dropped. The retreat of the Austrians is so far from making a great noise, that M. Belleisle speaks of it with great modesty, and concludes with bitter complaints of wanting provisions and orange. We hear, it is resolv'd to form in the spring two armies against Italy, one in Provence, and the other in Dauphiny, and that the prince of Conti will command the first, and the marquis the other.

Turin, Feb. 14. A convention is just made between this court and those of Vienna and London, in which it is stipul-