

bable I have not supposed the Trash to be more than it is. He is certain (certainly believed, I think he would say) that there has not been a fourth or fifth Part in the Tobacco he has purchased; and since he has not told us how much it might fall short of that Proportion, I suppose he will not deny there might be a sixth: And if he has received such a Quantity from his Customers, with whom he had expressly stipulated for clean Tobacco, and who also knew he would overhaul the heavy Hogheads, the half of which he has nevertheless been sometimes obliged to throw away; it is very unlikely that those Factors who have not acted with the same Care of their Employers Interest as he has done, could have shipped off so little as a fifth; and tho' he declares he doubts not but many of them have followed his Example, yet I never heard that any of them did.

I BELIEVE however an Inspecting Law will not diminish even this tenth Part of what the careful honest Planters now generally make; and yet the Trash with that, which, tho' not originally so, becomes as bad by meer Negligence, may amount to the fifth Part of the whole; because, as he himself has noted, the one half of the heavy Hogheads ought sometimes to be thrown away. But as these Planters, who are much the greater Majority, are now obliged to suffer thro' the Knowery and Carelessness of the rest, there is no Reason they should continue to do so after those Causes are removed.

It in the first Law passed in Virginia for inspecting Tobacco (for that of 1742 does not in the least affect the present Question) there was no Provision for reducing outlandish Debts; it can be a Precedent of no Weight with us any farther than it may be supported with Reason. Perhaps the leading Men in the Assembly at that Time were the greatest Creditors, or in the Interest of those that were. And the Governor, who ought to be the chief Protector of the Planters, might think it better for them, as it undoubtedly was, to suffer a small temporary Injury than to be deprived of a lasting and much greater Good.

It might indeed be of dangerous Consequence to deviate, in some other Respects, from the Virginia Plan, particularly in the Manner of appointing Inspectors; for tho' we might fall on a better Method, (which is much to be doubted, for Experience in such a Case as that may be rightly urged;) yet the Purchasers of the Tobacco at home might not think 'til they had the Trial of it, and that perhaps would prevent our Staple for a Year or two from rising in Value. But they could have no Reason to suspect, were our Inspectors to be under the same Regulations as they are in Virginia, that they would discharge their Duty with equal Care and Fidelity.

AND now, as to the particular Case of this Factor, I shall acknowledge, supposing it to be rightly stated, that he has not contracted in the most extensive Sense of the Words for any Trash, being sure not to receive any. But if notwithstanding he has sold his Goods as high as other Factors, I think so much as the Legislature cannot take Notice of a particular Case, he will be bound in Conscience after an Inspecting Law, to remit of the Debts due to him double the Quantity that the rest of his Fraternity may be obliged to deduct.

A GENEROUS British Merchant, such as I take this personated Factor's Employer to be, would not even desire to gain unless those he deals with gain along with him, or are the better for him; and much more would scorn to make an unjust Profit.

LET it not be imagined I contend for a greater Deduction of Debts than what is strictly just. When the Merchants made their Contracts (take the Word in it's natural, unlimited Signification as before explained,) they relied on the PUBLIC FAITH of the Society, which must be inviolably preserved; for the IMMUTABLE LAWS of God will not permit It to be broke thro' on Pretence of Necessity, or on any Consideration whatsoever. Nay, if there should be any Error in the Computation that the Legislature may make in this Point, I rather wish it may be in Favour of our Creditors. For should the Quantities of Tobacco due to them be reduced by Law to a less Value than they bargained for, they could have no Assurance thereafter against farther Reductions of the like Kind; and then they would in Proportion to the Risque they might apprehend from thence, tho' perhaps there might be none at all, raise the Price of their Merchandize, if they should continue to deal with us; and new Adventurers would be deterred

from pouring in their Goods upon us, which we might otherwise reasonably expect, after an Inspecting Law; and so we should be frustrated in our Hopes of seeing that unlawful Combination effectually and speedily blown up, of several now settled amongst us, not to undersell one another; whereby every Planter is much injured, and the poorer Sort are cruelly oppressed.

THE Writer under Examination says he can see no Reason for joining the outlandish Debts with the Officers Fees. And then under Pretence of shewing there cannot be the same Reasons for reducing the one as the other, which every Man knew before as well as himself, tho' it might be proper to make a Reduction on each, but for different Reasons, he endeavours to inflame the Minds of our Representatives by grossly abusing the Government, in asserting that the Fees are much too high, and taken without Law or Contract; hoping by this Means you will reduce them so low as to obstruct the best Law that ever was proposed for the Benefit of the Planters since the first Settlement of the Province. But the Artifice is too banglingly executed to deceive the Public, tho' such little, juggling Tricks might have been hitherto practised with Success in dark Corners. But when he foolishly ventures to appear in open Light, any Man of ordinary Capacity may with a little Attention easily see thro' all his thin Disguises, of which I shall now undertake to strip him and shew him in his true Colours.

[The Remainder in our next.]

MILAN, April 11.

WE are assured, that at the instance of the king of Sardinia and general Brown, admiral Medley, with all the English fleet, will lie before Genoa, vigorously to second the expedition of count Schulemberg against that city, as soon as he shall begin to attack it by land. We have the following list of the prisoners taken by the English in the transports going to Genoa; viz. 22 captains, 28 lieutenants, 3 ensigns, 48 sergeants, 25 corporals, 57 drummers and musicians, and 1000 soldiers; making in all 1190 men. Besides these the English took on the 7th, 32 officers, and 300 inferior officers and soldiers. There are not yet arrived at Genoa, of all the French succours, above 2000 men.

Antibes, April 8. We hear nothing but bad news attend the transports that at first escaped being taken by the English. They took another of them yesterday, wherein were 180 men of the Swiss regiment of Dunant; and two more, which got in here, narrowly avoided the same fate. M. Taubin, who commanded the Spanish troops design'd for Genoa, is also fallen into the hands of the English.

Hague, April 7. The states of Zealand having on the 20th put declared his Most Serene Highness the Prince of Orange Stadtholder, Admiral and Captain-General of that province; and the town of Rotterdam having followed the example, and sent a deputation hither to the states of Holland to desire their concurrence, 'tis thought that his Highness will be declared Stadtholder of this province in a few days.

L O N D O N.

April 11. An express is arrived from Flushing, with certain advice that the French had begun the Siege of Sluys, on the Dutch territories, and had kept a continual fire against the place 'til Thursday last, when the express came away; and that several parties of French troops had got over into the island of Cadfant.—Whence it is thought that a declaration of war will soon appear between the French and Dutch.

April 15. They write from Harwich, that Mr. De Wit, one of the king's messengers, arrived there on Monday from Holland, who gave an account that the French had declared war against the Dutch.

April 16. It is said that a Squadron of men of war is ordered to cruise in the entrance of the channel.

Yesterday it was reported that a French man of war of 34 guns, is sunk by one of his Britannic majesty's ships on the coast of Britany.

April 17. The Blandford privateer of Bristol, capt. Six, of 20 carriage guns, and 220 men, is taken by two French privateers of great force.

Falmouth, April 15. As the states of Holland have chosen the prince of Orange Stadtholder, and the duke of Cumberland