

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, December 16, 1747.

Continuation of what was begun in our last.

An ESSAY on the Means of Improving the Trade of MARYLAND.

SECTION II.

WE have before seen how the erecting of public Ware-houses, to lodge the TOBACCO in after INSPECTION, would considerably lessen the Freight, thro' the Dispatch that would thereby be given to the Vessels: But the Saving on that Article would be much more, if the TOBACCO brought to those Ware-houses, was to be transported to two Ports, one on each side of the Bay. This would not clash with an INSPECTING LAW, being only an Infractment on it; and therefore might be done at any Time after, when the Inhabitants should be convinced of the vast Advantage it would be to them. By an Act of Assembly formerly pass'd, all Vessels were obliged to load at two certain Ports: But that Design failed, through the Insufficiency of small Craft: which can be no Objection at present. Yet even now it would be much more convenient, and less expensive, to the Planters, to allow a Salary to such as would undertake to carry their Tobacco from the Inspecting Houses in the Counties to the capital Ports, than to transport it thither directly themselves; for a common Carrier can do the Business of many at the same Expence, that one can do his own himself.

SUPPOSE the annual Charge would amount to 36000 l. Sterling, which is 2 s. per Hoghead; and that a Vessel, if her Loading could be ready to put on board at her Arrival, as it always would be after erecting these Ports, might be dispatched a Month and a half sooner, than she could when obliged to take in her TOBACCO at several Inspecting Houses; and it will appear, that the Province would save every Year, by the Regulation proposed, about 8400 l. Sterling: For the Tobacco we annually make requires 100 Vessels, carrying 300 Hogheads each, to transport it; whose Expences, during a Month and a half, may be computed at 12000 l. that being 80 l. per Month for each Vessel.

THE several Profits that are made in handing a Commodity from the Planter, the Farmer and Manufacturer, to the Consumer, ought to be considered by the latter in the same Light as he would so many Taxes on it. Therefore, if by any Contrivance the Gain of the Merchants, and of those employed under them, that they make by exchanging British Goods with us for our TOBACCO, could be reduced: For Instance, from 110 to 10 per Cent, it would be exactly the same Thing to the Planters, as if a Tax of 100 per Cent was to be taken off all Commodities imported into the Province.

THAT these Ports would powerfully operate in producing such an Effect, I shall now proceed to shew.

IN the first Place, they would become two great Magazines of all the British Goods imported into the Province. Thence the greatest Tobacco Purchasers would immediately settle, and thither the Planters would all resort; for the Boats and other Craft continually plying there from all Parts of the Province, would every Day furnish us with an Opportunity, by ourselves or Friends, of laying out the Notes we should receive from the Inspectors, as easily, and much more advantageously, than we could do with the petty Storekeepers in the Counties, who then might be more usefully employed in increasing the general Stock, which they now live and fatten upon without contributing any thing to it.

THE Trade thus circumstanced, might be carried on with a great deal of Ease and Safety by a few Hands, which would

infallibly draw in Men of large Fortunes to invest their Stocks in it, who would esteem 10 per Cent a vast Profit, as the natural Interest of Money in England does not exceed three; and therefore they would not attempt to make a greater Gain, nor perhaps so much, knowing they would then be soon superseded by others, who having much Money lying out at a small Interest, are continually watching for Opportunities of employing it to greater Advantage. But admitting they would not trade at a less Profit: than 10 per Cent, they might, and, I think, would, in that Case deliver us here for every Hoghead of our TOBACCO, on an Average, as much Goods as can be bought in England for 5 l. 10 s. at a Wholesale and Ready Money Price, supposing that after an Inspecting Law, our Tobacco would sell at home for 2 d. 7 8ths per Pound; upon which Supposition, the 36000 Hogheads that we yearly make would yield there 432000 l.

NOW to purchase this TOBACCO at 5 l. 10 s. per Hoghead, the Merchants must advance and lay out in England, —————	198000 0 0
Insurance to Maryland, 12 per Cent, —————	24750 0 0
—————	222750 0 0
Commission to Factors here, 5 per Cent. —————	11135 0 0
—————	233885 0 0
Insurance home, 12 per Cent, —————	29235 0 0
Freight 12 l. per Ton, on 36000 Hogheads, —————	108000 0 0
Port Charges at home, 10 s. per Hoghead, —————	18000 0 0
—————	389120 0 0
The Merchant's Profit, 10 l. per Cent, —————	38912 0 0
And yet there will remain —————	3958 0 0
—————	£. 432000 0 0

WHEN opulent Men are engaged in Trade, those who till the Earth, or manufacture the Materials it yields, receive a good Price for their Labour, whereby they are encouraged to work incessantly, and the general Stock is continually increasing. In this single Point the whole Policy of the Dutch Commerce centers, as will appear to any one that reads Sir Josiah Child's Observations on the Trade of that Nation. The French, from the Beginning of Colbert's Administration, have always aimed at the same Thing; otherwise they could never have made such a prodigious Progress in Trade as they have done, since the Time of that able Minister, who first pointed out to them the true Road to Riches. How easily we might also imitate the Dutch in this particular I have already shewn, and of what Advantage it would be to the Planters: Nor is the Profit inconsiderable, that would be derived from thence to Great-Britain.

WE do not get for the Tobacco purchased here 3 s. Sterling per Hundred in Goods, rating them at the prime Cost; and therefore 20200 l. Sterling laid out in Manufactures in England, purchases 20000 Hogheads of our Tobacco, supposed to be yearly bought up here. And if the remaining 16000 Hogheads be shipp'd home by the Planters on their own Account, and clear 4 l. per Hoghead, which is 64000 l. on the whole; yet, by reason of the Insurance, they cannot have for that Sum more Goods delivered them here, than cost at home 54000 l. which added to the 20000 l. abovementioned, shew 74000 l. in that Colony does not at present take off but 74000 l. in British Manufactures; and therefore, under the Regulation proposed, it's Value to Great-Britain would be almost trebled, according to the foregoing Calculation, which is left to the Reader to correct as he thinks fit. But to avoid Mistakes, he may be pleas'd to observe,

I. THAT