

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, December 23, 1747.

Continuation of

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

SECTION III.

OUR Considerations, with Respect to the Possibility of being improved, have been hitherto confined to the Influence they would have on the TOBACCO-TRADE: We shall now endeavour to show the good Effects they would produce in every other Branch of our Commerce; and, as we proceed, shall occasionally touch upon some other Advantages attending them.

I. FIRST then, such a Regulation would render this Colony superior to any other in the GRAIN-TRADE.

THERE are now in *Maryland*, exclusive of the white Females, about 40000 Taxables, i. e. Persons above the Age of 16, of whom about 15000 are Slaves; who, all together, according to the Rules of political Arithmetic, may be reckoned equal to 60000 Working Hands; not including such, whose Circumstances set them above the Necessity of common Labour. Of these, 24000 would be sufficient for the TOBACCO-BUSINESS; and if, of the Residue, 18000 only were to be employed in raising of WHEAT, and each of these would only make 120 Bushels to send abroad, the whole would amount to above double the Quantity of Labour that has been ever exported from *Pennsylvania* in any one Year, as will appear from the Accounts of it's annual Exports published there.

PENNSYLVANIA has but one navigable River, and therefore but a few of the Inhabitants can have the Benefit of Water Carriage; and the rest of them being settled at a considerable Distance from the Capital, who must transport their Produce thither by Land, which is an intolerable charge on bulky Commodities, are therefore obliged to run upon coarse Manufactures to cloath themselves; and so they raise very little more for Exportation than what barely furnishes them with Rum, Sugar, and Salt; and in many Places, their Care hardly extends beyond the last Article.

THE Disadvantage that *Pennsylvania* lies under, in Point of Water-Carriage (an Inconvenience to which we are not subject to), is the reason that it's Exports are so small in proportion to the Number of the Inhabitants, said to be many more than here: But the Settlement of their Merchants in one Place, where the Planters are always sure of ready Money for their Produce, and the Vessels are never delayed, is the Advantage they have over us, which enables them to carry away a Trade, in which, with a like Advantage, and but with the fourth Part of our Numbers, we might, and certainly would do twice as much as they, with their united Force possibly can; for it is through the Want of such an Encouragement only, that we now idle away above half our Time.

EXCEPT TOBACCO, the Produce of our Plantations is generally of very little Worth. Those who come here to purchase our Wheat are a long Time in collecting it, while their efforts lie at a great Expence, and therefore they can afford to value us but a Trifle for it; which, were it not for the Lure of the *West India* Commodities, we should intirely neglect beyond our own Consumption.

BUT if a fix'd Market was opened for our Wheat, we could get much more by it than the Planters in *Pennsylvania*; and for the Expence of carrying the Commodity by Land to *Philadelphia*, is from many Places as great as the Charge of

making it; and therefore, tho' we should have but an equal Price with them for our Wheat, we would nevertheless receive a great deal more for our Labour than they do. Besides we should then be sure of selling our Produce for ready Money, which we might lay out with whom we please, and for what Turns us best. Such Incitements to Industry as these would soon raise the most indolent amongst us out of their Lethargy.

WERE two Ports established, one on each Side of the Bay, only with a View to the TOBACCO, they would in Time draw the GRAIN-TRADE thither: But if the Commodity was to be carried to Magazines in the County where transferable Notes should be given for it, and from thence transported to the principal Ports; *Maryland* would immediately become the greatest Mart for Grain in *America*.

THESE Notes might be given with less Inconveniency for Wheat, when it is weighed, than for Tobacco; this being very variable in it's Quality, and that not. The Advantages flowing from them are so great, I need not scruple to affirm, that since the Invention of Money, Trade cannot boast of a more useful Discovery.

II. THE Establishment of these two Ports would soon enable us to carry all our Produce abroad in our own Bottoms.

THE great Resort of Shipping to these Places would immediately draw many Ship-Carpenters to settle there, for the Profit that is got by repairing, which is a very considerable Article in the commercial World; and thus the great Delay the Vessels now often meet with here on that Account, would be avoided, and the Expence much lessened, which would contribute to bring down the Price of the Freight.

BUT these Ship Carpenters being drawn together, would soon be employ'd in building. We have with the Timber the other chief Principle, Hemp and Iron, amongst ourselves, in the greatest Perfection, and lying upon the Water. To all other Ship Yards on the Continent, some of these heavy Materials are either transported from abroad, or come loaded with a heavy Expence, occasioned by the Land Carriage. We might therefore fit out Ships with much less Labour, and consequently cheaper than any other Colony in the *British* Dominions.

IF 42000 of our People should be employed in raising of GRAIN and TOBACCO, there would be 18000 remaining, a Number sufficient, not only to build and man whatever Vessels our produce might require to transport it abroad, but also to manufacture great Quantities of Hemp and Iron for Exportation besides.

III. THUS we should not be obliged to run all upon one Commodity, that may be overdone, and for which every Man's Land cannot be fit; but each of us might apply himself to that Article for which the Quality of his Soil is best adapted, or for which he might find the greatest Call; and thus there could be no Danger of our answering the Quantity of TOBACCO, in a greater Perfection than the Amendment of it's Quality may enlarge the Demand for it.

IV. THESE two Ports would in a few Years rise up into great Cities; but without such a Regulation, none of us that are now alive can expect to see any considerable Town in *Maryland*.

THE several Places laid out for Towns, of which there is one or more in each County, being all on navigable Rivers, are generally equally well situated for Commerce; and therefore a Town in one County cannot draw to it much of the Trade