

MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, December 30, 1747.

Conclusion of

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

WHEN the People grow numerous, and come to want Territory, so that all cannot be employed in Agriculture, the rest must necessarily betake themselves to Manufactures, for Want of other Business; and then, and not 'til then, their Towns will be considerable. But Posterity will reap an infinite Advantage, from the wise Precaution of their Ancestors in laying them out; as it will oblige them to build in the most commodious Situations, and in a regular beautiful Manner.

OUR many Rivers are now, and will be for several Ages, an insuperable Obstacle to the Growth of any great Place of Trade, while it is left to shift for itself, unassisted by the Legislature: But under the Regulation proposed, those very Rivers, as they all run into the finest Bay in the World, would soon raise two Ports, one on each Side of it, into much greater Places of Trade than Philadelphia; for as there is little Difference in the Expence of carrying Goods seventeen or seventy Miles by Water, the remotest Plantations would find very near the same Advantage in sending their Produce to one or other of the Capitals as the nearest: And therefore, every Man in the Province might equally contribute by his Labour to the Exports, which would then be four Times more from each Port, than they can possibly amount to from Philadelphia.

Lastly, THESE two Ports would soon become the Seats of Learning, as well as of Commerce. These Academies should be established; for the various Branches of Science requiring many different Professors, they cannot all be supported with a Decency suitable to their Characters, but by a great Number of rich Pupils, which a trading City can never want. Athens was the Center of the Commerce, as well as of the Literature, of ancient Greece.

BESIDES, without the Advantage of a learned and polite Conversation, which a wealthy populous Town will always furnish, the Knowledge derived from Books is often very crude, and generally more troublesome than ornamental or useful. *Letters, says the wife Lord Bacon, do not sufficiently teach their own Use; but that is Wisdom, beyond and above them, gained by Observation.*

THUS I have endeavoured to make it appear (and I hope it does, with the Light and Evidence of an Axiom), that the Execution of this Scheme, than which none was ever more simple, or less complex, would not only introduce Riches, but also Learning and Politeness, amongst us in a short Time.

THO' every Member of Society is immediately interested in the good or ill State of its Trade; yet there are none so much affected by it as the Landholders. Take a View of the Globe, and you will find, that on every Part of it they are rich or poor according to the Nature and Extent of the Commerce carried on amongst them; which, therefore, demands their particular Attention, wherever they have a Share in the Legislature.

THE proper Business of Merchants is, to buy as cheap, and to sell as dear, as they can; and so they have little Occasion to trouble their Heads with the Theory of Commerce. Yet, if they were acquainted with the Subject, it would be imprudent to rely blindly on their Advice; for they may, and often do, gain by a Trade that is ruinous to the Country they reside in. From all which I conclude, that in every Society,

where the Bulk of the Property is in Land, the Proprietors of it are the only fit Persons to watch and regulate the Motions of Traffick.

THE End of this Essay will be fully answered, if, by any Hints in it, the landed Gentlemen of this Province, should be led to consider the Nature and Genius of Commerce; a Study as delightful in Speculation, as it is useful in Practice; for then they would soon fall upon the properest Measures of improving their natural Advantages of Soil and Situation, which are greater, much greater, than any other People that we have seen, read, or heard of, enjoys. Moreover, they should consider, that Liberty has not a greater Friend than Trade; for even in an arbitrary Government, when that happens to flourish, the Administration stands corrected by it.

TO conclude, as I think it must appear visible in every Part of this Work, that the Writer had no other Object in View than the Prosperity of Maryland, as connected with the Interest of his Mother Country, he makes no Doubt, but that the involuntary Errors he may have committed will be censured with Candour; and therefore, any further Apology for them seems unnecessary.

HAGUE, September 11.

Yesterday a courier passed by here from Turin, in his way to London, by whose dispatches we learn, that the Austrian and Piedmontese army began to march on the 15th of last month from Coni towards Dermont, which is the prelude of important events in those parts. A Journal has been published here of what passed at Genoa, and the state of that name, between the 11th of April last, and the 23d of July: that is, between the invasion of the valleys of Polcevera and Bisagno by the Austrians and Piedmontese, and their retreat out of those valleys. In this Journal, among many other things, we have the following deplorable picture of the country round that capital.

Castelli, Cornigliano, and the villages of the valley of Polcevera, which are occupied by the enemies troops, are utterly ruined. These Places, where art had been exhausted to embellish nature, that country, before the delight of citizens and the admiration of strangers, presents no object now but of grief and misery. All round a frightful spectacle, the monuments of the ferocity of Croats, Waradins, &c. The trees are cut down, or torn up by the roots; the gardens destroyed; and thrown into confusion, the statues which adorned them mutilated and broke to pieces. Those palaces which had cost immense sum, superb palaces, with gold and marble, disputed the prize of beauty, with the paintings and other ornaments, are now heaps of ashes and ruins, or so stripped and destroyed that they cannot be look'd on without horror. The other houses, as well in the towns and villages, as the open country, where there were continually an infinite number, are either burnt to the ground, or have only the walls standing. Every thing has been carried off, so much as the doors, window-shutters, Glasses, and even the Frames.

Leghorn, August 19. Last Saturday night a numerous convoy put to sea from this port, composed of several great and small, laden with all manner of provisions to Genoa, and escorted by two galleys and some armed vessels, which the Republic had sent thither for that purpose. The next morning they were met and attacked by some English men of war, who dispersed the whole fleet, only the two galleys escaping, which were much shatter'd with about 9 of their convoy, the rest having been taken, or obliged to gain the coast, where they are close block'd up. Thirteen have been sent in here by the English, and others to Savona.