

M A R Y L A N D G A Z E T T E,

Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.

WEDNESDAY, April 25, 1750.

Mr. GREEN,

I have lately seen, in one of your Papers, some Observations relating to Improvements in the Inspection Law on Tobacco: I must own I am entirely of those Gentlemen's Opinion, as to what they mention; and shall beg Leave to give you the Sentiments of One in Prince George's County, concerning Inspectors, in Case of Sickness, and other Things, which have, and may hereafter prove Discouragements to a trading Country; for which Purpose I desire you'll give this a Place in your next.

On September last, some Tobacco was brought to an Inspecting-House in this County, the Inspectors being both sick then, and some Time afterwards; prevented it's being examin'd for many Months: This Accident could not be attended with any Advantage to any particular Person, and certainly is open to many Inconveniences, as it was in the Case above. To remedy this, without Doubt, the Legislature will fix on a Method; that, on very little Notice, each Inspecting-House may always be supplied with Persons, properly qualified, to officiate in case of Sickness.

The next Matter I shall undertake to observe, is the Allowance of Four per Cent for the Cask, as far as one thousand Pounds of Tobacco contained in each Hoghead, and not to exceed that, be the Weight what it will.

Whether are the Hogheads a Merchandize, or really a Core for the Tobacco: But when I mention this, I ought to consider, there is scarcely one Person to be found in Maryland, who has not, one Time or other, try'd the British Market with a Hoghead of Tobacco; and I presume they never saw any Credit for the Cask, in the Sales remitted to them. I would not have it infer'd from this, that I am an Enemy to the Value of Timber, or to the Benefits of the Planters; but I can with great Safety declare, that I never desire more than the real Cost of an Article; whether it be Cask, Chest, or Bale; which must be entirely sunk at the next Port, to which the Merchandize is transported.—The Case is as follows: A Law is made, that all Hogheads containing one thousand Pounds of Tobacco shall be allowed Four per Cent for the Cask, without ever thinking of the Value of Tobacco; though every one amongst us knows, that the Inspecting-Law was calculated for no other Purpose but to increase the Price of it; (and without Doubt beneficial if it will be;) and this Article seems to stand in great Need of a further Regulation. I always understood, that five Shillings Currency was the Price for a Tobacco Hoghead; and perhaps I should have thought so still, had I not heard of an additional Charge made against the Purchasers of Tobacco of four per Cent; which, allowing the Hoghead to be one Thousand, amounts to forty Pounds of Tobacco; at fourteen Shillings Sterling per Hundred, which was given in many Places last Year; comes to five Shillings and seven Pence Sterling for each Hoghead; a Sum that must still continue tack'd to the Law, unless some Price is fix'd in regard to the Hogheads, without Reference to the Weights; 'til then, this Charge only is more than one hundred per Cent on the Cask.

The last Thing I shall mention must appear to you on the best View, that there is an absolute Necessity of an Amendment; it relates to all public Draughts on Sheriffs; and to that only.

Suppose then, that an Order is given on the Sheriff of any County for a Sum of Tobacco; which is demanded accordingly, and Payment made in Transfer Notes (which I presume any Sheriff may do); a considerable Part of which, by the different Dates are liable to a Deduction of five or six per Cent; for the Note, under the

mentioned, or for what it will produce, allowing it was taken to the Inspecting House on the very Day; but as our Assembly is to meet soon, this Doubt may be easily ascertained.—Hardships in Laws are never discovered, 'til Experience shews where the Inconvenience lies: A shorter and more equitable Method to remove this, perhaps cannot be found, than that hereafter mentioned.

That no Transfer Note, which is liable to a Deduction of more than two per Cent, shall be paid away by any Sheriff, for a greater Sum of Tobacco than it would absolutely fetch, allowing it was given to the Inspectors on the Day it was received from him: By this Regulation many Abuses may be prevented; for as the Law now stands, any Sheriff may apply all the Notes of the shortest Date to his own Use, and to discharge all Draughts with Notes that are liable to a Deduction, besides the two per Cent of one to four per Cent; which Loss, on as many Notes as will make a Hoghead of 950 lb. nett, will be from nine and a half to thirty eight Pounds of Tobacco per Hoghead, according to the different Dates. From this (which is a fair State of the Case) it will, I hope, be determined whether this Amendment is not absolutely needful, as it will put the Sheriffs under a Necessity of making speedy Payments, or be themselves the Sufferers. For keeping the Notes by them, I believe Instances may be produced, where Notes of very long Dates have been paid on such Occasions; and whether this proceeded from their not having any other Notes, or from the great Regard they had for their own Interest, is a Matter that must be clear'd up by those who have studied most the Practices of Mankind, when the Profit and Loss of any Thing has been at their own Disposal.

From the LONDON MAGAZINE, for December, 1749.

An Extract of a letter from Tetuan, setting forth the hardships and indignities imposed upon His Majesty's ambassador to the emperor of Morocco, on account of the Money being delayed, wherewith he was to have redeemed the English captives who have endured so many years slavery in Barbary: A matter of concern to the honour of the state, and the mercantile body of the nation trading to those parts, and highly deserving their attention and addresses.

On the 23d of August last, arrived at Tetuan, the emperor Muly Abdallah's alcade or governor of that town, from Pez, with peremptory orders from the said emperor, to demand of his excellency William Latton, Esq; ambassador there from the court of Great Britain, the balance money due, being 4399 l. 1 s. for the redemption of the captives, now 36 in number; and the 8201 l. that was paid to the late bassaw Hammer, deceased; which, as the said emperor received no part of it, he deems an illegal payment. The said alcade declared to the ambassador, that if he was not forthwith paid the whole sum, or at least had not his note of hand, engaging to pay it in 8 or 9 days, he had positive orders to carry him and the English slaves up to Pez; which would not only greatly enhance the expense of the crown, disgrace his majesty's present by confiscation, and his ambassador the denial of audience, but render him and his attendants, no less miserable than those he came to redeem. The ambassador answered, that he could not engage himself in that manner for the payment of such sums in so short a time; but did directly hire a Polacre to carry over letters to the governor of Gibraltar, intreating him to send the former sum due of 4399 l. 1 s. which was in his possession. The governor sent back a letter to the ambassador