

And tho' several *Tobacco-Laws* have been made for this Purpose ; yet, by Experience, they have been found rather to burthen and opprest the Country in General, than afford it any Relief or Advantage as they were designed : And altho' the late Sessions of our Assembly were Conven'd at the general Instance of the Country, as the Governour declared in his Speech at the Opening thereof, purely to consider of some Means that might relieve our sinking Trade and Country, yet none could then be thought of, or agreed on, whereby that Meeting was rendered Fruitless, and without any other Effect, than to encrease the Publick Charge.

When this is considered, it may seem to be too great a Presumption for a private Person to suggest, that there is a Possibility left to remedy this Evil ; and gives too much Discouragement to any Attempt of that kind : Yet, as the Evil is of such a Nature, that inevitable Ruin to the Whole, seems to be the infallible Consequence of omitting the Application of some Remedy, it is such a cogent Motive to excite, not only the most melancholly Reflections and Concern, in every individual Person, that is like to be involv'd in this general Calamity, but also to induce each One to exert his utmost Endeavours to find some Means to extricate our selves out of these most deplorable Circumstances, that the Author persuades himself, the Publick will easily excuse the Freedom he gives them, and give this Attempt a favourable Reception, since a general Good is his only View. And tho' it should not have the Effect he hopes for, yet it will probably put others that are more capable, upon something of the same Nature, wherein what is a-miss here may be rectified and amended ; and upon the Whole, something may be discovered that may answer the desired End.