

to put my Thoughts in Writing, which I now offer to the Committee, for their Correction, Approbation or Rejection; which Last shall not at all displeas me. I am at nothing but the Good of the Trade in general, in which every Man's particular Good is included: Therefore, if the End aimed at be but obtained, I shall be very Thankful to any Gentleman, for communicating his Thoughts, tho' never so different from mine: So without further Apology will come to my Matter.

IT is well known to us all, that the chief Cause of the Depression of the Trade, is from the great Ascendant the *French* Agent has got over us, which Ascendant is very natural; For, he being but One, and so very considerable a Buyer, must have a great Advantage over so many Sellers, acting without any manner of Consultation, or Agreement among ourselves: Whereas, did we act in Concert, we might make our selves equal to him, and so keep up Tobacco at a living Price, which is all I aim at. I am by no Means for running up Tobacco to an extravagant Price, or any other Way discouraging the *French* Trade, which is a valuable Consumption, and ought to be encouraged; but then it ought to be upon such Terms as the Planters and Others concern'd, may live by their Labour; which of late Years we know they have not done: & all along with the *French* Agents, who, every one of them, in their turns, have been (properly speaking) Sellers as well as Buyers: It has not been what Price we pleas'd, but They that have set the Price, and we could not help ourselves, which has been of the worse Consequence, because all other Buyers govern themselves by what Price the *French* Agent gives: so that the good or ill Fortune of the Trade, depends altogether upon what Measures we take with the *French*. As the Trade of *France* is in a Company, and they put what Price they please upon what they sell