



The RIGHT to the Tonnage, the Duty of Twelve Pence per Hoghead on all exported Tobacco, and the Fines and Forfeitures, in the Province of *MARYLAND*, STATED, in a LETTER from a Gentleman in ANNAPOLIS, to his Friend in the Country.

DEAR SIR,



OUR Remark is unquestionably just, and I wish the Precept it suggests was more generally observed, “ that Characters ought not to be implicitly taken from the Reports of Men over-heated by political Animosity, who, when they speak, as they are apt to do, in the Idiom of Party Language, should be understood to mean by the Terms Disinterested, and Upright, Selfish, or Factious, the Abettors or Opponents of the Sentiments they have espoused.

IN consequence of your Experience, and Attachment to the real Interests of your Country, you prudently require better Proofs of a just, or dishonourable Conduct, than the Applauses, or Reproaches of any Party, and express a strong Desire to be enabled to form such Conclusions, as that you may act from them with Satisfaction and Firmness, on your avowed Principle of supporting the just Rights of Government, and maintaining the Constitutional Privileges of the People. I shall, therefore, with the greatest Alacrity, comply with your Request, by giving you the best Account I have been able to collect, respecting the Subjects of the Tonnage, of the Duty of One Shilling Sterling per Hoghead, and of the Fines and Forfeitures. The Method I intend to pursue is to lay before you the Materials I have collected, and to apply under each Head the Observations that have occurred to me, in the plainest Language, without Refinement or Embellishment.

THE Act, under which Lord *Baltimore* claims the Tonnage, passed in the Year 1661, and is entitled “ An Act for *Port Duties*, and Masters of Ships.”

IT enacts, “ that all Vessels whatsoever, not properly belonging to this Province, having a Deck Flush Fore and Aft, coming in, and Trading within this Province, shall pay, for *Port Duties*, or Anchorage, Half a Pound of Powder, and Three Pounds of Shot, or so much in Value, for every Ton Burden, to the *Lord Proprietary and his Heirs*.”

IN the Year 1676 an Act passed, entitled “ An Act for Repeal of certain Laws, and ascertaining what Laws are in Force within this Province;” and, among the Acts ascertained to be in Force, is the “ Act for *Port Duties*, and Masters of Ships, *Anno* 1661.”

THE Act of 1676 was twice confirmed in the Year 1678 by other Acts

THE Acts ascertained to be in Force by the Act of 1676 were directed by it “ to be transcribed, and fairly written out in a Book, for that Purpose to be kept;” and, in Pursuance of this Direction, the “ Act for *Port Duties*, and Masters of Ships,” was transcribed; and the Transcript exactly corresponds with the Original Record Book, whence I copied my Quotation.

IN