

to you as I can; tho' the way that *Maryland* is now in, is best for us in *Virginia*, for the more trash you send home, the greater the difference appears between our Tobacco and yours, at the market there; and if you sent nothing but trash to market, that would be best of all for us, for the best commodity will always command the best price and the most purchasers.

The advantages of our present regulation are many and great. Our Law, by improving the quality of our Staple, has established its credit and reputation in all foreign markets: It is this that has advanced its value, and given the superiority in trade over you in *Maryland*; whereas your sending home so much trash, both clogs your market, and depreciates the value of your Staple.

Our Law prevents all frauds in the seller here, and this encourages buyers and foreign purchasers to bring their money and cargoes among us, and give our Planters a better Price, when they are satisfied they shall have what they pay for; viz. both good Tobacco, and just weight; and after they carry it home, our Law disables them to defraud the King of his customs, and thereby hinders them from underselling the fair Trader; which practice formerly used to sink the value of the whole stock, all frauds being of pernicious consequence to trade. Our Law gives quick dispatch to the ships; for, instead of the old tedious way of collecting scattering Tobacco all over the country in flats, they can now load their ships by sloop-loads at a time, made ready to take on board without any further trouble; for such Tobacco and such dispatch, the buyer can afford to give the Planter a good price, in money or goods, as his occasions require: And this is not only true in theory, but is moreover confirmed by experience and undeniable matter of fact, which is the strongest evidence, and fully answers all the plausible fine-spun objections of over fruitful heads to the contrary; for, before the Law, our Tobacco would scarce sell for cash at any rate, but now a Planter may have 14 *per cent* for his whole crop, or a proportionable price in goods; the price has not been less than this in market time since the Law was made, it immediately occasioned Tobacco to rise, and still continues it a commodity of great value. Before the Law was made, if the shippers got 3 *l. per* hoghead, it was then thought a middling price; but now, even since the *French* war, 6 *l. per* hoghead is thought but a middling price. The charges of executing the Inspection is but trifling; for in the first place, the poor Planter that sells his Tobacco in the country, pays nothing at all; the merchant that exports it pays all, and he is at much less expence than formerly; the money he brings to clear the Inspection remains in the country, and circulates from hand to hand; so that now the current cash of the Colony is many thousand pounds more, than it was before the Law was made.

Formerly a poor Planter's credit extended no farther than he was known, which gave the merchant that purchased in his neighbourhood a great advantage over him, as knowing he must either sell his Tobacco to him, or not sell at all; but now the Planter may carry his whole crop in his pocket, and his Notes will give him credit wherever Tobacco is in greatest demand. The very circulation of the Notes in the country is a great advantage to the people, for perhaps they will pass from one to another fifty times before they return to the Inspector again; which is vastly preferable to the old slovenly way of paying small debts with bags and steelyards; and every year the whole crop of Tobacco is turned into a new set of Notes. Our Planters are now got into such a method, that they make as much good Tobacco, as they used to make good and bad before the Law was made. Thus the value and superiority of our Staple arose from the superior goodness of our manufacture since the Law; and indeed, experience has furnish'd us with repeated examples, that good Tobacco has been sold in the worst and lowest times, at a good living price. I am,

S I R, Your most obedient. &c.

H A G U E, January 4, O. S.

IT is confirmed from Petersburg, that the court has prohibited the commerce which the English, and other foreign merchants, carried on to Persia by Caravans.

February 9: M. de Maccanas, minister plenipotent the king of Spain to the conferences at Breda, is invested with such powers, as to exempt him from the necessity of couriers to his court, for the approbation of any thing may be agreed on.

Constantinople, Decem. 28. The Plague continues to make great ravages in this capital, and begins to spread in the quarters of the Europeans. The French ambassador's purveyor is dead of this distemper, and several of the Venetian ambassador's domestics are attacked with it. The ministers have shut up their palaces, and all intercourse between them is intirely laid aside.

Petersburg, Jan. 17. The court has delivered to the secretary of the Prussian embassy, an answer to the memorial presented some time ago, demanding the empress's accession to the treaties of Breslau and Dresden; which answer contains in substance, "That the empress will always take a real pleasure in shewing the king of Prussia how much she is inclined to oblige his Prussian majesty; but as to what relates to the renewal of the guarantee of the duchy of Silesia, she thinks this matter is sufficiently secured by the engagements subsisting between the two courts, which her Imperial majesty will always perform with the utmost exactness, &c."

#### A N N A P O L I S.

Last Thursday Mr. Christopher Lowndes, of Bladensburg, Merchant, was married to Miss Elizabeth Tarker (third Daughter to the Hon. Benjamin Tarker, Esq;) an agreeable young Lady, with a good Fortune.

The General Assembly of this Province, which were to have met on Friday last, by reason of the Hon. Speaker's not coming to Town 'til late in the Evening, did not meet 'til Saturday; when his Excellency Samuel Ogle, Esq; Governor, opened the Session with the following Speech:

Gentlemen of the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, I TOOK this Opportunity of meeting you in Assembly, according to your Prorogation, as I thought it would not only be agreeable to yourselves, but to the Satisfaction of the People of *Maryland* in general, to have the Assistance of the Legislature at this Time, when our Staple of Tobacco, and consequently every other Branch of our Trade, is in so very low and languishing a Condition.

AND I have the greater Hopes that something may be done for the public Good, as our Neighbours of *Virginia* have shewn us very plainly, that Tobacco may be made a very valuable Commodity; and as their Inspection Law has now stood a Tryal of many Years, and been improved from time to time, to the general Satisfaction of all Parties, it may perhaps be more prudent in us, to follow their Example, in what has been already tryed, and found by Experience to succeed, than to go upon any uncertain Experiments of our own, however promising they may appear; especially as our former Laws, for limiting the Number of Plants, and burning our Trash, proved to very ineffectual for the Purpose intended.

BUT whatever Method you may think proper to proceed in, you may be assured of my Readiness to do every Thing in my Power, to help you to overcome all Difficulties, in this, or in any Thing else, that may be proposed for the Happiness and Prosperity of the Province.

AND I flatter myself, you are met together with the same good Disposition on your Part; and that you will readily and cheerfully give all the Assistance to the Government, that can be reasonably expected of you, in such Things as the Duty of my Station will always oblige me to recommend to you: in a particular Manner, the principal of which is a Provision of Arms and Ammunition for the Defence of the Province; and I hope you will think it the more necessary at this Time of real and imminent Danger, as the Legislature found themselves obliged to distribute so great a Part of the Arms, that had been provided for ourselves, to the Forces that were raised here for his Majesty's Service; and the Impossibility of providing them any where but out of our own Magazine, shews how dangerous it might be to us, to have them to look for upon any sudden Emergency.

IF any Thing further occurs to me, during the Course of your Proceedings, I shall communicate it to you; in the mean time, you may be assured, that no Man in the Province is more sincerely inclined to promote the Prosperity of it than myself; and that I will make it my constant Rule, never to propose any Thing to you as Governor, that I shall not think for the Good of the Country as a Planter.