

already appointed (the Quantity whereof you doe not object L. H. J. ag^t) might be duly Inflicted. In Vain is it to Proportion Punishments to Offenders, if the Method of bringing the offenders to Punishment be rendered Impracticable, as Many years Experience sufficiently demonstrates this to be.

Gentlemen; We take it that tho' this fine of One hundred pounds of Tob^o be but small in it Self, yet in the Consequence of it, the Honour and Safety of our Country is much Concerned. Upon the Due Execution of this Law depends the whole Regulation of the Militia: for that is the Only Tye upon them to Obey; and Obedience is Essential to Discipline, and Discipline to Defence: and even in the Time of the most happy Tranquility a well Regulated Militia is not only an Honour but a Preservative of Peace by keeping in awe a Less Disciplined Neighbour; whereas the Neglect of this is even an Invitation to others to take Advantage of our not being in a Posture of Defence.

We take this Opportunity to Acquaint you that Many of the most Capable Persons have Refused to Accept Commissions & those that have are willing to lay them down; because they are only Called Commanders but have no Legal Power to induce Obedience.

We likewise Observe that the fine is what you Approve of and the Judges of it proposed are the same the Present Act Appoints wherever the party fined pleases to make him so: p. 30 for if he Dislikes the Judgment of the Captain, he may then Complain and have the same Judges which that Law already Appoints. If he likes the Captains Judgment the Alteration we propose can be no Grievance to him. To which (if you Agree) may be Added that no such ffines be Executed for without the Approbation and Certificate of the Field Officers. Certainly Gentlemen, should you refuse to Amend this Act in the Points proposed (which alter not the Substance, but render the due Execution of it more practicable,) it must be necessarily understood as the Effect of your Dislike to the Act it Self and by Consequence a Dislike to any Militia for the Defence of the Country.

Signed p Order. John Beale Ctk Up. Ho

The Petition of John Connaway a Poor Prisoner is Read and on hearing the Allegations of M^{rs} Macnemara against bringing in a Bill,

Leave is given to bring in a Bill as prayed