

Your Committee having informed themselves, as well as the time and a careful Examination of the Ancient Records, and other Writings would admit, how far the Laws and General Statutes of England have been received as Laws within this Province, since it's first Settlement, find that in the Earliest Times there were as many instances of Decisions by the General Statutes of England (without any objection or opposition) as there were Cases that could be affected by them and a Continuation of such Decisions until the Government was taken into the Hands of King William and Queen Mary (of Glorious Memory) and that all the time the Government continued immediately under the Crown, as many Cases, both Criminal and Civil, as came within the purview of the Statutes, which could not be many in comparison of those tryable by the Common Law and particular Acts of Assembly, were determined by them, which Course has been continued ever since the Restoration of the Government to the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, except in some particular Cases where the Circumstance of this Province rendered the form of Proceedings prescribed by some Acts of Parliament impracticable, and where there have been some Alterations made by Act of Assembly; the People always claiming and insisting on the Rights and Privileges of English and British Subjects, and the Laws of their Mother Country, as their indubitable Right, and agreeable to the Royal Charter from King Charles the first, of Pious Memory, to the Lord Proprietary.

*Nota Bene.* The Report of this Committee further contains a recital of some Paragraphs of the Charter, aforementioned; but the Charter, at large, being published herewith, such Paragraphs are here omitted. The Report further contains large Abstracts from the Records of all kinds of Parliamentary and Judicial Proceedings, which evince the Constant Course of this Government and Judicature, from the first settlement thereof, to have been, as is asserted by the general Allegations of this Report. But those abstracts appearing on the Journals, where the Original Records are refer'd to, and may be at any time perus'd by those whose Curiosity, or Business, may lead them to a more particular Inspection, are omitted here, for the sake of Brevity. The Committee then proceeds to conclude their Report, thus, viz.

The foregoing Instances of Commissions to Magistrates, whereby they were Impowered and Required to act according to the Laws and Statutes of England, and of the Indictments founded on Acts of Parliament, while the Government was under the Crown, your Committee thought sufficient to shew, that the Usage hath been, as already mentioned, in Regard that the Practice, for that whole time, is so well known to every one that has been a Judicial or Ministerial Officer, or hath had any thing to do in the Courts of Law, and we are of Opinion, that the Addition of any thing more, in a case so very clear, would rather be troublesome than necessary.

*Conclusion:*

Your Committee begs leave to observe, That several Records, and other Writings, were lost in the time of the Revolution, in removing the Records from St. Mary's hither, and when the State House was Burnt, which we believe to have contained several things to the present purpose. And even in the Books we have inspected, we make no question but there are several things very Material which we have overlooked, yet we hope that what we have collected, will be sufficient to evince, That as well the Governours