

This practice, if not prevented for the future, your Committee humbly conceive, must tend to the destruction of the Health, Strength, Peace, and Quiet, and highly contribute to the Corruption of the Morals of his majesty's loyal Subjects, and his Lordship's faithful Tenants, within this Province, to the stirring up and promoting Envy, Strife, and Contention, amongst Friends and Neighbours, and to the creating and fomenting Parties and Divisions, which must always be a Disadvantage both public and private; except to those few, the success of whose pernicious Schemes may in great Measure depend upon the fomenting and keeping up such Parties and Divisions, and hindering an Union of Interests and Councils, the only sure Preservative of the common Good; and must be of the greatest ill Consequence, by encouraging the labouring Part of his Lordship's Tenants to idle away that Time at such Entertainments, and waste and exhaust that Spirit and Vigour with such strong and spirituous Liquors, which ought to be spent for the Benefit of themselves and their Families in particular, and employed for the Advantage of Society in general: But the Ways and Means for preventing these impending Dangers, and for eradicating these spreading Evils, which if suffered any longer to grow and spread, may in Time have a great Tendency to destroy the Freedom and Independance of the most valuable Branch of our Constitution, is humbly submitted to the mature Consideration and wise Determination of your Honourable House.

Signed per Order, THO. HARWOOD, junior, Cl. Com.

On reading the said Report, the House concurs therewith.

George Plater, Esq; from the Upper House, delivers to Mr. Speaker a Petition of *Mordecai Booth*, of the Colony of *Virginia*, Merchant, on Behalf of himself and his Partner *William Westwood*, praying a Drawback of the Duties paid, or secured to be paid, on forty Negroes, imported into this Province; which were afterwards exported within the Time limited by Act of Assembly: Indorsed, " Referred by the Upper House to the Consideration of the Lower House. "

On motion that a Bill be brought in, to prevent the Inhabitants of *Virginia* and *Pennsylvania* from hunting in the Back Woods; Leave is given. Ordered, That the Committee of Laws do prepare and bring in a Bill accordingly.

Mr. *Robert Lloyd*, from the Committee appointed to make Extracts from the Land-Office, &c. delivers to Mr. Speaker the following Report; viz.

By the Committee appointed to make Extracts out of the Land-Office, from the Lord Proprietary's Grants.

Y Our Committee having examined sundry Grants made at different Periods, from the Year 1636 to the Year 1746, do find the Rent reserved to the Proprietary to be expressed in the following Manner:

1st, In a Grant to John Lewger, dated the 5th of December, 1636, for 300 Acres, 'tis thus expressed; He yielding and paying six Shillings in Money Sterling, or the Commodities of the Country, at the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

2dly, In a Grant made the 10th of November, 1654, to Robert Cole, for 100 Acres, 'tis said; Under the usual Rent of two Shillings Sterling for the said 100 Acres.

3dly, In a Grant made the 3d of August, 1658, to John Norwood, for 200 Acres, 'tis expressed as follows: Yielding and paying therefore yearly unto us and our Heirs, at our usual Receipt at *St. Mary's*, at the two most usual Feasts in the Year, viz. at the Feast of the Annunciation of our blessed Virgin *Mary*, and at the Feast of *St. Michael* the Archangel, by even and equal Portions, the Rent of four Shillings Sterling in Silver or Gold, or the full Value thereof in such Commodities as we and our Heirs, or such Officer or Officers appointed by us or our Heirs from time to time to collect and receive the same, shall accept in Discharge thereof, at the Choice of us and our Heirs, or such Officer or Officers.

4thly, A Grant to Robert Wilson for 300 Acres of Land, dated 10th of July, 1671; wherein it is mentioned, to be paid at the Feasts aforesaid, by even and equal Portions, the Rent of twelve Shillings Sterling, in Silver or Gold; and for a Fine upon every Alienation, one whole Years Rent in Silver or Gold; or the full Value thereof, in such Commodities as we or our Heirs, or such Officers appointed by us, shall accept in Discharge thereof.

5thly, A Grant to Benjamin Hammond, for 100 Acres, dated the 2d of February, 1738, At the Rent of ten Shillings Sterling in Silver or Gold, or the full Value thereof, at the Choice of us and our Heirs, or Officer or Officers: Provided also, that if the said *Benjamin Hammond* shall neglect or refuse to pay the Rent reserved, by the Space of ten Days after it shall become due, and be requested by the Receiver, or other Person who shall be appointed to receive it; then and in such Case the Grant to be absolutely void.

6thly, A Grant to Caleb Dorsey for 50 Acres, dated the 18th of March, 1746; To pay at the two most usual Feasts, the Rent of two Shillings Sterling in Silver or Gold, or the full Value thereof in such Commodities as we and our Heirs, from time to time to collect and receive the same, shall accept in Discharge thereof, at the Choice of us and our Heirs, or such Officer or Officers as shall be appointed by us.

All which is submitted to the Consideration of this Honourable House.

ROBERT LLOYD,
EDWARD SPRIGG.

Mr. *Smith* hath Leave of the House to go home.