

For the N E G A T I V E.

Messrs.	{	Wolftenholme,	W. Adams,	R. Goldborough,	Ward,	Cresap,
		Sothoron,	J. Adams,	Henry,	J. Hall, <i>Annap.</i>	F. Gantt,
		Buchanan,	Winder,	Cockey Deye,	Chaille,	Chapline,
		Johnfon,	Edmondson,	Heath,	Harris,	Smith.
		Wilfon,	J. Goldborough,	Hyland,	Allen,	.

For the A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messrs.	{	Worthington,	Grahame,	Smallwood,	Jacob,	Tilghman,
		H. Hall,	Parran,	Ware,	Tyler,	Wright.
		E. Gantt,	Hanfou,	Beall,	.	.

Mr. Selby brings in, and delivers to Mr. Speaker, a Bill, entitled, *An Act for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors*: Which was Read the First Time, and Ordered to lie on the Table.

The House adjourns till the Morrow Morning at IX of the Clock.

W E D N E S D A Y, May 21.

THE House met.

Mr. Tyler, from the Committee appointed to inspect the Public Offices and Records, &c. brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker, the following Report, *viz.*

By the Committee appointed to inspect into the State of the several Public Offices, May 21, 1766.

YOUR Committee having examined into the State of the several Public Offices, find, by comparing many Original Wills, in the Commissary's-Office, with the Records, that the greatest Part of those Records do not appear ever to have been examined, and that there have been great Errors committed in Recording them; amongst which we beg Leave to take Notice of the following, *viz.* *William Simcock*, his Will, in Lib. B. T. N^o. 2. 1756, a whole Paragraph omitted. *George Robinson*, his Will, dated in 1696, in Lib. N^o. H. Fol. 195, altogether disagrees, in every Bequest, with the Original. *Richard Collett*, his Will, in Lib. N^o. 1. Fol. 314, a transcribed Book, which contains Wills from 1635 to 1674, and appears to have been examined by Sworn Examiners, yet a whole Paragraph omitted; this we find by comparing the Original with the Record, and that there are but very few of the Original Wills Recorded in this Book, to be found in the Office. *Daniel Selby*, of *Somerset* County, his Will we cannot find on Record, or in the Bundles of Original Papers, though a Copy thereof, attested by the Deputy-Commissary, with Letters Testamentary thereto annexed, has been produced to your Committee. We also find Two Bundles, containing Wills and Inventories, exhibited in 1759 and 1760, not yet Recorded, and that the General Alphabet in that Office, is much worn, and will not bear Binding, and has several Leaves loose.

That your Committee likewise find, by comparing the Original Certificates in the Land Office with the Records, many of them have never been examined, and that there have been great Errors committed in Recording them.

Many Certificates, before the Year 1740, are thrown into an old Chest in the Office, where they lay in the greatest Confusion, much torn and defaced, and the Books which contain these Certificates, are not marked *Examined*. The General Alphabet of the Patents, is much torn and defaced, and only brought up to the Year 1757; and also another Alphabet of Patents and Certificates, in Two Books, brought up to the Year 1737, much torn and defaced. Your Committee have likewise examined the State of the Secretary's Office, and find that Part of the Judgments in *May* Term 1755, the whole of *October* Term in the same Year, and a small Part of *May* Term 1756, and the whole of *September* 1756, are not Recorded, and that the Judgments, before the Year 1757, do not appear to us to be Examined; and that there is no Alphabet to Lib. G. S. N^o. 1, which contains Judgments; nor are there any Judgments of the Provincial Court entered since *April* Term 1761, a small Part of which Term's Proceedings still remain to be entered.

Your Committee observe, that the Records in the Public Offices, for a considerable Time past, appear to be made up generally by Persons who write incorrect and unsettled Hands; and your Committee beg Leave to annex a List of the Books that are now in the said Offices. All which is submitted to the Consideration of your Honourable House.

Signed per Order,

JOHN DUCKETT, Jun. Clk.

Which Report aforesaid, and the List annexed, were Read the First Time, and Ordered to lie on the Table.

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