

By the COMMITTEE appointed to enquire what Laws will expire this Session, and make Report thereof to the House.

YOUR Committee beg Leave to inform the House, That the Act, entitled, *An Act for the Benefit of the Poor, and the Encouragement of Industry*, made at a Session of Assembly, begun and held at the City of Annapolis, the First Day of November, Anno Domini Seventeen Hundred and Sixty-five, will expire with this Session.

Signed by Order,

RALPH DOBINSON, Cl.

The engrossed Bill, entitled, *An Act empowering Edward Tilghman, Solomon Wright, and others, to sell certain Lands, &c.* Read and assented to, and sent to the Upper House, with the Paper Bill thereof, by Mr. Mackall and Mr. Gantt.

They return, and acquaint Mr. Speaker they delivered the Bill.

Mr. Johnson brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following Message :

By the LOWER HOUSE of ASSEMBLY, November 12, 1770.

May it please your HONOURS,

THE Propositions which accompanied your Negative on the Inspection Bill last Session, having been made after that Bill had been some Days before you, and requiring Alterations in principal Points, from which we were determined not to recede, we could not imagine, there was the least Probability of bringing about an Agreement at that Time, and therefore we declined protracting the Session by any Procedure from which we could expect nothing but a fruitless Expence. From like Motives we declined going into a Conference generally on the Bill now before you, in Consequence of your Message of the 8th Instant by Daniel Dulany, Esq; or to engage to confer on the Amendments you might propose, before we had them before us in One View; esteeming any Conference expedient in Proportion only to the propable Event. But having considered your last Message, which narrowed the Subject to the general Propositions contained therein, we agree that the Bill be expressed in other Terms, to give an Allowance of Four per Cent. on the Payment of cropped Tobacco, if you still think any further Expressions necessary. That in Case of Payment in Money, the Clergy may receive on 32 instead of 30 per Poll, and that in Case it is not sufficiently certain, Lawyers Fees be more fully expressed to be the same as in the last Inspection Act. Your other Propositions that tend to alter the Bill we do not agree to, and are of Opinion that an annual stated Income of £. 600 Sterling is too much for the Trouble and Risk in executing the Secretary's, Commissary's or Land Office, or in a comparative View with the private Estates within this Province, or the Numbers and general Circumstances of the Inhabitants: But even was the Sum proposed in our Opinion a fit Quantum, we should be utterly averse to fixing a Salary, and taking the Fees to the Publick, not only because we should fear an entire new System might involve us in fresh Difficulties, but from an Apprehension, that any Officers who depend upon a known fixed Salary, without having an immediate Benefit from any particular Instances of their Duty, would not be so ready in undertaking, or diligent in executing them, as they would be, if they were to have a present Advantage from them. The immoderate Amount of the Fees of Officers, as charged under the late Regulation, and the very many Abuses in those Charges which have fallen within our Observation, have determined us unanimously to reject that Regulation, which we never will again consent to. We have by the proposed Regulation in the Bill endeavoured to obviate the Pretences for what we esteem Abuses, making, in our Opinion, a very ample and generous Provision for Officers, and in the dependent Provisions taking that Care only which by Experience is found necessary against illegal and oppressive Charges; yet should you still think that the Fees as regulated by the Bill are not sufficient, or that any other Parts of the Bill to which you have proposed Alterations need Amendments, we are willing to join with your Honours in a Conference thereon, and will appoint Conferrees to meet such of your Honours as you may think proper to nominate for that Purpose.

Signed by Order,

JOHN DUCKETT, Cl. Lo. Ho.

Which was read and approved of, and ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Ringgold brings in, and delivers to Mr. Speaker, the engrossed Message: Which was read and assented to, and sent to the Upper House by Mr. Johnson and Mr. Ringgold.

They return, and acquaint Mr. Speaker they delivered the Message.

William Hayward, Esq; from the Upper House, delivers to Mr. Speaker the Petition of Henrietta Rogers, Guardian of Nicholas Rogers of Baltimore County, praying that a Law may pass, to enable her to lay out and divide the Lots of Ground lying in Baltimore-Town in Baltimore County, belonging to her said Son, and to lease and demise them for such Term or Terms of Years as she shall judge most conducive to the Interest of her said Son; thus endorsed: "By the Upper House of Assembly, November 12, 1770: Read and referred to the Consideration of the Lower House of Assembly.

Signed by Order,

U. SCOTT, Cl. Up. Ho."

ORDERED, That the said Petition be referred to the Consideration of a Committee, and that they do examine the Matter thereof, and report their Opinion thereupon to the House.

Mr. Johnson, Mr. Chase, Mr. Aquila Hall, and Mr. W. Paca, are appointed a Committee accordingly; and they have Power to send for Persons, Papers and Records.

Daniel Dulany, Esq; from the Upper House, delivers to Mr. Speaker the Paper Bill, No. 2; thus endorsed: "By the Upper House of Assembly, November 12, 1770: The engrossed Bill, whereof this is the original, read and assented to.

Signed by Order,

U. SCOTT, Cl. Up. Ho."

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