

That the Books (since the last Report to this Time, a List of which is hereto annexed) are in good Order, with Alphabets cut in the Leaves of each Book, and the several Papers recorded therein appear to be examined up to the present Time: That a large Bundle of Inventories and Accounts, for the Year 1764, when *Stephen Bordley*, Esq; was Commissary-General, remain unrecorded, and that no Entry hath been made in the Books of Testamentary Proceedings, of any Transactions in that Office, from the Month of *June* 1764 to the End of that Year: That the Records of the Secretary's Office appear in the same Condition they were in at the Time of the last Report of your Committee: That the Judgments are entered up to *October* Term 1766, with a great Part of the Proceedings of that Term: That the Land Records, and also the Laws, are recorded up to the present Time.

A LIST of the RECORD BOOKS in the several Offices, since *October* 4th, 1770, the Time of the last Report.

In the LAND OFFICE

Liber B C & G S, N^o. 42. } Containing Patents.
 43. }
 Liber W S, 16. Containing Warrants and Assignments.
 General Alphabet not yet completed for Patents.

In the COMMISSARY'S OFFICE.

Liber D D, N^o. 1. Containing Wills, 1759, 1760.
 W D, 2½ Containing Accounts, 1759, 1760.
 9 & 10. Containing Accounts.
 13, 14, 15, 16. Containing Inventories.
 E N, 4. Containing Testamentary Proceedings.

In the SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Liber D D, N^o. 11. Containing Judgments.

All which is submitted to the Consideration of the honourable House.
 Signed by Order, JOHN C. JONES, Cl. Com.
 Which was read the First Time and ordered to lie on the Table.
 The House adjourns till Monday Morning 9 o'Clock.

MONDAY, November 11th, 1771.

THE House met. All Members appeared as on Saturday, except Mr. *Buchanan*, Mr. *Gresham*, Mr. *Meale*, Mr. *Weems*, Mr. *Dennis*, Mr. *Allen*, Mr. *Robins*, Mr. *Chaille*, Mr. *Contee*, and Mr. *Chamberlaine*. The Proceedings of Saturday were read.

Mr. *Johnson*, One of the Conferrees of this House, delivers to Mr. Speaker the following Paper.

FROM an Expectation, that if the most material Points could be settled, there would be little Difficulty in Matters of less Importance, we declined reasoning on some of your Propositions, tho' we are persuaded we could evince the Propriety of such Parts of the Bill as are therein objected to.

In the present Bill the Lower House have adopted the Provision for the Clergy proposed last Session by the Upper House. No Argument can be necessary to evince to the Upper House the Propriety and Justice of their own Proposition. Your Honours are now pleased to object to this Part of the Bill, and have observed, that "what pass the last Session not having been productive of any Regulation, can't, you presume, be binding on both Houses at this Time." Permit us therefore to remark, that tho' upon the Concurrence of both Houses only, neither of them are legally bound; yet, in Point of Consistency, essential to the Dignity of Legislation, a Departure from a Proposition solemnly made, and deliberately acceded to, cannot be justified, whilst the Principle remains upon which the Proposition was founded. You have not even intimated that you have changed your Opinion of the Propriety and Justice of your own Proposition, nor have assigned any other Cause for departing from what you proposed, than the Assurance you have had by Message, that his Excellency will not pass the Law with the Alternative extended to the Clergy. The Lower House of Assembly profess themselves totally unacquainted with the Connexion between the Governor, as one Branch of the Legislature, and your honourable House, and therefore we cannot express ourselves on the Propriety of this Assurance to you by Message; and as we cannot see that the long Prorogation has disclosed any Thing which ought to lessen the Probability of the final Passage of the Bill now, more than at the last Session on Account of the Clergy, we should still hope, that if all other Matters were settled between the Two Houses, his Excellency would, on a more mature Consideration of the Point respecting the Clergy, entertain the same idea the Two Houses do, as to the Justice and Fitness of the Alternative being extended to their Dues.

There is, doubtless, by much, too great an Inequality in the Livings of the Clergy; however none of the Parishes are so inconsiderable but that the worst is too good for the worst Clergyman, and the frequent Opportunities his Excellency has of removing those who may have injured a Parishes into much better, put it amply in his Power to reward Merit where he may find it; and if by a Probationary State in the small Livings, that Merit is not proved, the