

Ordered the same lie on the Table for the consideration of the Members.

On motion ordered that Mr Polk, Mr Maurice Moore, Mr Mac-knight, Mr Harnett, Mr Nash, Mr Howe, Mr Husband, Mr Gibbs, Mr John Campbell, Mr Knox, and Mr Stuart be appointed a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill for granting to his Majesty the sum of ----- Thousand pounds proclamation money, to be imposed, levied and applied in manner and to the purposes herein after mentioned.

Mr Montfort moved for leave to bring in a Bill for further continuing an Act Intituled an Act for appointing a printer to this Province.

Ordered he have leave accordingly.

Mr Montfort presented the said Bill which he read in his place and delivered in at the Table, where the same was again read passed and ordered to be sent to the Council.

Sent by Mr Shepard and Mr Dickson.

Mr Joseph Jones and Mr Jonathan Herring two of the Members for Pasquotank County appeared.

The Honble Robert Palmer and Samuel Cornell Esq^{rs} two of His Majesty's Council came to the House, and Mr Joseph Jones and Mr Jonathan Herring were qualified by taking the oaths by Law appointed for the qualification of public officers and repeating and subscribing the Test.

Then the House adjourned till Monday Morning 10 o'clock.

Monday December 17th 1770.

The House met according to adjournment.

Mr Edward Hare and Benjamin Wynns Jun^r two of the members of Hertford County, and also Mr Lillington Lockhart, one of the members for Bertie County appeared.

Ordered the following Bills be read the second time, Viz',

The Bill for the relief of such persons who have or may suffer by their deeds and mense conveyances not being proved and registered within the time heretofore appointed by Law.

The Bill to empower the Church wardens and Vestrymen of Saint Gabriel's Parish in the County of Duplin to sell the Glebe in the said Parish and County, and other purposes.

The Bill to establish a public inspection of Tobacco in the County

of Johnston; read the second time amended passed and ordered to be sent to the Council.

Mr Pryor presented the petition of sundry Inhabitants of Orange County therein praying the said County may be divided.

Mr Fanning moved for leave to present a Bill pursuant to the prayer of the said petition.

Mr Fanning presented the said Bill which he read in his place and delivered in at the Table, where the same was again read, passed and ordered to be sent to the Council.

Sent by Mr Husband and Mr Pryor.

Mr Knox moved for leave to present a Bill for the more easy and speedy recovery of small debts and other purposes.

Ordered he have leave accordingly.

Mr Knox presented the said Bill which he read in his place and delivered in at the Table, where the same was again read passed and ordered to be sent to the Council.

Sent by Mr Knox and Mr Tho^s Person.

The Honble Martin Howard Esquire and Samuel Cornell Esquire two of His Majesty's Council came to the House, and Messrs Edward Hare, Benjamin Wynns and Lillington Lockhart were qualified according to Law.

Mr Dickson presented a petition from sundry of the Inhabitants of Duplin County therein praying a Town may be erected at a place called Limestone Ferry, on the North West Branch of Cape Fear and lower side of Limestone Creek.

Mr Dickson moved for leave to present a Bill pursuant to the prayer of the said petition.

Mr Dickson presented the said Bill which he read in his place and delivered in at the Table where the same was again read passed and ordered to be sent to the Council.

Sent by Mr Gray and Mr M^rKinnie.

Mr Fanning from the Committee appointed to examine into the Laws of this Province and report to the House such of them as are near expiring, and also such as require amendment informed the House, that the Committee had met for that purpose, and that with leave of the House he was ready to make their report.

Ordered that he have leave; and accordingly he reported, That it was the opinion of the Committee that an Act made in the year 1715 to appoint public registers and direct the method to be observed in conveying Lands, goods and chattels, and for pre-

venting fraudulent deeds and mortgages requires amendment, in order for pointing out and ascertaining in a more particular manner the several indicia or badges of a fraudulent conveyance; and directing the mode of recovering the forfeiture; and for rendering the said Act more effectual.

Also that an Act made in 1715 for establishing what fees are sufficient appears to this Committee to be so imperfectly drawn and the mode of obtaining redress for the mischief intended to be guarded against by the said Act, is singular and unusual, that they are of opinion that the said Act requires many amendments in order to its answering the salutary purposes for which it was intended; or rather recommend that a new Bill be brought in for the ascertaining what fees are sufficient, wholly repealing the former Act.

This Committee are further of opinion, that the Act passed in 1748 for regulating the several officers fees, and ascertaining the method of paying the same, is so vague and uncertain as to what services are necessary to be done by each respective officer and the fees that may legally be taken by him for his several services collectively; that they esteem it highly requisite that an amendment thereof be made, explaining and ascertaining, in the most full, clear and summary manner the precise sums that may be taken by each officer for the respective services by them to be performed: making exactions of officers more penal, and the method of redress against such practices less difficult.

This Committee upon perusing the several Acts of Assembly, concerning the solemnization of the rights of matrimony and considering the great number of Presbyterian Inhabitants settled in the western Frontier Counties in this Province and the difficulties and expences they must necessarily be under, Can't but think that the restraints and penalties in the said Acts are in some measure hard and oppressive, and that they have a just and reasonable claim to the attention of the Legislative body for granting to them a religious toleration in that particular, and that it is well becoming the Catholic and liberal principles of the Members of the House of Representatives of this Colony, to appoint a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill for empowering all regular Presbyterian Ministers in this Province to solemnize the rites of Marriage, according to the Westminster confession of Faith, by publication in their religious Assemblies, where the parties are best known, and by License, without any Tax or Fees to the Clergy of the Establishment.

This Committee further report that they think that the several Acts for Establishing of Inferior Courts of pleas and quarter Sessions in the several Counties within this Province which are near expiring, and such very considerable alterations and amendments, that it would be greatly conducive to the advancement of Justice, and the satisfaction of the public for the House of Assembly to appoint a Committee of its Members to prepare and bring in a Bill for establishing of Inferior Courts of pleas and quarter Sessions in the several Counties in this Province; therein enlarging the Jurisdiction of the said Courts, and of single magistrates, rejecting the clauses relating to petition and summons; and containing a repeal of all former Acts within the pervieu thereof — And lastly,

This Committee submit to the wisdom and discretion of this House whether it should be thought proper that this Committee should be continued during the Session for further researches and enquiries into the purposes for which they were originally appointed, observing that by enlarging the time for their continuance, they think it probable that they may be enabled to report more fully with respect to many other acts, which it would be the duty of the House either to amend or continue, and perhaps both.

Mr Fanning presented the petition of sundry Presbyterian Ministers of this Province, therein praying an Act may pass for empowering all regular Presbyterian Ministers in this Province to solemnize the rites of Marriage, according to the confession of Faith &c^a

On motion ordered that Messrs. Fanning, Lewis, Polk, Gibson, John Campbell, Knox, and Stewart be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill to empower dissenting Ministers regularly called to any Congregation to solemnize the rites of Marriage, under certain restrictions therein mentioned.

On motion ordered Mr Fanning, Mr Ormond, Mr Cray, Mr Benjamin Person, Mr Brownrigg, Mr Haywood and Mr Christopher Neale be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill to establish Inferior Courts of Pleas and quarter Sessions in the several Counties in this Province.

On motion ordered Mr John Campbell, Mr Lane, Mr Macknight, Mr James Lockhart, Mr Thos. Person, Mr Dunn, and Mr Moses Hare, be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill to amend an Act Intituled an Act to appoint public registers, and to direct the method to be observed in conveying lands, goods and chattles and for preventing fraudulent deeds and mortgages.

On motion ordered Mr Harvey, Mr Rutherford, Mr Moses Hare, Mr Evans, Mr Ferquard Campbell, Mr Woodhouse, and Mr Jacob Blount be a Committee to prepare and bring in a Bill to ascertain what fences are sufficient.

Mr Polk moved for leave to bring in a Bill for appointing and empowering Mr William Moore of Tryon County to collect and receive the Taxes which are due from the Inhabitants of the said County for the year 1768 and other purposes.

Ordered he have leave accordingly.

Mr Polk presented the said Bill which he read in his place and delivered in at the Table where the same was again read passed and ordered to be sent to the Council.

Sent by Mr Tho^s Neill and Mr W^m Moore.

Mr Lane presented a petition from sundry Inhabitants of Johnston County therein praying a division of the said County may be made, &c^a.

Mr Lane moved for leave to present a Bill pursuant to the prayer of the said petition.

Mr Lane presented the said Bill which he read in his place and delivered in at the Table where the same was again read passed and ordered to be sent to the Council.

Sent by Mr Lane and Mr Gibson.

The order of the day being read Resolved the consideration of his Excellency the Governors Message with the papers therein referred to, be deferred till Thursday next.

On Motion ordered that Mr Ormund Mr Lillington Lockhart and Mr Wynns be added to the Committee of Propositions and Grievances.

Then the House adjourned until tomorrow morning 10 o'clock

Tuesday December 18th 1770.

The House met according to adjournment.

Mr Robinson presented sundry certificates from the County Court of Anson therein recommending Richard Adams, Jacob Watson and Daniel Jernegan to be exempt from the payment of public Taxes. Ordered they be exempt accordingly.

Mr Eaton moved for leave to present an additional Bill to an Act Intituled an Act concerning servants and slaves which he read in his place and delivered in at the Table where the same was again read passed and ordered to be sent to the Council.

Sent by Mr Eaton and Mr Herring.

Mr Aquila Sugg one of the members for Edgecombe County appeared.

Mr Fanning from the Committee appointed to examine the Laws of the Province further reported that the Act made in 1751 for the restraint of vagrants and for making provision for the poor and other purposes, and continued by an Act in 1760, and further by another Act passed in 1766, being now near expiring, We recommend it expedient that the same be re-enacted with amendments continuing a repeal of the former.

The Committee having taken under consideration the Acts of Assembly of this Province with respect to the relief of insolvent debtors, are of opinion that the same might be rendered less ambiguous and doubtful, and also more beneficial by a repeal of those now in force, and by re-enacting a new Law for that purpose, and for the ascertaining the time of imprisonment of insolvent debtors before their releasement, and pointing out the circumstances under which debtors shall be intitled to the privileges of prison bounds.

This Committee do further report, that an Act for suppressing excessive and deceitful gaming which formerly was in force in this province, had a very salutary and beneficial effect during its continuance, and they are of opinion that the same ought to be re-enacted and revived.

This Committee do also report, that they are of opinion that the Act passed in 1768, for preventing the frequent abuses in taking up and secreting of stray horses in the Counties of Orange, Granville, Bute, Rowan, Anson, Mecklenburg, Johnston, Dobbs, Edgecombe, Northampton, Hertford, Tyrrell, Craven and Pitt has been of great utility, and singular service to many persons whose Horses have strayed from them in the Counties afore mentioned, as well as in many of the Neighbouring Counties; and that as the same is near expiring, that it ought to be continued, with such amendments as may be thought necessary and expedient.

Mr Harnett moved for leave to present a Bill to amend an Act, Intituled an Act for establishing a Town on the Lands of John and William Russell, minors, sons of John Russell deceased, on the West side of the North West branch of Cape Fear River, near the mouth of Cross Creek, by the name of Campbelton, and other purposes. Also the Bill to encourage the further settlement of this Province.

Ordered he have leave accordingly.