

CHAPTER CLXII.

AN ACT FOR THE BETTER PROPORTIONING THE RATES OF MONEY IN PAYMENTS MADE UPON CONTRACTS ACCORDING TO THE FORMER REGULATION.

Whereas our gracious sovereign the Queen, taking into consideration the different rates at which the same species of foreign coin pass in her several colonies and plantations in America, and the inconveniences thereof by the indirect practice of drawing the money from one plantation to another to the great prejudice of the trade of the Queen's subjects, did by her royal proclamation given at Windsor, the eighteenth day of June in the third year of her reign, think fit to reduce all foreign coins to one current rate within her dominions in America by certain exact calculations and regulations thereupon in the said proclamation at large set forth and expressed; publishing and declaring that from and after the first day of January then next ensuing, no pieces of money therein mentioned should be accounted, reckoned, taken or paid within any of the Queen's said colonies or plantations, for the discharge of any contracts or bargains made after the said first day of January, at any higher rates than by the said proclamation is ordered and required; and whereas upon the liberty that is left by the said proclamation to pay and discharge all debts contracted before the said first day of January in money at other rates than is thereby required, it has been frequently practiced in this government to make payments in such pieces as upon the reduction of our coin would carry the greatest loss, and too great encouragement has been given by the irregularity and disproportion of the rates at which money has passed, through a sinister and unjust desire of gain, to clip the heavier pieces passing by weight as well as reals or bits that are not weighed, and thereby to make the generality of such payments as aforesaid in the lightest and most depraved money, for remedy whereof:

[Section I.] Be it enacted by John Evans, Esquire, by and with Her Majesty's royal approbation Lieutenant-Governor

under William Penn, Esquire, absolute Proprietary and Governor-in-Chief of the province of Pennsylvania and Territories, by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the publication of this present act, no debts contracted before the said first day of January shall be discharged in any silver coin current in this province but at the rate of five pence halfpenny per pennyweight, being the nearest to the former regulation pieces and half-pieces of Peru excepted, which shall pass in such payments at five pence per pennyweight; and Lion or Dog dollars not less than sixteen pennyweight at six shillings each, and all kinds of silver money shall be weighed by Troy weights proportionable to the rate aforesaid.

Provided nevertheless, That without the consent of the receiver in payments of pieces of eight, there shall not be more than one single piece; and in payments of half-reals, reals and double reals, not more than eight reals weighed in the scale at one draught; and such draught shall not be weighed or accounted nearer than one-half pennyweight; and the money being full as heavy as the weight shall be passable for the value thereof respectively. And whereas the neighboring governments that have been more anciently settled, and are some of them much more considerable in trade than those of [*sic*] this province, have not hitherto fallen into the practice of the regulation enjoined by the Queen's said proclamation, whereupon the inhabitants of this government, finding the alteration difficult to be practiced while none of those around us do the same, have too generally continued to contract and bargain for sums according to the old rates, which still increases the great inconveniencies that daily more and more arise from the aforementioned disproportion, by not only clipping our money upon the encouragement taken from thence but also importing the lightest pieces and exporting the heavy; and whereas nothing will more facilitate the practice of the regulation aforesaid, according to the said proclamation which requires all weights to go exactly according to one rate; than first to introduce the same method in all payments whatsoever, by which a full com-

pliance with the said regulation will be rendered much more easy and less disadvantageous:

[Section II.] Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no payments upon any contracts made upon the former currency of money, as by a late law of this province it was established, shall be made after any other rate than the aforesaid of five pence halfpenny for every pennyweight of silver, and so proportionably. And for Peru's and Lion or Dog dollars, as aforesaid; and that all payments that are not according to the said proclamation, unless the contract was for sterling or according to some other particular rate, shall be made according to the regulation hereinbefore established, and not otherwise.

Passed January 12, 1705-6. Repealed by the Queen in Council, October 24, 1709. See Appendix II, Sections II and III, and the Act of Assembly passed April 30, 1709, Chapter 166.

CHAPTER CLXIII.

AN ACT FOR SELLING THE OLD COURT-HOUSE AND BUILDING A NEW COURT-HOUSE AND PRISON IN THE COUNTY OF BUCKS.

Whereas the grand juries of the said county have presented the necessity of building a court-house as aforesaid, and a petition being presented to this House from many of the freeholders, setting forth the necessity thereof and requesting that it may be affixed in the town of Bristol the former place being too remote from most of the inhabitants of the said county and that several of them have voluntarily subscribed for carrying on and encouraging the same: it is therefore humbly requested that it may be enacted:

[Section I.] And be it enacted by John Evans, Esquire, by the Queen's royal approbation Lieutenant-Governor under William Penn, Esquire, absolute Proprietary and Governor-in-Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania and Territories, by and with the advice and consent of the freemen of the said Province in General Assembly met, and by the authority of the same, That it