

—not to exceed
£500 per annum.

Officers.

with the interest of the personal estate, shall not exceed the sum of five hundred pounds per annum; and to manage and dispose said estate as shall seem fit: and said society shall have a master, deputy-master, treasurer and clerk, and other officers they shall think proper.

And be it therefore further enacted,

—their power
at the first meet-
ing.

[SECT. 2.] That the said Marine Society shall, on the second Thursday in June next, assemble to appoint their first master, deputy-master, treasurer and clerk, and other officers as they shall think proper, and their seal, and make by-laws; and said officers shall continue until the last Thursday in October next, on which day the said Marine Society shall meet, annually, afterwards on the said last Thursday of October, annually, at Salem aforesaid, to chuse a master, deputy-master, treasurer and clerk, and other officers as they shall think proper; and for the admission of new members, which shall be done by a major vote of the members present at said annual meeting; and to make, alter and annul their by-laws: and if, by reason of any emergency, the business of said annual assembly cannot be completed on said day, they may adjourn once to a short day to finish it, and no more; And said society shall meet at said Salem, on the last Thursday of every month, for all other business. And whenever any of the officers of said society shall die, or be disabled, or remove out of the government, others shall be appointed or elected in their room, at the next monthly meeting. And all instruments which said society shall lawfully make, shall, when in the name of said society, and pursuant to the votes thereof, and signed and delivered by the master, and sealed with their common seal, bind said society, and be valid in law. [*Passed April 25, 1772.*]

Power of ad-
journing, and
appointing new
officers, in case
of death or
removal.

Instruments,
valid in law.

CHAPTER 22.

AN ACT IN ADDITION TO AN ACT ENTITLED “AN ACT FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE BOUNDS, AND DEFREYING OF THE PUBLICK AND NECESSARY CHARGES ARISING WITHIN EACH RESPECTIVE COUNTY IN THIS PROVINCE,” MADE AND PASSED IN THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF KING WILLIAM AND QUEEN MARY.

Preamble.
1692-93, chap.
27.

WHEREAS, in and by an act intituled “An Act for the settlement of the bounds, and defreying the publick and necessary charges arising within each county in this province,” it is, among other things, enacted that the votes for a county treasurer shall be “in writing, and sealed up by the constable, by him to be kept and returned unto the next quarter sessions to be held for said county, there to be opened and sorted, by such as the court shall appoint, in the presence of the justices;* the person having the majority of the said votes shall be treasurer of such county for that year, and be sworn before said court”; and *whereas* divers and great inconveniencies have frequently arisen in consequence of the returning of the votes, for a county treasurer, being only by the constable of the then year; for remedy whereof. —

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and House of Representatives.

Justices' and
grand jurors'

[SECT. 1.] That for the future any of the justices of the county, or either of the grand jurors of the then present or next preceeding

* “and” omitted.

year, living in the same town, and they shall have the same power to return the votes of the several towns in the respective counties in this province for a county treasurer, as by said law the constables had and now have.

power to return votes.

And be it further enacted,

[SECT. 2.] That the votes for county registers, collected and sealed up according to the law now in being, shall be returned from the several towns in each county, to the courts of general sessions of the peace in said counties, respectively, in the same manner as is provided for by this act, for the return of the votes for county treasurers. [Passed April 25, 1772.]

Each town to return votes for county register, to the court of general sessions.

NOTES. — There were two sessions of the General Court, this year, both held at Cambridge.

Between the date of issuing writs for the new Assembly, and the first day of the session, Gov. Hutchinson wrote to Lord Hillsborough suggesting that but for the uninterrupted practice, for eighty years, to the contrary, "it would have been well warranted and it would have strengthened Government if the Governor could have continued a House of Representatives that should be well disposed", — by omitting to issue the customary annual writs for the choice of representatives, since he could "find no Clause in the Charter which makes a new House of Representatives necessary every year."

At the first session, which began May 29th and ended July 5th, nine acts were passed, the engrossments of three of which — chapters 2, 3 and 4 — are missing. The second session began April 8th, and was dissolved April 25, 1772. During this session thirteen public acts were passed, of which none of the engrossments have been found. At this session, also, a private act was passed, the engrossment of which is preserved. It bears the following title: —

"An Act to change the Christian name of William Clark Tyler from William Clark to Royall." — [Passed April 25, 1772.]

All the public acts of this year were printed.

The acts of the first session were duly certified for transmission July 9, 1771, and these, together with the Governor's letter accompanying his "remarks," and dated July 16, had been received by the Board of Trade sometime before the fifth of September, following, on which day, it appears, they were sent by the latter to the Privy Council. On the 25th, they were referred, in regular course, to a committee, and by this committee they were referred back to the Board of Trade, Oct. 4, 1771. They, together with the acts of the last session of the previous year, appear to have been read by the Board, Dec. 12, 1771, and immediately referred to Mr. Jackson, for his opinion thereon, who, on the next day, reported "I am humbly of opinion that the said Acts are proper in point of law." Mr. Jackson's report was received Dec. 18th, and was read and considered at a meeting of the Board, Feb. 27, 1772, when the draughts of a report to the lords of the committee of the Privy Council, and of a letter to Gov. Hutchinson, on chapter 25 of 1770-71, and chapter 2 of this year, were ordered to be prepared. This report of the Board of Trade, which is dated Mar. 4, 1772, concludes as follows: "We see no reason why Your Lordships may not if you think fit recommend to his Majesty, for his Majesty's Royal Confirmation such of these Laws as have not expired by their own limitation."

The acts of the second session were certified for transmission May 7, 1772, and, together with Gov. Hutchinson's letter dated May 8, which accompanied his remarks, were received by the Board of Trade on the seventeenth of June. They were read the next day, and immediately ordered to be delivered to the clerk, in waiting, of the Privy Council. On the 19th, they were referred to the committee on plantation affairs, by whom they were considered, July 1st, and, the same day, referred back to the Board of Trade. The Board of Trade received them July 6th; and, on the 29th, the order of the Privy Council referring them back, was read, and the acts, and this order, were ordered to be sent to Mr. Jackson, for his opinion thereupon. Mr. Jackson's report bears date July 14, 1772, which is fifteen days earlier than the date of the order of reference to him. There seems to be no error in this date, inasmuch as it is confirmed by the endorsement of the date of the reception of Mr. Jackson's report, by the Lords of Trade, which is July fifteenth. This report was read at the Board, March 18, 1773, when it was ordered that chapters 20 and 21 "should be taken into further consideration on Tuesday next." Accordingly, on that day, these acts were again considered, and chapters 20 and 21 specially referred to Mr. Jackson for reconsideration. This order, the letter accompanying it, and the report of Mr. Jackson, are given in full in the note to chapter 21, *post*.

Chap. 1. "June 18, 1765. A Petition of Isaac Stevenson, David Patterson and Isaac Hunter dwelling on that part of Belchertown that lies South of Pelham and between the West branch and middle branch of Swift River — Setting forth — That their belonging to Belchertown is attended with such difficulties, that they have applied to the said Town to set them off from them, and that the said Town have consented to set them off accordingly; and that the Town of Greenwich wherein they can be better accommodated, hath voted their Consent to receive them. And praying that the said Lands may accordingly be set off from Belchertown to the Town of Greenwich.

In the House of Representatives, Read and Resolved that the prayer of the petition be granted, and that the Petitioners with all the Lands South of Pelham, West of Greenwich and East of the West branch so called of Swift River be, and they are hereby annexed to