

CHAPTER 11.

AN ACT FOR ERECTING CERTAIN LANDS AT A PLACE CALLED NATICOOK WITH OTHER LANDS ADJO[*i*][*y*]NING, LYING ON EACH SIDE THE RIVER MERRIMACK, INTO A TOWNSHIP BY THE NAME OF LITCHFIELD.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the proprietors and settlers of certain lands at a place called Naticook, and other lands adjo[*i*][*y*]ning, on each side of Merrimack River, partly in Dunstable and partly in Nottingham, have addressed this court, setting forth that the said lands [*lye*] very suitable and commodious for making a regular and compact township, which may probably be the means of hastening the settlement of said lands, and thereby a benefit and strength will arise to that part of the frontiers, several families being already settled on said lands who have supported a minister among them for more than a year past, their situation being near nine miles from any other meeting-house; and forasmuch as the towns of Dunstable and Nottingham have, by their agents, declared to this court, in writing, they have no reason against erecting the lands abovesaid into a township, but together with the said proprietors and set[*t*]lers have come into an agreement setting forth the lines and boundaries of the township prayed for,—

Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governour, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

A new town granted, by the name of Litchfield.

[SECT. 1.] That the lands at Naticook, so called, with the other lands adjo[*i*][*y*]ning thereto, lying partly in Dunstable and partly in Nottingham, and lying on each side the river Merrimack, as the same are hereafter bounded and described (which is according to the agreement of the towns of Dunstable and Nottingham, by their agents, with the proprietors and set[*t*]lers of the Naticook lands), be and hereby are set off, constituted and erected into a sep[*a*][*e*]rate and distinct township by the name of Litchfield.

Bounds of the town described.

[SECT. 2.] The bounds of the said township being as follow; vizt., beginning at Merrimack River, half a mile south from where Naticook south line crosseth said river; running from thence west two miles and an half; then turning and running northerly, the general course of Merrimack River, to Sowbeeg River, making it a strait line; then running by Sowbeeg River to Merrimack River again, two miles and an half; also that the bounds dividing between Naticook and Nottingham begin at the lower line or south bounds of Nathaniel Hill's lands on Merrimack River, so extending east, by his south line, to the south-east corner, so on, east, to Nottingham east line; from thence in Nottingham east line, north, two degrees east, about half a mile, to a pine tree with stones about it, standing within sight of Beaver Brook, marked with the letter **F**; from thence north-north-west, by a line of marked trees, letter'd with **F**, about six miles, to Merrimack River, near Naticook Corner; southerly by the River Merrimack, to the mouth of the Sowbeeg River, beforementioned.

[SECT. 3.] And that the inhabitants thereof be and hereby are vested and endowed with equal powers, privile[*d*]ges and immunities that the inhabitants of any of the other towns within this province are, or by law, ought to be, vested with.

Provided,

Proviso.

[SECT. 4.] That the proprietors of the said Naticook lands, and the set[*t*]lers and inhabitants of the said town of Litchfield, shall be and hereby are strictly enjoyned and required at their own cost and charge, according to their proportion of their several rights and inter-

ests in the said town of Litchfield, to erect and finish a suitable meeting-house for the publick worship of God there, within the space of three years next coming; and shall also within the time aforesaid, procure and settle a learned, orthodox minister, of good conversation, and make effectual provision for his comfortable and honourable support. [*Passed July 4; published July 6.*]

CHAPTER 12.

AN ACT FOR GRANTING UNTO HIS MAJESTY SEVERAL RATES AND DUTYS OF IMPOST AND TUNNAGE OF SHIPPING.

WE, his majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the representatives of his majesty's province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, considering the necessity of calling in the sum of twenty-eight thousand five hundred and twenty-five pounds granted to his late majesty King George, at the several sessions in the years one thousand seven hundred and twenty-two, one thousand seven hundred and twenty-six; to his present majesty, one thousand seven hundred and thirty-three, and one thousand seven hundred and thirty-four, to be levied and collected in this present year, have cheerfully and unanimously given and granted, and do hereby give and grant, unto his most excellent majesty, to the ends, uses and intents aforesaid, and for no other use, the several dutys of impost upon wines, liquors, goods, wares and merchandize that shall be imported into this province, and tunnage of shipping hereafter mentioned, for calling in the sum of twenty-eight thousand five hundred and twenty-five pounds; and pray that it may be enacted,—

And be it accordingly enacted by His Excellency the Governour, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

[SECT. 1.] That from and after the twenty-ninth day of June, instant, there shall be paid by the importer of all wines, liquors, goods, wares and merchandizes, that shall be imported into this province from the place of their growth (salt, cotton-wooll, provisions, and every other thing of the growth and produce of New England excepted), the several rates or dutys of impost following; vizt.,—

For every pipe of wine of the Western Islands, thirty shillings.

For every pipe of Canary, forty-five shillings.

For every pipe of Madera, thirty-five shillings.

For every pipe of other sorts not mentioned, thirty-five shillings.

For every hogshead of rum containing one hundred gallons, thirty shillings.

For every hogshead of sugar, two shillings.

For every hogshead of molasses, one shilling.

For every hogshead of tobacco, thirty-five shillings.

For every tun of logwood, three shillings.

And so, proportionably, for greater or lesser quantities.

And all other commodities, goods or merchandize, not mentioned or excepted, threepence for every twenty shillings' value: all goods imported from Great Britain excepted.

And whereas many strangers and foreigners have of late years reaped great gain and profit by bringing into this province considerable quantities of foreign molasses and rum, on their own accompts, whereby much of the trade that was formerly carried on with considerable profit by the inhabitants of this province, altho with the paying