

for the time being of this his majesty's province, to nominate, appoint, imploy and impower such and so many officers under them as they shall think necessary for the well ordering and managing the affairs relating to the said office, and the better to prevent frauds, and to grant them warrants for executing the same.

[SECT. 11.] And the said commissioners and all other officers under them, before their entering upon the execution of their respective offices, shall be sworne to deale truly and faithfully therein.

[SECT. 12.] And the said commissioners shall also keep fair books of all entrys and dutys arising by virtue of this act, which shall lye open at all seasonable times to the view and perusal of the treasurer and receiver-general of this province, with whom they shall likewise accompt for all collections and payments, and pay in all such moneys as shall be in their hands unto said treasurer, as he shall demand it.

[SECT. 13.] And the said commissioners, for their labour, care and expences in the said office, shall have and receive such sum and sums as the general assembly shall think fit to allow them. All other officers employed under the said commissioners to be paid for their service as they with the treasurer shall agree, on reasonable termes. And if the said commissioners shall lett or ferme the said excise, or any part thereof, to any person or persons, such person and persons, and the officers which shall be employed under him or them, shall have, use and exercise all such powers and authorities as in and by this act or any clause therein is given, granted or committed unto the commissioners to be appointed as aforesaid and their underofficers for the better collecting said excise, and preventing frauds.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,

[SECT. 14.] That all penalties and forfeitures accruing or arising by virtue of this act, or any clause or article therein contained, shall be one halfe to his majesty for the uses and intents to which the aforementioned dutys of excise are granted, and the other halfe to him or them that shall seize, informe and sue for the same by action, bill, plaint or information in any of his majesty's courts of record, wherein no essoign, protection or wager of law shall be allowed; the whole charge of prosecution to be taken out of the halfe belonging to the informer: *provided* that this act shall continue in force for the space of one whole year from and after the said twenty-ninth day of June in this present year one thousand six hundred ninety-nine, and no longer. [*Passed July 14; published July 18.*]

CHAPTER 16.

AN ACT FOR APPLYING THE SUM OF ONE THOUSAND POUNDS, PART OF THE TAX UPON POLLS AND ESTATES GRANTED TO HIS MAJESTY BY THIS COURT UNTO THE USE OF HIS EXCELLENCY RICHARD, EARLE OF BELLOMONT.

1699-1700, ch. 14. WHEREAS, by an act made and passed at this present session of the great and general court or assembly of this his majesty's province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England in America, entituled "An Act for granting unto his majesty a tax upon polls and estates," there is given and granted unto his most excellent majesty, to and for the ends and uses in the said act particularly enumerated and expressed, and to such other use and uses as shall be limited and appointed by this court, a tax of three thousand seventy-nine pounds ten shillings, to be levied

upon polls and estates, both real and personal, within this province, in manner and proportion as in and by the said act is directed and set forth;—

Wee, therefore, the representatives of the said province, having fully agreed and resolved to make a present of one thousand pounds unto his Excellency, Richard, Earle of Bellomont, his majesty's captain-general and governour in chief in and over the same province, do pray that it may be enacted,—

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

That one thousand pounds, part of the said sum of three thousand seventy-nine pounds ten shillings, be and hereby is specially appropriated and applied to the sole and proper use of the said Richard, Earle of Bellomont. [*Passed July 14.*]