

HOUSE....No. 169.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February, 24, 1853.

ORDERED, That the Committee on Banks and Banking consider the expediency of providing by law that bank officers shall mark all counterfeit bills when presented at their counters, with the word "*counterfeit*," on the face of the bill, and make a record of the same.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 24, 1853.

Adopted and sent up for concurrence.

WM. SCHOULER, *Clerk*.

SENATE, February 25, 1853.

Concurred.

CHAS. CALHOUN, *Clerk*.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 29, 1853.

The Committee on Banks and Banking, to whom was referred the order to consider the expediency of providing by law that bank officers shall mark all counterfeit bills when presented at their counters with the word "counterfeit" on the face of the bill, and make a record of the same, have considered the same, and report the accompanying bill.

For the Committee,

S. HOOPER.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-
Three.

AN ACT

To Facilitate the Detection, and to Prevent the Circula-
tion of Counterfeit Bank Bills.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of
the same, as follows :*

1 SECT. 1. Any and every bank now established, or
2 which may be established under the authority of this
3 Commonwealth, which shall receive in payment, or
4 upon deposit, or for redemption from any other bank,
5 or from any person or persons, any counterfeit bank
6 bill, shall and may write or stamp upon such bank
7 bill, the words "counterfeit," adding thereto or there-
8 under, the name of the bank, and the initials of its
9 officer, by which such writing or stamp shall be made.

1 SECT. 2. Any bank note or bill which may have

2 been altered from its original denomination or amount
3 to some other, may in like manner be stamped with
4 the word "altered," in such manner as to give notice
5 of such alteration.

1 SECT. 3. If any bank or its officer shall by mistake
2 or inadvertence make any such writing or stamp upon
3 a bank note or bill which is not in fact a counterfeit
4 or an altered bill, the bank or its officer shall not be
5 answerable in damages for any sum greater than the
6 actual loss or damage which such mistake or inadver-
7 tence may produce, except in cases where it appears
8 that the stamp was fraudulently made.