

nine, and in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty, and in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-one, in several Taxes, none of which Taxes have been assessed upon the Inhabitants of said Plantation, for want of proper Officers for that Purpose:

Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That William Williams, Esq; of said Ashuelet, be, and he hereby is empowered, ordered and directed, on the first Monday of *December* next, to warn a Meeting of the Inhabitants for the Purpose of choosing all such Town Officers as Towns Corporate are authorized to choose in the Month of *March* annually; which Officers shall be sworn in the Manner directed by Law: And the Assessors, when chosen and sworn, are authorized and directed to assess the aforesaid Taxes, and such other Taxes as may be laid on said Plantations; the two first mentioned Taxes, which were in Old Emission Money, to be made up in Specie, according to the Scale of Depreciation, at the Time when the said Taxes were to be paid: Said Taxes to be paid in Specie, or New Emission Money at one and seven-eighths for one; and all the other Taxes to be assessed and paid agreeable to the respective Tax Bills, and commit the same to the Constable or Constables of said Plantation, and make Return of the Sums assessed, with the Name of the Constable or Constables, Collector or Collectors to whom committed, to the Treasurer of this Commonwealth, on or before the First Day of *January* next.

November 2, 1781.

1781. — Chapter 21.

[September Session, ch. 11.]

Chap. 21 AN ACT MAKING PROVISION FOR GIVING PERMITS TO THE DISTILLERS AND THE IMPORTERS OF THOSE ARTICLES WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO AN EXCISE DUTY.

Preamble.

Whereas in the Act passed this Session, laying an Excise upon certain Articles therein mentioned; it is provided, that no Distiller or Importer of the Articles therein mentioned, shall presume to sell or any way dispose of said Articles, to unlicenced Persons, without a Permit first obtained from the Collector of the Duties for the County where such Distiller or Importer dwells; and it is not

W. Williams,
Esq; empow-
ered to call
Meeting of the
Inhabitants.

Town Officers
to be Sworn.

Taxes by whom
assessed.

In what Money
Taxes are to be
assessed.

To be returned
to the Treas-
urer, on or be-
fore the first
Day of *January*
next.

expedient in this Session of the Court, to proceed to the Choice of said Collectors:

Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Selectmen of the several Towns in this Commonwealth, or the major Part of them, be, and are hereby empowered and directed to give Permits to all such Distillers or Importers, as apply for the same, in the same Manner as is by said Act provided to be done by the Collectors, until said Collectors shall be appointed; they to be allowed Two Shillings for each Permit, to be paid by the Person receiving the same; and make Return of their Doings to the Collectors of their respective Counties, as soon after the Appointment of said Collectors as may be. And all Persons selling without Permit from the Selectmen, shall be subject to the same Penalties as are provided in the Act aforesaid for selling without a Permit from the Collectors.

Selectmen empowered to give Permits to Distillers and Importers.

To be allowed two Shillings for each Permit, and make return to the Collectors. Persons selling without Permit subject to Penalties.

November 2, 1781.

1781. — Chapter 22.

[September Session, ch. 12.]

AN ACT DIRECTING THE MANNER IN WHICH MONEY SHALL BE RAISED AND LEVIED TO DEFRAY THE CHARGES WHICH MAY ARISE WITHIN THE SEVERAL COUNTIES IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

Chap. 22

Whereas by the Constitution of this Commonwealth, it is among other Things established, that “no Subsidy, Charge, Tax, Impost, or Duty ought to be established, fixed, laid or levied, under any Pretext whatsoever, without the Consent of the People or their Representatives in the Legislature,” so that it is become necessary to make other Provision than has been usual for defraying County Charges:

Preamble.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Justices of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, at the first Court which shall be held within each of the Counties of this Commonwealth, next preceding the First Day of January annually, shall make an Estimate of such Sum or Sums of Money as they, according to their best Skill and Judgment shall think sufficient to defray the necessary Charges of their respec-

Justices of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace in the several Counties to make an Estimate of such Sums of Money as are needful to defray the charges