

Orderd, That the Report from the Committee of the whole House, to whom it was referred to consider of the Report from the Committee appointed to receive Proposals for preventing the clipping the Silver Coin of this Kingdom, be made To-morrow Morning.

The Order of the Day, for the House to resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider further of the Bill for granting to his Majesty certain Duties upon Glafs Wares, Stone and Earthen Bottles, Coals, and Culm, for carrying on the War against *France*, being read;

The Question was put, That Mr. Speaker leave the Chair:

The House divided.

The Noes go forth.

Tellers for the Yeas, { Sir *Robert Cotton*,
Sir *Henry Ashurst* : } 108.

Tellers for the Noes, { Sir *John Barker*,
Sir *Charles Bloys* : } 57.

So it was resolved in the Affirmative.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole House, to consider further of the said Bill.

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Mr. *Clark* reported from the Committee, to whom it was referred to prepare Reasons, to be offered at a Conference with the Lords, for disagreeing to an Amendment, made by the Lords, to the Bill, intituled, An Act for continuing, and making perpetual, several Laws therein mentioned, That they had prepared Reasons accordingly; which they had directed him to report to the House; and which he read in his Place; and afterwards in at the Clerk's Table: Where the same were twice read; and, upon the Question put thereupon, agreed unto by the House; and are as follow; viz.

The Commons cannot agree to the Clause marked A; 1st, Because it revives, and re-enacts, a Law which in no-wise answered the End for which it was made; the Title and Preamble of that Act being to prevent printing seditious and treasonable Books, Pamphlets, and Papers: But there is no Penalty appointed for Offenders therein; they being left to be punished at Common Law, as they may be without that Act; whereas there are great and grievous Penalties imposed by that Act for Matters wherein neither Church nor State is any ways concerned.

Regulating
Printers and
Printing
Presses.

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2. Because that Act gives a Property in Books to such Persons, as such Books are, or shall be, granted to by Letters Patents, whether the Crown had, or shall have any Right to grant the same, or not, at the time of such Grant.

3. Because that Act prohibits printing any thing before Entry thereof in the Register of the Company of Stationers, except Proclamations, Acts of Parliament, and such Books as shall be appointed under the Sign Manual, or under the Hand of a principal Secretary of State; whereby both Houses of Parliament are disabled to order any thing to be printed; and the said Company are empowered to hinder the printing all innocent and useful Books; and have an Opportunity to enter a Title to themselves, and their Friends, for what belongs to, and is the Labour and Right of, others.

4. Because that Act prohibits any Books to be imported, without special Licence, into any Port in *England*, except *London*; by which Means the whole foreign Trade of Books is restrained to *London*, unless the Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*, or the Lord Bishop of *London*, shall, in Interruption of their more important Affairs in governing the Church, bestow their time *gratis* in looking over Catalogues of Books, and granting Licences; whereas, the Commons think, the other Ports of the Kingdom have as good Right as *London* to trade in Books, as well as other Merchandizes.

5. Because that Act leaves it in the Power either of the Company of Stationers, or of the Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and Bishop of *London*, to hinder any Books from being imported, even into the Port of *London*; for if one or more of the Company of Stationers will not come to the Custom-house, or that those Reverend Bishops shall not appoint any learned Man to go thither, and be present at the opening and viewing Books imported, the Custom-house Officer is obliged to detain them.

6. Because that Act appoints no Time wherein the Archbishop or Bishop of *London* shall appoint a learned

licensed by the Bishop, from selling innocent and inoffensive Books, though never so useful, in any Part of *England*, except Freemen of the Company of Stationers, who may sell without such Licence; so that neither Church nor State is taken care of thereby; but the People compelled to buy their Freedom of Trade in all Parts of *England* from the Company of Stationers in *London*.

13. Because that Act prohibits any one not only to print Books, whereof another has entered a Claim of Property in the Register of the Company of Stationers, but to bind, stitch, or put them to Sale; and that under a great pecuniary Penalty; though it is impossible for a Bookbinder, Stitcher, or Seller, to know whether the Book brought to him, were printed by the Proprietor or another.

14. Because that Act prohibits Smiths to make any Ironwork for any Printing-Press, without giving Notice to . . . Company of *Stationers*, under the Penalty of 5 *l.*; whereas he may not know to what Use the Iron bespoke of him, and forged by him, may be put.

15. Because that Act prohibits printing and importing not only heretical, seditious, and schismatical Books, but all offensive Books; and doth not determine what shall be adjudged offensive Books: So that, without Doubt, if the late King *James* had continued in the Throne till this time, Books against Popery would * not have been deemed offensive Books.

16. Because that Act subjects all Mens Houses, as well Peers as Commoners, to be searched at any time, either by Day or Night, by a Warrant under the Sign Manual, or under the Hand of one of the Secretaries of State, directed to any Messenger, if such Messenger shall, upon probable Reason, suspect, that there are any unlicensed Books there; and the Houses of all Persons free of the Company of Stationers are subject to the like Search, on a Warrant from the Master and Wardens of the said Company, or any one of them.

sent at the opening and viewing Books imported, the Custom-house Officer is obliged to detain them.

6. Because that Act appoints no Time wherein the Archbishop or Bishop of *London*, shall appoint a learned Man, or that one or more of the Company of Stationers shall go to the Custom-house to view imported Books; so that they or either of them, may delay it till the Importer may be undone, by having so great a Part of his Stock lie dead; or the Books, if wet, may rot and perish.

7. Because that Act prohibits any Custom-house Officer, under the Penalty of losing his Office, to open any Pacquet wherein are Books, until some or one of the Company of Stationers, and such learned Man, as shall be so appointed, are present: Which is impracticable; since he cannot know there are Books, until he has opened the Pacquet.

8. Because that Act confirms all Patents of Books granted, and to be granted; whereby the sole Printing of all, or most of, the Claflick Authors are, and have been for many Years past, together with a great Number of the best Books, and of most general Use, monopolized by the Company of Stationers; and prohibits the importing any such Books from beyond Sea; whereby the Scholars in this Kingdom are forced not only to buy them at the extravagant Price they demand, but must be content with their ill and incorrect Editions; and cannot have the more correct Copies, which are published abroad, nor the useful Notes of Foreigners, or other learned Men, upon them.

9. Because that Act prohibits any thing to be printed till licensed; and yet does not direct what shall be taken by the Licentier for such Licence; by colour whereof great Oppression may be, and has been, practised.

10. Because that Act restrains Men bred up in the Trade of Printing, and Founding of Letters, from exercising their Trade, even in an innocent and inoffensive Way, though they are Freemen of the Company of Stationers, either as Masters or Journeymen; the Number of Workmen, in each of those Trades, being limited by that Act.

11. Because that Act compels Master-Printers to take Journeymen into their Service, though they have no Work or Employment for them.

12. Because that Act restrains all Men, who are not

* Sic Orig.

of the Company of Stationers are subject to the like Search, on a Warrant from the Master and Wardens of the said Company, or any one of them,

17. Because the Penalties for Offences against that Act are excessive; it being in the Power of the Judges, or Justices of the Peace, to inflict what Punishment they please, not extending to Life or Member.

Lastly, There is a Proviso in that Act for *John Streater*, That he may print what he pleases, as if the Act had never been made; when the Commons see no Cause to distinguish him from the rest of the Subjects of *England*.

Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords, to desire a Conference upon the Subject matter of the Amendments made by them to the said Bill.

Ordered, That Mr. *Clark* do carry the said Message.

Ordered, That all Committees be revived.

Committees.

A Motion being made, for the Re-commitment of the ingrossed Bill, from the Lords, intituled, An Act for reversing the Attainder of *Jacob Leisler*, and others;

Reversing
Leisler's
Attainder.

Ordered, That the said Bill be re-committed to the same Committee: And they are to meet To-morrow at Five a Clock in the Afternoon, in the Speaker's Chamber.

And that Mr. *Blathwait*, Lord *Cornbury*, Lord *Marquis Winton*, Mr. *Bridges*, be added to the said Committee.

An ingrossed Bill for explaining and regulating several Doubts, Duties, and Penalties, in the late Act for granting several Duties upon Vellum, Parchment, and Paper, was read the Third time.

Duties on
Paper, &c.

An ingrossed Clause was offered, as a Rider, to the Bill, That the Vessels trading from one Member to another of the Port of *Southampton* shall not pay the Duty of Tonnage:

And the same was read the First time.

And the Question being put, That the Clause be read a Second time;

It passed in the Negative.

Resolved, That the Bill do pass: And that the Title be, An Act for explaining and regulating several Doubts, Duties, and Penalties, in the late Act for granting several Duties upon Vellum, Parchment, and Paper; and for ascertaining