

"laying out
"for appointing
"ways, &c."

Mr. R. Pagan from the Committee, appointed to prepare reasons to be laid before the House, upon the subject matter of the amendments proposed by the Council to the Bill to ascertain Ratable Estates, &c. reported as follows:

The Committee appointed to manage the conference requested of the Council upon the amendments made to the Bill "to ascertain Ratable Estates in this Province and for other purposes therein mentioned," are instructed by the House to state to the manager on the part of the Council, that the House are ready to agree to the first and sixth of those amendments, to wit, to strike out the words "together with" and insert the words "and of" in the first section, and to strike out the words "next preceding" and insert the word "sixth" in the eighth section of the Bill; those being merely verbal or literal amendments and such as appear to the House very proper.—That as to all the other amendments, if they were such as would be deemed expedient to be made; (which the House do not admit) yet they go "to limit, qualify and alter" the said Bill, and are of such a nature as, in the opinion of the House, strike directly at the root of their indubitable privilege "to originate all Bills imposing Taxes or burthens upon their constituents, and to be the sole judges of the extent and duration of those burthens"—that the effect of the objectionable amendments is evidently to take the Tax or burthens from one description of Persons, and impose it upon another: as for instance, to relieve the owners of large and valuable Tracts of unimproved land, which are constantly growing in value by the labors of the owners of small Tracts of but little comparative value, from any part of the assessment, and thereby necessarily to impose additional burthens upon those of the latter description.—This effect of the amendments will, the House are persuaded, be admitted by the Council; and if so, the single point remains to be decided, namely, whether it is, or is not, the privilege of the House "to be the sole judges of the extent of the Tax or burthen to be imposed" or laid upon their constituents. That Parliamentary usage and the constant practice of the Legislature of this Province, having so fully and firmly established the claim of the House to this right, they indulge a hope that the Council will not resist it.

The Committee are further instructed to state that the Bill was prepared and passed with great deliberation and after the fullest discussions of the subject, and with an ardent desire to equalize as nearly practicable the public burthens, according to the circumstances of the people—that such a Law has been long in contemplation, and in the general expectation of the Province; and as it is limited in its duration to the short term of four years, the House hope and trust that the Council will not persist in the amendments which are objected to, as they must be fully convinced it is utterly impossible for the House to yield the privilege claimed by them, which is equally indubitable with the right of the Council to reject this, or any other Bill passed by the House, if the Council deem it expedient so to do.

Which report was read and ordered to be received, Mr. J. Fraser presented a petition from William Bannerman, praying relief from payment of a Bond given to the Deputy Treasurer of Northumberland, for the payment of Duties, which was referred to the Committee of Supply.

15th FEBRUARY, 1816.

Read a second time, a Bill to exclude ignorant and unskilful Persons from the practice of Physic and Surgery, and ordered to be committed.

Ordered, on motion of Mr. Agnew, made and seconded, that a Committee of this House be appointed to search the Journal of the Council as to their proceedings upon the Flaster of Paris or Gypsum Bill; and further, that Capt. Agnew and Mr. Johnston, be a Committee to make such search, and report thereon to the House.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Speaker,

The Council have agreed to the Bill in addition to an Act, for erecting a Court House and Goal in the County of Northumberland.

The Committee of conference of this House on the subject of the Bill to ascertain Ratable Estates, &c. went to the conference and being returned, Mr. R. Pagan reported, that they had given the Committee of the Council the reasons for disagreeing to the amendments

amendments, and left the Bill and the Council, and left the Bill and the Council.

16th FEBRUARY, 1816.

Mr. Agnew from the Committee, appointed to search the Journal of the Council on the subject of the Gypsum Bill, reports that upon searching the Journal of the Council, they found the following entry, made on the 13th February, 1816, viz.

"Read a second time, the Gypsum Bill."

"On motion, resolved, that the further consideration of this Bill be put off for three months."

Mr. Humbert presented a petition from John Ward & Son, paying further Drawback on Rum reshipped; and also a petition from Charles Ward, with a similar prayer; which were ordered to be received, and referred to the Committee of Supply.

The House in Committee, Mr. P. Fraser in the Chair, went into consideration of a Bill to revive and continue, and to explain two Acts of the General Assembly, for the more effectual prevention of Desertion from His MAJESTY'S Forces.

Mr. P. Fraser from the Committee, reported that he was directed by the Committee to report they had agreed to the Bill with amendments; and he delivered the same at the Clerk's Table, which Bill being read as amended, was ordered to be engrossed.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Speaker,

The Council do request a conference with the Assembly, on the subject of the conference on the amendments, to the Bill to ascertain Ratable Estates.

Resolved, that the House do agree to the conference on the subject of the last conference, on the amendments to the Bill to ascertain Ratable Estates, and that the Committee, appointed to manage the former conference, do acquaint the Council therewith and manage the same on the part of the House.

17th FEBRUARY, 1816.

Read an engrossed Bill to revive and make perpetual, and also to explain and amend two Acts of the General Assembly, for the more effectual prevention of Desertion from his MAJESTY'S Forces—Resolved that the Bill do pass.

Ordered, that Mr. Ward and Mr. P. Fraser, do carry the same to the Council and desire their concurrence.

Mr. Street, presented a Petition from sundry Inhabitants, (Members of the Church of England) resident in the Parish of Burton, praying aid towards finishing the Church in the said Parish—Ordered to be referred to the Committee of Supply.

Mr. Attorney General, presented a petition from Willis Frederick Knox, praying for remuneration for expenses, &c.—Ordered to be referred to the Committee of Supply.

KINGSTON, (JAM.) Dec. 6.

The Narrative of Jacob Roach, a British subject, and of William Tyack, a citizen of the United States.

"We sailed from Fort Royal on the morning of the 15th ultimo, the former as mate of, and the latter as passenger in the brigantine Decouverte, Wm. James, from Kingston to St. Jago de Cuba. When out four days, in latitude 19° 31', the Moro Castle in sight, bearing north by east, distance about 7 leagues, at 11 A. M. and nearly calm; saw a brig standing to the W. at same time, saw a schr. on our larboard bow, plying to windward, which we supposed to be the Snap Dragon, which had left port the same day, and for the same destination as ourselves. At 11, 30, A. M. by request of the captain, who was indisposed, ordered the jolly boat to be lowered, four seamen to get into her, who, with ourselves went on board the brig, which proved to be the Susan, from Portsmouth, N. H. was informed by her that the schr. in sight was a Carthaginian privateer. At 12, 15, returned to the Decouverte, from whence we again went on board the Susan, to purchase some refreshment for the passengers and captain, who were unwell. At this time we observed a schr. sweeping up, it being calm, and heard her fire a gun. We left the brig shortly after, and pulled for the brigantine—at the same time a light breeze from N. W. When within 150 yards from the Susan, and in point blank range of grape from the schr. she discharged a long brass 18 pr. loaded with langridge and grape shot, into the boat, which fell like a shower around, and one passed between us in the stern sheets. We instantly rounded too and pulled for the Carthaginian, when we were hailed, 'What brig is that?' the English brig Decouverte, from Kingston bound to St. Jago de Cuba. The privateer's captain rejoined, 'come on board; there being a swell, the undersigned Jacob

jumped into Jacob Roach's boat, and was in a jolly at anchor. He was of all colors and nations, who were previously in a semicircular form, armed with sabres, cutlasses, pieces of rope, from ratline to main-sheet rigging, which they cut and beat him on the head and all of the body, with the greatest barbarity, until he swooned from loss of blood and excess of pain, having received at least 100 blows; he was then pushed to leeward, where he remained senseless. The undersigned Wm. Tyack was then seized and dragged over the bulwark towards the guns and ships where he then exclaimed 'I am an American citizen, a passenger, and do not belong to the brig.' Notwithstanding, the whole crew fell upon him, beating and cutting him with all their might, until he was totally insensible.

On recovering our recollection, we found our own boat's crew assisting us into the jolly boat while the privateers-men were striking them with their cutlasses, as long as they could reach them from the gunwale. She was then ordered to drop astern by the capt. when Jacob Roach begged earnestly for some water, to which request no attention was paid. After much entreaty, as we were both fainting and our lacerated and bleeding bodies were exposed to the meridian sun, they ordered us on board again, when we procured some water, and had permission from the capt. though very reluctantly, to go below, and to have one of our men to assist us. We found in the cabin a Spanish prisoner, who, though a surgeon, gave us no assistance, but shed tears abundantly at the sight of our numerous wounds. We were refused vinegar and salt, which we requested for the purpose of applying to our hurts, and with difficulty procured some rum as a substitute. When groaning under the excruciating torture of the applications, the first Lieut. in a taunting and insulting manner, enquired what was the matter? were we sick &c. thereby adding insult to personal injury. On our enquiring the reason of this treatment, he replied 'it was to pay for the ammunition they had fired at us, and that every Englishman and American they fell in with, should share the same; as for the Spaniards they put them out of the way; that there was no other war now, and they would make both nations respect their flag.'—Wm. Tyack took an opportunity of asking a negro woman on board, the name of the privateer, and was answered 'La Santilano,' but being overheard, she was ordered on deck, and we saw her no more. On rearing the Decouverte, an officer took our boat, boarded and examined our papers; he shortly returned, and we were ordered to leave the privateer.

The Decouverte arrived at St. Jago de Cuba on Monday evening, when we were confined under medical care for several days, from the consequences of our wounds and bruises, from which we have not yet recovered. The above marauder is American built, about 160 tons, carries a foretopsail, has bulwarks and a low quarter deck, armed with eight 12 lb. carronades and a long brass 18 pr. amidships on a pivot, a small brass swivel on her larboard quarter, and manned with about 60 men. The captain appears to be a native of St. Domingo, dark complexion and large whiskers. The 1st Lt. is a native of the Windward Islands, and stated that he worked in this city with Mr. Mowatt, shipwright, for three months; the 2d Lt. recognized to be a negro, belonging to Nassau, N. P.

JACOB ROACH,
WM. TYACK.

JAMAICA, SS.

Personally appeared before me, Jacob Roach and William Tyack, mariners, who being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, do make oath and say, that the facts stated in the above narrative, to which their names are subscribed, are true and correct, to the best of their recollection, knowledge and belief.—
So help me God.

JACOB ROACH,
WM. TYACK.

Sworn before me, this 30th day of November, 1815
Geo. KINGHORN.

From an English Paper.

In Great Britain the number of men capable of rising in arms in mass, from 15 to 60 years of age, is 4,744,847, or about 1 in every 17 males. There are about 92,000 marriages yearly, and of 63 marriages, 3 only are observed to be without offspring. In Great Britain there die every year about 332,700; every month about 25,392; every week 6,393; every day 914; and every hour about 40. In country places