

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the 18th day of June, 1723.

The Hon. Samuel Cranston, Governor.

Richard Ward, recorder.

Col. William Wanton, speaker.

Mr. John Coddington, clerk.

An Act for the better securing the pirates, now in His Majesty's jail, in Newport.

Forasmuch as there are thirty pirates brought into this harbor, by Capt. Solegarr, commander of His Majesty's ship the Grey Hound, and now in His Majesty's jail, in Newport, and it being suspected that they may endeavor to escape from thence, unless they are watched and guarded by night;—

For the preventing of which, be it enacted by the General Assembly, and by the authority of the same it is enacted, that the field officers of the regiment of the militia on the islands, shall, and they are hereby empowered to order and set a military watch of such and so many men as they shall deem needful and necessary, to secure the said pirates from making their escape if attempted, and to set such penalties on default of not watching, as to them shall seem needful; and that the charge of the watch be paid out of the general treasury; any former law, custom or usage to the contrary hereof, in any wise notwithstanding.

Voted, that £100, be remitted out of the general treasury, to our agent in Great Britain, for the service of the colony; and Col. Wm. Coddington and the general treasurer procure bills of exchange or silver, to that value, and deliver it to the Governor, who is to send it to our agent.

Voted, that the £123, odd money, in the hands of Mr. Robert Gardner, late naval officer, be paid by him to Capt. Simon

Ray, to and for the use of New Shoreham, to assist them in rebuilding their pier, they building it in two years' time.

Voted, that the sum of £642 12s. 1d., of torn ragged bills in the treasury, be burnt in the presence of this Assembly; and it was burnt accordingly.

Voted, that the general treasurer get the colony house repaired, and refitted where needful; and the charges to be paid out of the general treasury.

Voted, that Mr. Daniel Updike, the attorney general, be, and he hereby is ordered, appointed and empowered to gather in the money due to this colony, for the importation of negroes, and to prosecute, sue and implead such person or persons as shall refuse to pay the same; and that he be allowed five shillings per head, for every slave that shall be hereafter imported into this colony, out of the impost money; and that he be also allowed ten per cent. more for all such money as he shall recover of the outstanding debts; and in all respects to have the like power as was given to the naval officer by the former act.

This Assembly is adjourned to the second Tuesday of September next ensuing.

God save the King.

Proceedings of the General Assembly, held for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, at Newport, the second Tuesday of September, 1723.

The Hon. Samuel Cranston, Governor.

ASSISTANTS.

Capt. Jonathan Nichols,	Mr. William Anthony,
Lieut. Col. John Wanton,	Major Randall Holden,
Capt. Edward Thurston,	Mr. Rouse Helme.
Mr. George Cornell,	