COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

*In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two.*

An Act providing for the due observation of the Lord's Day, and repealing the several Laws heretofore made for that purpose.

WHEREAS the observance of the Lord's day is highly promotive of the welfare of a community, by affording necessary seasons for relaxation from labour and the cares of business; for moral reflections & conversation on the duties of life, and the frequent errors of human conduct; for public and private worship of the Maker, Governor and Judge of the World, and for those acts of charity which support and adorn a Christian Society: And whereas some thoughtless and irreligious persons, inattentive to the duties and benefits of the Lord's day, profane the same, by unnecessarily pursuing their worldly business and recreations on that day, to their own great damage, as members of a christian Society, to the great disturbance of well disposed persons, and to the great damage of the community, by producing dissipation of manners and immoralities of life:

*Be it therefore enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That no person or persons whatsoever, shall keep open his, her or their shop, ware-house, or work-house, nor shall upon land or water, do any manner of labour, business or work, (works of necessity and charity only excepted) nor be present at any concert of musick, dancing or any public diversion, shew or entertainment, nor use any sport, game, play, or recreation on the Lord's day, or any part thereof, upon penalty of a sum, no exceeding *twenty shillings* nor less than *ten shillings* for every offence.

*Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That no traveller, drover, waggoner, teamster, or any of their servants, shall travel on the Lord's day, or any part thereof (except from necessity or charity) upon the penalty of a sum, not exceeding *twenty shillings* nor less than *ten shillings*.

*Be it further enacted,* That no vintner, retailer of strong Liquors, innholder, or other person keeping a house of public entertainment, shall entertain or suffer any of the inhabitants of the respective towns where they dwell, or others, not being travellers, strangers or lodgers, in such houses, to abide and remain in their houses, yards, orchards, or fields, drinking or spending their time, either idly or at play, or doing any secular business on the Lord's day, or any part thereof, on penalty of *ten shillings*, payable by such vintner, retailer or innholder, or person keeping such house of entertainment, for each person so entertained or suffered; and every person so drinking or abiding (except as aforesaid) shall pay a fine not exceeding *ten shillings*, nor less than *five shillings*; and every such licenced person upon any conviction after the first, shall pay a fine of *twenty shillings*, and having been three times convicted, shall be debarred from renewing his licence forever after.

And although it is the sense of this Court, that the time commanded in the sacred scriptures, to be observed as holy time, includes a natural day, or twenty-four hours; yet whereas there is a difference of opinion concerning the beginning & ending of the Lord's day, among the good people of this Commonwealth, and this Court being unwilling to lay any restrictions which may seem unnecessary or unreasonable to persons of sobriety and conscience;

*Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That all the foregoing regulations, respecting the due observation of the Lord's day, shall be construed to extend to the time included between the midnight preceeding and the sun setting of the same day.

*Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That no person shall be present at any concert of musick, dancing, or other public diversion, nor shall any person or persons, use any game, sport, play or recreation, on land or water, on the evening next preceeding or succeeding the Lord's day, on pain of *ten shillings*, for each offence; and no retailer, innholder or person licenced to keep a public house, shall entertain, or suffer to remain, or be in their houses or yards, or other places appurtenant, any person or persons (travellers, strangers or lodgers excepted) drinking or spending their time on the said evenings, on penalty of *ten shillings*, for each offence.

And whereas the publick worship of Almighty God, is esteemed by christians an essential part of the due observance of the Lord's day, and requires the greatest decency and reverence for a due performance of the same;

*Be it therefore enacted,* That any person being able of body and not otherwise necessarily prevented, who shall for the space of three months together, absent him or herself, from the public worship of God, on the Lord's day, (*provided* there be any place of worship, at which he or she can conscientiously and conveniently attend) shall pay a fine of *ten shillings*.

*Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That if any person shall on the Lord's day, within the walls of any house of public worship, behave rudely or indecently, he or she shall pay a fine not more than *forty shillings*, nor less than *five shillings*.

*And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That if any person or persons, either on the Lord's day, or at any other time, shall willfully interrupt or disturb any assembly of people met for the public worship of God, within the place of their assembling, or out of it, he or they shall severally pay a fine not exceeding *ten pounds* nor less than *twenty shillings*.

*Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That no person shall serve or execute any civil process, from midnight preceeding to midnight following the Lord's day; but the service thereof shall be void, and the person serving the same, shall be as liable to answer damages to the party aggrieved, as if he had done the same, without any such civil process.

*And be it further enacted,* That the Tythingmen chosen, or which shall be chosen in the several towns and districts within this Commonwealth, shall be held and obliged to enquire into, & inform of all offences against this act, and all such Tythingmen as shall be hereafter chosen, shall take the following oath.

YOU being chosen a Tythingman, for the town of , for the year ensuing, and until another shall be chosen in your room, do solemnly swear, that you will diligently attend to, and faithfully execute the duties of the said office, without partiality, and according to your best discretion and judgment. *So help you GOD.*

And every such Tythingman, is hereby authorized and empowered, to enter into any of the rooms and other parts of an inn, or public house of entertainment, on the Lord's day, and the evening preceeding and succeeding; and if such entrance shall be refused to any Tythingman, the landlord or licenced person, shall forfeit the sum of *forty shillings*, for each and every offence. And the said Tythingmen are hereby further authorized & empowered, within their respective towns, to examine all persons whom they shall have good cause, from the circumstances thereof, to suspect of unnecessarily travelling as aforesaid, on the Lord's day, and to demand of all such persons the cause thereof, together with their names and places of abode; and if any person shall refuse to give answer, or shall give a false answer to such demand, he shall pay a fine not exceeding *five pounds*, nor less than *twenty shillings*; and if the reason given for such travelling, shall not be satisfactory to such Tythingman, he shall enter a complaint against the person travelling, before a Justice of the Peace in the county where the offence is committed, if such person lives in such county, otherwise shall give information thereof, to some Grand Juryman to be by him laid before the Grand Jury, for their consideration and presentment.

*And be it further enacted,* That the oath of any Tythingman shall be deemed full and sufficient evidence, in any trial for any offence against this act, unless in the judgment of the Court of Justice, the same shall be invalidated by other evidence that may be produced.

*And be it further enacted,* That the special authority given by this act to Tythingmen for preventing the breaches thereof, shall not be construed or understood to exempt any Sheriff, Grand Jurors, Constables or other officers or persons whatsoever, from any obligations or duty, to cause this act to be put in execution, but they shall be held to take due notice and prosecute all breaches thereof, such special authority notwithstanding.

*And be it further enacted,* That all the penalties and fines, incurred and paid for any of the offences aforesaid, shall be for the use of the Commonwealth: And that all said offences, the penalties against which exceed *forty shillings*, shall be prosecuted by presentment of the Grand Jury, before the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, in the county where the offence may be committed: But all offences, the penalty whereof does not exceed *forty shillings*, (except the offender lives out of the county in which the offence may be committed) shall be prosecuted by complaint before a Justice of the Peace in such county:—But when the offender lives out of such county, he may be prosecuted by presentment aforesaid, although the penalty does not exceed *forty shillings*.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That all laws heretofore made, so far as they relate to the due observation of the Lord's day, be, and hereby are repealed and declared null and void.

In the House of Representatives, March 1792.

This Bill having had three several readings passed to be enacted.

DAVID COBB, Speaker.

In *Senate*, March 8, 1792.

This Bill having had two several readings passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, President.

Approved,

JOHN HANCOCK.

True—Copy—Attest,

JOHN AVERY, Jun. Secretary.


WILL COVER

THIS Season at the Stable of the Subscriber, Hawley, the famous Horse called

ROE-BUCK,

He is allowed by judges of Horses in different parts to be as elegant a horse as any in the Country. He will cover at the moderate price of 7/6 the single leap, and 15/the season. Said horse was owned by Col. Lengley the last season; those gentlemen who have a mind to send their mares may depend they will have good attendance.

JOSEPH LONGLEY.

Hawley, April 2, 1792.

WE the Subscribers being appointed Administrators, to the estate of Dr. JOHN MILLER late of West-Springfield, deceased. Hereby request indebted to said estate to bring in their accounts for settlement. All persons having demands against said estate are hereby requested to exhibit the same for settlement.

JOHN MILLER, } Administrators.
ABNER MILLER. }

West-Springfield, April 2, 1792.

WANTED as apprentices to the JOINERS business, two active LADS, one 15 or 16 years of age, the other about 13 or 14. Enquire of

MOSES PARSONS.

Northampton, April 3, 1792.

WANTED as Apprentices to the Cooperage business, two active lads, one 14 or 15 years of age, the other about 16 or 17—Enquire of

JOHN C. CLARK.

Northampton, April 16, 1792.

WE the Subscribers being appointed Commissioners by the Hon. Eleazer Porter, Esq. Judge of Probate, for the County of Hampshire, to receive and examine the claims of the Creditors to the Estate of Thomas Phillips, late of Ashfield, deceased, represented insolvent. Give notice, that we will attend said business at the dwelling House of Mr. Phillips, Esq. in said Ashfield, on the second Tuesday of June and August next, and the last Wednesday of October next, from one to six o'clock on each of said days, six months from the first day of May, being allowed to settle said estate.

FRANCIS MANTOR, }
SAMUEL ANNABLE, } Commissioners.
DAVIS BUTLER. }

ALL Persons indebted to the abovementioned estate are desired to make immediate payment to

PHILLIP PHILLIPS, Adm.

Ashfield, April 23, 1792.

CASH paid for any quantity of Cotton and Linen RAGS, by the printer hereof. *A penny saved is as good as a penny earned.*



# Hampshire Gazette.

NORTHAMPTON, (*Massachusetts*) PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM BUTLER.

Vol. VI.] WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1792. [NUMB. 297.


*LAW OF THE UNITED STATES.*

AN ACT establishing a MINT, and regulating the COINS of the United States.

SECTION 1. BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That a mint for the coinage of a national coinage, be, and the same is established; to be situate and carried on at the seat of the government of the United States, for the time being: And that for the well conducting of the business of the said mint, there shall be the following officers and persons, namely—a director, an assayer, a chief coiner, an engraver, a treasurer.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That the director of the mint shall employ as many clerks, workmen and servants as he shall from time to time find necessary, subject to the approbation of the President of the United States.

SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, That the respective functions and duties of the officers above mentioned, shall be as follow:—The director of the mint shall have the chief management of the business thereof, and shall superintend all other officers and persons who shall be employed therein. The assayer shall receive and give receipts for all metals which may lawfully be brought to the mint to be coined, shall assay all such of them as may requisit, and shall deliver them to the chief coiner to be coined. The chief coiner shall receive the coin'd all metals which shall be received by him for that purpose, according to such regulations as shall be prescribed by this or any future law. The engraver shall sink and prepare the necessary dies for such coinage, with the proper devices and inscriptions, but it shall be lawful for the functions and duties of the chief coiner and engraver to be performed by one person. The treasurer shall receive from the chief coiner all the coins which shall have been struck, and shall pay or deliver them to the persons respectively to whom the same ought to be paid or delivered: He shall moreover receive and safely keep all monies which shall be for the use, maintenance and support of the mint, and shall disburse the same upon warrants signed by the director.

SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That every officer and clerk of the said mint, shall, before he enters upon the execution of his office, take an oath or affirmation before some judge of the United States, faithfully and diligently to perform the duties thereof.

SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That the said assayer, chief coiner and treasurer, previously to entering upon the execution of their respective offices, shall each become bound to the United States of America, with one or more sureties, to the satisfaction of the secretary of the Treasury, in the sum of ten thousand dollars, with condition for the faithful and diligent performance of the duties of his office.

SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That there shall be allowed and paid as compensations for their respective services—to the said director, a yearly salary of two thousand dollars; to the said assayer, a yearly salary of one thousand five hundred dollars; to the said chief coiner, a yearly salary of one thousand five hundred dollars: to the said engraver, a yearly salary of one thousand two hundred dollars; to the said treasurer, a yearly salary of one thousand two hundred dollars; to each clerk who may be employed, a yearly salary not exceeding five hundred dollars; and to the several subordinate workmen and servants, such wages and allowances as are customary and reasonable, according to their respective stations and occupations.

SEC. 7. And be it further enacted, That the accounts of the officers and persons employed in and about the said mint, and for services performed in relation thereto, and all other accounts concerning the business and administration thereof, shall be adjusted & settled in the treasury department of the United States; and a quarter yearly account of the receipts and disbursements of the said mint shall be rendered at the said treasury for settlement, according to such forms & regulations as shall have been prescribed by that department; and that once in each year a report of the transactions of the said mint, accompanied by an abstract of the settlements which shall have been from time to time made, duly certified by the Comptroller of the Treasury, shall be laid before Congress for their information.

SEC. 8. And be it further enacted, That in addition to the authority vested in the President of the United States by a resolution of the last session, touching the engaging of artists, and the procuring of apparatus for the said mint, the President be authorized, and he hereby is authorized to cause to be provided and put in proper condition such buildings, and in such manner as shall appear to him requisite for the purpose of carrying on the business of the said mint; & that as well the expenses which shall have been incurred pursuant to the said resolution, as those which may be incurred in providing & preparing the said buildings, and all other expenses which may hereafter accrue for the maintenance and support of the said mint, and in carrying on the business thereof, over and above the sums which may be received by reason of the rate per centum for coinage herein after mentioned, shall be defrayed from the Treasury of the United States, out of any monies which from time to time shall be therein, not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 9. And be it further enacted, That there shall be from time to time struck and coined at the said mint coins of gold, silver and copper, of the following denominations, values and descriptions, viz. EAGLES—each to be the value of ten dollars or units, and to contain two hundred and forty-seven grains and four eighths of a grain of pure, or two hundred and seventy grains of standard gold. HALF EAGLES—each to be of the value of five dollars, and to contain one hundred and twenty-three grains and six eighths of a grain of pure, or one hundred and twenty-five grains of standard gold. QUARTER EAGLES—each to be of the value of two dollars and a half dollar, and to contain sixty-one grains and seven eighths of a grain of pure, or sixty-seven grains and four eighths of a grain of standard gold. DOLLARS OR UNITS—each to be of the value of a Spanish milled dollar as the same is now current, and to contain three hundred and seventy-one grains and four sixteenth parts of a grain of pure, or four hundred and sixteen grains, of standard silver.—HALF DOLLARS—each to be of half the value of the dollar or unit, and to contain one hundred and eighty-five grains and ten sixteenth parts of a grain of pure, or two hundred and eight grains of standard silver. QUARTER DOLLARS—each to be of one fourth the value of the dollar or unit, and to contain ninety-two grains and thirteen sixteenth parts of a grain of pure, or one hundred and four grains of standard silver. DIMES—each to be of the value of one tenth of a dollar or unit, and to contain thirty-seven grains and two sixteenth parts of a grain of pure, or forty-one grains & three fifth parts of a grain standard silver. HALF DIMES, each to be of the value of one twentieth of a dollar, and to contain eighteen grains and nine sixteenth parts of a grain of pure, or twenty grains and four fifth parts of a grain of standard silver. CENTS—each to be of the value of the one hundredth part of a dollar, and to contain eleven penny-weights of copper. HALF CENTS—each to be of the value of half a cent, and to contain five penny-weights and half a penny-weight of copper.

SEC. 10 And be it further enacted, That upon the said coins respectively, There shall be the following devices and legends, namely, upon one side of each of the said coins, there shall be an impression emblematic of liberty, with an inscription of the word LIBERTY, and the year of the coinage; and upon the reverse of each of the gold and silver coins, there shall be the figure or representation of an Eagle, with this inscription,—"UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," and upon the reverse of each of the copper coins, there shall be an inscription which shall express the denomination of the piece, namely, cent or half cent, as the case may require.

SEC. 11. And be it further enacted, That the proportional value of gold to silver in all coins which shall by law be current as money within the United States, shall be as fifteen to one, according to quantity in weight, of pure gold or pure silver; that is to say, every fifteen pounds weight of pure silver shall be of equal value in all payments, with one pound weight of pure gold, and so in proportion as to any greater or less quantities of the respective metals.

SEC. 12. And be it further enacted, That the standard for all gold coins of the United States, shall be eleven parts fine to one part alloy; and accordingly that eleven parts in twelve of the entire weight of each of the said coins shall consist of pure gold, and the remaining one twelfth part of alloy; and the said alloy shall be composed of silver and copper, in such proportions not exceeding one half silver as shall be found convenient; to be regulated by the Director of the mint, for the time being, with the approbation of the President of the United States, until further provision shall be made by law. And to the end that the necessary information may be had in order to making of such further provision, it shall be the duty of the Director of the mint, at the expiration of a year after commencing the operations of the said mint, to report to Congress the practice thereof during the said year, touching the composition of the alloy of the said gold coins, the reasons for such practice, and the experiments and observations which shall have been made concerning the effects of different proportions of silver and copper in the said alloy.

SEC. 13. And be it further enacted, That the standard for all silver coins of the United States, shall be one thousand four hundred and eighty-five parts fine to one hundred and seventy-nine parts alloy, and accordingly that one thousand four hundred and eighty five parts in one thousand six hundred and sixty four parts of the entire weight of each of the said coins shall consist of pure silver, and the remaining one hundred and seventy nine parts of alloy; which alloy shall be wholly of copper.

SEC. 14 And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for any person or persons to bring to the said mint gold & silver bullion, in order to their being coined; & that the bullion so brought shall be there assayed and coined as speedily as may be after the receipt thereof, and that free of expense to the person or persons by whom the same shall have been brought. And as soon as the said bullion shall have been coined, the person or persons by whom the same shall have been delivered, shall upon demand receive in lieu thereof coins of the same species of bullion which shall have been so delivered, weight for weight, of the pure gold or pure silver therein contained: Provided nevertheless, that it shall be at the mutual option of the party, or parties bringing such bullion, and of the Director of the said mint, to make an immediate exchange of coins for standard bullion, with a deduction of one half per cent from the weight of the pure gold or pure silver, contained in the said bullion, as an indemnification to the mint for the time which will necessarily be required for coining the said bullion, and for the advance which shall have been so made in coins. And it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish the said mint from time to time whenever the state of the Treasury will admit thereof, with such sums as may be necessary for effecting the said exchanges, to be re-placed as speedily as may be out of the coins which shall have been made of the bullion for which the monies so furnished shall have been exchanged; and the said deduction of one half per cent. shall constitute a fund towards defraying the expenses of the said mint.

SEC. 15. And be it further enacted, That the bullion which shall be brought as aforesaid to the mint to be coined, shall be coined, and the equivalent thereof in coins rendered, if demanded, in the order in which the said bullion shall have been brought or delivered, giving priority according to priority of delivery only, and without preference to any person or persons; and if any preference shall be given contrary to the direction aforesaid, the officer by whom such undue preference shall be given, shall in each case forfeit and pay one thousand dollars; to be recovered with costs of suit. And to the end that it may be known if such preference shall at any time be given, the assayer or officer to whom the said bullion shall be delivered to be coined, shall give to the person or persons bringing the same, a memorandum in writing under his hand, denoting the weight, fineness and value thereof, together with the day and order of its delivery into the mint.

SEC. 16. And be it further enacted, That all the gold and silver coins which shall have been struck and stamped from the said said mint, shall be lawful tender in all payments whatsoever, those of full weight according to their respective values herein before declared, and those of less than full weight at values proportional to their respective weights.

SEC. 17. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the respective officers of the said mint, carefully and faithfully to use their best endeavours that all the gold and silver coins which shall be struck at the said mint shall be, as nearly as may be, conformable to the several standards and weights aforesaid, and that the copper wherof the cents and half cents aforesaid may be composed, shall be of good quality.

SEC. 18. And the better to secure a due conformity of the said gold and silver coins to their respective standards. Be it further enacted, That from every separate mass of standard gold or silver, which shall be made into coins at the said mint, there shall be taken, set apart by the Treasurer and reserved in his custody a certain number of pieces, not less than three, and that once in every year the pieces so set apart and reserved, shall be assayed under the inspection of the Chief Justice of the United States, the Secretary and Comptroller of the Treasury, the Secretary for the Department of State, and the Attorney-General of the United States (who are hereby required to attend for that purpose at the said mint, on the last Monday in July in each year) or under the inspection of any three of them, in such manner as they or a majority of them shall direct, and in the presence of the director, assayer and chief coiner of the said mint; and if it shall be found that the gold and silver so assayed, shall not be inferior to their respective standards herein before declared more than one part in one hundred and forty four parts, the officer or officers of the said mint whom it may concern shall be held excusable; but if any greater inferiority shall appear, it shall be certified to the President of the United States, and the said officer or officers shall be deemed disqualified to hold their respective offices.

SEC. 19. And be it further enacted, That if any of the gold or silver coins which shall be struck or coined at the said mint shall be debased or made worse, as to the proportion of fine gold or fine silver therein contained, or shall be of less weight or value than the same ought to be pursuant to the directions of this act, through the default or with the connivance of any of the officers or persons who shall be employed at the said mint, for the profit or gain, or otherwise, with a fraudulent intent, and if any of the said officers or persons shall embezzle any of the metals which shall at any time be committed to their charge for the purpose of being coined, or any of the coins which shall be struck or coined at the said mint, every such officer or person who shall commit any or either of the said offences, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and suffer death.