

A. D. 1757.

ROBERT
DINWIDDIE,
Esq; Govern-
nour.

At a GENERAL ASSEMBLY begun and held at the CAPITOL, in *Williamsburg*, on *Thursday* the 25th Day of *March*, in the 29th Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE II. by the Grace of GOD of *Great Britain, France, and Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. and in the Year of our Lord 1756, and from thence continued, by several Prorogations, to *Thursday* the 14th of *April*, in the 30th Year of his Majesty's Reign, and in the Year of our Lord 1757; being the third Session of this Assembly.

C H A P. I.

*An Act for the better regulating and disciplining the Militia. (a)*All Officers
of the Militia
to be resident
in the County.

WHEREAS it is necessary, in this Time of Danger, that the Militia of this Colony should be well regulated and disciplined, *Be it therefore enacted, by the Lieutenant Governour, Council, and Burgeses, of this present General Assembly, and it is hereby enacted, by the Authority of the same,* that from and after the passing of this Act every County Lieutenant, Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, and other inferiour Officer, bearing any Commission in the Militia of this Colony, shall be an Inhabitant of, and resident in, the County of which he is or shall be commissioned to be an Officer of the Militia.

All above 18
and under 60
to be enlisted.

II. *AND be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid,* that the Lieutenant, or in his Absence the chief Officer, of the Militia in every County, except the County of *Hampshire*, shall list all male Persons above the Age of eighteen Years and under the Age of sixty Years within this Colony (imported Servants excepted) under the Command of such Captain as he shall think fit, within one Month after the passing of this Act.

Persons ex-
empted.

III. *PROVIDED always,* that nothing herein contained shall be construed to compel any Person hereafter mentioned to muster, that is to say such as are Members of the Council, Speaker of the House of Burgeses, Receiver General, Auditor, Secretary, Attorney General, Clerk of the Council, Clerk of the Secretary's Office, Ministers of the Church of *England*, the President, Masters or Professors, and Students, of *William and Mary College*, the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen, of the City of *Williamsburg* and Borough of *Norfolk*, the Keeper of the publick Gaol, any Person being *bonâ fide* an Overseer over four Servants or Slaves being Tithables, and actually residing on the Plantation where they work, and receiving a Share of the Crop or Wages for his Care and Pains in looking after such Servants and Slaves, any Miller having the Charge and

(a) S: 3 Geo. 3. (1762) Cap. 1. Justices exempted.
7 Geo. 3. (1766) Quakers exempted.

Keeping of any Mill, and Founders, Keepers, or other Persons employed in or about any Copper, Iron, or Lead Mine, who are all hereby exempted from being enlisted or any Ways concerned in the Militia during the Time they shall continue in such Station or Capacity. A. D. 1757.

IV. *AND be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid,* that every Person so as aforesaid enlisted (except free Mulattoes, Negroes, and *Indians*) shall be armed in the Manner following, that is to say: Every Soldier shall be furnished with a Firelock well fixed, a Bayonet fitted to the same, a double Cartouch Box, and three Charges of Powder, and constantly appear with the same at the Time and Place appointed for Muster and Exercise, and shall also keep at his Place of Abode one Pound of Powder and four Pounds of Ball, and bring the same with him into the Field when he shall be required; and if it shall be certified to the Court of any County, by Order of the Court Martial, that any Soldier enlisted in such Company is so poor as not to be able to purchase the Arms aforesaid, then such Court shall, and they are hereby required, immediately to depute some Person to send for the same to *Great Britain* by the first Opportunity, and to levy the Charge thereof in the next County Levy, which Arms so to be sent for shall be marked with the Name of the County. And if any Person shall presume to buy or sell any such Arms, so provided as aforesaid, then, and in such Case, every Person so buying or selling shall forfeit and pay the Sum of six Pounds; to be recovered, with Costs, by Information, before the Court of the County to which the Arms shall belong, or in the Court of the County wherein the Offender or Offenders shall reside, one Moiety whereof shall be to and for the Use of the County to which the Arms shall belong, for the purchasing other Arms, and the other Moiety to the Informer. And all Arms purchased by any County, and delivered to any poor Soldier as aforesaid, shall, on his Death or Removal out of the County, be delivered to the chief Officer of the Militia in the County, or to the Captain of the Company to which such poor Soldier did belong, to be by such Officer delivered to any other poor Soldier that the Commanding Officer of the said County shall adjudge unable to provide himself with Arms as aforesaid. The Account
trements.

V. *AND be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid,* that the several Persons herein before exempted from mustering (except Ministers of the Church of *England*, the President, Masters or Professors, and Students, of *William* and *Mary* College, the Keeper of the publick Gaol, Overseers and Millers, and all Workers in any Mine whatsoever) shall provide Arms for the Use of the County, City, or Borough, wherein they shall respectively reside, in the following Manner, that is to say: Each Councillor, not being an Officer of the Militia, four complete Sets of Arms, as is herein before directed for a Soldier; the Speaker of the House of Burgeffes, not being an Officer of the Militia, four complete Sets, as before; the Receiver General, Auditor, and Secretary, not being a Counsellor, or Officer of the Militia, each four complete Sets, as before; the Attorney General, not being an Officer of the Militia, two complete Sets, as before; the Clerk of the Council and Clerk of the Secretary's Office, not being Officers of the Militia, each two complete Sets, as before; the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen, of the City of *Williamsburg* and Borough of *Norfolk*, not before by this Act obliged, and not being Officers of the Militia, each two complete Sets, as before. And if they shall fail or refuse so to do, within twelve Months after the passing of this Act, then it shall and may be lawful for the several Courts of the Counties wherein the Persons before mentioned shall reside, and they are hereby empowered and required, to levy the Value of the same on each of them respectively. Persons ex-
empted to find
Arms, &c. for
the Use of the
Militia.

VI. *PROVIDED always,* that nothing herein contained shall be construed to oblige any of the Persons exempted from mustering as aforesaid, who have already provided Arms for the Use of the County, City, or Borough, wherein they respectively reside, according to the Directions of the Act made in the twenty ninth Year of his present Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act for the* Not to extend
to them who
have already
found Arms.