

P. R. O.
Colonial En-
try Book
No. 53

An Act Touching Coopers

fforasmuch as divers Complaints have bene made to the delegates and deputies in this p^rsent Assembly assembled of the many great abuses Comitted by the Severall Coopers p^rsons pretending to Sett vpp Tobacco Caske within this Province who having agreed with Severall of the Inhabitants of this Province for the Setting vpp of their Tobacco hogsheads doe for the most part Either through Idlenes or willfulnes neglect Refuse or delay to Sett vpp and ffinish the Quantity of hghds and Tobacco Casks agreed to be Sett vpp and made till very Late in the yeare and till shipping time is almost done to the great p^rjudice of the Planter and Inhabitants of this Province As also to the great p^rjudice of Merchants and Masters of Shippes who are forced to stay in the Country a long Time for their Tobaccoes which they cannot Receive though Ready for want of Cask to pack the Same to the Retarding their voyage and hindrance of trade for prevencōn whereof for the ffuture Bee it Enacted by the Right Hono^{ble} the Lord and Proprietary of this Province by and with the Assent and Consent of the vpper and Lower howses of this p^rsent Generall Assembly and by the Authority of the Same That from and After the Publicacōn hereof any Cooper or Coopers p^rson or p^rsons whatsoever within this Province th^t Shall agree with any the Inhabitants of this Province and undertake with him or them to Sett vpp or make his or their Tobacco hgds or Casks Shall and are hereby Enioyned to make Sett vpp and ffinish one halfe of the Said Tobacco hgds or Caske by the Tenth day of October next and so by the Tenth day of October in any yeare And the Said Cooper or Coopers Person or Persons Soe agreeing and vndertaking to Sett vpp the Same Caske as aforesaid Shall and are also hereby Enioyned to make Sett vpp and ffinish the other moyty or halfe p^t of the Said Tobacco hgds or Caske by or before the Tenth day of december next coming or by or before the Tenth day of december in any yeare And if any Cooper or Coopers Person or Persons whatsoever within this Province Soe agreeing and vndertaking the same as aforesaid shall wilfully or otherwise neglect or Refuse to make Sett vpp Compleat and ffinish the Said Tobacco hgds or Cask aforesaid and in Such p^rportion and by Such Severall Times as aforesaid Shall forfeit and pay vnto the p^rty or p^rties whose hgds or Caske he or they had agreed and vndertaken to make Set vpp and ffinish as Aforesaid the Sume of one hundred pounds of Tobacco for Every Tunn of Caske or Tobacco hgds Soe Left att the Times aforesaid vnmade not Sett vpp and vnfinished To be Recovered in the Severall and Respective County Courts where the Said Partie or Parties