

1691.

hundred, which was allowed of by the then Lord Treasurer, and ever since hath paid Custome accordingly. That by a late Act of Parliament Ginger is charged to pay 10s. per Cent of what it is Rated in the Booke of Rates, which in the Body of the Book being 1s. 4*l.* per pound, would make the said Additionall Rate amount to 14s. per hundred and upwards, whereas it seems to be intended that it should only pay double what it paid before according to the said Memorandum; Praying that your Lordships would please to Order the Payment of two shillings only per hundred weight for the New Duty; Wee do humbly Report to your Lordships that in the first Impression of the Book of Rates in the year 1660, there is at the end of the Rules and Instructions thereto annexed, such a memorandum as is mentioned in the Petition, that Ginger be Rated at one pound the hundred weight, And by the Petition of Mr. Waterson one of and most experienced officer of the Customs, it is testified that the practice was from that time, according to the said Memorandum, to receive only 12*l.* for every hundred Weight, which practice after the King took the Customs into His own hands and the management of Commissioners, was upon a Presentment of this Board approved by the Lord Treasurer Danby in the year 1673, and the practice has been accordingly ever since. And Wee do humbly acquaint your Lordships that by the best inquiry wee can make, That the Collecting the new Impost strictly according to the Rate in the Body of the Book of Rates, and not accordingly to the said Memorandum and the practice thereupon would amount to a totall Prohibition of the said Commodity, And therefore we humbly conceive it may not be unadvisable to Grant the Petitioners Request by Collecting the New Impost at two shilling per hundred, which is 10 per Cent. cording to the Constructive Rate by the said Memorandum in the Book of Rates, and the practice thereupon.

[*p.* 218.]

30 July.
Massachu-
setts Bay.

[409.] [Reference to Committee of petition and appeal of Col. Nicholas Page and Capt. Nicholas Laurence.—C.S.P. VIII. 1678.]

[*p.* 219.]