

That a certain Clause of a Bill of Assembly lately made in the Province of Pennsylvania entitled a Bill of Assembly for preventing frauds & regulating abuses in the Trade of that Province in which it is enacted that when any Bill plaint or Information shall be exhibited or commenced against any person in any Court to be held within that Province or Territory for or upon Breach or non performance of any of the Acts of Trade & navigation in any case whatsoever the manner or manner of trial shall be according to the course of Common Law & known Practice of the Courts of Records within that Gov. by twelve lawful men of the Neighbourhood to be summoned and returned by the Sheriff of the County where the Offence is committed

The aforesaid Clause being referred to Geo. Plater Esq. his Majestys Attorney Gen. & Wm. Dent his Majestys Solicitor General they make Report that they take that clause to be too general illegal & contrary to the Laws of England for that there were some breaches & offences in Trade that are Cognizable in the Court of Admiralty as all things done on the Sea are regularly & properly Cognizable there, but that that clause by their General terms seems to restrain that Jurisdiction and settle all those matters tryable in the Courts of Common Law by 12 Men of a Jury

Therefore they conceive that Clause totally unnecessary & illegal & that the several Offences against Trade should be tryed according to the Statute Laws & Customs of Engl. & the Directions of their Laws either by the common Law or Court of Admiralty according to the nature of the