

Whereas purfuant to an Act of the Afsembly holden in Hartford the 9th day of May in this prefent Year 1717. The Gov.^r and Council have laid before this Afsembly, several Meafures for bringing the Indians in this Colony to the knowledge of the Gospell, which was y^e avowed Defign, of those that obtain'd y^e Patent for [*illegible crossout*] this Corportation, to hold the Land, & Government of the Colony. Upon considera=
=tion of W^c Measures, the Gov^r & Company of this his Majesties Colony ^{in Genll Cour afsembled} defirous of purfuing in the best manner the Solemn Profefion, of Our Predecifsours; Have enacted And be it hereby enacted by y^e Gov^r, Council & Representatives in Gen^{ll} Court afsembled & y^e Authority of the Same, That Care be taken annually ~~to acquaint~~ by y^e Authority of Each Town, to ~~acquaint~~ convene the Indians inhabiting in each Town, and acquaint them with the Laws of the Government for punishing Such Immoralities as They Shall be guilty of; and make them Sensible that no Exemption from y^e Penalties of Such Laws lies for them any more than for Other his Majesties Subjects.

And for as much, as Drunkenefs and Idlenefs may well be look'd upon as among y^e Strongest Chains yt hold them fast in y^t Ignorance of, & Prejudices agt the Religion of the Gofpel, Be It therfore enacted by y^e Authority afores^d. That Whosoever shall be convicted of Selling any Indian Strong Drink, by the Testimony of any one Witnefs, wth other Strong Circumftances, Or by the Accu:
:fation of any Indian (unlefs Such accused Perfon shall acquitt himself by Oath) Shall incurr the Penalty of ~~20 Shillings~~ twenty Shillings Any Afsistant or Juftice of the Peace, to hear and determine the Same; [*illegible crossout*] [*illegible crossout*] And in Case the s^d Perfon So convict Shall appeal to the County Court, there upon triall had, And Judgment ¹⁰⁹ given agt the Appellant, from w^c no Appeal shall be allowed

[verso:

The s^d Appellant shall incurr a further Penalty, not 87b : exceeding 40 Shillings nor under 20^s. to be laid by the s^d Court. And the Penalties so incurred shall be one half to the Prosecutor ^{or Informer} whether an Englishman or Indian and the Other half to y^e Treafury of the County where Such Perfon Shall be convict.

And all Grand Jury men Shall take diligent Care to make prefentment of any Perfon or Perfons, whom they Shall know, or upon good Grounds have Reason to suspect, have sold drink to any Indian, contrary to this, or any other Act provided agt the Same.

And It is further provided that nothing in this Act Shall be taken to excuse any Perfon whatsoever from

any Penalty whatsoever, which He may incur by
Virtue of any other Law, prohibiting Selling [^] [*illegible crossout*] of drink
without Licence; [*illegible crossout*] **Indians**

And forasmuch as Idlenefs Appears to be a great
Obstruction to the Indians receiving the Gospell of Truth,
And It might very much conduce ~~thereto~~ [^] to yt reformation in yt publication If they were
by Easy & agreeable Methods, brought off from y^t
pagan manner of living, and encouraged to make
Settlements in Convenient Places, in Villages after
the English Manner; It is hereby resolved that
Measures shall be Used, to form Villages of the
Natives; wherein y^e Severall Families of them should
have Suitable Portions of Land appropriated to them,
so that y^e s^d ~~Ps~~ [^] Portions, should descend from y^e Father
to his Children, the more to encourage them to
apply themselves to Husbandry, & good diligence therein
for y^t support. And there being a Considerable
Tract of Land in the Township of N London, w^c is said
to be Suitable and Sufficient to make Such a Village
and upon W^c there are now living, the largest Number
of Indians, y^t live together in any one Place in y^e present

[folio 2:

Be It therefore enacted that the Judges of the Sup^r 87c
Court, or any two [^] or more of them, do make a view of the
sd Tract of Land, vifitt ye Indians living on It,
take Account of the Number of their Families
and Perfons; Of the Quantity & Quality of the
s^d Land, With Other Circumstances thereof in
Respect of any Claims made thereto, or Possessions
held thereon, in oppositon to y^e s^d Indians; And
lay a Plan of the Same before the Generall
Court, for their further Direction, and that they
may be the better enabled to proceed in forming
A village of the s^d Indians there, and bringing
them to such Civil Order, Cohabitation &
Industry, as may facilitate the Setting up of
the Gospel Ministry among them.

Paft in the Upp^r Houfe
Telt Hez: Wyllys Secr^{ty}

Paft in y^e Lower Houfe, Exclufive of y^e Clause- [In oppofitin
to y^e s^d Indians]- & wth y^e addition, y^t y^y View & make
Report of all y^e Land formerly Sequeftred to s^d Indians,
And y^t ~~M^r~~ The Worshopfull M^r Christophers be Excepted
out of y^e Number of y^e Judges of y^e Supir^r Court, y^t
Is to Make y^e Visitation---

Telt: Elifha Williams Clerck.

Paft in the Upp^r Houfe with the amendm^{ts}
Telt H Wyllys Secr^{ty}.

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[verso folio 2:

Act to regulate y.^e Indians
Octo:
Oct. 1717

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