

for receiving inmates without license from the town." Hospitality, for a long time, continued to be an expensive virtue. In 1635 the town voted "that whoever had been warned forty-eight hours before a town meeting, and shall fail, unless the occasion be extraordinary, shall forfeit and pay 18d."; in 1636, that a committee "settle the rates of all workmen, laborers, and servants' wages, and for cart and boat hire"; also a fine of 5s. "for every tree felled and not cut up," and at the end of six days "that any other might cut up the tops and take the tree"; and in 1637 that the wharves should be, on pain of 10s., kept clear of timber and firewood, that hay and other things might be landed, which were to remain not above two days after landing upon pain of 12d. each day"; and in 1638, "that no inhabitant sell his estate to a foreigner without consent of the town"; for doing which Robert Hawkins was fined 19s., which was levied by distress.*

Under date of 1648 the Records say: "It was voted that if any man's fence bee downe or insufficient they shall forfeit for each offenses 12^d. And iff any shall leave open any Gates or Barrs of the field they shall forfeit for each offenses two shillings six pence besides paying for all damages."

* The excuse for these sumptuary and arbitrary laws must be found in the opinions then universally held respecting the proper functions of government, and the desire of a people who had fled from oppression and persecution to fortify their infant Commonwealth against enemies of every kind, to the end that the freedom for which they had become exiles from their native land might be preserved for themselves and their posterity.