

under the generic appellation of Private Bills. Much misapprehension has existed on this point, and a large portion of the Private Bills annually introduced into our Legislature have hitherto, as will be hereafter shown, been dealt with as Public Bills, because the distinction between them was not sufficiently understood. Part I.

The Orders of the House of Commons recognize two general distinctions between Public and Private Bills; one, as to the manner of their originating; the other, as to their liability to the payment of fees. As to the mode of its Originating.

The first was established by the Standing Order of the 15th February, 1700, which simply provides that "no Private Bill be brought into the House but upon petition first presented, truly stating the case, * * * to be signed by the parties who are suitors for such Bill."

The second is recognized by the Resolutions of the 13th June, 1751, which declare that "every Bill [' or clause '] for the particular interest or benefit of any person or persons, whether the same be brought in upon petition, or motion, or report from a committee, or brought from the Lords," is "a Private Bill [' or clause '] within the meaning of the Table of Fees." As to its liability of Fees.

The payment of fees on Private Bills, though now regulated by this Order, is of great antiquity, being referred to as "according to former precedent," so long ago as 1607^(a).

The first mentioned Order is construed, in practice, to comprehend every Bill that has only a special or particular operation, whether it be for the interest of an individual, a public company or corporation, a parish, a city, a county, or any other locality^(b); or As to the mode of its Originating.

(a) 2 Hatsell, 281.

(b) May, 383; and even a Bill for the benefit of three counties has been held to be a Private Bill—2 Hatsell, 281.