

of the estates and interest of the good people of Maryland depend on the faithful and due execution of the trust committed, and to be committed, to the respective officers and clerks in the said several and respective offices, and that it does not appear to this general assembly, that the penalty in the bonds to be given by the several and respective officers and clerks, by direction of the said act for repairing the damages already sustained in the records of the land, secretary's, commissary's and county court offices, and for security of the same records for the future, is equal to the trust reposed in them, or the great share and interest which the people of right have in the same records, nor that the said bond is for the due execution of the offices of the said respective officers and clerks, in relation to the making true, lawful and faithful entries and records, according to the intention of the same act, as appears, and on which depends entirely the usefulness of the same records ;

SEC. 2. *Be it therefore enacted, by the right honourable, the Lord Proprietary, by and with the advice and consent of his lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the authority of the same,* That from and after the last day of March, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty-three, it shall not be lawful for the secretary, register in chancery, commissary, register of the land office, or other person who shall be appointed to receive the fees of the same land-office, or the several and respective county clerks, within this province, their deputies, officers or under clerks, who shall have the keeping of the said secretary's, chancery, commissary's, land or county court offices, committed to them, to take upon themselves the keeping any of the said records, or to receive or apply to their use any of the fees, profits or benefits, arising or to arise from their said several and respective offices, until such secretary, register in chancery, commissary-general, register in the land-office, or the person or persons to whom the care and keeping of the said land-office is or shall be committed, by what denomination soever he or they may or shall be called, and the said several and respective county clerks within this province, or such county clerks as shall hereafter be appointed, whether for any counties now being, or which shall hereafter be laid out, appointed or nominated, have entered into bond, with two good, able and sufficient sureties, being persons of visible and landed estates within this province, in the name of the lord proprietary ; that is to say, the secretary for the provincial office in the sum of three thousand pounds current money ; the same secretary, register in chancery, or whoever receives the profit and benefit of the fees accruing in the chancery-office, in the sum of one thousand pounds current money ; the commissary-general, for

Officers to enter into bond, &c.