

cases herein before mentioned, and to adjudge according to the directions of this act herein before mentioned.

Enacted into a permanent law by 1798, ch. 71.

#### MAY, 1751.—CHAPTER 7.

AN ACT continuing an act, entitled, \*An act to prevent cutting up Tobacco Plants, destroying of Tobacco and Tobacco-houses, and for ascertaining the punishment of criminals guilty of the said offences. \*1744, ch. 5.

WHEREAS a temporary law, made at a session of assembly begun and held at the city of Annapolis the first day of May, anno domini one thousand seven hundred forty and four, entitled, an act to prevent cutting up tobacco plants, destroying of tobacco and tobacco-houses, and for ascertaining the punishment of criminals guilty of the said offences, by experience has been found useful and beneficial, is near expiring; therefore for continuing the same, Preamble.

SEC. 2. *Be it 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 the said recited act, and every article, clause and thing therein contained, shall be in full force, and is hereby made perpetual. Act made perpetual.

#### CHAPTER 11.

AN ACT to make the testimony of convicted persons legal against convicted persons.

By this law, imported convicts were admitted to give testimony against imported convicts.

As the importation of convicts into this state is made a penitentiary offence by 1809, ch. 138, sec. 7, it is not deemed expedient to reprint the same.

#### CHAPTER 14.

AN ACT for the more effectual punishment of Negroes and other Slaves, and for taking away the benefit of clergy from certain offenders, and a supplementary act to an act, entitled, \*An Act to prevent the tumultuous meeting and other irregularities of negroes and other slaves, and directing the manner of trying slaves. \*1723, ch. 15.

A supplementary and explanatory act in 1753, ch. 26.

WHEREAS the laws in force for the punishment of slaves are found insufficient to prevent their committing very great crimes and disorders, and that a further provision is necessary to keep them in proper bounds and due order, and for a more speedy method to bring them to justice than is prescribed by the laws heretofore made; Preamble.

SEC. 2, 3. Merged in 1809, ch. 138.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That every slave committing any of the felonies herein before mentioned, or any For committing felonies, &c.