

At a Session of ASSEMBLY begun and held at the Port of *Annapolis*, in the Province of *Maryland*, on the 16th Day of *March* 1701-2, and ended the 25th Day of the same Month 1702.

NATHANIEL BLAKISTON, Esq; Governor.

N. B. The Decease of his Majesty King *William* (which happened on the 8th Day of this present Month) not being known in this Province, is the Reason that the enacting Stile of this Session runs in his Majesty's Name.

C H A P. I.

Passed 25th
March 1702.

An ACT for the Establishment of Religious Worship in this Province, according to the Church of *England*; and for the Maintainance of Ministers. *Lib. LL. N^o 2. fol. 401.*

This Act is excepted out of the general Repeal in 1704, *ch. 77.* A Supplementary Act in 1730, *ch. 23.*

Preamble.

FORASMUCH as in well-grounded Christian Common-Wealths, Matters concerning Religion and the Honour of GOD, ought in the first Place to be taken into Consideration, and honest Endeavours to attain to such good Ends countenanced and encouraged, as being not only most acceptable to GOD, but the best Way and Means to obtain his Mercy, and Blessing upon a People or Country :

The Church of *England*, established within this Province.

What Churches shall be deemed settled and established Churches.

II. *Be it therefore Enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly, and by the Authority of the same,* That the Book of Common Prayer, and Administration of the Sacraments, with other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church, according to the Use of the Church of *England*, the Psalter or Psalms of *David*, and Morning and Evening Prayer therein contained, be solemnly Read by all and every Minister or Reader in every Church which now is, or hereafter shall be, settled and established within this Province; and that all Congregations and Places for Public Worship, according to the Usage of the Church of *England*, within this Province, for the Maintainance of whose Ministers, and the Persons officiating therein, any certain Income or Revenue is, or shall, by the Laws of this Province, be established and enjoined to be raised or paid, shall be deemed settled and established Churches.

40lb Tobacco per Poll to be annually levied and paid to the Incumbent.

Every Minister to employ and pay a Parish Clerk.

III. *And for the Encouragement of faithful and able Ministers, labouring in the Work of the Gospel, to come and reside in this Province, be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid,* That a Tax or Assessment of Forty Pounds of Tobacco per Poll, be yearly and every Year successively, levied upon every taxable Person, within each respective Parish, within this Province, as they have been, now are, or hereafter shall be laid out, limited or appointed, by Laws of this Province, and entered upon Record, as the said former Laws therein did direct; which said Assessment, of Forty Pounds of Tobacco per Poll, shall always be paid and allowed to the Minister of each respective Parish, having no other Benefice to officiate in, presented, inducted or appointed by his Excellency the Governor, or Commander in Chief, for the Time being. And every such Minister is hereby required and enjoined to appoint, and constantly to keep a Clerk of such Parish-Church, and to pay and satisfy such Clerk the Sum of One Thousand Pounds of Tobacco yearly and every Year, out of the said Forty per Poll.

Ministers, &c. joining Persons toge-

IV. *And to prevent all illegal and unlawful Marriages, not allowable by the Church of England, but forbidden by the Table of Marriages, be it Enacted*