

State without Leave, shall at any Time hereafter (unless he returns to this State within twelve Months, and during the present War, and takes and subscribes the Oath of Fidelity aforesaid within ten Days after his Return) be capable of holding any Office of Trust or Profit within this State; nor shall any Person, now a Resident of this State, who hath refused or neglected to subscribe the Association, and shall not take the said Oath of Fidelity on or before the first Day of August next, be capable of holding any Office as aforesaid.

C H A P.  
XX, XXI.

XIX. Provided always, That nothing herein contained shall extend to such Persons who from religious Principles have not subscribed or shall not subscribe the Association.

Proviso.

XX. And be it enacted, That this Act shall be publicly read by the Clerk of the General Court, and by the Clerk of every County Court in this State, at their next Court respectively, immediately after impannelling the Grand Jury, and also by every Minister, Teacher or Preacher of the Gospel, immediately after divine Service, at every Church, Chapel, or Meeting-House, where they officiate, on some Sunday in the Month of May next; and every Clerk, Minister, Teacher, or Preacher, failing so to do, shall forfeit and pay the Sum of five Pounds, to be recovered with Costs by the Informer before any Justice of the Peace of the County where the Offence shall be committed.

This Act to be publicly read, &c.

XXI. And be it enacted, That the General and County Courts within this State shall, at all and every of their Courts, give this Act in Charge to the Grand Juries of their respective Courts.

To be given in Charge to Grand Juries.

C H A P. XXI.

An ACT to assess and impose an equal Tax on all Property within this State.

WHEREAS the United States, and each of them, have been compelled, from the Scarcity of Gold and Silver, to issue very large and considerable Sums of Money in Bills of Credit, as the only Means to enable them to prosecute the present just and necessary War against Great-Britain, in Defence of their Lives, Liberties, and Property: And whereas the Quantity thereof now in Circulation greatly exceeds the present Medium of Commerce, and nothing can tend so much to promote and maintain its Credit as reducing the Quantity thereof: And whereas Congress, on the Faith and Credit of the United States, have resolved to borrow a very considerable Sum of Money, for the Purpose of carrying on the present War, and it is absolutely necessary to establish a Fund for the punctual Payment of the Interest accruing on such Loan, which can only be done by imposing such Taxes as our present Circumstances and the Exigency of our Affairs will admit:

Preamble.

It is therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That a Rate of two Shillings in the Pound shall be set on all real and personal Property within this State (real or personal Estate belonging to this State, or to any Church, County, or Parish, or to any public or County School, Provisions necessary for the Use and Consumption of

Two Shillings in the Pound to be set on all Property, &c.