

C H A P. IV.

Passed 6th
June 1719.

An ACT for the better supporting the Magistrates in the Administration of Justice within this Province. *Lib. LL. N^o 4. fol. 425.*

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is obvious to this present Session of Assembly, that there is an absolute Necessity of a Law for the better preserving the Honour, Dignity and Authority of his Lordship, in the Persons of his Magistrates, in the Administration of Justice, from the Insults, Affronts and indecent Demeanour before them, of the Practitioners of the Law, and other Officers and Persons, that have hitherto been so frequent in all the Courts of this Province, as well as out of Court.

The Courts to observe the Demeanour of all Practitioners of the Law, Officers, and others using indecent Liberties,

and to punish the same.

II. *Be it therefore Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietor, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and by the Authority of the same,* That the several Magistrates, Judges of the several Courts within this Province, be, and are hereby authorized and strictly required, to observe the Demeanour of all Practitioners of the Law, before them, as well as all Ministerial Officers, or other Persons who shall use any undecent Liberties to the lessening the Grandeur and Authority of their respective Courts, and to discountenance and punish the same, according to the Nature of the Offence, either by suspending such Practitioner of the Law from their Practice, Perpetually, or for a Time, or to punish such Practitioners, or Ministerial Officers, or other Persons, by Fine, at the Discretion of such Court before whom such Offence shall be committed, not exceeding Four Thousand Pounds of Tobacco in the superior Courts, nor Two Thousand Pounds of Tobacco in the several County Courts within this Province, on each Offender, for any one Offence.

Single Magistrates likewise to observe the Demeanour of Persons coming before them in the Execution of their Office, &c.

The Fines by this Act to be applied to the County School.

III. *And likewise,* all and every the several Magistrates, in the Execution of their Office out of Court, are hereby required, in like Manner, to observe the Carriage and Demeanour of all Persons whatsoever, that shall come before them; and if any Person or Persons shall behave themselves indecently towards any of them (or contemn their Authority when lawfully required to assist them) in the Execution of their Office, or otherwise, it shall and may be lawful for any of the several Courts within this Province, upon Information to them made by any such Magistrate or Magistrates, against any Person or Persons who have so misbehaved themselves, or contemned their Authority, without any Formality in Law, to call such Offender or Offenders before them, and punish them by Fine, Imprisonment, or by Setting in the Stocks, at their Discretion; the Fine not to exceed One Thousand Pounds of Tobacco each Offender; the Imprisonment not to exceed Two Days, nor the Setting in the Stocks above Two Hours, for any one Offence; all which Fines to be levied by Way of Execution, and by such Court applied towards the maintaining a Public School in the County where such Offence is committed.

This Act not to lessen any former Authority vested in the Courts.

IV. *Provided always,* That nothing in this Act shall be construed to lessen the Authorities vested by Law in the several Courts, or in any of the Magistrates, before the making of this Act.

Examined and Compared with the Original Act, REVERDY GHISELIN,
THOMAS BACON.

C H A P. V.

Passed 6th
June 1719.

An Act for the vesting and settling an Estate of Inheritance, in Fee-simple, of and in a certain Parcel or Lot of Ground in the City of Annapolis, containing One Hundred and Twenty Feet in Length, on Robert Johnson of Ann-Arundel County, Ship-Carpenter. *Lib. LL. N^o 4. fol. 427. PR.*

N. B. This Lot was, after Johnson's Decease, settled on Robert Gordon by 1723, *ch. 26.* And afterwards on Horatio Samuel Middleton and his Heirs, &c. by 1753, *ch. 25.*

C H A P.