

COUNTY COURTS.

Dorchester,	} the Second	} Tuesday in March, June, Aug. and Novemb. 1715, ch. 14, §. 2.
Cæcil,		
Anne-Arundel,	} the Third	
Charles,		
Kent,	} the Fourth	
Calvert,		
Somerset,	} the Fourth	
Frederick,		
Queen Anne's,		
Prince George's,		

^b 1748, ch. 15.

2. Any Two Justices (One whereof to be of the Quorum) are impowered, when Need shall require, to adjourn the County Court. *Ibid.* §. 2. (But see the following Article.)

3. Doubts having arisen on the last recited Act, for Prevention thereof for the Future, it is Enacted, that any Two County Justices, (One whereof to be of the Quorum) in Case of Necessity, to prevent the Discontinuance of the Court, and for no other Purpose whatsoever, may Call such County Court on the Day to which it shall have been Adjourned; and, for the same Reason, and no other, may adjourn the same to any Time not subsequent to the Day appointed by the Act of 1715, ch. 14, for the Meeting of the Court in Course. But no Business, other than such Calling and Adjourning, shall be transacted; unless such Number of Magistrates, and so qualified as is directed by the Commission of the Peace for the County, shall meet at the Court so called. 1756, ch. 6, §. 6 and 7.

4. All former Process and Proceedings of County Courts are declared to be valid, notwithstanding any Discontinuance by miscalling or misadjourning under the Act of 1715. *Ibid.* §. 8.

5. The Commissioners of the several County Courts are impowered (on Examination had before them of the Public Charges of their respective Counties) to levy Tobacco for the Payment of the several County Charges, and the Sheriff's Salary for collecting thereof, by an equal Assessment of the Taxable Persons of the said several Counties. 1704, ch. 34, §. 1.

6. It is declared and enacted, that the Words, *Public Charges of their respective Counties*, in the preceding Article, shall not be construed to extend to any other Purposes than the ordinary, usual, and necessary Charges, annually arising in their several Counties. 1748, ch. 20, §. 1, 2.

7. The Justices of the several County Courts may, as often as Occasion shall require, levy on the Taxable Inhabitants, within their said several Counties, any Quantity not exceeding 10,000 £ Tobacco, at any One Time, for the full and compleat repairing of any One Court House; and not exceeding 6000 £ Tobacco, for the full and necessary Repairs, for any One County Prison; and not exceeding 8000 £ Tobacco, for the full and compleat Repairing of any One Bridge; and not exceeding 20,000 £ Tobacco for erecting and building any One New Bridge in any One County. But, where any larger Sums are adjudged necessary for any the Purposes aforesaid, the County Justices shall not levy the same without Leave of the General Assembly. *Ibid.* §. 3.

8. The Justices are required, on Application to them made by the Vestry-men and Church-wardens of any Parish, yearly, to assess any Quantity, not exceeding 10 £ Tobacco, per Poll, on the Taxable Inhabitants of such Parish. 1729, ch. 7, §. 2.

9. The Justices shall ascertain, in their Records, once every Year, what are the public Roads of their respective Counties, and appoint Overseers of the same; and shall give in Charge, from Time to Time, to the Overseers so appointed, the Rules and Methods for clearing and marking of Roads prescribed in this Act. 1704, ch. 21, §. 3, 5, 6.

10. The Justices shall appoint Constables in each Hundred of their respective Counties, at the first County Court held next after Michaelmas yearly. 1715, ch. 15, §. 1.

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11. County Courts have Power to admit or suspend Attorneys, *salvo Jure Coronæ*. 1715, ch. 48, §. 12.

12. The Justices shall procure the *English Statutes*, &c. for the Use of their respective Courts. 1715, ch. 41, §. 1.

13. The Justices may make Rules and Orders for the well governing and regulating their Courts, &c. under a Penalty not exceeding 500 £ Tobacco, for any One Offence; to be applied for the Support of Government. *Ibid.* §. 2.

14. Commissioners of the County Courts shall be allowed 80 £ Tobacco per Day, during the Time they attend such Courts, to be levied by the Court on the Taxable Persons of their several Counties. 1716, ch. 11, §. 9.

15. County Courts may hold Plea, and give Judgment of Specialties, (notwithstanding the Limitation in their Commission) whose Principal or Penal Sum exceeds 100 l. Sterling, or 30,000 £ Tobacco; wherein the Balance due thereon is not above 20 l. Sterling, or 5000 £ Tobacco, nor under 200 £ Tobacco, or 16 s. 8 d. Current Money. 1714, ch. 4, §. 5. (But see the following Article.)

16. No County Court shall hold Plea of any Debt or Damage, which shall not exceed 600 £ Tobacco, or 50 s. Current Money. 1763, ch. 21, §. 6.

17. No Person shall have Appeal from the County Court to the Provincial, where the Debt or Damage recovered, do not amount to 6 l. Sterling or 1200 £ Tobacco. 1713, ch. 4, §. 3.

18. Bonds, for Payment of Bills of Exchange, shall not be sued in any other than the County Court, unless the Sum due amount to 20 l. Sterling. 1714, ch. 4, §. 4.

19. In Actions, not exceeding 20 l. Sterling, or 5000 Tobacco, the County Court, at the Prayer of either Party, either before or after Judgment or Verdict, may hear and determine the same, according to Equity and Conscience, as amply as the Chancellor, &c. But this shall not limit or restrain the Jurisdiction of the High Court of Chancery. 1763, ch. 22, §. 5, 6.

20. County Courts are impowered to hold Plea of, adjudge and determine all Thieving and Stealing of Goods or Chattels, under the Value of 1000 £ Tobacco, (Robbery, Burglary, and House-breaking, excepted.) But cannot try a Person once convicted thereof, and presented again for Stealing above the Value of Twelve Pence, but such Person shall be tried in the Provincial Court. 1715, ch. 26, §. 1, 3. See *Thieving*, per Tot.

21. County Courts are impowered, on Petition, to determine, in a summary Way, all private and personal Controversies between Inhabitants and *Indians*, wherein the Value shall exceed 20 s. Sterling. But an Appeal lies to the Provincial Court. 1756, ch. 9, §. 2, 6.

22. County Courts, upon Petition, may determine, in a summary Way, all Complaints against Persons holding *Indians Lands*, and refusing to pay the Rents, &c. *Ibid.* §. 2, 3. See *Indians Lands*, 15-18.

23. The Justices are impowered to ascertain and regulate the disputable Bounds of any Parish within their County. 1713, ch. 10. See *Parish Bounds*, per Tot.

24. Where Owners neglect to provide necessary Food and Clothing for their old, or disabled Slaves, or suffer any of their Slaves to wander about begging, so as to become troublesome to others, the Court, on Presentment of the Grand Jury, may cause such Owners, to enter into Recognizance, &c. to provide, &c. for such Slaves. And the Court shall give this Act in Charge to the Grand Jury, at *March Court*, yearly, to enquire into any Breaches thereof. 1752, ch. 1, §. 2, 7. See *Manumission of Slaves*, 3, 5.

25. The Court shall dispose of the Times of Servitude of White Women having Mulatto Children, Free Negroes begetting such Children, White Men begetting Negro Women with Child, and the Mulatto Children