

SEC. 18. Refers to those who, from religious scruples, failed to sign the articles of association to sustain the independence of the American people.

SEC. 19. Prescribes a mode of publication of this law, variant from that now in practice under the laws of this state.

SEC. 20. *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. And given in charge.

Chancellor Kilty has reprinted this law without any remarks thereon. It originated during our revolutionary struggle. It seems that many of its provisions were intended to be in force only during that war; yet I do not hold myself at liberty to withhold its reprint.

OCTOBER, 1777.—CHAPTER 1.

AN ACT to Punish Certain Crimes.

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That if any subject or inhabitant of this state, within or without this state, and if any person shall, within this state, wilfully and maliciously burn or destroy, or attempt or conspire to burn or destroy, any magazine of provisions, or of military or naval stores, belonging to this state, or the United States, or any of them, and if any person shall wilfully and maliciously burn or destroy, or attempt or conspire to burn or destroy, or shall wilfully betray, or voluntarily yield or deliver, or attempt or conspire to betray, yield or deliver to the enemy, any vessel belonging to the United States, or to this or any other of the United States, or to any subject of this or any other of the United States, and shall be thereof convicted in the general court of this state, or shall stand mute, or peremptorily challenge above the number twenty of the pannel, such person, his aider or abettor, shall suffer death as a felon without benefit of clergy; provided nevertheless, that so much of this act as relates to private property, shall be and continue in force for and during the present war with Great Britain, and no longer. Persons destroying magazines, &c. to suffer death.

The burning of a magazine belonging to the state is punishable by 1809, ch. 138.

CHAPTER 9.

A SUPPLEMENTARY ACT to an act, entitled, An act to establish orphan courts in the several counties of this state.

This act is superseded by 1798, ch. 101.

CHAPTER 12.

AN ACT to empower the county courts to issue subpoenas for witnesses residing in other counties to attend trials to be had before such courts, and to direct the manner of issuing executions from one county to another.

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall and may be lawful for the clerk of any county court to Clerks may issue summons, &c.