

SEC. 14. *And be it enacted*, That in all cases of replevins hereafter to be issued and executed, the court to which such replevins are returned, respectively, shall have full power and authority, upon a motion being made by the defendant for a return of the property taken in consequence of such replevins, to inquire into the circumstances and manner of the defendant's obtaining possession of such property, and if it shall appear that such possession was forcibly or fraudulently obtained, or that the possession first being in the plaintiff was got or retained by the defendant without proper authority or right derived from the plaintiff, then the court may refuse to order a return to the defendant until a judgment is given in the action.

Court may inquire into circumstances, &c.

CHAPTER 87.

AN ACT concerning Jurisdiction.

This law is merged in 1804, ch. 55; in 1791, ch. 68; in 1801, ch. 74; except the 7th section.

SEC. 7. *And be it enacted*, That the justices of the several and respective county courts shall have full power and authority, unless in cases particularly directed by law to be tried in the general court, to try, according to law, all and every person and persons who have committed or shall commit any offence or crime whatsoever, although it may subject such person or persons to the pains of death; and upon conviction of the offender or offenders, in due course of law, in the county court of the county in which the crime or offence shall be committed, give judgment according to the nature and quality of the crime or offence.

County courts may try persons, &c.

Continued by 1798, ch. 71, to 1805, and since continued by the annual continuing law.

CHAPTER 88.

AN ACT to vest certain powers in the Governor and the Council.
To negotiate a loan and treat with the Indians.

NOVEMBER, 1786.—CHAPTER 10.

AN ACT to prevent any person from acting as an attorney at law in the county where he is register of wills.

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That from and after the twenty-fifth day of March next, no person, being register of wills for any county in this state, shall plead as an attorney at law in any court in the county where he is register of wills, for any person or persons, on any pretence whatsoever; and no register of wills as aforesaid, shall exact, extort, demand, take, accept or receive, from any person whatsoever, any fee or fees, gratuity, gift or reward, for giving his

Register not to plead &c.