

No prosecution to be removed unless on suggestion supported by affidavit, &c. that a fair trial cannot be had.

indictment being found, the person or persons against whom said indictment shall be found, shall suggest, in writing, supported by affidavit, or other proper evidence, that a fair and impartial trial cannot be had in such court where such indictment is found, that then it shall be lawful for the said court, in their discretion, to order and direct the record of the proceedings in said prosecution to be transmitted to the judges of the adjoining county court, before whom the same shall be heard and determined, in the same manner as if such prosecution had been originally instituted therein.

See 1804, ch. 55, sec. 3, and November, 1809, ch. 138, sec. 20.

Commissions to civil officers to be recorded by clerk of the council.

SEC. 50. *And be it enacted*, That all commissions which issue to civil officers shall be recorded by the clerk of the council, in a book to be furnished and kept by him for that purpose, and he shall be allowed the same fees for his trouble that have heretofore been allowed to the clerk of the general court, to be paid at such times as the governor and council may think proper, by orders drawn on the treasury of the western shore.

SEC. 51. Supplanted by 1806, ch. 41.

CHAPTER 66.

*1796, ch. 67.

AN ACT, entitled, an additional supplement to an Act, entitled, *an Act relating to Negroes, and to repeal the acts of assembly therein mentioned.

See 1804, ch. 90, and the acts there referred to.

See note to the original act, ante page 334.

Preamble.

WHEREAS great mischiefs have arisen from slaves coming into possession of the certificates of free negroes, by running away and passing as free, under the faith of such certificates: And whereas it has been found from experience, that the manner of granting certificates of freedom is not sufficient to prevent the evils felt by slaves coming into possession of such certificates; for remedy whereof,

Certificates of freedom to be granted only by the clerks of the county courts and registers of wills—the manner of granting them, and a registry thereof.

SEC. 2. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That from and after the first day of June next, it shall not be lawful for any person or persons, except the clerks of the county courts in the several counties in this state, or register of wills, where any negro or negroes have been freed by last will and testament, to grant certificates of freedom to any free negro or negroes, and the said clerks and registers are hereby enjoined, when called upon by any negro entitled to freedom, residing in, or belonging to, their respective counties, for a certificate thereof, to grant the same under the seal of their respective offices, and to set forth therein the height, age, complexion, the time when such negro became free, the place where he or she, as the case may be, was raised, and such mark or marks as may appear to such clerk or register to be notable in such negro, so