

CHAPTER 219.

AN ACT to suppress Duelling.

WHEREAS, experience has evinced that the existing remedy Preamble.
for the suppression of the barbarous custom of duelling is inadequate to the purpose, and the progress and consequences of the evil have become so destructive as to require an effort on the part of the legislature to arrest a vice the result of ignorance and barbarism, justified neither by the precepts of morality, nor by the dictates of reason; therefore,

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* Persons fighting duels to be confined in penitentiary.
That any person who shall hereafter wilfully and maliciously, or by previous agreement, fight a duel, or single combat, with any engine, instrument or weapon, the probable consequence of which might be the death of either party, and in so doing shall kill his antagonist, or any other person or persons, or inflict such wound as that the person injured shall die thereof within twelve months and a day thereafter, such offender, his aiders, abettors and counsellors, being thereof duly convicted, shall be sentenced to undergo a confinement in the penitentiary house for a period not less than five nor more than eighteen years, any law, custom or usage of this state, to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* Persons challenging, to be incapable of holding any office of profit or trust.
That if any person whatsoever shall challenge another to fight a duel with any weapon, or in any manner whatsoever, the probable issue of which may or might result in the death of the challenger or challenged, or if any person shall accept a challenge, or fight a duel with any weapon, or in any way whatsoever, the probable issue of which may or might terminate in the death of the challenger or challenged, such person shall be incapable of holding or being elected to any post of profit, trust or emolument, civil or military in this state.

SEC. 3. Repealed by 1817, ch. 222.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted,* Judges to give in charge to juries all the laws in force to suppress duelling.
That it shall be the duty of the judges of the several county courts at their respective terms, to give in charge expressly to the jury, all the laws in force to suppress duelling, also to charge the jury to present all persons concerned in carrying, sending, or accepting a challenge.

SEC. 5. *And be it enacted,* Any judge or magistrate, having cause to suspect any person about to be engaged in a duel, may issue warrant, &c.
That when any judge or magistrate of this state has good cause to suspect any person or persons are about to be engaged in a duel, he may issue his warrant to bring the parties before him, and if he shall think proper to take of them a recognizance to keep the peace, he shall insert in the condition, that the party or parties shall not, during the time for which they were bound, directly or indirectly be con-