

CHAPTER 13.

AN ACT for the relief of such persons as cannot find surety for their appearance to testify as a witness against any person arrested, accused or prosecuted for any criminal matter.

WHEREAS many indigent persons or strangers have been necessarily, for want of sureties to appear as witnesses, committed to prison, by means whereof such persons have been often sold as servants for the prison fees arising upon such commitment, or otherwise detained in prison for such fees, to their great damage, and loss to the public, in the labour of such person or persons ;

SEC. 2. *Be it therefore enacted, by the right honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the advice and consent of his lordship's President, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the authority of the same,* That where any person, witness against any person or persons accused of any crime or crimes within this province, cannot find security for his appearance to testify as a witness against any person so arrested, accused or prosecuted as aforesaid, and for want of such surety shall be committed to prison, that then and in such case the county where the prosecution shall be carried on shall be chargeable with and pay such witness' imprisonment fees ; and in case the prosecution shall be in a superior court, then and in such case the public shall be chargeable with and pay such fees, any law, usage or custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 3. *And be it likewise enacted,* That the justices of the several and respective county courts shall and they are hereby obliged and directed to assess and levy on the taxable inhabitants of their counties respectively, all such fees as are herein before directed to be paid by the respective counties, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, as often as the case shall require, during the continuance of this act ; and that all such fees shall and may be paid by the inhabitants of this province, in the same manner as they are allowed by law to pay any other county or public charges.

Transferred to the levy court, by 1794, ch. 53. Enacted into a permanent law 1798, ch. 71.

OCTOBER, 1753.—CHAPTER 9.

AN ACT to prevent Masters of Ships and Vessels from clandestinely carrying Servants and Slaves, or persons indebted, out of this province.

WHEREAS divers servants and slaves belonging to the people of this province, and persons indebted therein, have been carried away out of the same province in ships or vessels trading therein, to the great loss and damage of his majesty's subjects the good people of Maryland ; to prevent therefore so great an evil, it is prayed that it may be enacted,