

recognizance with security as aforesaid, such justice may discharge such apprentice from his master.

C H A P.
XLIII.

VI. *And*, to the end that apprentices may be taught their trades, and may not be rigorously used or turned to common labour, contrary to their contracts, *Be it enacted*, That all that part of the act of assembly, entitled, An act for the establishment of orphans courts, that directs the summoning an orphan jury, be, and is hereby repealed; and that the justices of the respective county courts shall give in charge to their grand juries at every county court, to inquire into all such matters and things as are given in charge to the orphans jury; provided, that all apprentices shall be compellable to perform reasonable labour in wheat and rye, and hay harvests, unless the particular contract shall be to the contrary.

Part of an act
repealed, &c.

VII. *And*, whereas apprentices are not nor are intended to be assignable, and on the death of the master, the apprentice, although he hath been maintained and considerably advanced in the art of his trade, is either bound to a new master, who derives an immediate profit from his labour, or is at large, and it is reasonable that the widow of the deceased master, if he leaves any, should derive some benefit from the expence, care and instruction, of the apprentice, *Be it enacted*, That the widow of any master of a male apprentice bound by the court, whose time shall not have expired at his master's death, may, with the approbation of the court, or of any male apprentice bound by the father, with the approbation of the father, assign the whole residue of the contract on such consideration as she may agree for to some other person of the same trade, and the new master and the apprentice shall be bound to perform the residue of the contract as if the new master had been an original party thereto, and the gratuity or consideration, if any received by the widow, shall be to her own use, and not considered as assets of the deceased husband.

Widows may
assign con-
tracts, &c.

C H A P. XLIV.

An ACT for the speedy adjustment of sundry purchases of British property.

Passed January
20.

WHEREAS there have been many sales of confiscated British property in several of the counties of this state, where the quantities of land were uncertain, at a certain sum by the acre, and bonds have been taken on a calculation of the greatest supposed quantity, which in many instances are not yet ascertained by accurate surveys; other lands sold are partly taken away by elder interfering surveys or titles; in some few other instances there is a plain defect of title in the public; in others the title of the public is disputed; and in some instances in Cæcil county, the purchasers or others have an equitable though not a legal title to the land, or part of the land, purchased of the public, by a compliance with the old office terms of Pennsylvania, and the agreement of the former proprietors of Maryland and Pennsylvania; in some of which cases, there is no remedy by summary proceeding, even in the chancery court, and in others a summary proceeding there will require more trouble, delay and expence, than necessary; and it is just and proper, that the late commissioners, and the late intendant, who were entitled to commissions on the respective property by them sold, and for which the money was paid, or bonds given, should finish the business by them transacted;

Preamble.

II. *Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland*, That the late commissioners for the sale of confiscated British property, and the late intendant of the revenue, shall, as soon as well may be, cause the lands by them sold respectively, where the sum of the purchase money, according to the contract, depends on the quantity of land, to be carefully and accurately surveyed by skilful surveyors and careful chain-carriers, sworn to execute their respective duties of surveyor or chain-carrier, as the case may be, honestly and truly; and the said late commissioners and late intendant respectively, shall cause a certificate of each separate purchase to be made, having a fixed beginning, with a plot there-to annexed, as well as a general plot of all adjoining parcels purchased, and on the

Commission-
ers, &c. to
cause lands to
be surveyed,
&c.

said