

C H A P. XLV. **And be it enacted,** That in every case where the consent of the father cannot be obtained by the widow of any deceased master to assign the residue of the contract of any apprentice, that it shall and may be lawful for any judge, or any two justices of the peace in the county where the deceased master did last reside, to appoint three persons of the same trade or occupation with the deceased master, any two of which shall have power to value, upon oath, or affirmation, the residue of the contract, and the father may make his election, either to pay the widow of the deceased master such valuation, or the widow shall have power to make the assignment without his consent, of the residue of the indenture, with the approbation of the orphans court.

Apprentice shall continue at his home, &c.

XVI. And, whereas it often happens, that immediately after the decease of the master of any apprentice, the apprentice leaves his home and employment without any licence or authority, not only to his own injury, but also to the detriment of society, **Be it enacted,** That every apprentice, whose master shall die and leave a widow, shall continue at his home and business, as well after as before the death of his master, and shall be subject to the control and directions of the widow, until order be taken therein by the county or criminal court, or justice aforesaid; and the said county or criminal court, or justice, as aforesaid, shall have power and authority to continue any apprentice, so long as they or he shall be satisfied that the widow hath it in her power to, and doth, fulfil the contract made with her husband; and the harbourer or harbourers of any apprentice or apprentices, before they are discharged as aforesaid, shall be considered, and shall suffer the same penalties, as the harbourer or harbourers of servants are liable to under the laws of this state.

Master, &c. may apply to the court, &c.

XVII. And be it enacted, That either the master or apprentice, upon a petition being filed, may apply to the court for the benefit of a trial by jury, and that the court shall thereupon charge, as the law directs, the attending jury, to determine each and all of the allegations contained in the said petition, which may be controverted, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

An act repealed.

XVIII. And be it further enacted, That an act of assembly, passed at November session, seventeen hundred and eighty-six, entitled, An act respecting apprentices, shall be and is hereby repealed.

C H A P. XLVI.

Passed December 28.

An ACT to alter the time of holding the levy courts in the several counties therein mentioned.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, that the holding of the levy courts in the counties of Saint-Mary's, Talbot, Kent, Somerset, Dorchester, Cæcil, Queen-Anne's, Worcester, Caroline, Harford and Prince-George's, at the time now directed by law, is found to be extremely inconvenient to the several collectors in the counties aforesaid;

Justices, when to meet, &c.

II. Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the several and respective justices of the peace, who now compose, or shall hereafter compose, the levy courts in the several counties of Saint-Mary's, Talbot, Kent, Somerset, Dorchester, Cæcil, Queen-Anne's, Worcester, Caroline, Harford and Prince-George's, instead of meeting as heretofore required by law, are hereby authorised and required, for ever hereafter, to meet at the usual places for holding the county courts in the several counties aforesaid as follows, viz. In Saint-Mary's, Queen-Anne's, Kent, Somerset, Worcester, and Prince-George's counties, on the first Monday in April in every year hereafter, in Talbot, Dorchester, and Caroline counties, on the third Monday in February in every year, in Cæcil and Harford counties on the second Monday in April in every year, any law to the contrary hereof in anywise notwithstanding.