

DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, to wit:

BE it remembered, That on the eleventh day of February, in the 29th year of the independence of the United States of America, John B. Colvin, of the said district, hath deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as author, in the following words, to wit: "A MAGISTRATE'S GUIDE, AND CITIZEN'S COUNSELLOR; being a digested abstract of those laws of the state of Maryland most necessary to be known, and most useful in common transactions of life; interspersed with a variety of practical forms and precedents; for the use of justices of the peace and others. By JOHN B. COLVIN." In conformity to the act of the congress of the United States, entitled, "An act for the encouragement of learnings, by securing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors or proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned."

PHILIP MOORE, Clk. D. C.

TO THE CITIZENS OF MARYLAND.

THE above work has been for some time past in the press, in a considerable forwardness, and will be published with all possible expedition.

It is a maxim which has been long established, that "ignorance of the law excuseth no man;" and the reason of it is obvious: For if ignorance of the law were admitted as a just plea, laws would be without force, and consequently useless. As it is out of the power of our government to promulgate its laws in such a way as to communicate them to every individual of the community, it is necessary for every man to furnish himself with the means of information to a degree sufficient to enable him to discharge the duties of his station as a citizen of a free state. This is what he owes to his country. To himself he owes more. It is every man's interest to be acquainted with the laws of his own government sufficiently to enable him to avoid the shoals and quicksands of legal controversy, on which ignorance of the law might throw him, and occasion the wreck of his fortune, and, perhaps, of his happiness likewise. It is not only every man's interest, but it is every man's duty to his family to endeavour to understand enough of the acts of assembly and of the forms and proceedings in the administration of justice, to enable him to preserve his estate in a legal way, transact in a proper manner the business of life according to rule, to be able to recover his debts; and he ought to know the relative duties of one citizen to another.

The above work is an attempt to convey to the people of Maryland in as concise a manner as possible, correct knowledge of the provisions of those acts of assembly which are most necessary to be known and understood by the citizens of the state at large, together with some common law principles which are in force in Maryland. Matters that relate to accounts, and the evidence of debts, to administration on the estates of deceased persons, apprentices, articles of agreement, assignments, attachments, arrests, bonds, bails, bills, bastardy, conveyancing, constables, contracts, dowers, deeds, distress, execution, escape, evidence, felony, forgery, gaming, gaol, gaoler, guardians, homicide, indictment, infants, information, judgment, jurors, (and their duties,) justices of the peace, larceny, lewdness, libel, misdemeanor, nuisance, oaths, pardon, perjury, polygamy, the poor, presentment, prison-breaking, rape, recognizance, rescue, riot, robbery, search-warrants, sheriff, (his duties) slander, surety for the peace, slaves, treason, vagrants, warrants, wills, and a variety of other things, which it would be extremely tedious to describe at large, will be contained in this work. Besides laying down the law under each head, forms and precedents will be introduced for the information of magistrates and others. These will consist of precepts used by justices of the peace in the discharge of the duties of their station, and copies of all manner of instruments of writing used in bargaining, selling, and conveying every species of property, agreeably to the laws of Maryland. Under the head of accounts particular care has been taken to arrange all the evidence of debts, the manner and form of proof; and under the head of administration, the compiler has been careful to insert every thing that can be serviceable to executors and administrators. A very correct copy of a will is laid down, and the number of witnesses and manner of proving it explained, with respect to real and personal property. Marking and bounding land has occupied much attention, and the law and method of proceeding, together with the returns of commissioners are correctly stated. In short, whatever can be of service to the magistrate or to the citizen, has been carefully considered, and inserted in the book. To justices of the peace the work will be extremely valuable, and to the people at large of great benefit.

It has often been contended that in a free government every citizen has a right to participate equally in the offices of the state. To this proposition I have always assented; but at the same time I have uniformly thought there was another right not altogether unimportant; which is, that the community have a right to expect that every citizen should be qualified for the office which he fills. These two rights should go hand in hand. There is no office in the gift of our state executive of more importance or which may be more easily abused than that of a justice of the peace; and it not only requires a man of strong and good senses to fill it properly, but one somewhat acquainted with the fundamental principles of law in general, and with our local laws in particular: A knowledge of the latter in some degree, is, in fact, indispensably requisite: But as justices of the peace are generally and very properly appointed from among the honest and independent part of the citizens of the several counties, whose thoughts have been turned to

other pursuits in common, but who nevertheless, have found understandings, it is not to be expected that they can at once dive into the huge quarto volumes of Kilty's compilation and drag thence the pith and marrow of the acts of assembly, and at the same time learn the form and manner of issuing innumerable precepts required by their official duty. Hence the great necessity for a work embracing all these particulars in a small compass, so as to form a complete guide and counsellor.

The duties of jurors have been stated with precision; and as every man is liable to serve the public in that capacity, that topic alone will render the book of general utility.

Although I have thus copiously dwelt upon the advantages and merits of this work, I by no means conceive that it will be free from some few imperfections; nor do I arrogate to myself the sole merit of collecting the forms and precedents together. I am by no means desirous to sacrifice truth in this particular to my vanity. I have had very able assistance from a few well informed friends, whose disinterested services have been of incalculable use to me; and without which, indeed, I should have found myself at a great loss for those numerous practical forms which the work will contain, amounting in the whole to more than two hundred. It would take an individual year, perhaps, to gather to large a collection, and they might at last be incorrect; whereas the above book will furnish the whole at once, and in a proper form.

The following letter from judge Duvall, (to whom the first eighty pages of the work had been submitted after coming from the press) will convey some idea of the merits of the book—

Washington, December 27, 1804.

Sir, I have received your letter inclosing eighty pages of a work prepared by you, in which you have begun a digest of those parts of the laws of Maryland which more frequently occur in the common transactions of life, and which are therefore deemed the most useful.

I have perused it, and have no hesitation in pronouncing the utility of such a work. The law appears to be carefully abstracted, and the forms well chosen. It will be found useful to magistrates and to the people in general, and merits their patronage.

It is adapted more particularly to the information of those who have not the means of purchasing, and the leisure to examine our laws at large. In a free government, the laws cannot be too extensively circulated; and he who adds to the diffusion of a knowledge of them, contributes to increase the comforts and happiness of society, and deserves their encouragement and support.

I am, with respect and esteem,

Your obedient servant,

G. DUVALL.

Mr. John B. Colvin."

Wishing to make the book cheap, the terms will be as follow, to wit:

I. It will be printed with a good type on good paper, and contain above 300 pages—perhaps 400.

II. It will be neatly bound and lettered.

III. The price will be 2 dollars to subscribers, and 2 dollars 50 cents to non-subscribers. No money required till the work is delivered.

IV. Persons procuring 11 subscribers, and becoming answerable for the money, shall receive a 12th copy gratis.

The acts of assembly, up to the close of the last session, will be attended to.

JOHN B. COLVIN.

FREDERICK-TOWN, March 11, 1805.

Subscriptions received at the office of the Maryland Gazette.

Republican President,

WILL cover mares, at the ferry on South-river, known by the name of Quynn's Ferry, from this day until the first day of August next, at eight dollars each, the money to be paid before the mares are covered; in lieu of which, some corn will be received at five dollars per barrel. Mr. Drane, who lives adjacent to the ferry, is authorized to receive payment.—REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT was got by Mr. John Craggs's imported horse Highflier, his dam by the imported horse Venetian, his grandam by Don Carlos, who was got by Dr. Hamilton's imported horse Figure, out of his famous running mare Primrose, his great grandam by Dr. Hamilton's imported horse Ranger, who was got by Martendale's Regulus, Regulus was got by the Godolphin Arabian; his great, great, grandam by Dr. Hamilton's imported horse Dove, his great, great, great grandam by Othello, out of col. Tasker's Old Selima, full sister to Mr. William Brent's Ebony, and Mr. Samuel Galloway's Old Selim.

March 27, 1805. ISAAC DUCKETT.

This is to give notice,

THAT the subscribers, of Anne-Arundel county, in the state of Maryland, have obtained from the orphans court of Anne-Arundel county, in Maryland, letters testamentary on the personal estate of BENJAMIN WATKINS, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased. All persons having claims against the deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof to the subscribers, at or before the twenty-seventh day of September next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under our hands, this 27th day of February, 1805.

ANNE WATKINS, } Surviving
JOHN WATKINS, } executors.

CINCINNATI.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Maryland Society of Cincinnati will be held in Baltimore, at Evans's tavern, on Saturday the 13th of April, at 11 o'clock. As some matters interesting to the society will then be under consideration, the members are desired to be punctual in their attendance.

By order of the president,
ROBERT DENNY, Secretary.

March 27, 1805.

The editors of news-papers in the state are desired to insert the above in their papers.

TAILORING.

THE subscribers take this method to inform their friends, and the public in general, that they have just commenced the TAILOR'S BUSINESS, in the house occupied by Mr. GEORGE WELLS, opposite the City Tavern, where they intend carrying on the above business in all its various branches, with neatness and dispatch, and in the most fashionable manner. They solicit the patronage of a generous public, and flatter themselves they shall be able to give general satisfaction to those who may favour them with their custom.

3

JAMES RIGBY,
JOHN BEVERIDGE.

N. B. Orders from the country will be thankfully received and punctually attended to.

LAND FOR SALE.

THE subscriber will sell that valuable plantation SUMMER-HILL, on which Mr. Robert Jacob now lives, containing about 330 acres, about seven miles from the city of Annapolis, and possesses all the advantage of water, with respect to navigation, fish, oysters, and wild fowl, being within one mile of navigable water; the greater part of it lies sufficiently level; the soil is fine, and easy of cultivation, and contains a sufficiency of meadow ground of a superior quality; about one third of this land is covered with timber, consisting of oak, poplar, walnut, and an immense quantity of chestnut and cedar, and is extremely well watered.

The improvements are new, and consist of a comfortable dwelling-house, with two rooms below stairs and two above, a kitchen, smoke-house, &c. and also a tobacco house.

The house is situated on an eminence, which commands a view of the surrounding neighbourhood, also of Annapolis, London-town, and Chesapeake bay, which makes it a situation in point of beauty equalled by few, and in point of healthiness exceeded by none, and has several springs of as fine water as any in the state, within a few yards of the house.

This place is well situated to admit of its being divided, and should it be found necessary to accommodate purchasers the subscriber will do it.

As the subscriber is not induced from necessity to dispose of this place, any reasonable credit that may be required will be given, upon the purchaser's giving bond, with approved securities, and upon the payment of the whole, an indisputable title will be given.

JOHN GASSAWAY, of
Rhode River.

Any person in want of cedar, locust, and walnut posts, for building or fencing, may be supplied by applying to the subscriber.

JOHN GASSAWAY, of
Rhode River.

March 3, 1805, }
Rhode River. }

This is to give notice,

THAT the subscriber hath obtained from the orphans court of Anne-Arundel county, letters of administration on the personal estate of EZEKIEL JACOB, late of the city of Annapolis, deceased. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those who have claims against the same are desired to render their accounts, properly authenticated, to

ANNA JACOB, Administratrix.

March 7, 1805.

This is to give notice,

THAT the subscriber has obtained from the orphans court of Anne-Arundel county, letters of administration on the personal estate of JOHN GALLOWAY, late of the navy of the United States, deceased, therefore all persons who may have claims against the deceased are requested to bring them in, legally proved, and passed by the court, to Mr. JOHN GALLOWAY, of Tulip Hill, and all those indebted to said estate to make payment to him.

DAVID LYNN, Administrator.

West river, March 25, 1805.

TAKE NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the subscriber hath obtained from the orphans court of Saint-Mary's county, letters of administration de bonis non on the personal estate of Doctor JAMES JORDAN, late of said county, deceased. All persons having claims against said deceased are warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, on or before the first day of May next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate.

10

JAMES COOKE.

ANNAPOLIS:

Printed by FREDERICK and SAMUEL GREEN.