

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, F E B R U A R Y 13, 1806.

Maryland Gazette.

ANNAPOLIS, THURSDAY, February 13, 1806.

Laws of Maryland,

PASSED NOVEMBER SESSION, 1805.

An ACT, entitled, An additional supplement to an act, entitled, An act relating to negroes, and to repeal the acts of assembly therein mentioned.

WHEREAS great mischiefs have arisen from slaves coming into possession of the certificates of free negroes, by running away and passing as free, under the faith of such certificates: And whereas it has been found from experience, that the manner of granting certificates of freedom is not sufficient to prevent the evils felt by slaves coming into possession of such certificates; for remedy whereof,

Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That from and after the first day of June next, it shall not be lawful for any person or persons, except the clerks of the county courts in the several counties in this state, or register of wills, where any negro or negroes have been freed by last will and testament, to grant certificates of freedom to any free negro or negroes, unless such clerk or register, at the time when called upon by any negro entitled to freedom, residing in, or belonging to, their respective counties, for a certificate thereof, to grant the same under the seal of their respective offices, and to set forth therein the height, age, complexion, the time when such negro became free, the place where he or she, as the case may be, was raised, and such mark or marks as may appear to such clerk or register to be notable in such negro, so applying for his or her certificate of freedom as aforesaid; and the said clerk or register shall keep a registry of each and every certificate granted by them, or either of them, to any negro or negroes to whom such certificate have been granted.

And be it enacted, That if any person or persons, other than the clerks or registers as aforesaid of the several counties in this state, shall give or grant any certificate of freedom to any negro or negroes, he, she or they, shall, upon an indictment, and being found guilty thereof, either by confession or verdict of a jury, forfeit and pay not exceeding five hundred dollars for each and every offence, to be applied to the use of the county where such person shall reside; and if any clerk or register in any county in this state shall grant a certificate of freedom to any negro or negroes not entitled to freedom, knowing such negro or negroes not to be entitled to freedom, or to any free negro or free negroes, except such as belong to, or were manumitted or freed according to the laws of, this state, in his or their respective counties, shall, upon an indictment and conviction thereof, forfeit and pay not exceeding five hundred dollars for each and every offence, to be applied as aforesaid.

And be it enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any clerk or register of any county in this state to grant a certificate of freedom to any negro manumitted or freed as aforesaid who has once obtained a certificate of his or her freedom of such clerk or register, unless such negro applying for the same shall make oath, or prove by some credible and disinterested witnesses, that he or she, as the case may be, has lost the former certificate of his or her freedom, granted as aforesaid; and it shall be the duty of the said clerk or register to describe the grantee of such second certificate, in the same manner as is prescribed in the first section of this act.

And be it enacted, That when any negro or negroes, who has or have been manumitted or freed as aforesaid, shall apply to the clerk or register of the county where he, she or they was or were manumitted or freed as aforesaid, for a certificate thereof, it shall be the duty of such clerk or register to cause such applicant or applicants to prove, by such testimony as shall be satisfactory to such clerk or register, that he or she, as the case may be, is the identical person who was manumitted or freed as aforesaid.

And be it enacted, That where any negro or negroes, born free, shall wish to travel out of, or leave, the county in which he, she or they, were born, such negro or negroes shall apply to the clerk of the county where he, she or they, shall reside, to grant him, her or them, a certificate of their freedom, and the said clerk shall, upon sufficient evidence of such negro or negroes so applying being born free, grant to such negro or negroes a certificate thereof, setting forth the manner in which such negro or negroes became entitled to his, her or their freedom, and shall describe such negro or negroes in such certificate, in the same manner as is prescribed in the first section of this act; and the said clerk shall keep a registry thereof, and shall not grant any other certificate to any such negro or negroes, unless upon such testimony

of his, her or their having lost the former certificate of his, her or their freedom, as is required from negroes who have been manumitted or freed as before mentioned.

And be it enacted, That for each and every certificate of freedom granted under this act, the clerk or register, as the case may be, shall receive fifty cents, as a compensation for his trouble.

An ACT to prevent free negroes from selling any corn, wheat or tobacco, without having a licence for that purpose from a justice of the peace.

WHEREAS great inconvenience is felt in this state in consequence of free negroes receiving stolen corn, wheat and tobacco, from slaves, and selling the same as the production of their own labour; therefore,

Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That from and after the first of May next, no free negro shall sell any corn, wheat or tobacco, unless, at the time of his or her so selling the said article or articles, he or she shall be possessed of a certificate, under the hand and seal of a justice of the peace of said county, that he or she is a peaceable and orderly person, and of good character, which certificate shall be of force for one year, and no longer.

And be it enacted, That if any free negro shall sell any corn, wheat or tobacco, contrary to the provisions of this act, he or she offending shall incur the penalty of five dollars for every such offence, one half to the informer, the other half to be applied to the use of the county, and to be recovered as other fines and forfeitures, before a justice of the peace in the county where such offence shall be committed.

And be it enacted, That any person who shall purchase or receive from any free negro any corn, wheat or tobacco, contrary to the provisions of this act, shall forfeit and pay, for every offence, the sum of ten dollars, one half to the informer, the other half to be applied to the use of the county in which such offence was committed, and to be recovered and applied in the same manner as other fines and forfeitures are by this law directed to be recovered and applied.

And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of every justice of the peace, sheriff and constable, to give information of every violation of this act that shall come to his knowledge.

An ACT to restrain the evil practices of certain persons within this state.

BE it enacted by the general assembly of Maryland, That if any person or persons, after the passage of this act, shall mix, or cause to be mixed, any corn meal or other flour with wheat flour, for the purpose of selling, or otherwise disposing of the same as wheat flour, or shall vend the same out of the state for the purpose, or with the intent, of selling or otherwise disposing of it, he, she or they, shall forfeit and pay, for each and every such offence, a sum not less than two hundred dollars, nor more than one thousand dollars, one half to the informer, and the other half to the state, and in case such offender or offenders shall be unable to pay the same, shall suffer not less than three nor more than twelve months imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of every magistrate before whom any information may be lodged, and proof made, of any such practice, to issue his warrant to any constable of the county in which the same shall be committed, commanding him to bring such offender or offenders before him, or any other justice of the peace for said county, who shall recognize him or them in the sum of two thousand dollars, with good and sufficient security, or in case of neglect or refusal, then to commit such offender or offenders to prison, to take his or their trial at the next court having competent jurisdiction.

And be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the several county courts in this state to give this act in charge to the grand juries of their respective counties.

An ACT to suspend the operation of the part of the act of assembly therein mentioned.

WHEREAS by the last section of the act, entitled, An act to provide for the organization and regulation of the courts of common law in this state, and for the administration of justice therein, passed at the present session, it is enacted, that the fees due to the officers therein mentioned shall be sent out in pounds shillings and pence, and not in tobacco as heretofore, and in as much as the fees may already have been made out in tobacco, and therefore the immediate change would be attended with considerable inconvenience; for remedy whereof,

Be it enacted by the general assembly of Maryland, That the operation of the said section of the above recited act be and the same is hereby suspended until the first day of January, eighteen hundred and seven, any thing in the said act to the contrary notwithstanding.

MESSAGE

From the President of the United States, communicating the report of the director of the mint, of the operations of that institution, during the last year: To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

I communicate, for the information of congress, the report of the director of the mint, of the operations of that institution during the last year:

TH: JEFFERSON:

January 15, 1806.

To the President of the United States

Agreeably to former practice, I have the honour, at the commencement of the present year, to lay before you a statement of the issues from the mint of the United States, and the expences of the institution during the past year: and conceiving, that it might not prove unacceptable, the treasurer has, at my request, drawn up, and exhibited, in one comprehensive view, (schedule No. 4,) a statement of all the gold, silver and copper coins, struck at the mint, from the commencement of its operation, till the present time.

From this statement it appears, that of gold coins issued from the mint, the whole amount is 2,613,972½ dollars; of silver coins 1,953,917½ dollars; and of copper coins 179,458 dollars 47 cents, making the total amount 4,747,348 dollars 44 cents, and the total number of pieces 22,494,882.

During the last year, as will appear in particular detail from schedule No. 1, there have been struck at the mint, of gold coins 34,964 pieces, amounting in value to 170,367½ dollars, of silver coins 469,496 pieces—value 149,067½ dollars, and of copper coins 1,755,580 pieces—value 13,483 dollars 48 cents; making the total number of pieces of the precious metals 504,460; and of copper coins 1,755,580, and the total value 332,918 dollars 48 cents. This amount is indeed somewhat less than that of the preceding year, (371,827 dollars 94 cents) yet the number of pieces is much greater, being all of the smaller coins; and this latter circumstance will readily account for the small difference in value; since the labour and time necessary to prepare and strike an equal number of large and of small pieces of coin will be nearly equal.

Of the precious metals, the number of pieces coined in the last year, far exceeds that in any former year, since the establishment of the mint; indeed it is considerably more than double of what it has been, in any one of the four last years.

The striking of small coins is a measure which has been adopted to accommodate the banks and other depositors, and at their particular request; both with a view of furnishing a supply of small change, and to prevent the exportation of specie of the United States to foreign countries.

I am authorized, sir, to assure you, that the bank of the U. States (with perhaps the other banks in this city) will furnish the mint an ample supply of bullion during the current year; and to avoid, as far as practicable, all inconvenient delay in the issue of coins, I am, with your approbation, about to employ a few additional workmen. The utmost economy, however, in the expences of the institution, will be carefully observed.

The schedule No. 3, exhibits an abstract of the expenditures of the mint during the last year. From this it will be observed, that the contingent expences in the last six months, have been pretty considerable. This has arisen from sundry repairs, particularly of the stable, coal house, a pair of rollers, and one of the coining presses, which could no longer be dispensed with; but which will not again occur in many years.

Schedule No. 2, exhibits a general statement of the gain on the copper coinage, for the last year, amounting to 2,187 dollars and 68 cents, exclusive of 51 dollars and 96 cents spoiled planchets, used in the alloy of the precious metals. This gain would have been still greater, had not the planchets proved to be somewhat overweight, though the late director had given the most particular charges and instruction on this head, to the person of whom they were purchased.

I have, sir, the honour to be,

With the greatest esteem,

Your most obedient servant,

ROBERT PATTERSON, Director.

Mint of the United States, Philadelphia, 3d January, 1806.

Mr. Bowdoin, our ambassador to the court of Madrid, was at the period of the last advices, at Paris. Mr. C. Pinckney's functions ceased on Mr. Bowdoin's arrival, and he has resided for his health in the neighbourhood of Lisbon since. Mr. Erving, our charge des affaires, is at Madrid, and through him, or through Mr. Bowdoin, only, can authentic information concerning our claims on Spain be expected to be communicated. [Aurora.]