

An Act for securing the Parochial Librarys of this Province.

Best Enacted by the Queens most Excellent Majesty by & with the Advice and Consent of her Majesty's Governour Council & Assembly of this Province and the Authority of the same, that the Librarys appointed for the severall & respective Parishes within this Province shall be and remain in the hands & possession of the Minister of the Parish if there be any Minister actually inducted into and incumbent in the said Parish during his residence in the said Parish, who is by this Act oblig'd to keep & preserve the said Library from wast & imbezlement and to be accountable for the same to the Governour Council & Assembly as often as required.

And to that purpose the said Minister shall pass two Receipts for the said Books inserting what they are and the title page of the same one Receipt to be by the Vestry of the said parish transmitted to the Governour & Council and the other to remain with the Vestry of the said parish to be enter'd in their Register Book, and the said Vestrys are hereby oblig'd to visit the said Librarys twice in the year and inspect the same.

And in case the said Vestrys shall not (or at least four of them of eldest standing shall not visit the said Librarys twice in the year as by this Act is requir'd the whole number of Vestry-men shall forfeit & pay the Sum of fourteen pounds of Tobacco one moyety to her Majesty her Heirs & Successors for the support of Government the other moyety to the informer or him or them that shall sue for the same in any Court of Record in this Province by Action of Debt Bill Plaint or Information wherein no Essoyn Protection or Wager of Law to be allow'd and the *onus probandi* shall lie on the part of the Vestry to make it appear that they have visited the Librarys as by this Act they are oblig'd.

And if it so happen that the Vestry find any damage or imbezlement thereof they shall require and cause satisfaction for the same to be made by Action of Debt to be brought against the said Minister his Executors or Administrators for the full value of such Books as are or shall be wanting to be commenced and brought by the Vestrymen of such respective parish where such damage & imbezlement shall happen who by this Act are empower'd to bring their special Action without their Principal Vestryman.

And in case any Minister having the charge of such Library shall be removed from his charge he shall deliver the said Library to the Vestry of the said parish and make satisfaction or reparation if any damage or wast suffer'd before his departure out of the said parish (except by fire or such unavoidable accident) or in case of the death of any such Minister having the charge of such Library the Vestry of such parish shall immediately take the said Library into their custody and keeping and pass their receipt for the same as above directed and shall in all points be answerable for the same (except by fire or such like accident as aforesaid.)

And for the better preserving and securing the said Librarys it shall & may be lawful for his Excellency the Governour of this Province for the time being to appoint one or more visitors of the said Librarys within this Province to report the true Estate of them to his Excellency the Governour & Council that they may make Orders to cause ev'ry one concern'd about the said Librarys to do their dutys to the effectual preserving of them.

An Act restraining the Extortions of Sheriffs Subsheriffs & Deputy Commissarys.

Whereas there have been divers great complaints from severall parts of this Province to this General Assembly of severall Sheriffs Subsheriffs & deputy Commissarys of their exacting & extorting great Sums of tobacco above their due & lawful Fees ascertain'd by the Act of Assembly of this Province from severall of the inhabitants of this Province and tho' the Laws of this Province have inflict'd a severe penalty upon any Officer that shall charge & receive more than his due Fees yet the said Officers have most cunningly & craftily evaded the said Laws by taking Bills or Writings obligatory without ever delivering any account sign'd under their hands as the Law directs so that the party griev'd can not sufficiently prove the said Extortion & so is left without Remedy for prevention whereof,

Be it Enacted by the Queens most Excellent Majesty by & with the Advice & Consent of her Majesty's Governour Council & Assembly of this Province & the Authority of the same, that no Sheriff Subsheriff or deputy Commissary within this Province after the publication of this Act in their severall & respective Countys wherein they dwell shall take any Bond Bill or any other Writing obligatory of any person or persons upon any pretence whatsoever without endorsing the account on the back of the said Bond Bill or Writing obligatory for which the same was pass'd and if any Sheriff Subsheriff or deputy Commissary within this Province shall during the time that he remains in his place or office upon any pretence whatsoever take any Bond Bill or Writing obligatory without endorsing the account on the back of the said Bond Bill or Writing obligatory