

impowered and obliged to tender to, and such Owner or Owners are hereby obliged to take, the following Oath, viz. C H AP. XXVI.

“ You A. B. C. do swear that you are the true and only Owners of the Ship E. and have continued so, ever since the Time of the purchasing the Register by you now produced; and that you have not purchased the said Vessel, nor obtained the Register aforesaid, to the Use of, or in Trust for, any other Person or Persons whatsoever, nor for the Sake of evading the Payment of any Duties, in Favour of any Person or Persons whatsoever, that are not actually Residents within this Province.” Form of the Oath.

By 1731, *ch.* 18, §. 2, the above Oath may be taken by the Owners of any Vessel who live remote from a Naval Officer, before a Magistrate in any County where such Owners reside; and a Certificate thereof under the Hand and Seal of such Magistrate, shall be as effectual, &c. as if taken before the Naval Officer, if delivered to the Naval Officer before Clearing the Vessel. And by §. 4, of the same Act, Owners residing in different Counties may make separate Oath in the Manner therein prescribed, a Certificate whereof as before, shall be effectual, &c.

III. **Provided**, That in case any Inhabitant of this Province, Owner as aforesaid, shall depart this Province, and go beyond the Seas about his reasonable Affairs, and shall not be absent therefrom for above the Space of Twelve Months, in case any Vessel should happen in his Absence to require his Oath as aforesaid, such absent Person's Oath in such case may be dispensed withal, the other Owners Residents (if any there be) taking the same Oath, and the Benefit intended by the said beforementioned Act shall be allowed to the Owners of such Vessels. Provido in Favour of Resident Owners, when beyond Seas.

IV. **Provided nevertheless**, That in case any Owner or Owners, Residents of this Province, shall refuse to comply with the Directions laid down hereby, it shall in no wise be lawful for the Naval Officer aforesaid, to give any Benefit or Benefits to the said Owner or Owners, but they are hereby declared to stand on the same Foot with Persons Non-residents, trading into this Province; any Law, Usage or Custom to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. Resident Owners, not complying, shall stand on the same Foot as Non-Residents.

Examined and Compared with the Original Act, REVERDY GHISELIN,
THOMAS BACON.

C H A P. XXVII.

An Act for the Relief of Mareen Duval, a languishing Prisoner in Prince-George's County. Lib. LL. N° 4. fol. 507. PR. Passed 27th October 1720.

C H A P. XXVIII.

An Act empowering Messieurs William Clayton, of Talbot County, and James Earle and Willam Turbutt, of Queen-Anne's County, to sell off the Lands of Robert Smith, Esq; late of Talbot County aforesaid, deceased, to pay to Richard Cole, of Queen-Anne's County, and Mary his Wife, the Daughter and Heir of Renatus Smith, deceased, the surviving Executor of the said Robert Smith, deceased, what the said Renatus Smith paid on Account of the said Robert Smith, more than Effects came to his Hands; and for the Payment of his other Debts. Lib. LL. N° 4. fol. 511. PR. Ditto.

At