

AND be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall not, nor may be lawful for the Lord *Baltimore* to ask, have, or demand, any Rent or Service for any of the said Tracts or Dividends, as may or have been taken up, as aforesaid, within the said *Indians* Boundaries, until such Time that the Takers up, or Owners aforesaid, do enjoy or possess the same ; Any Law, Usage, or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Pass'd October 3^d, 1704.

Revis'd May 21st, 1715.



§ 18. *An Act for securing the Parochial Libraries of this Province.*

BE it Enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of Her Majesty's Governor, Council, and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That the Libraries appointed for the several and respective Parishes within this Province, shall be and remain in the Hands and 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 obliged to keep and preserve the said Library from Waste and Imbezilment, and to be accountable for the same to the Governor, Council, and 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 Governor and Council ; and the other to remain with the Vestry of the said Parish, to be entred in their Register Book. And the said Vestries are hereby obliged to visit the said Libraries Twice in the Year, and inspect the same : And in case the said Vestries (or at least Four of them of eldest Standing) shall not visit the said Libraries Twice in the Year, as by this Act is required, the whole Number of Vestrymen shall forfeit and pay the Sum of Fourteen hundred Pounds of Tobacco ; One Moiety to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, for the Support of Government, the other Moiety 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, Complaint, or Information, wherein no Essoign, Protection, or Wager of Law to be allowed ; and the *Onus probandi* shall lie on the part of the Vestry to make it appear that they visited the Libraries, as by this Act they are obliged. And if it so happen that the Vestry find any Damage, or Imbezilment 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 and Imbezilment shall happen, who by this Act are empowered to bring their Special Action without their principal Vestrymen. 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 Waste suffered, 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 Libraries, it shall and may be lawful for his Excellency the Governor of this Province