

fairs of the Government of this Province, or to any Judicial or Ministerial Offices thereon depending, or to the Collection of any Dues arising there-from, or to any Office, Matter or Thing thereto relating.

*Provided also,* That nothing herein contained, shall extend, or be construed to extend, to the Exemption of any Person or Persons whatsoever, from taking the Oaths by this Act directed, who were obliged to take the Oaths appointed, or required by Law before the making of this Act; any Thing in the Proviso afore-mentioned to the contrary, notwithstanding.

And none that were obliged to take the Oaths by former Laws.

*An ACT for Repairing the Damages already sustained in the Records of the Land, Secretaries, Commissaries and County Court Offices, and for the Security of the same Records for the Future.*

**W**HEREAS upon a View and Enquiry into the Records of the Land, Secretary's, Commissaries and County-court Offices of this Province, it appears, that sundry Matters which have been recorded therein, are entirely lost, to the great Prejudice of those concerned; and a great Part of such as remain, are so very much worn and damnified, that without a speedy Care is taken for their Amendment, it is like to prove of very ill and dangerous Consequences to the Inhabitants of this Province in general, the most valuable Parts of their Estates entirely depending thereon. And forasmuch as the bad Circumstances of the Records of the Land, Secretary's and Commissaries Offices are owing, as well to the Damages they sustained by transporting them from St. Mary's to this City, as to the Negligence of the several Officers and Clerks that have hitherto been entrusted therewith, and the Want of good and sufficient Books at first, they not being under any Obligation or Penalty to find such Books, or to keep them in due Repair, notwithstanding they have received the full Profits and Benefits of the several Offices they were entrusted with. For Remedy whereof for the Future, and that the Records of the several Offices as aforesaid, that stand in Need of any Amendments and Repairs, may be speedily and sufficiently amended and repaired, in the best Manner that is possible, at the Charge of the publick and respective Counties; and that after such Repairs as aforesaid, the several Officers and Clerks that shall from Time to Time be entrusted with any the several Records aforesaid, and shall reap the Profits and Benefits of such their Offices, be obliged to find good and sufficient Books for the Future, and look after and maintain the Record-Books committed to their Care, in such Order and Repairation, from Time to Time, as they shall receive them,

Preamble.

*Be it Enacted,* by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governour, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and by the Authority of the same, That Lieut. Col. Samuel Young, Mr. Joseph Hill, Mr. Benjamin Tasker, and Mr. John Beale, or any Two or Three of them, be and are hereby authorized, empowered and appointed Commissioners to inspect into the several Decays and Defects of all the Records of the Land, Secretary's

Commissioners appointed to inspect the Records,