

ficers and others using indecent liberties, &c. and to punish the same by suspension of such practitioners either perpetually, or for a time; or to fine such practitioners, officers or others, not exceeding 4000lb. tobacco in the superior, nor 2000lb. tobacco in the inferior courts.—1719, c. 4, § 2.

2. Single magistrates are in like manner, to observe the demeanour of persons coming before them, in the execution of their office; and in case of indecent behaviour towards them, or contempt of their authority, may inform the court; who are empowered to call such offenders before them, without any formality in law, and punish them by fine not exceeding 1000lb. tobacco, by imprisonment not exceeding two days, or by setting in the stocks not above two hours.—*ibid.* § 3.

3. The fines by this act shall be applied by the court, towards maintaining a public school in the county where such offence is committed.—*ibid.*

4. This act shall not lessen the authority heretofore vested by law, in the several courts.—*ibid.* § 4. See *Attorneys, 1. Cursing, &c. Jury and jurors, 4.*

MANUMISSION OF SLAVES.

THE act to prevent disabled and superannuated slaves being set free; or the manumission of slaves by any last will or testament, passed 1752, c. 1, which comprised the 1, 2, 3 and 4 Art. here; has been continued to October, 1797, &c. and then suffered to expire.

5. Where any person or persons possessed of any slave or slaves within this state, who are or shall be of healthy constitutions and sound in mind and body, capable by labour to procure to him or them sufficient food and raiment, with other requisite necessaries of life, and not exceeding 45 years of age, and such person or persons possessing such slave or slaves as aforesaid, and being willing and desirous to set free or manumit such slave or slaves, may by writing under his, her or their hand and seal, evidenced by two good and sufficient witnesses at least, grant to such slave or slaves his, her or their freedom; and any deed or writing, whereby freedom shall be given or granted to any such slave, which shall be intended to take place in future, shall be good, from the time that such freedom or manumission is intended to commence by the said deed or writing, so that the same be not in prejudice of creditors, and that such slave, at the time such freedom or manumission shall take place or commence, be not above the age aforesaid, and be able to work, and gain a sufficient livelihood and maintenance, according to the true intent and meaning