

A Supplementary act to the act, entitled, * An act for the repairing the damages already sustained in the records of the land, secretary's, commissary's and county court offices, and for security of the same records for the future. Lib. BLC. fol. 248.

Passed 29th of October, 1742. 1716, ch. 1.

WHEREAS the inhabitants of this province have been at great expence and charge in repairing, amending and completing, the records of the land, secretary's, chancery, commissary's and county court offices, and that on the well and safe keeping of which records, and such as hereafter shall be entered and made, greatly depend the fortunes, interest and estates of the people of this province: And whereas it is not only necessary and requisite that the books for entering and recording in should be good and well bound, but that likewise true and legal entries and records be entered and made by the several and respective officers and clerks holding the said offices, their servants, clerks or under-writers: And whereas so great a part of the estates and interest of the good people of Maryland depend on the faithful and due execution of the trust committed, and to be committed, to the respective officers and clerks in the said several and respective offices, and that it does not appear to this general assembly, that the penalty in the bonds to be given by the several and respective officers and clerks, by direction of the said act for repairing the damages already sustained in the records of the land, secretary's, commissary's and county court offices, and for security of the same records for the future, is equal to the trust reposed in them, or the great share and interest which the people of right have in the same records, nor that the said bond is for the due execution of the offices of the said respective officers and clerks, in relation to the making true, lawful and faithful entries and records, according to the intention of the same act, as appears, and on which depends entirely the usefulness of the same records;

Preamble.

II. BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED, by the right honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the advice and consent of his lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the authority of the same, That from and after the last day of March, which shall be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty-three, it shall not be lawful for the secretary, register in chancery, commissary, register of the land office, or other person who shall be appointed to receive the fees of the same land office, or the several and respective county clerks, within this province, their deputies, officers or under clerks, who shall have the keeping of the said secretary's, chancery, commissary's, land or county court offices, committed to them, to take upon themselves the keeping any of the said records, or to receive or apply to their use any of the fees, profits or benefits, arising or to arise from their said several and respective offices, until such secretary, register in chancery, commissary-general, register in the land office, or the person or persons to whom the care and keeping of the said land office is or shall be committed, by what denomination soever he or they may or shall be called; and the said several and respective county clerks within this province, or such county clerks as shall hereafter be appointed, whether for any counties now being, or which shall hereafter be laid out, appointed or nominated, have entered into bond, with two good, able and sufficient sureties, being persons of visible and landed estates within this province, in the name of the lord proprietary; that is to say, the secretary for the provincial office in the sum of three thousand pounds current money; the same secretary, register in chancery, or whoever receives the profit and benefit of the fees accruing in the chancery office, in the sum of one thousand pounds current money; the commissary-general, for the commissary's office, in the sum of three thousand pounds current money; the register of the land office, or by whatever other denomination the person or persons is, are or shall be called, to whom the said office and perquisites is, are or shall be committed, in the sum of three thousand pounds current money; and the several and respective county clerks within this province, now being, or who shall hereafter be nominated or appointed, respectively, whether of counties now laid out or appointed, or of counties which hereafter shall be laid out and appointed, in the sum of one thousand pounds current money; all which bonds respectively shall be conditioned as follows: "The condition of the above obligation is such, that if the above bounden ———, whilst he shall continue in the office of ———, shall, at his own proper cost and charge, find a supply of good and sufficient record books, necessary for the entering up of all matters and things relating to such ——— office, and shall and will make, or cause to be made and entered, true, legal and perfect records and entries, according to the truth and nature of the matter or thing requiring to be entered or recorded; and shall duly and carefully look after, sustain, preserve, repair and maintain, all the several books, papers and records, now being and remaining in the said office, as also all those that from time to time, during his continuance in the said office, shall be added thereunto, in such manner, as that in case of death, or that he shall be legally dismissed from officiating longer in the

Officers to enter into bond, &c.