

At a SESSION of ASSEMBLY, begun and held at the CITY of ANNAPOLIS, the 1st day of May, in the 29th year of the dominion of the right honourable CHARLES, absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Provinces of Maryland and Avalon, Lord Baron of Baltimore, &c. and ended the 4th day of June following, in the 30th year of his lordship's dominion, *annoque domini 1744*, the following laws were enacted.

THOMAS BLADEN, ESQUIRE, GOVERNOR.

C H A P. I.

An ACT to encourage the destroying bears in Worcester county. Lib. BLC. fol. 283.

See the note under 1728, ch. 12.

Passed 4th of June, 1744.

C H A P. II.

An ACT for making a chapel already erected in Prince-George's parish, in Prince-George's county, a chapel of ease. Lib. BLC. fol. 283.

C H A P. III.

An ACT for dividing St. Stephen's, alias North-Sassafras parish, in Cecil county. Lib. BLC. fol. 284.

By this act, 1. From the end of this session, all that part of St. Stephen's, alias North-Sassafras parish, in Cecil county, lying within the following bounds, viz. Beginning at a certain place called Town Point, situated between Elk and Bohemia rivers, and from thence to run up Bohemia river to Middle Neck Point, from thence up Augustine creek, alias Little Bohemia, to Campbell's Branch, including all Middle Neck, and the plantation of Charles Scott, and to the Cross paths, and from the Cross paths by a line drawn east to the exterior bounds of the old parish, and from thence by such metes and bounds as shall take in all that part of St. Stephen's parish which lies to the northward and westward of the beforelines, so far as St. Stephen's parish extended to Elk river, and then by Elk river to Town Point aforesaid, shall be taken from St. Stephen's parish aforesaid, and be erected into a new parish, and called by the name of Augustine parish, and shall from the time aforesaid be deemed, &c. Augustine parish, and not as a part or parcel of St. Stephen's parish aforesaid, &c. 2. The inhabitants of Augustine parish to enjoy all benefits, privileges, &c. in every respect equal with any inhabitants of any other parish in this province, with power to elect vestrymen, &c. 3. The chapel built on Bohemia manor to be reputed, deemed, &c. as the parish church of Augustine parish. 4. The reverend Mr. Hugh Jones to continue incumbent of both parishes during his life, &c.

C H A P. IV.

An ACT for the speedy and effectual publication of the laws of this province, and for the encouragement of Jonas Green, of the city of Annapolis, printer. Lib. BLC. fol. 285.

To remain in force till the 25th December, 1745. Farther continued by 1745, ch. 2, 1747, ch. 7, and expired 25th December, 1748.

C H A P. V.

An ACT to prevent the cutting up tobacco plants, destroying of tobacco and tobacco-houses, and for ascertaining the punishment of criminals guilty of the said offences. Lib. BLC. fol. 286.

WHEREAS tobacco is the staple of this province, and that thereon depends the livelihood of many of the inhabitants, as well as the most considerable branch of trade, and that it is as requisite that the property of the people should be as well secured in the fields, or open houses, as in their dwelling-houses; it is therefore prayed that it may be enacted,

II. AND 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 any person or persons who shall, after the end of this present session of assembly, cut or destroy, or cause to be cut up or destroyed, any tobacco plants belonging to any other person or persons, or by threats, menaces, or other sinister means, shall cause or excite any person or persons to cut up or destroy any tobacco or tobacco plants belonging to any other person or persons, and shall be thereof convicted by due course of law, shall forfeit and pay unto the party grieved one hundred pounds

Penalty on persons cutting up tobacco, &c.