

1748. MAY.

C H A R L E S, L O R D, B A L T I M O R E.

and doubts having arisen relating to the title of the land, &c. the present act, 1. Empowers the Justices of Prince-Georges county, to cause the said three acres to be laid out by the county surveyor, so as the said chapel may stand in the centre thereof, and to be securely bounded and bounded, and to cause the same land to be valued by a jury according to its worth, before building the chapel aforesaid, &c. the return of the jury, under their hands and seals, and the hand and seal of the sheriff, together with the surveyor's certificate of survey, to be entered among the county records. 2. The vestry to pay the surveyor, sheriff, jury, &c. and also to pay the owner of the land the value set thereon by the jury. 3. The said survey, valuation and recording, and payment for the land as aforesaid, shall vest an absolute estate therein, for the use of the parish, in the vestry, &c. and their successors, for ever. 4. The surveyor's certificate to be entered in the parish register book, and in case of fire, or accident to the county records, a copy of the courses of the said three acres from the said register book shall be deemed the courses of the said land.

C H A P. XVII.

Passed 11th of June, 1748. An ACT continuing an act, entitled, (a) An act for raising a duty of three halfpence sterling per hoghead on all tobacco exported out of this province, for the use of the governor. Lib. BLC. fol. 451.

(a) 1747. ch. 25. hereby continued to the 29th September, 1749.

C H A P. XVIII.

An ACT empowering the justices of Calvert county court to assess and levy on the taxable inhabitants of the said county a sum not exceeding one thousand pounds current money, and to empower certain commissioners therein named to appropriate the same towards building, finishing and completing a new county court house for the said county. Lib. BLC. fol. 451.

C H A P. XIX.

1748. ch. 44. An additional supplementary act to the act, entitled, \* An act relating to servants and slaves. Lib. BLC. fol. 453.

Preamble.

W<sup>H</sup>E<sup>R</sup>E<sup>A</sup>S by an act of assembly of this province, made at a session of assembly begun and held at the city of Annapolis the twenty-sixth day of April, anno domini one thousand seven hundred and fifteen, entitled, An act relating to servants and slaves, it is enacted, that "any person or persons whatsoever, that shall, after the publication of the said act, wittingly or willingly entertain any servant or slave unlawfully absenting him, her or themselves, from their master, mistress, dame or overseer, shall be fined five hundred pounds of tobacco for every night or twenty-four hours that such person or persons shall give such entertainment." And whereas it is represented to this general assembly, that many crafty and ill-disposed persons, knowing that they are not liable to the payment of the said fine, unless they entertain such servant or slave one whole night, or twenty-four hours without intermission, do, by frequently entertaining the servants and slaves of the good people of this province at dead times of night, for several hours together, entice them secretly to make away with, and embezzle, the goods of their masters or owners, by carrying them to such entertainments, and to commit many grievous disorders and irregularities against the peace of his lordship, and his good rule and government, and to the great damage and disquiet of many of his majesty's liege subjects within this province; for preventing which evils for the future;

Penalty on persons harbouring slaves, &c.

II. BE IT 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 if any person or persons, after the end of this session of assembly, shall wittingly or willingly entertain any servant or servants, slave or slaves, unlawfully absenting him, her or themselves from his, her or their master, owner or overseer, or permit or suffer them to be about their houses or plantations, during the space of one hour, or longer, such person or persons, so entertaining such servant or servants, slave or slaves, or permitting or suffering them to be about their houses or plantations, shall forfeit and pay at the rate of one hundred pounds of tobacco for every hour each servant or slave shall be by him, her or them, so entertained, or permitted or suffered to be about his, her or their house or plantation as aforesaid, to be recovered in a summary way before a single magistrate, with costs, if the penalty does not exceed six hundred pounds of tobacco, and if it does exceed six hundred pounds of tobacco, then to be recovered by action of debt, bill of indictment, plaint or information, in the county court where the offence shall be committed, wherein no escheat, protection, wager of law, or above one imparlance, shall be allowed, the one half whereof shall be applied to the use of the public school of the county wherein such forfeiture shall happen, and the other half to the party grieved, provided he or she shall prosecute for the same within three months next after the offence committed, otherwise to the informer, or him or them who shall sue for the same, provided such suit be commenced within twelve months after such offence committed.

In default of payment, offenders to be punished, &c.

III. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if it shall appear to any magistrate before whom any conviction for breach of this act shall be had, that the offender is unable to pay or give good security for the penalty aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for such magistrate to punish such offender, by whipping