

claiming under him, to pay for the same, provided such oath or affirmation as aforesaid be made within twelve months from the date of the articles respectively paid or delivered; and provided also, that in case any suit shall be brought to recover any money paid or delivered as aforesaid, or the price of any goods, wares, effects or chattels, as aforesaid, sold or delivered, the plaintiff shall, at or before the first imparlance court, make oath or affirmation as aforesaid, before some judge or justice of this state, that he believes the money, goods, wares, merchandises, effects or chattels, charged in the account to which such oath or affirmation as aforesaid shall be annexed, were *bonâ fide* delivered as charged; and that he hath not, nor any person for him to his knowledge or belief, received any payment or satisfaction for the articles charged, more than credit is duly given for in and appearing upon the account to which such oath or affirmation as aforesaid is annexed, nor hath he received any security for the same, and that the balance charged and claimed is justly due, according to the best of his knowledge and belief.

C H A P.
XLVI.

The act of 1798, No. 101, ch. 9, section 8, prescribes the proof of claims against the estates of deceased persons on open account, and declares that the account shall moreover appear to have been proved as is required by this act.

VI. PROVIDED ALWAYS, AND BE IT ENACTED, That nothing in this act shall be taken or construed to preclude any debtor or defendant from controverting the proof as aforesaid made legal and admissible by this act, by any testimony which is legal and admissible by the rules of the common law, nor shall this act be construed or taken to prevent any creditor or plaintiff from giving any evidence admissible by the rules of the common law, in support of his claim, or pursuing any legal mode other than is given by this act to prove and establish his claim or demand.

Provide.

VII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That in case any suit shall hereafter be brought on any judgment, or on any bond, or other writing sealed by the party, and the defendants shall have any demand or claim against the plaintiff, upon judgment, bond, or other instrument under seal, or upon note, agreement, assumpsit, or account proved, as by this act is allowed the defendant, or otherwise according to law, shall be at liberty to file his account in bar, or plead discount to the plaintiff's claim, and judgment shall be given for the plaintiff for the sum only which remains due after just discount made; provided the sum which shall remain due after such discount be sufficient to support a judgment in the court where the cause may be tried, according to its established jurisdiction; and in all cases of suits upon simple contracts, the defendant may file an account in bar, or plead discount of any claim he may have against the plaintiff, proved as aforesaid, or otherwise proved according to law, which may be of an equal or superior nature to the plaintiff's claim, and judgment shall be given as aforesaid.

In case of suit, account may be filed in bar, &c.

VIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the act of assembly passed at a session of assembly begun and held at the city of Annapolis on the tenth day of July, in the year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-nine, * entitled, An act providing what shall be good evidence to prove foreign and other debts, and to prevent vexatious and unnecessary suits at law, pleading discounts in bar, and for repealing an act of assembly therein mentioned, and every part and clause thereof, except the clause repealing the act therein mentioned, be and hereby is repealed; provided nevertheless, that all debts and accounts heretofore proved agreeably to the said act, or which may hereafter be proved agreeably to the rules prescribed by the said act on or before the first day of November next, shall be good and sufficient in law to all such intents and purposes as if the said law had not been repealed; and provided also, that all accounts for any sum not exceeding thirty pounds current money in the course of any whole year, and proved agreeably to the said act, may be evidence as before the passing this act until the first day of January, seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, and after that time any account not exceeding ten pounds current money in the course of any whole year may be proved and received in evidence as aforesaid.

Part of an act repealed, &c.
* Chapter 20.

C H A P. XLVII.

A Supplement to the act, (a) entitled, An act directing the proceedings against persons guilty of fornication. Lib. TBH. No. A. fol. 678.

Passed 8th of March, 1786.

(a) November, 1781, ch. 13.

WHEREAS by the above recited act no direction is given to any justice of the peace, by whom a recognizance may be taken as security to indemnify a county from any charge that may accrue by means of an illegitimate child, to return such recognizance to the county court of his county, or to any county clerk to record such recognizance if so returned, by reason whereof the good citizens of the several counties of this state are liable, notwithstanding the said act, to become oftentimes burthened with the maintenance of such illegitimate children;

Preamble.