

An ACT for the more effectual preservation of the breed of wild deer in Somerset and Dorchester counties. Lib. JG. No. 3. fol. 262.

Passed 3d of Jan. 1800.

WHEREAS it has been represented to this general assembly, that the species of deer hath been very much lessened, and are likely to be extinct; for the prevention whereof, it is thought proper by this general assembly to pass an act restraining all persons whatsoever from shooting, or otherwise destroying them, for a limited time;

Preamble.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons whatsoever, from and after the end of this session of assembly during the term of three years, to kill, or otherwise destroy, any deer, under the penalty of thirty dollars current money for every deer so killed or destroyed, to be recovered in the county court of the county where the said offence shall be committed by indictment, one half of which sum shall be applied to the use of the county, and the other half shall be received by the person who shall make information thereof.

Deer not to be killed, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That after the expiration of the aforesaid term of three years, no person or persons whatsoever shall shoot, kill, or otherwise destroy, any deer, except from the fifteenth of September to the fifteenth of December yearly, under the penalty aforesaid.

Except from Sept. 15 to Dec. 15, &c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That any person or persons whatsoever, in whose hands or custody any deer's flesh, or deer's skin or skins shall be found, that shall appear to have been killed contrary to this act, shall be deemed, taken and adjudged, the killer or destroyer of such deer, and liable to the penalty aforesaid, unless such person or persons shall make it appear who it was that really killed the same, or from whom such person possessed thereof shall have received the same, or that the same was not killed contrary to the prohibition of this act.

Persons to be considered as the killer, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any master, mistress or overseer, shall wilfully suffer any servant or servants, slave or slaves, under his, her or their care and management, to hunt, kill or destroy, any deer, contrary to this act, shall forfeit the sum of thirty dollars, to be recovered and applied as before directed; and if any servant or servants, slave or slaves do or shall hunt, kill or destroy, any deer, contrary to this act, and without the privacy and knowledge of their master, mistress or overseer, and be convicted thereof before any justice of the peace, such servant or servants, slave or slaves, shall be whipped not exceeding thirty-nine lashes, at the discretion of such justice of the peace; provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to prevent the owner from killing tame deer, or deer confined within parks.

Penalty on masters, &c.

VI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That an act, entitled, An act for the preservation of the breed of wild deer, passed at November session, seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, \* be and the same is hereby repealed, so far as respects the counties aforesaid.

An act repealed. \* Chapter 5.

An ACT to release the heirs, executors and administrators, and the securities, of Charles Beckwith, late of Montgomery county, deceased, from a contract therein mentioned. Lib. JG. No. 3. fol. 263.

WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, by the petition of fundry inhabitants of Montgomery county, that agreeably to the act of assembly passed November session, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven, \* entitled, An act to authorise and empower the levy court of Montgomery county to assess and levy a sum of money on the assessable property thereof for the purpose of building a new gaol in said county, the commissioners appointed by said act did contract for and let the building of the gaol to a certain Charles Beckwith, and advanced to the said Beckwith the sum of one hundred and sixty pounds for the purpose of procuring materials for the gaol aforesaid, and that soon after the said Charles Beckwith died, leaving a widow, who is unable to comply with the contract aforesaid: And whereas it is further represented by said petition, that the county would derive considerable advantage if a law was to pass releasing the heirs, executors and administrators, and the securities, of the said Charles Beckwith, from the contract aforesaid, and authorising

Preamble.

\* Chapter 17.