

tend Tobacco, and the Crops of the several Planters within the said Precinct, and the Number of Plants growing on any and every Plantation or Plantations within the same: And on or before the Twentieth Day of the Month of *July*, in this present, and every other Year, during the Continuance of this Act, to begin to count the Plants, and cut, or cause to be cut up and destroyed, all Stalks, Slips, and Suckers, within such Precinct, and to proceed therein as there shall be Occasion; which Persons so appointed, are hereby enjoyned carefully to review and examine all the several Fields and Places whereon Tobacco shall be tended, within their several Precincts, Two respective Times, at the least, after the Plants thereon growing, have been by them counted; and as often thereafter, as they shall judge necessary, in order to discover whether any Slips or Suckers, shall be turned out or tended from the Stalks, whence any Tobacco-Plant hath been before cut; and shall take an Oath (or Affirmation, if a *Quaker*,) before some Justice of the Peace of the County wherein they reside; which Oath (or Affirmation, if a *Quaker*,) the said Justice is hereby impowered to administer in the Words following, *viz.*

I A. B. do swear, (or affirm) That I will carefully, diligently, and truly examine and enquire into the Names and Numbers of all Persons allowed to tend Tobacco within my Precinct; and truly and faithfully number and count the Tobacco-Plants growing, or that shall be tended on every Plantation within the same, according to the Directions and true Intent and Meaning of the Act of Assembly, Intituled, An Act, for Improving the Staple of Tobacco; and for continuing Part of An Act, ascertaining the Gauge and Tare of Tobacco-Hogsheads; and to prevent cropping, cutting, and defacing Tobacco taken on board Ships or Vessels upon Freight; and for laying Impositions on Tobacco per the Hogshead, for the Support of Government; and for the encouraging Settlements in this Province, by ascertaining the Manner of paying His Lordship's Alienation Fines and Quit-Rents, for the Term therein proposed; and for the taking off the Three-pence per Hogshead formerly raised for the Publick Charge, to the best of my Knowledge, either by counting the said Tobacco-Plants, growing in the several Hills, Plant by Plant, or otherwise, according to the best of my Understanding; and faithfully and dilligently will review and examine, all the several Fields, and Places, wherein all such Tobacco-Plants are tended; and will cut up and destroy, or cause to be cut up and destroy'd, all Stalks ^{from} which any Tobacco shall be cut or taken, and all Slips and Suckers growing out of the same above the Length of Nine Inches, which I shall find growing in any of the said Fields or Places aforesaid, according to the Directions of the said Act; and that I will duly execute all the Powers and Authorities given me by the said Act, honestly and impartially, and make a just and true Report of my Proceedings therein, without Favour, Affection, or Prejudice. And that I will inform against all Persons, who shall be guilty of any Breach of the said Act, in any Matter or Thing, wherein a Counter is required to examine and enquire, to some Justice of the Peace, for the County, wherein the Offence shall be committed.

So help me G O D.

AND if any Person appointed by the Vestry of any Parish, to view, examine, and number Tobacco-Plants, and to cut up and destroy Tobacco-