

An Act continuing an Act entituled, An Additional and Explanatory Act to the Act entituled, An Act empowering the Commissioners of the County Courts, to levy and raise Tobacco, to defray the necessary Charges of their Counties and Parishes.

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 an Act of Assembly of this Province entituled, *An Additional and Explanatory Act to the Act entituled, An Act empowering the Commissioners of the County Courts, to levy and raise Tobacco, to defray the necessary Charges of their Counties and Parishes,* made at a Session of Assembly, begun and held at the City of Annapolis, the tenth Day of May, One thousand seven hundred forty and eight, be, and is hereby continued, and shall remain and be in full Force, for and during the Term of three Years next ensuing, and to the End of the next Session of Assembly, which shall happen after the End of the said three Years.

An Additional and Explanatory Act continued.

An Act for the more effectual Punishment of Negroes and other Slaves, and for taking away the Benefit of Clergy from certain Offenders: And A Supplementary Act to an Act entituled, An Act to prevent the tumultuous Meeting and other Irregularities of Negroes and other Slaves, and directing the Manner of trying Slaves.

WH E R E A S the Laws in Force for the Punishment of Slaves are found insufficient to prevent their committing very great Crimes and Disorders, and that a further Provision is necessary to keep them in proper Bounds and due Order; and for a more speedy Method to bring them to Justice than is prescribed by the Laws heretofore made.

Preamble.

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 if any Slave or Slaves shall at any Time consult, advise, conspire, or attempt to raise any Insurrection within this Province, or to murder or poison any Person or Persons whatsoever, or to commit a Rape upon any white Woman, or to burn any House or Houses, and be thereof convicted by Confession or Verdict, or who shall of Malice stand mute, or peremptorily challenge above the Number of twenty Jurors, shall suffer Death as in Cases of Felony, without Benefit of Clergy.

Crimes punishable with Death.

And be it further Enacted, That any Slave, who shall attempt to burn any Dwelling-House, or Outhouse contiguous to, or used with any Dwelling-

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