

C H A P. XIV.

A Supplementary ACT, to the Act for the Relief of Creditors, and to prevent Frauds and Deceits, occasioned by secret Sales and Mortgages, and Gifts of Goods and Chattels.

Passed 21st of November.

WHEREAS it hath been found by Experience, That the Setting up Parol Gifts of Negroes, and other Slaves, where the Donor hath retained the Possession and Use, is productive of Disputes and Law Suits, and hath a tendency to introduce Corruption and Perjury, and that such Gifts have been often established upon very slight and suspicious Testimony; For Remedy thereof,

Preamble.

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 from and after the End of this Session of Assembly, no Negro, or other Slave, whereof the Donor shall retain the Use and Possession, shall pass, alter or change, or any Property thereof, be transferred to any Donee, unless the Gift be by Writing under the Hand and Seal of the Donor, and acknowledged before One Provincial Justice, or One Justice of the County where the Donor shall reside, and recorded in the Records of the same County, within Twenty Days from the Time of the Execution thereof.

In what manner Slaves may be given.

III. Provided always, and it is the true Intent and Meaning of this Act, That nothing herein contained, shall extend, or be construed to extend, to make void any Parol Gift of any Negro, or other Slave, where there shall be an express Delivery of such Slave, in pursuance of such Gift, and where the sole Use and Possession of the same shall be transferred to the Donee, nor to make void any Bequest of any Negro, or other Slave, by any Last Will and Testament.

Proviso, as to actual Delivery, or Last Will.

C H A P. XV.

An ACT to aid the Proceedings of the Vestry of St. Stephen's Parish, in Cæcil County.

Passed 21st of November.

WHEREAS the Vestry-men and Church-wardens of St. Stephen's Parish, in Cæcil County, by their humble Petition to the General Assembly of this Province, have set forth, that the Vestry of that Parish, were, by means of the Small Pox raging in the Neighbourhood, prevented from meeting on Easter Monday, in the Year of our Lord Seventeen Hundred and Sixty, to elect Vestry-men and Church-wardens, as by Law they were required, whereby they apprehend their Proceedings, as a Vestry, since that Time, are not legal, and pray that their said Proceedings may be aided and made valid.

Preamble.

II. Be it therefore Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary of this Province, 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 the Proceedings of the Vestry-men and Church-wardens of St. Stephen's Parish in Cæcil County, and every Act and Thing by them done since the said Easter Monday in the Year Seventeen Hundred and Sixty, as a Vestry of the Parish aforesaid, be, and are hereby made, as good and valid to all Intents and Purposes, as if the Election of new Vestry-men and Church-wardens for the Parish aforesaid, had been actually made on the said Easter Monday in the Year of our Lord Seventeen Hundred and Sixty, the said Omission notwithstanding.

Some Proceedings of a Vestry made valid.