

ter, Cæcil, Talbot, Queen-Anne's, Worcester, Frederick, Harford, Caroline, Washington, and Montgomery Counties, shall be specially named by the Governor, with the Advice and Consent of the Council, and be by him commissioned as and for Justices of the several Orphans Courts in this State, any three or more of whom shall have Power to hold a Court once in two Months, or oftener, as the Case shall require, within their several and respective Counties, at the usual Place of holding County Courts, and therein shall proceed according to the Laws now in force, or hereafter to be in force, for the Administration of Justice in testamentary Affairs, granting Administrations, Recovery of Legacies, securing filial Portions, and Distribution of Intestates Estates; and shall have the same Power, Authority, and Jurisdiction, within their several Counties, which the Commissary-General heretofore by Law had and exercised within this State.

III. And be it enacted, That the Orphans Courts in the several Counties shall be held on the second Tuesdays in *June, August, October, December, February, and April*, yearly, or oftener, if Need be, on their own Adjournments; and that the Justices of such Courts, before they proceed to Business, shall severally take the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity to this State, as also the Oath of Judge or Justice, and sign a Declaration of his Belief in the Christian Religion.

Orphans Courts, when to be held, &c.

IV. And be it enacted, That the Register of Wills, appointed in each County under the Form of Government, shall have all the Power, Authority, and Jurisdiction, which the Deputy Commissaries heretofore by Law had and exercised in such County; and moreover shall diligently attend the Meeting of the Orphans Court in his County, and there make full and fair Entries of their Proceedings; and shall also make a fair Record of all Wills and other Matters heretofore recorded in the Office of the Commissary-General, and give out Copies, under Seal, when demanded, of all such Records; and shall be entitled to a Reward for his Services according to the Table of Fees hereafter to be settled.

Register of Wills to have the same Power as Deputy Commissaries heretofore had, &c.

V. And be it enacted, That the said Register of Wills shall be obliged to attend on the Tuesdays and Saturdays in every Week, at the City, Town, or Place, where the County Courts are held, unless prevented by Sickness or other unavoidable Accident or Necessity, for the Dispatch of all Business that may come before him relative to the Estates of Persons deceased; and also shall be obliged to lodge all original Papers, and all Records by him made up, in a Repository in the Court-House of the County of which he is Register, which said Repository shall be provided by the Justices of the County Courts at the Expence of their Counties respectively.

Days and Place of his Attendance.

VI. And be it enacted, That the Register of Wills in each County, before he acts as such, shall take the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity to this State, before one of the Justices of the Peace for the said County, and also an Oath of Office in the following Words, "I, A. B. make Oath, on the holy Evangel of Almighty God, that I will diligently and faithfully execute the Office of Register of Wills within the County of \_\_\_\_\_ according to the best of my Skill and Judgment. So help me God," and shall sign a Declaration of his Belief in the Christian

To take the Oath of Allegiance, and an Oath of Office, &c.