

1777.

L A W S of the S T A T E of

C H A P. IX, X. authority the representatives of deceased persons have been and may be much injured,

Orphans courts to have the same power as the commissary-general had.

IV. Be it therefore enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said courts respectively to call, or cause to be brought before them by summons, attachment, or other process (as the case may require, directed to the sheriff of the county where the party may reside) any person or persons who may reside in any other county within this state, and who may have administered or taken letters testamentary, or shall hereafter administer or take such letters within their county, and also all witnesses necessary to establish the truth of controverted facts, and in every respect the said courts shall have all the power, jurisdiction, and authority, within this state, to issue process against persons administering or taking letters testamentary as aforesaid, and witnesses, that the commissary-general hath heretofore had, used, or practised.

Register of wills to take probates, &c.

V. And be it enacted, That the register of wills, when required, shall, in the recess of the said court, take all probates of wills, grant letters of administration, and letters testamentary, also warrants to appraisers, in cases where there is no dispute, and in every respect have the same power, jurisdiction, and authority, that the deputy-commissary hath heretofore had, used, or practised, any thing in the said act to the contrary notwithstanding.

VI. And, Whereas in several of the counties of this state, the judges of the orphans courts have refused or neglected to act, whereby much inconvenience hath arisen, and may arise, unless remedied by an immediate provision,

Judges to meet on Dec. 4, inst.

VII. Be it therefore enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the judges of the orphans courts aforesaid, appointed or to be appointed in the several counties where they have neglected or refused, as aforesaid, to meet at the respective places of holding their said courts, on the fourth Tuesday of December instant, and proceed to do business as fully as if they had met at the time appointed in the act for establishing orphans courts, any thing to the contrary notwithstanding.

C H A P. X.

An ACT for the regulation of officers fees.

Preamble.

WHEREAS officers fees can be rated, regulated and established by act of assembly only, and such an act is now expedient and necessary :

Officers not to take greater fees than hereafter limited.

II. Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That no officer or officers hereafter mentioned in this present act, their ministers, servants or deputies, by reason or colour of his or their office or offices, shall have, receive, or take, of any person or persons, directly or indirectly, any other or greater fees which shall arise or become due after the commencement of this act, than are hereafter limited and allowed to the several officers herein mentioned : That is to say,