

VII. And be it enacted, That all estates not exceeding thirty pounds current money shall be deemed pauper estates; and the register of wills shall be allowed for finally settling the same the sum of thirty shillings current money, and no more.

CHAP.
XXV.

Thirty pounds deemed pauper estates.

VIII. And be it enacted, That no register of wills within this state shall demand, take, or receive, from any person whatsoever, any fee, gratuity, gift, or reward, for giving his advice in any matter or thing relative to his office, under the penalty of fifty pounds current money for every offence.

Register of wills not to charge for advice, &c.

IX. And be it enacted, That all persons who are or shall be appointed to any of the offices mentioned in this act, shall, under the penalty of one hundred and fifty pounds current money, before they enter on the execution of the said office, take the following oath, before some judge or justice of the peace, or alderman of the city of Annapolis: "You, A. B. do swear, that you will well, faithfully, and impartially, to the best of your skill and knowledge, execute your office, and that you will not, for lucre or malice, delay any person or persons applying to you for any business in your office; and that you will not willingly or wittingly charge, ask, take, exact, demand, or receive, any other or larger fees for doing your duty in your office, than are mentioned, rated, regulated, and established, by the act, entitled, An act for the regulation of officers fees."

Officers to take the following oath.

X. And be it enacted, That accounts of all officers fees in this act mentioned, shall be made out in a fair and clear manner, and in words at length; and whenever any person or persons interested in them, or to whom the same shall be charged, shall require a copy of such account, the several officers shall and are hereby required to give such person so applying therefor, in as short a time as may be convenient, an account of such charge in words at length; and that all deputies and under clerks, writing in any of the offices aforesaid, or doing service in them, shall, before they enter into any the services aforesaid, or execute or perform any duty or services in any of the said offices, before some judge or justice of the general or county court, or alderman of the city of Annapolis (who is hereby authorized and required to administer the same, under the penalty of fifty pounds for every neglect or refusal) take the following oath, under the penalty of one hundred pounds for every refusal or neglect, viz. "You, A. B. do swear, that you will not, for lucre or malice, delay any person or persons applying to you for any business belonging to the office you officiate in; and that you will not, directly or indirectly, ask, take, exact, demand, or receive from, or charge to, any such person or persons, to your own use, any fee or reward whatsoever, for any services you shall do as deputy clerk of the said office; and also that, in making out of the office fees, you will not wittingly or willingly charge other or higher fees than limited by the act, entitled, An act for the regulation of officers fees." Which said oaths before mentioned shall be severally returned by the judge, justice, or alderman, before whom the same shall be taken, to the general court or county offices, as the case shall require, within twenty days after the taking thereof, under the penalty of twenty pounds for every neglect, and shall there be recorded by the clerk of such court, under the penalty of twenty pounds for every neglect.

Accounts of officers fees to be made out in words at length, &c.