

CHAP.
XXVIII
XXIX.

lashes, or both, in the discretion of the court; and if upon the acquittal of any person charged with any of the above mentioned offences, the court before which he was tried shall be of opinion, that there was probable cause for the accusation, they shall require surety for his good behaviour, in a reasonable penalty and for a reasonable term, and in case of refusal to give the same, he shall be committed to close gaol, there to remain until such security shall be given; and the clerk of the general or county court before whom any person shall be convicted of any of the above offences, shall cause the judgment of the court to be published for three weeks successively in the Maryland gazette and Baltimore news-paper, and thereafter the associating with any such convicted person shall be esteemed dishonourable; and no person shall be prosecuted for words spoken, unless the information of such words be given to some justice within thirty days after such words spoken, and the prosecution of such offence be within six months after such information; and any justice may bind over any person charged with any of the above mentioned offences to the next general or county court, or commit him to close gaol, in case of refusal to give security for his appearance; and this act shall be given in charge to every grand jury, as often as the same shall be empaneled, in the general or any county court.

Suits to commence within 6 months, &c.

XVII. And be it enacted, That if any suit or action shall be brought or prosecuted against any person or persons, for any thing done or to be done in pursuance of this act, that in every such case the action or suit shall be commenced within six months after the fact committed, and not afterwards, and the defendant, in any such action or suit, may plead the general issue, and give this act and the special matter in evidence, and that the same was done in pursuance and by authority of this act, and if it shall appear so to be done, or if any such action or suit shall be brought after the time limited for bringing the same, then the jury shall find for the defendant, or if the plaintiff shall become nonsuit, or suffer a discontinuance of his action, or if a verdict shall pass against the plaintiff, or upon demurrer judgment shall be given against him, the defendant shall and may recover treble costs, and have such remedy for the same as any defendant hath for costs of suit in other cases at law.

Papers to be returned, &c.

XVIII. And be it enacted, That all papers taken in virtue of this act shall be safely kept, and returned to the party from whom they shall be taken, except those which may be necessary to prove his guilt, and that a list of the papers be made out at the time of seizure and delivered to the party.

Continuance.

XIX. This act to continue and remain in force during the present war with Great-Britain.

C H A P. XXIX.

An ACT to continue the acts of assembly therein mentioned.

Several acts continued.

BE it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That an act of assembly, entitled, An act for the amendment of the law, made at a session of assembly, begun and held at the city of Annapolis,