

WILLIAM SMALLWOOD, Esq; Governor. 1785.

ary seventeen hundred and eighty-nine, and after that time any account not exceeding ten pounds current money in the course of any whole year, may be proved and received in evidence as aforesaid.

CHAP.
XLVI.

C H A P. XLVII.

A Supplement to the act, entitled, An act directing the proceedings against persons guilty of fornication.

Passed Mar. 8.

WHEREAS by the above recited act no direction is given to any justice of the peace, by whom a recognizance may be taken as security to indemnify a county from any charge that may accrue by means of an illegitimate child, to return such recognizance to the county court of his county, or to any county clerk to record such recognizance if so returned, by reason whereof the good citizens of the several counties of this state are liable, notwithstanding the said act, to become oftentimes burthened with the maintenance of such illegitimate children;

Preamble.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That every justice of the peace within this state, by whom any recognizance as aforesaid may be taken, shall return the same to the next county court to be held for his county, and that the clerk of the same court shall, within a reasonable time after such return, record the said recognizance among the proceedings of the said court; and the several county courts shall, when necessary, issue such process thereon as may be requisite to indemnify such county from any charge for the maintenance of such child or children.

Justice to return recognizance, &c.

III. *And,* to the end that the several counties within this state may more effectually be secured from the burthen of maintaining illegitimate children, *Be it enacted,* That every constable shall, as often as he may have knowledge of any free woman having an illegitimate child within his hundred, make information thereof to the next, or some justice of the peace for his county; upon which information, or the matter coming to his own knowledge, such justice is hereby required to proceed as by the act above recited, and this act, is directed.

Constable to make information, &c.

IV. *And be it enacted,* That two acts of assembly, made, the one at a session of assembly, begun and held at the city of Annapolis in the year seventeen hundred and fifteen, entitled, An act for punishing the offences of adultery and fornication, the other, at a session of assembly, begun and held at the city of Annapolis the twenty-fourth day of May, in the year seventeen hundred and forty-nine, entitled, An act for taking off corporal punishment inflicted on females having base born children, and other purposes therein mentioned, so far as the said acts respect the proceedings against persons guilty of fornication, be, and are hereby repealed.

Part of two acts repealed.

C H A P. XLVIII.

An ACT to empower the justices of Baltimore county, to assess and levy a sum of money on said county to finish the building of the court-house in said county.

Passed Mar. 8.

WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, that the court-house in Baltimore county is not finished in such manner as to hold the courts and elections therein, and that the records and public papers are in great danger of being destroyed for want of a safe repository to contain them, and that the county is at a great expence in renting houses for holding courts and elections, and to keep the records, and that unless the said court-house is finished the same will go to ruin; therefore,

Preamble.

FI. 230