

IV. Provided also, That nothing in this act shall extend, or be construed to extend; to charge or make liable the bail given to the sheriff for the appearance of any person or persons, on any suit or process returnable at March court last, or the bail or sureties bound by recognizance for the appearance of any person or persons criminally presented at the said March court, and on which recognizance no default was then entered, but such bail or sureties shall be in the same state and condition as if this act had not been made.

C H A P. XXXII. Proviso.

V. And, whereas writs and other process have been issued by the clerk of Caroline county aforesaid, since the discontinuance of all business in said court as aforesaid, returnable to the next county court to be held for said county; Be it enacted, That all writs and other process that have been issued by the clerk of the said county since the Monday before the third Tuesday in March last, shall be as good and available in law as if the said justices had qualified and adjourned the said court, and regularly held the same according to law, and as if the process and proceedings of the said court had not been discontinued.

All writs, &c. good and available, &c.

VI. And be it enacted, That the erection of the public buildings in Caroline county, shall be suspended till the end of the next session of assembly, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Erection of buildings suspended.

C H A P. XXXIII.

An ACT to prevent the inconveniencies arising from slaves being permitted to act as free.

Passed May 22.

Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That any person who shall permit and authorize any slave belonging to him or herself in his or her own right, or possessed in the right of another, to go at large or hire him or herself within this state, shall incur the penalty of five pounds current money per month, except ten days at harvest.

Penalty on permitting slaves to hire themselves, &c. *Enacted by act 1796. ch. 7. to 1798 Jan'y.*

II. And be it enacted, That any person who shall hire a slave by contract with such slave, shall incur the penalty of five pounds current money per month, except as before excepted; provided, that any person may permit his slave, being a pilot, to hire himself in such capacity, and any person may employ as a pilot, any slave known, or generally reputed to be a pilot, before the passing this act.

On hiring by contract with a slave, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That all the penalties aforesaid shall be recovered before a single justice of the peace, in the same manner as small debts out of court are recovered, and any sum so recovered shall be to the sole use and benefit of the informer; provided the offence be sufficiently proved without his or her own testimony; otherwise such recovery shall be to the use and benefit of the poor of such county where the offence shall be committed.

How penalties are to be recovered, &c.

IV. And be it enacted, That the operation of this act shall commence on the first day of January next, and shall be read aloud by the clerk of each county court at the March and April courts, during the continuance of this act.

Commencement, &c.

V. This act to continue in force during the term of seven years, and to the end of the next session of assembly, what shall happen therein.

Continuance.

An ACT respecting insolvent debtors.

Passed May 25.

WHEREAS the confinement of the persons of debtors is inconsistent with the principles of humanity, and it is reasonable, where debtors will bond to surrender all their property to the use of their creditors, that thereupon they should be discharged from their debts then due;

Preamble.

Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland, That any debtor for any sum above three hundred pounds current money, may apply by petition in writing to the chancellor; and offer to deliver up to the use of his creditors

Certain debtors may apply by petition to the chancellor, &c. all