

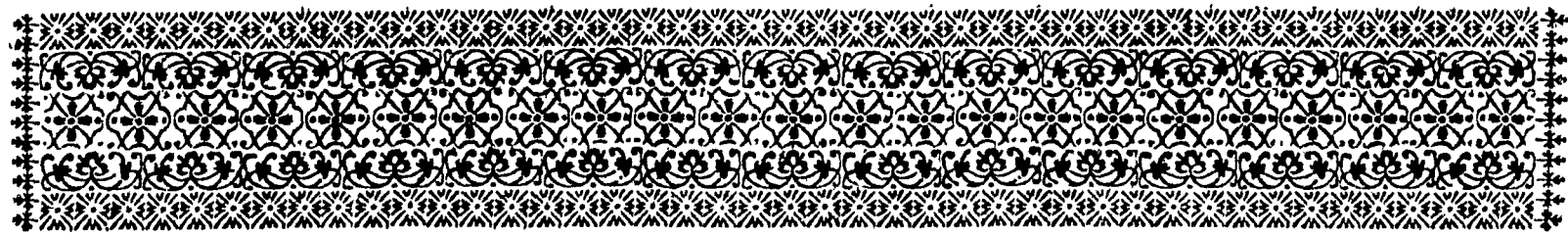
A C T S
O F
A S S E M B L Y,

PASSED in the
Province of *MARYLAND*,
From 1692, to 1715.

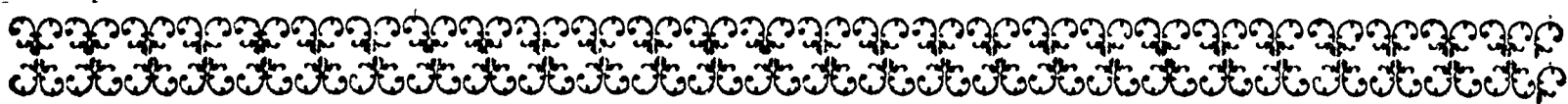


L O N D O N,

Printed by *John Baskett*, Printer to the King's most Excellent Majesty, MDCCXXIII.



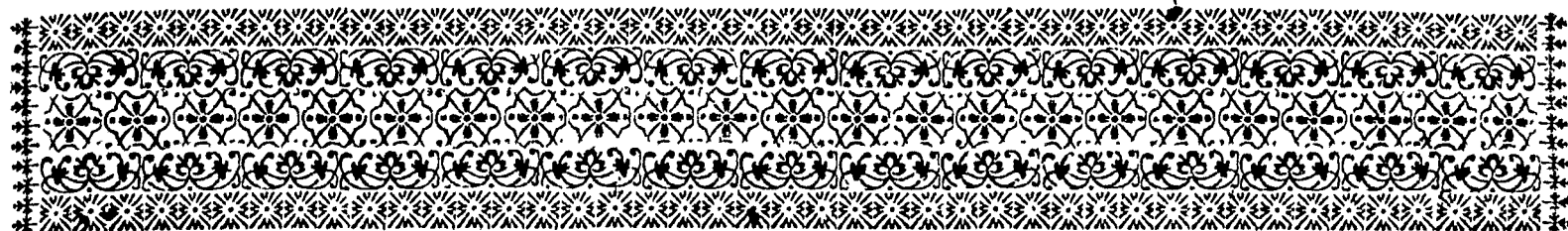
T H E
L A W S
O F
M A R Y L A N D.



An Act for Punishment of Persons suborning Witnesses, or committing wilful and corrupt Perjury. No 1.



HEREAS several Persons void of Grace, and the Dread of the Almighty, have and do still continue, for small Profits accruing to themselves, to commit wilful and corrupt Perjury, or cause or procure the same to be committed, either out of a Design for the Reasons and Purposes aforesaid, or meerly to revenge an imaginary Injury done them, to the great Prejudice of divers of Their Majesties Loyal Subjects inhabiting within this Province : And forasmuch as the Laws of this Province heretofore made for the Prevention of the like Mischiefs and Inconveniencies, have, upon a mature and deliberate Consideration of this present General Assembly, been found altogether inconsistent with the Constitution of this Province, or the Laws of *England* in such Cases made and provided ; Be it therefore Enacted by the King and Queen's most Excellent Majesties, by and with the Advice and Consent of this present General Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That if any Person or Persons whatsoever, from and after the Publication hereof, shall unlawfully or corruptly procure any Witness or Witnesses by Letters, Rewards, Promises, or by any other sinister unlawful Labour or Means whatsoever, to commit any wilful and corrupt Perjury in any Matter or Cause whatsoever, now depending, or which hereafter shall depend in Suit and Variance, by any Writ, Action, Bill, Complaint, or Information, in any wise touching or concerning any Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, or any Goods, Chattels, Debt, or Damages in any of the Courts of Record within this Province ; or that shall unlawfully and corruptly procure or suborn any Witness or Witnesses from and after the Publication aforesaid, to be sworn *in perpetuam*



Maryland ss. At a Session of Assembly, begun and held at the City of *Annapolis* in *Annarundel* County, for the Province of *Maryland*, on the Twenty sixth Day of *April*, and thence continued to the Fourth Day of *June*, in the First Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King *George*, of *Great Britain, France, and Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c. 1715. his Excellency *John Hart* Esq; being Governor, were Enacted and Re-enacted these Laws following, viz.

A most joyful and just Recognition of the immediate, lawful and undoubted Succession and Right of the Crown of Great Britain, and of the Kingdoms and Dominions thereunto belonging. D^o 54.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty.



WE Your Majesty's most Humble and Loyal Subjects of this Your Province of *Maryland*, Your Majesty's Governor and Council, and the Delegates of the several Counties, and Citizens, in this present General Assembly now convened, acknowledging with a most thankful and joyful Sense the inestimable Blessings Almighty God has vouchsafed to Your Majesty's Kingdom of *Great Britain*, and the Dominions thereto belonging, in so happily preserving Your most Sacred Person, and peaceably Seating You on the Throne of Your Royal Ancestors; and not only so, but in blessing Your Majesty with a most Royal Progeny of most Excellent Gifts and Virtues, especially the Thrice Noble and Illustrious *George* Prince of *Wales*, Your Highness's most Noble Son, and His Children (so rare and invaluable a Blessing to us, and all Your Majesty's Subjects) do from the Bottom of our Hearts yield the Divine Majesty all humble Thanks and Praises for the said inestimable Benefits and Blessings: And we beseech Your most Excellent Majesty, that it may be Published and Declared by Your Majesty's Governor, Council, and Assembly of this Province,

* Y

and

An Act against Imbezelment of Wills or Records within this Province. D^o 76.

FORASMUCH as there is not any sufficient Remedy provided against such as shall imbezel, alter, or rase any Records of Deeds, or Conveying of Land, within this Province, or any Will, or Records of Wills, or other Deeds or Instruments, that shall any ways touch or concern the Estate of Inheritance, or Freehold, of any Person whatsoever; and for that it is found Necessary to make some Provision against such evil Practices; Be it therefore Enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Majesty's Governor, Council, and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That in case any Person whatsoever, shall at any time hereafter be legally convicted, by Confession, or otherwise, of wilfully or corruptly imbezelling, impairing, rasing, or altering any Will or Record within this Province, whereby the Estate of Inheritance, or Freehold, of any Person whatsoever shall be defeated, injured, or any ways altered, such Person so convicted, shall forfeit all his Goods and Chattels, Lands and Tenements; the one Half to our Sovereign Lord the King, His Heirs and Successors, for the Support of Government, the other Half to the Party grieved; and shall also be set in the Pillory for the Space of Two Hours, and have both Ears nailed there-to, and cut from off his Head.

Pass'd June 3d, 1715.



An Act relating to Servants and Slaves.

D^o 77.

WHEREAS there have been several Acts provided against Servants, Runaways, which have hitherto proved ineffectual, in Regard they do not sufficiently provide Encouragement for such Person or Persons, Inhabitants of this Province, as should seize such Runaways, or Servants, by this Act deemed Runaways; therefore, for the better Discovery, Seizing, and Apprehending such Runaways, Be it Enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Majesty's Governor, Council, and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That from and after the Publication hereof, no Servant or Servants whatsoever, within this Province, whether by Indenture, or according to the Custom of the Country, or hired for Wages, shall travel by Land or Water Ten Miles from the House of his, her, or their Master, Mistress, or Dame, without a Note under their Hands, or under the Hand of his, her, or their Overseer, if any be, under the Penalty of being taken up for a Runaway, and suffer such Penalties as are hereafter provided against Runaways.

AND it is hereby further Enacted by the Authority, Advice, and Consent aforesaid, That any Servant or Servants, unlawfully absenting him, her, or themselves, from his, her, or their Master, Mistress, Dame, or Overseer, shall make such Satisfaction by Servitude, or otherwise, at the Discretion of the Justices of the County-Court where such runaway Servant did dwell; not exceeding Ten Days Service for One Day's Absence; with such reasonable Costs

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for

AND be it Enacted by the Authority, Advice, and Consent aforesaid, That no Negro, or other Slave, within this Province, shall be permitted to carry any Gun, or any other offensive Weapon, from off their Master's Land, without Licence from their said Master ; and if any Negro, or other Slave, shall presume so to do, he shall be liable to be carried before a Justice of Peace, and be whipped, and his Gun, or other offensive Weapon, shall be forfeit to him that shall seize the same, and carry such Negro, so offending, before such Justice of Peace.

AND be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid, That from and after the End of this Session of Assembly, any Servant or Servants whatsoever, within this Province, that shall feloniously take or purloyn his or their Master, Mistress, or Dame's Goods or Chattels, under the Value of One thousand Pounds of Tobacco, shall be adjudged a Felon, and being thereof lawfully convicted in any County-Court of this Province, shall be adjudged to pay Four times the Value of such Goods, so purloyned, to his, her, or their Master, Mistress, or Dame, which he, she, or they shall make good by Servitude, after the Expiration of their first Time of Service ; and shall also suffer such Pains of Whipping, or Pillorying, as the Justices, before whom such Matter is brought, shall adjudge.

AND be it further Enacted by the Authority, Advice, and Consent aforesaid, That when any Person or Persons, except Negroes and Mulattoes, shall be found Travelling without Passes, as aforesaid, and shall be taken up as suspected Runaways, and by any Justice of Peace committed to the Custody of any Sheriff or Goaler within this Province, it shall not be lawful for any such Sheriff or Goaler to hold such Person in Custody longer than Six Months ; and if such Person can, at any time within the said Six Months, procure a Certificate, or other Justification, that he or she is no Servant, he or she shall and may, by Order of any Two Justices of the County where such Person is committed to Prison, be discharged from any further Imprisonment ; he, she, or they, serving such Sheriff or Goaler, or his Assigns, so many Days as he, she, or they, were in Custody of such Sheriff or Goaler, or otherwise paying Ten Pounds of Tobacco *per* Day to such Sheriff or Goaler for their Imprisonment-Fees, and no more ; and paying to such Person or Persons, who took up such Person, Two hundred Pounds of Tobacco, or serving him, her, or them, Twenty Days in lieu thereof ; and if any such Sheriff or Goaler shall detain such Person or Persons in Prison, after such Order of Two Justices, as aforesaid, or the Expiration of Six Months, and Payment of Ten Pounds of Tobacco *per* Day, as aforesaid, such Sheriff or Goaler shall be liable to an Action of False Imprisonment ; any Law, Statute, or Usage, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Pass'd June 3d, 1715.

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