



597

THE

Statutes at Large;

BEING

A COLLECTION

OF ALL

LAWS OF VIRGINIA.

FROM THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE,

IN THE YEAR 1619

PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO AN ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA,
PASSED ON THE FIFTH DAY OF FEBRUARY ONE THOU-
SAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND EIGHT.

VOLUME I.

By WILLIAM WALLER HENING.

"The *Laws* of a country are necessarily connected with every thing belonging to the people of it; so that a thorough knowledge of *them*, and of their progress, would inform us of every thing that was most useful to be known about them; and one of the greatest imperfections of historians in general, is owing to their ignorance of law." *Priestley's Lect. on Hist. Vol. I. pa. 149.*

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED FOR THE EDITOR, BY R. & W. & G. BARTOW.

—
1823.

“In 1634. The country divided into 8 shires, which
“are to be governed as the shires in England.

“The names of the shires are,

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>James City</i> | <i>Warwick River</i> |
| <i>Henrico</i> | <i>Warrosquyoake</i> |
| <i>Charles City</i> | <i>Charles River</i> |
| <i>Elizabeth City</i> | <i>Accawmack</i> |

“And Lieuten'ts. to be appointed the same as in
“England, and in a more especial manner to take care
“of the warr against Indians. And as in England *she-*
“*riffs* shall be elected to have the same power as there;
“and *sergeants*, and *bailiffs* where need requires.”

“Commissioners, instead of £5 causes, may deter-
“mine £10 causes and one of the council to have no-
“tice to attend and assist in each court of shire.”

ATT A

GRAND ASSEMBLY

6TH JANUARY, 1639—SR FRANCIS WYATT, GOV.

The MS from which the acts of this session were printed, is now in the library of Congress at Washington.

[From a MS.* belonging to Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States, which was purchased by him from the executor of Richard Bland, dec'd.]

ACT I.

Plan of en-
creasing the

TOBACCO by reason of excessive quantities made
being soe low that the planters could not subsist by

* This MS. volume is lettered “WRITINGS RELATING TO VIRGINIA,” and contains most of the old charters, instructions to the governors, &c. At the end of the volume is an abstract of public papers, taken from the rolls, the number and page of which are referred to; but without regard to chronological order. The acts of 1639, appear to be a mere *abridgement*; and, from the hand-writing and orthography, it seems to have been made long posterior to their date. This abstract concludes with a list of the governors of Virginia, down to the year 1722, at which time, or shortly afterwards, it was probably compiled. The hand-writing on comparison appears to be that of “R. HICKMAN,” by whom, as “CLERK OF THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE, several public papers are attested.

ACT XIV.

ANY person may export to New England or other neighboring colony the 7th head of neat cattle and no more under penalty double value.

A certain proportion of cattle may be exported.

ACT XV.

NO person to buy corn of the neighbouring colonies or Indians unless it be 16s. per barrel, and then must first obtain Governor's commission for it, and when corn is under 12s. by such commission, may export it.

At what prices corn may be bought & sold.

ACT XVI.

A DEED or mortgage made without delivery of possession to be adjudged fraudulent unless entered in some court.

Deeds and mortgages, when deemed fraudulent.

ACT XVII.

AN act in 1637, which makes it felony to barter with the Indians repealed, and enacted that for trading with them for arms and amunition shall be felony, and for other commodities imprisonment at discretion of the Governor and Council.

Trading with the Indians.

ACT XVIII.

PLACES to be paled in to bury the dead in.

Burying grounds.

ACT XIX.

NO sheriff to compell any man to go off the plantation where he lives to choose burgesses.

Burgesses, how chosen:

ACT XX.

CHURCH wardens to present to monthly courts, and the court is to inflict punishments if within their cognizance.

Duty of church wardens.