5 An act Concearning a Register of Births Marriages and Burialls

U. H. Journal 1659-69 p. 60

Be it Enacted by the Lord Proprietary by and with the consent of this present Gennerall Assembly, That the Names of all that shall be borne, Maried, or buried within this Province shall be exhibited to the Clearck of Every respective County Court who shall keepe a just Register thereof, who shalbe allowed ffiue pounds of Tobacco as a fee due vnto him for Every such Register made and kept. And every person infringing the said lawe for the space of Two monethes after such Birth Marriage or Buriall, Each Person soe infringing shall forfeit twenty Pounds of Tobacco to the said Clerke. This Act to continue for three yeares or to the End of the next Gennerall Assembly, and noe longer

The Vpper howse haue assented Philip Calvert

The Burgesses haue assented Thomas Turner Cler.

6 An act Concearning Servants that haue Bastards

Whereas divers women Servants wthin this Province not haveing Husbands living with them, have bene gotten with Child in the tyme of their Servitude to the Great dishonnor of God and the apparant damage to the Masters, or Owners of p. 61 such Servants, and no lawe yet provided where that damage shalbe recoverable. For remedy whereof Bee it Enacted by the Lord Proprietary, by and with the consent of this present Gennerall Assembly, That Every such Mother of a Bastard Child not able sufficiently to proue the party charged to be the begetter of such child, in every such case The mother of such Child shall onely be lyable to satisfie the damages soe sustained by Servitude, or other wayes as the Court before whom such matter is brought shall see convenient Provided that where the mother of any such child as aforesaid shalbe able to prove her charge either by sufficient testimony of wittnesses or confession Then the party charged, if a Servant to satisfie halfe the said damages, if a freeman then the whole damages by Servitude or otherwise as aforesaid. And if any such mother as aforesaid be able to prove by such testimony or confession as aforesaid that the party Charged (being a single person and a ffreeman) did before the begitting of such Child promise her Marriage, That then hee shall performe his promise to her, or recompense her abuse, as the Court before whom such matter is brought shall see Convenient, the quallity and condition of