

CHAPTER 144.

AN ACT regulating the powers of the County Courts in Criminal Proceedings.

WHEREAS, by an act of assembly passed at November session, seventeen hundred and ninety-three,* entitled, an act respecting the punishment of criminals, among other things it provided, that any person presented or indicted may submit to the court, provided that such submission shall always be deemed so far an admission of the crime or offence charged, as to render the person submitting liable to the costs of the prosecution: And whereas, it is considered, that great time and expense may be saved in authorizing the several county courts, and *court of oyer and terminer and gaol delivery for Baltimore county*,* to determine on the whole merits of the case which may be to the said courts respectively submitted; therefore,

* See 1816, ch. 193.

SEC. 2. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That from and after the passage of this act, it shall and may be lawful for any person presented or indicted to submit to the court, at his or her discretion, and the court to which such case shall be submitted, is hereby authorized and empowered to decide on the whole merits of the case, which submission shall not be considered an admission of the fact, either to find the person so submitting guilty of the offence charged, or to charge him or her with the costs of prosecution, if not guilty of the offence.

Court, on the submission of the person indicted, may decide on the whole merits.

CHAPTER 153.

AN ACT concerning the amendment of Judicial Proceedings.

See 1811, ch. 161.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the courts of law shall have power to order and allow amendments to be made in all proceedings whatever before verdict, so as to bring the merits of the question between the parties fairly to trial, and if amendment is made after the jury is sworn, a juror shall be withdrawn; and in all cases where amendments are made, the adverse party shall have time to prepare to support his case, but the case shall not be continued to the next term, unless the court shall be satisfied that the same is necessary, and such costs shall be allowed the party against whom such amendment may be made as the court shall think just.

Amendments may be made in all proceedings before verdict, &c.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That all writs of error wherein there shall be any variance from the original record, or other defect, may be amended, and made agreeable to such record; and that where any verdict shall be given in any action, suit or

All writs of error may be amended—after verdict,