

and sued in the same manner and form as directed by the afore-mentioned recited act for repairing the damages already sustained in the records of the land, secretary's, commissary's and county court offices, and for security of the same records for the future, and likewise that copies of such bonds, attested under the hand and seal of the office of either the clerk of the provincial or county courts, shall be good evidence in law to maintain any action of debt to be brought for any breach or breaches of the condition aforesaid, according to the direction of the said act, and that likewise the sureties be subject to the proviso in the said act.

By 1823, ch. 195, the bonds are to be recorded in the county court office of the county where the party executing the same shall live.

SEC. 4. Virtually repealed by 1823, ch. 195, which requires the bonds to be annually renewed, and the securities annually approved.

SEC. 5. *Provided also*, That where the public or county Proviso. shall sue the aforesaid bond, that neither shall be burthened with costs.

SEC. 6. See note to the 4th section.

SEC. 7. *Provided always, and be it likewise enacted and de-* Proviso.
clared, by and with the authority, advice and consent aforesaid, That when or as often as any of the bond or bonds to be given by virtue of this act shall be sued, and judgment on them or any of them rendered, that the penalties in such bond or bonds, or any part thereof, shall not be applied to any other use than the making good the damage which may be suffered by the public, counties, or private person or persons, according to the true intent and meaning of this and the former act in that case made and provided.

MAY, 1744.—CHAPTER 5.

AN ACT to prevent the cutting up Tobacco Plants, destroying of Tobacco and Tobacco Houses, and for ascertaining the punishment of criminals guilty of the said offences.

WHEREAS, tobacco is the staple of this province, and that Preamble. thereon depends the livelihood of many of the inhabitants, as well as the most considerable branch of trade, and that it is as requisite that the property of the people should be as well secured in the fields, or open houses, as in their dwelling houses; it is therefore prayed that it may be enacted,

SEC. 2. *And be it therefore enacted, by the right honourable* Penalty on persons cutting up tobacco, &c.
the Lord Proprietary, by and with the advice and consent of his lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the authority of the same, That any person or persons who shall, after the end of this present session of assembly, cut or destroy, or cause to be cut up or destroyed, any tobacco plants belonging to any other person or persons, or by