

CHAPTER 183.

Passed May 16, 1853: AN ACT to provide for the suppressing obscene and licentious publications.

Preamble. WHEREAS, The publication of obscene and licentious matter in the shape of advertisements in newspapers and other periodicals in this State has become frequent of late years, and is, in the judgment of the Legislature, exceedingly injurious to the morals of the community; *And whereas*, although in the judgment of the Legislature, such advertisements and publications are contra bonos mores, and punishable by the common law, it is desirable that the common law in this regard be re-enacted and enforced; Therefore,

Punishment to be inflicted for violation. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That whenever any newspaper or other periodical publication, printed, issued or published in this State, shall contain any obscene or licentious matter, whether the same be contained in any professional or other advertisement, or in any other article, whether original communicated or copied from any other publication, every proprietor and publisher shall be held to be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty dollars, nor more than two hundred dollars, and imprisoned for not less than ten days nor more than one year, in the discretion of the court in which the conviction shall be had, and each successive number of any newspaper or other periodical containing any such obscene or licentious matter, shall be deemed a new publication thereof, and shall subject every proprietor and publisher to indictment and punishment as for a distinct offence.

CHAPTER 184.

Passed May 11, 1853. AN ACT to enforce the collection of Taxes levied for the use of Dorchester county.

May enforce collection of taxes by distress or execution. SECTION 1. *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 the collector or collectors of the taxes levied or to be levied for the use of Dorchester county, to enforce the collection of the same by distress or execution.