

APPENDIX.

AT a session of assembly, begun and held at the town and port of Annapolis, on the twenty eighth day of June, in the eleventh year of the reign of our sovereign lord William the third, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, king, defender of the faith, &c. annoque domini 1699, and ended the twenty-second day of July following. His excellency NATHANIEL BLACKISTON, esquire, governor.

Amongst others the following law was enacted to wit:

[No. 18.] AN ACT ASCERTAINING THE BOUNDS OF LAND.

Whereas at the first taking up of lands in this province necessity constrained his lordship to commissionate such persons to be surveyors as was but very meanly skilful in the art of surveying; and for the windings, courses and turnings of the several rivers, rivolets, creeks and coves, many times, by these branches folding one in another, were unknown to the surveyors, nor, for fear of the indian enemy, then numerous and strong, darst they freely stay on shore to examine the windings and courses aforesaid, but marking some trees by the side of such rivers, creeks, &c. did without further trouble proscribe certain bounds and courses to the several tracts by them surveyed or intended to be surveyed, and the said bounds are generally expressed in such uncertain terms, and being many times contradictions and inconsistant in themselves, whereby it comes to pass that at this time is very uncertain and many chargeable and tedious suits in law happen about such bounds, which are most times (as it were) by the favour and inclinations of jurors, arbitrarily determined differing ways, in paralell cases. To prevent which, for the future, and that judgment may go more direct, and that neighbours may more certainly know their bounds and avoyd trespassing upon one another, and for the more generall ascertaining the meets and limitts of every particular man's land, then can be no better way then by a law, to put one certien interpretation upon such contradictory expressions ob-