

## C H A P. VI.

An ACT continuing an act, entitled, An act for the preservation of the breed of fish.

## C H A P. VII.

An ACT for imposing a further additional duty of five pounds current money per poll on all negroes imported into this province.

To continue seven years, &c. It expired with the session of March, 1779. It imposed an additional duty of £. 5 on every negro imported into the province, and entered with the naval officer; and a penalty of £. 20 for not paying the said duty. Provided, that any person coming from part of his majesty's dominions to settle in this province, might import his negroes duty free. Provided too, that if any importer should, upon entry, give notice to the naval officer that he intended to export them within four months, and actually did export any of them, the duty on such as were exported should be refunded.

## C H A P. VIII.

A Supplementary ACT to the act, entitled, An act for the building of a parish church, in Christ-Church parish, in Calvert county.

The sum directed by the act of 1769, ch. 21, to be assessed, being more than sufficient, the justices are directed to assess no more than the vestrymen and wardens shall, by the 5th day of November, certify to be sufficient.

## C H A P. IX.

An ACT to empower the justices of Somerset and Worcester counties, to levy on the taxable inhabitants of Stepney parish in said counties, the sum of sixty thousand pounds of tobacco, for the uses therein mentioned, and to establish the church at Green-hill the parish church for said parish.

The quantity of 60,000lb. of tobacco is to be assessed for the purpose of enabling the vestrymen and wardens to complete three chapels of ease, one at Spring-hill, another at the head of Wiccomico river, and the third at Broad-creek. And to remove certain doubts which had been entertained, whether the church at Green-hill be the parish church, it is hereby declared to be such, and all the proceedings of the vestry heretofore had at that church, are ratified and confirmed.

## C H A P. X.

An ACT to empower the justices of Worcester county, to levy on the taxable inhabitants of All-Hallow's parish, in said county, the quantity of thirty-two thousand pounds of tobacco, for the uses therein mentioned.

The use is to enable the vestrymen and wardens to contract for a chapel of ease to be erected at or near Johnson's mills; and the tobacco is to be levied at the two next assessments in the county.

## C H A P. XI.

An ACT for preventing trivial suits in the provincial court.

Preamble.

**W**HEREAS fundry suits have been prosecuted in the provincial court, wherein a proper remedy might have been obtained in the county courts, with less expence, vexation and inconvenience;

Any action brought for a sum under 20l. sterling, no costs shall be adjudged, &c.

II. *Be it therefore enacted, by the right honourable 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 if any action, after the end of this session of assembly, be brought in the provincial court, on any covenant, or any specialty for the performance of covenants, or for the performance or sufferance of any act or acts, thing or things whatsoever, and the sum recovered or assessed, and to which the party recovering shall be entitled, shall not exceed twenty pounds sterling, or twenty-six pounds thirteen shillings and four-pence current money, or five thousand pounds of tobacco, in every such case no costs shall be adjudged or awarded to the party, plaintiff or plaintiffs, any law, statute, usage or custom, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Nor for actions of assault and battery, &c.

III. *And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid,* That if any action of assault and battery, or trover and conversion, or for slanderous words, or any action upon the case, shall, after the end of this present session of assembly, be brought in the provincial court, and therein damages shall not be recovered, or assessed, above twenty pounds sterling, or twenty-six pounds thirteen shillings and four-pence current money, in every such case no costs shall be adjudged or awarded to the party, plaintiff or plaintiffs; and also, if any of the actions aforesaid, herein before mentioned, shall be first brought in any county court, and be thence removed to the