

C H A P. XXVII.

An ACT for the naturalization of Charles Frederick Wiesenthal. *PR.*

C H A P. XXVIII.

An ACT to levy on the taxable inhabitants of Baltimore county, the quantity of three hundred thousand pounds of tobacco, for finishing and completing the court-house and prison of the said county.

That quantity of tobacco is to be levied, by two equal assessments, in 1771 and 1772, and paid to Robert Alexander, William Smith, John Moale, and Andrew Buchanan, who are empowered to contract for the purpose. Should a surplus remain, it is to be paid to the justices for the use of the county.

C H A P. XXIX.

An ACT to empower Elizabeth Williams, administratrix of George Williams, with the will annexed, to make and execute the conveyances therein mentioned. *PR.*

C H A P. XXX.

An ACT to empower Jane Ridgely, executrix of Nicholas Greenberry Ridgely, late of Anne-Arundel county, deceased, to convey the land therein mentioned. *PR.*

C H A P. XXXI.

An additional supplementary ACT to the act, entitled, An act for the establishment of religious worship in this province according to the church of England, and for the maintenance of ministers.

This act was to continue seven years, &c. and before these had expired it ceased to have operation, by the dissolution of the old government and the formation of the new. Its provisions are singular and curious enough to merit a particular notice.

By this act every minister, within four months after an induction to a church living, is directed to take the oaths to government, the test, and an oath "that he has made no simoniacal contract for his benefice." If he neglect to take any of these oaths, or if he be found guilty of any such contract, he shall thereupon and thenceforth be adjudged disabled to hold any living whatever; and if he be inducted through means of a contract of that kind to which he was not privy, he shall thereupon and thenceforth be adjudged disabled to hold that particular living. But if a lease shall have been *bonâ fide*, and for a valuable consideration, made by him, whilst he held the living, to a person not being privy to, or having notice of the simony, such lease shall be good and valid.

Any incumbent absenting himself from his parish for the space of one entire month, or for two months at different times in any one year, shall forfeit £. 10 sterling to the use of the parish.

Upon a complaint in writing, by a majority of the vestrymen and wardens, exhibited to the governor and the council, setting forth, that the incumbent hath wilfully neglected to officiate, or hath been guilty of scandalous immorality, the governor, by the advice of his council, may appoint three beneficed ministers, and three laymen, in conjunction with himself, or with the first member of the council who shall be of the church of England, if the governor be not of that church, to inquire into the grounds of the complaint, by taking depositions in writing. And the sentence of this tribunal may be to admonish, to suspend, or totally to deprive; and, at discretion, they may further award the offender to pay costs. In case of a suspension, the governor is authorized to appoint a minister, to officiate in the party's stead, and to receive the income and profits.

But before this tribunal can be instituted, the grand jury of the assize court, or (if there shall be no assize court) the grand jury of the provincial court, are to examine the same complaint, together with such witnesses as shall be produced on each side, and to endorse on the complaint, that the party accused had a copy thereof delivered to him twenty days before the sitting of the court, or that he could not be found in the province, and that the complaint, or some part thereof, (which they are to specify) is true.

Each person appointed a member of this tribunal is to take the oaths to government, the test, and an oath of office. They are to appoint a time and place for sitting, and to proceed on the business upon appearance of the accused, or upon his wilful default after a note, under their hands, shall have been set up at the church door at least one month. And the members of this court, and their clerk, are to have the same allowances as the judges and the clerk of the court of appeals, to be paid to the vestry complaining.

C H A P. XXXII.

An ACT to enable the executors of Thomas Colvill to convey the land therein mentioned. *PR.*

C H A P. XXXIII.

An ACT for amending and declaring the law in the cases therein mentioned.

This act was made for seven years, and it expired at the stated time. At the session of October, 1778, another act was passed bearing the same name, and containing nearly the same provisions.

C H A P. XXXIV.

An ACT for the speedy and effectual publication of the laws of this province, and for the encouragement of Anne Catharine Green, of the city of Annapolis, printer.