

prejudice favour or affection with equal right to all persons, and shall not deminish or detayne from any Minister legally qualified & presented, Inducted or appoynted by his Excellency the Governor, any right perquisite or benefit given by law; And that the Clerke of each County Court in this Province doe permitt the Clerke of each vestry to take a coppie of all the laws of this Province anywaies relateing to the observance & practise of Religion without any fee gratuity or Reward whatsoever under the penalty of one thousand pounds of tobacco to every County Clerk whatsoever refusinge the same to the use of the Vestry so refused as afforesaid, to be by them disposed to pious uses, & to be recovered in case of non payment thereof by action of Debt, bill, plaint or Information in any Court of Reccord within this Province wherein no Essoin protection or wager of Law to be allowed.

Public
Record
Office,
London.
C. O. 5.
Vol. 731,
Maryland.
From
1694-1702.
Acts

An additional Act to the Act for the better administracōn of Justice in probate of Wills granting of administracōns recovering of Legacies & Secureing of filial portions.

Acts of May,
1695, ch. 4
(Continued
by 1695,
ch. 26)

Although the afforesaid law be a good & beneficiall law to the end & purposes in the title thereof express'd yet notwithstanding the good provisions thereby made through the diversities of opinions upon the said Act the usages of this Province hitherto & the common law of England many doubts & ambiguities often arise about the Rights of Orphans & Widdowes by reason of many persons wills who deviseing a certaine part or portion of their Estate to their Widdowes with intent the same should be in full satisfaction of their Right of Dower, & all other claimes of either reall or personal estate, but for want of the said words in the said Wills, such Widdowes not only according to common Law claim their Dower in their said husbands Land, but allso according to the use & custome of this Province one third part off their personall estate allso as woemen whose husbands dye intestate & clayme what is allso given them by will as a Legacie & benevolence of their husbands, which if allow'd would be to the utter Ruine of the said children, for the prevention whereoff for the future, Be it Enacted by the King & Queens most Excellent Maj^{stes} by and with the advice and consent of this present gennerall Assembly & by the Authority of the same, that it shall be at the Ellection of such Widdowes having devises as afforesaid to take & receive the same in full satisfaction of all claymes & Rights to both personal & reall estate & be thereby barr'd for ever from all claymes to the same, or to refuse such Legacies & devise as afforesaid, & take their third part of the personal & real estate, as widdowes whose husbands dye intestate in this Province. And whereas many Orphans have greatly suffered by the Second Marriage of such widdowes, who haveing their estates in their possession by will or right of administracōn either by the one or both of them the said Estates have been