

INTRODUCTION.

AT November session, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, the following resolutions were passed by the General Assembly of Maryland:

“RESOLVED, That William Kilty be and he is hereby appointed to revise the acts of assembly of this state, and to prepare an edition thereof, including all public acts now in force, in the order in which they passed, from the year sixteen hundred and ninety-two till the end of the present session, inclusive, inserting, in the same order, the titles of all private acts, and of such public acts as are repealed, have expired, or have ceased to have any operation, the time of such repeal, or expiring of each law, to be noted in the margin, as also the continuances of such acts as were originally passed for a limited time; to be accompanied with a full and complete index to the whole, compiled in the manner of Bacon's edition of the laws of Maryland, or in that of the Pennsylvania or Virginia laws, which have been sent to this state, or in such method compounded of those, or other precedents, as the said William Kilty shall deem best adapted to the purpose; that the said edition be completed within the ensuing year, so as to be laid before this general assembly at their next annual meeting; and that such compensation be allowed to the said William Kilty, as the work, and the manner in which it may be performed, shall appear to merit.”

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“RESOLVED, That the said William Kilty include in said collection the original charter to lord Baltimore, bill of rights, the constitution of this state, as originally adopted by the convention, together with the several alterations that have been made to the said constitution by acts of assembly, since that period.”

“RESOLVED, That Frederick Green, printer to the state, be directed to print, and procure to be bound, two hundred copies of the said edition of the laws, under the direction of the said William Kilty; and that the governor and council be empowered, by order on the treasury, to advance to the printer, out of any unappropriated money, such sum or sums as may be necessary for the purpose.”

“RESOLVED, That William Kilty, in addition to the laws which he is appointed to revise, do cause to be printed the declaration of independence, the articles of confederation, and the constitution of the general government, with the amendments which have been made thereto.”

“RESOLVED, That the clerk of the general court be and he is hereby directed to furnish the said William Kilty with copies of such acts (not already printed,) as he may require, and to compare and examine, under his direction, such acts as have not been heretofore examined and compared with the records in the office of the general court.”

In pursuance of the above resolutions, the present edition of the laws has been prepared, in which it has been the endeavour of the editor to comply with the directions of the legislature to the utmost of his ability.