

XIV. **And be it enacted,** That all property belonging to the commissioners or trustees of George-town, shall be and the same is hereby transferred and vested in the mayor, recorder, aldermen, and common-council of the said town, and their successors for ever, for the use and benefit of the said town.

C H A P.
XXIII.
Property vest-
ed in the
mayor, &c.

C H A P. XXIV.

An ACT for the relief of certain foreigners who have settled within this state, and for other purposes, supplemental to the act for naturalization.

Passed De-
cember 22.

WHEREAS the act for naturalization, passed at July session, in the year seventeen hundred and seventy-nine, declares, that every person who shall thereafter come into this state, from any nation, kingdom or state, and shall repeat and subscribe a declaration of his belief in the christian religion, and take, repeat and subscribe, the oath or affirmation in the same act prescribed, before the governor and the council, or before the general court, or any one of the judges thereof, or before any county court, shall thereupon and thereafter be deemed, adjudged, and taken to be a natural born subject of this state, and shall be thenceforth entitled to all the immunities, rights and privileges, of a natural born subject of this state, subject nevertheless to the restrictions provided by the said act: And whereas, since the passage of the said act, divers foreigners have come into this state, and have settled and become inhabitants thereof, and have been induced, from the various advantages afforded by our government, climate, soil and commerce, to employ their money in the purchase of property, both real and personal, and to improve the same, thereby acquiring a just and equitable title to such property, but through ignorance of the provisions contained in the before-mentioned act, or apprehending that taking and subscribing the oath of allegiance in the usual manner would entitle them to the advantages of property, the said foreigners have not taken and subscribed the oath prescribed by the act for naturalization under the particular circumstances required by the same, whereby their titles to such real property as they have acquired since their settlement in this state, may be drawn in question, to their great prejudice and injury: And whereas the said foreigners have always manifested a firm attachment to our government and laws, and it is conceived, that by securing their interest in our soil, their affections to this country will be more fully confirmed, and that justice and policy require that the hardships and inconveniences under which they respectively labour, should be remedied; therefore,

Preamble.

II. **Be it enacted,** *by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That all and every the said foreigners, who, since their settlement in this state, have purchased and acquired, by any lawful and fair means, any portion of property, real, personal or mixed, and have since possessed and enjoyed the same, and have still a just and equitable title thereto, whether such title be derived from grant, gift, purchase or devise, shall, by virtue of this act, hold, possess, and enjoy such property, real, personal and mixed, as fully and amply, and to all intents and purposes, as rightfully as the said foreigners would have been entitled to hold, possess, and enjoy the same, if they had respectively naturalized themselves according to the express provisions contained in the said act for naturalization.

Foreigners to
hold certain
property, &c.

III. **And be it further enacted,** That in case any real property, purchased or acquired by foreigners since the passage of the aforesaid act, hath been escheated, it is hereby declared, that all the right and title of this state to the said property so escheated, and to any property so escheatable, shall be and the same are hereby relinquished, and vested for ever hereafter in the said foreigners, their heirs and assigns, saving nevertheless to all persons whatsoever, who may have heretofore acquired titles to any such escheatable property under the laws of this state, their several and respective rights; and all and every person and persons who may have purchased, or otherwise acquired, any real property from or under the said foreigners, or any of them, shall be and they are hereby declared to be entitled to all and every advantage with respect to such property, as if the same had been

Right of state
to escheated
property re-
linquished,
&c.