

An ACT for the settlement of public accounts, and to appoint persons to collect the debts due to persons convicted of treason, and for a specific performance of certain contracts made by British subjects previous to the revolution.

WHEREAS a number of citizens have claims against British merchants trading to this state before the revolution, and since peace those merchants have appointed factors or agents to collect the debts due to them from the citizens of this state, and those factors or agents never having notified by public advertisement, or otherwise, their power to adjust the debts of said merchants, those citizens who have claims against them are unable to obtain a settlement of their accounts, and it being necessary to secure, as far as possible, to our citizens their just debts,

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That all such factors or agents, or their principals, now within this state, unless bond with security be given as herein after directed, shall, on or before the first day of August next, lodge with the auditor a list of all balances due to such merchants upon oath, and any such factor, agent or merchant, who shall hereafter come into this state shall, within four months from the time of coming into this state, lodge with the auditor a list upon oath of balances due to such merchants, and if they should neglect to deliver such list as aforesaid, then it may be lawful for the debtors of such merchants to plead the non-compliance with this act, and the several courts of justice within this state are hereby directed not to proceed, after the first day of August next, to give judgment against any citizen of this state on any action brought by any of the said merchants, or their agents as aforesaid, unless they produce a certificate from the auditor certifying that this act has been complied with.

And be it enacted, That every factor or agent appointed to collect debts due before the seventeenth day of October, seventeen hundred and eighty, by citizens of this state to subjects of Great Britain, and every such British creditor, if he shall collect, shall give bond to the state with such security and in such penalty as the chancellor shall approve, with condition, that he will satisfy and pay all just debts due from such creditor to any citizen of this state, so far as debts shall be collected by him; and no debtor of any such British creditor shall be obliged to pay his debt before bond be given as hereby required, and if bond and security shall be given as aforesaid, then the British merchant, agent or factor, shall not be obliged to return the list as is herein before directed.

And, Whereas numbers of accounts and claims against persons whose property has been confiscated by this state, have been laid before the auditor to be approved and passed for payment thereof, and many of them have been and still may be rejected for want of the necessary evidence to satisfy the auditor of the justice of the claim, Be it enacted, That in all cases where the auditor has rejected or shall reject any account or claim as aforesaid for want of the necessary proof, or from an opinion that the claim is unjust, the claimant may lay his papers before the chancellor, who is hereby authorized to make up an issue on the case and send it for trial to the county court where such person resides, or the general court, as the case may require, and any judgment obtained on trial as aforesaid shall be sufficient to authorize the treasurer to receive the claim for payment agreeably to law.

And be it enacted, That in all cases where it shall appear to the auditor by the lists returned as before directed, that there are debts in the hands of the citizens of this state due to persons whose property has been confiscated as British property, the creditors of such persons shall resort for satisfaction out of such debts, and the property confiscated shall be only responsible where such debts are insufficient to pay and satisfy the claims of such creditors.

And be it enacted, That the power and authority heretofore vested in the governor and council to approve or reject accounts passed by the auditor be, and is hereby abrogated, and the auditor is hereby required to take into his possession all the accounts and claims which now lie before the governor and council, and to reconsider, adjust, and pass or reject the same, as justice shall require.

And, whereas there may be debts due to persons convicted of treason, and there is no mode pointed out by law for collecting the same, Be it enacted, That the county courts be, and they are hereby directed to appoint a proper person in their county to take into their possession the books, accounts, or other papers belonging to such persons convicted as aforesaid, and that the said person so appointed shall be, and is hereby authorized to collect, and if need be to sue for and recover in the name of this state, all such debts, dues and demands, as he shall discover to be due in his county to such convicted person, and to pay the same, after deducting his commission for his trouble and expence, into the treasury of his shore, and that the monies so paid in shall be considered as part of the estate of the person to whom due, and applied towards discharging the claims against such estate; and the person so as aforesaid appointed by the county court for the purpose aforesaid shall, before he acts in virtue of such appointment, give bond to the state in such penalty and with such security as the said court shall approve, for the faithful execution of the trust reposed in him by this act, the said bond to be lodged with the clerk of said court, to be by him recorded; and the original to be transmitted with all convenient speed to the register in chancery, to be by him safely kept in his office, and such county court may allow the person by them appointed such commission for

his trouble as they may adjudge reasonable according to circumstances, not exceeding in any case fifteen per cent.

And, whereas there may have been contracts and sales made of lands by persons who were British subjects at the time of the revolution with citizens of this or some one of the United States, and there is no mode of procuring a conveyance of such property, or compelling a specific performance of such contracts, Be it enacted, That in all cases where there has been a contract and sale of any real property by a British subject previous to the revolution, and such contract has not been completed, in all such cases it shall and may be lawful for the chancellor, and he is hereby authorized and directed, upon bill being filed by the party, and upon full inquiry made into all the circumstances of the case, to decree a conveyance of the property and payment of the money agreeably to the rules of the court of chancery, and upon such decree being signed, and the money paid, it shall and may be lawful for the chancellor to execute a conveyance in fee-simple for the same, but no decree shall pass for a conveyance before sixty days notice by the party in the Baltimore or Annapolis news-paper of filing such bill, and a summons issues for the attorney-general to appear and shew cause, if any, why such decree should not pass.

Auditor's office, January 25, 1787.

ABSTRACT of an ACT to extend the time for bringing in and settling claims against the state, passed the 20th January, 1787.

Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That all claims against this state, on account of property confiscated, depreciation and pay of the army, or otherwise, by any citizen thereof, or any citizen of the United States, or their executors or administrators, which have arisen before the time limited by law for bringing them in, may be brought in, passed and settled by the auditor-general, on or before the first day of September, seventeen hundred and eighty-seven, and when passed and settled as aforesaid, shall be paid by this state as by law directed, any thing in former acts to the contrary notwithstanding; provided the claimants, or their executors or administrators, make appear, by their oaths or affirmation, or otherwise to the satisfaction of the auditor-general, that for want of sufficient notice, or from some unavoidable impediment, they could not bring in their claims as aforesaid within the time heretofore limited by law.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That no claim against this state, on account of the property of the debtor being confiscated, shall be passed, unless satisfactory proof is given; that there are not debts due in the county to the persons whose property has been confiscated, to satisfy the claim exhibited against the state, and that due industry has been used by the claimant to discover debts subject to attachments, and the proper means taken by him to secure his claim out of such debts.

The general assembly having extended the time for bringing in claims against the public, the auditor-general gives notice, that the persons who apply for pay or depreciation of pay must, before they can receive it, produce their discharges, or if they have lost or mislaid them, good and sufficient vouchers of their being the identical persons who served in the army by the names they respectively call themselves, and those who administer as legal representatives of soldiers who actually died in the service of the United States, must produce authentic vouchers that they are relations and true heirs of the deceased. And further, that no person who is not entitled to receive pay or depreciation of pay, either in person or as a representative of a soldier deceased, will receive any answer as to what may be due to either of them. And no person, or the representative of a person who was not in service on the 10th day of April, 1780, and afterwards regularly discharged, or mustered dead after that time, or who had not served two full years before that time, from and after the first day of January, 1777, and was not regularly discharged or mustered dead, need apply for the pay or depreciation of pay aforesaid.

C. RICHMOND, auditor-general.

Prince-George's county, March 17, 1827.

## The Imported Horse ECLIPSE,

STANDS this season at Collington Meadows, and covers at four guineas a mare, and seven shillings and six-pence to the groom. Those gentlemen, who favoured me with their mares heretofore, shall have them, or the same number, covered on their own account, at three guineas a mare. ECLIPSE is in high health and order, and his pedigree is equal to any horse in America.

## UNION,

STANDS at the same place, and will cover at two guineas a mare, and five shillings to the groom. UNION is now in high health and order. Either of these horses are for sale. I have also several high bred colts and fillies for sale.

RICHARD BENNETT HALL.

Pasturage for mares at two shillings and six-pence per week, but will not be answerable for accidents or escapes.

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R. B. H.