wholly or in great part satisfied by an honest and timely application of such property, and some of those debtors have laid in prison under commitment for want of bail, or in execution, till they have spent and wasted their property, with the expectation of being afterwards relieved from imprisonment by the general or a special insolvent act. To prevent as far as may be the like injustice to creditors, *Be it enacted*, That if any creditor or creditors, for any sum or sums to the amount in the whole of upwards of two hundred pounds current money, shall apply to the chancellor in writing, stating his or their claim, and that such debtor refused, neglected or declined, to give such creditor or creditors sufficient security for the payment of such debts, verifying such application and the debt actually due, by affidavit thereto annexed, and verifying also by the affidavit of one or more credible witnesses, not being creditors, annexed to the said application, that such witness or witnesses is or are well acquainted in general with the circumstances and affairs of the debtor, and with his conduct and management, and that he or they believe that such debtor is wasting, mispending or misconducting, his property, and thereby impairing and lessening the security of his creditors for their debts, whereby the said creditors, or some of them, may probably lose their debts, or part thereof, the chancellor may thereupon direct such debtor to appear before him, and to answer on oath or affirmation, as to the justice of the debt or claim against him, and in case of his appearance (or if after notice he shall not appear) the chancellor may inquire into the truth of the premises, by the examination of witnesses, not being creditors, or he may, in his discretion, direct an issue in a summary way, to be tried in the general court, or the county court where such debtor resides, to determine the justice of the creditor's claim, and of the allegation of the debtor's conduct as aforesaid, and if satisfied of the justice of the debt or claim, and of the misconduct of the debtor as aforesaid, he may direct such debtor to give, within such time as he shall appoint, real or personal security, as he may think proper, to such creditor or creditors, at such time as he may think reasonable, and if refused, delayed, or neglected by such debtor, the chancellor may declare such debtor to be insolvent; and if any defendant indebted to the amount in the whole of more than two hundred pounds current money, shall be committed, and remain committed for the full space of thirty days, either for want of special bail or in execution, and shall for that time actually remain in gaol, the creditor at whose suit he was so committed having laid before the chancellor an authenticated copy or certificate of such commitment, with an affidavit of the sheriff, gaolor or other credible person, that the defendant hath laid in gaol as aforesaid, under commitment, and still continues a prisoner by virtue thereof, the chancellor may declare such prisoner insolvent, and on the chancellor's declaring any prisoner or other debtor as aforesaid, insolvent, he may thereupon order him to deliver up all his property and debts, on oath or affirmation, and to convey and transfer the same to a trustee or trustees, for the benefit of all his creditors, and may compel obedience to his orders, and similar proceedings shall be had in every respect as herein before provided on the application of the debtor; and any prisoner or other debtor declared insolvent as aforesaid, complying with the chancellor's orders as aforesaid, shall in all things be considered and discharged, and have the benefit of this act, and be subject to all the consequences of fraud, deceit or false swearing, as if he had applied for relief under this act; but if any prisoner or other debtor declared insolvent as aforesaid, will not comply with the chancellor's orders as aforesaid, the chancellor may pass his order, that all the property that such debtor hath or may claim any title to, or interest in, and all debts, rights and claims, which he is in any respect entitled to in possession, remainder or reversion, be, and are thereby assigned to such person or persons as he by such order shall appoint trustee or trustees, and such order shall be in itself an assignment, as effectual for the purpose of conveying and transfering such debtor's estate, property, debts, rights and claims, legal and equitable, as any assignment actually executed by him under the chancellor's order; and the chancellor, on such debtor submitting afterwards to examination on oath, and thereon making full and satisfactory discovery of his estate, property, debts, rights and claims, may, in his discretion, discharge him, as if he had at first complied according to this act.

And be it enacted, That any debtor of any sum of or under two hundred pounds current money, may apply to the county court of the county where he may live, or where he may be imprisoned, and such court shall have the same power and jurisdiction, and may proceed in every respect in the same manner on the application of such debtor, as the chancellor is herein before authorised to act and determine in the case of persons indebted above two hundred pounds current money; and such county courts are hereby directed to conform themselves to the directions of this act, and to adopt rules and orders substantially similar to those the chancellor may make in cases by him decided, except as to notice to creditors, which shall be given, in case the debtor is in custody, by advertisement set up at the court-house and prison doors, ten days previous to the meeting of the court in course, or by adjournment; and in case the debtor shall not be in custody, then shall notice of such application be given as aforesaid, and also published in the Annapolis and Baltimore news-papers, six weeks previous to such meeting of the court, and if such debtor, not in custody, resides on the eastern shore, he shall also cause such notice as aforesaid to be given in the public paper printed in Chestertown, if any.

And be it enacted, That if the state shall be the creditor of any such debtor, the chancellor or the county court to whom such debtor shall apply, is hereby required to direct notice of the application of such debtor to be given to the attorney-general, and to the treasurer of the western shore; and the treasurer shall thereupon transmit the claim of the state against such debtor to the chancellor, or such county court, and also to the attorney-general, who will take care of the interest of the state, and that the right of the state and preference in payment, in such cases where a preference is given by law, be obtained, and that such sum as the state may be entitled to be paid to the treasurer of the western shore.

And be it enacted, That all applications to the chancellor under this act, and all proceedings thereupon, shall be entered by the register of the chancery court in a book to be kept for that purpose only, and he shall be entitled to the same reward for his trouble, as he is or shall be allowed by law for entering any other matter on record.

And, whereas partners may have separate but not joint property sufficient to satisfy the partnership debts, and in other cases partners may have joint but not separate property to discharge their separate debts, *Be it enacted*, That partnership property shall be applied in the first place to satisfy partnership debts, and the surplus (if any) shall be applied to the payment of the separate debts, and separate property shall be first applied to the payment of separate creditors, and the surplus (if any) shall be applied to the satisfaction of joint creditors; and, if any one partner shall apply, he shall make a distinct schedule of his partnership and separate property, claims and demands.

And, as far as possible to prevent fraud, covin, collusion, deceit, or injury to creditors, *Be it enacted*, That every gift, sale, assignment or transfer, and every judgment, writing, deed or conveyance, absolute or conditional, of any property, debts, rights or claims, by any debtor to defraud or deceive creditors, or in trust for such debtor, or any other person (except only for all his creditors) or to lessen or diminish his property, or the value thereof, shall be void in law and equity; and such debtor, purchaser, trustee, or person to whom such gift, assignment or transfer, may be made, or judgment given, shall answer to interrogatories, on oath or affirmation, on trial, as to the consideration actually paid, or whether in trust, and every such gift, sale, assignment or transfer, and every such judgment, writing, deed, assignment or conveyance, shall be valid in law and equity against such debtor, although not against his creditors.

And be it enacted, That every gift, voluntary conveyance or bill of sale, made to wife, child, or any other person after debt, contracted, and every absolute conveyance, if the party making the same shall continue in possession, shall be void in law and equity against creditors, and no consideration shall be good against creditors except money or property, or natural love and affection (the deed being executed before debt contracted); and every conveyance or bill of sale since the twenty-fifth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven, by a debtor, shall be presumed *prima facie* fraudulent by him as to his creditors.

And be it enacted, That every trustee heretofore appointed under the act of April session, seventeen hundred and eighty-seven, or hereafter to be appointed in virtue of this act, shall, under the direction of the chancellor and county courts respectively, return into the court by which he was or shall be appointed, under his hand, a just and accurate account of the sale or sales, if any, of the property of the debtor, to whom made, at what price, and, on what terms the same was made, and also under the direction of the chancellor and county courts respectively render to the said courts a full and particular account of his receipts and disbursements.

And be it enacted, That this act shall commence on the twenty-fifth day of May, seventeen hundred and eighty-eight, and continue in force until the end of the next session of assembly, and that on the commencement of this act, the act, entitled, "An act respecting insolvent debtors," passed at April session, seventeen hundred and eighty-seven, shall be repealed, and all proceedings commenced under the said act shall be finished agreeably to the directions and provisions in this act.

The bill respecting insolvent debtors was read the second time, and the question put, That the said bill do pass? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Chase, appeared as follow:

AFFIRMATIVE. Messieurs. Read, Parnham, F. Bowie, Quynn, Brown, J. S. Purnell, W. Purnell, Scott, Wheeler, Chase, M'Mechen, Taylor, 12.

NEGATIVE. Messieurs Abell, Forrest, R. Miller, Nichols, N. Worthington, B. Worthington, Carroll, Taney, Fitzhugh, M'Pherson, Chapman, Gough, Cockey, Ridgely, Roberts, Sherwood, Tilghman, Stewart, Polk, Shaw, Lecompte, Bravard, Bond, Matthews, S. Miller, Craufurd, Digges, Duvall, Seney, Henry, Faw, Potts, Loockerman, Walker, Hughlett, Bruce, Burgess, Oneale, Holmes. 39.

So it was determined in the negative.

LONDON, *March 27.*

BY the last accounts from Dantzig it appears, that great discontents prevail in that city; the decline of trade, and the difficulty of finding the usual channel of subsistence to which numbers are reduced, have thrown the inhabitants into a general fermentation. One faction is inclined to give up the city totally to that power, which, from the present situation of affairs, is mistress of its fate; the other, and that most respectable in point of power and riches, wishes to remain under the sovereignty of Poland. The views of the former are supported by the actual situation of Russia, which appears to be at present too much engaged with the Turks to support the independence of Dantzig.

By the last mail from France intelligence was received, the authenticity, as well as the probability of which, however, is doubted—that the French court has received an overland express from India with the important advice, that in the beginning of December last, on the arrival of the accounts sent from England of the likelihood of a rupture with France, the governor of Madras took sudden possession of Pondicherry.

In order to encourage his officers to do their duty in the present war against the Turks, and to reconcile them to the distress to which their wives and families must be exposed from the common fate of soldiers, the emperor has issued a proclamation, by the council of war attending the army, intimating that the widows and children of officers killed in the service, or dying of their wounds, shall receive pensions proportioned to the rank of their fathers (for the children), and of their husbands (for the widows) and this to hold good, notwithstanding any renunciation previously made upon their marriage with respect to receiving pensions on the death of their husbands, or any other security whatsoever given by them.

Letters from Holland by yesterday's mail advise, that great disturbances and excesses still continue to prevail in that province relative to the amnesty; and that their noble great mightinesses had been obliged to publish a fresh placart, expressive of their just indignation, at the ingratitude of the inhabitants of the cities and flat countries.

Extract of a letter from Brussels, March 2.

"The Brabantines have at length submitted.—The chancellor had been among the foremost, to agree to the commands of the sovereign. The conditions are, however, neither disgraceful nor unfavourable to the people. All the recruits as they are raised in the Low Provinces are brought here, trained and disciplined; so that the city begins to look very warlike. All the levies will not, however, be sent into Germany; some of them will be incorporated among the corps now stationed in Flanders."

BALTIMORE, *May 23.*

Extract from the literary correspondence of the KING *of* PRUSSIA, *with* M. D'ALEMBERT, *secretary to the royal academy of sciences at Paris—From the French.*

"The lovers of the fine arts and sciences," says this august prince, "are less numerous than in former ages. If these arts be ever lost, as I foresee will one day be the case, to what can we attribute this, but to the little estimation in which they are now held?—For my part, I shall be fond of them to my latest moments. With the muses only, I find those consolations that enable me to support the burthen of life; and I assure you that, had I been master of my own destiny, I would have attached myself to these with greater ardour than to the splendour of sovereignty, the command of armies, or to the frivolous dissipations of the age."

We are informed that the variation of the magnetic needle, by late observations at Paris, is 21 degrees west.

ANNAPOLIS, *May 29.*

On Tuesday last, the general assembly of this state adjourned, the house of delegates to the first Monday in October, and the senate to the first Monday in November next, after having passed the following laws, viz.

1. An act for the relief of Elizabeth Wathen, of Saint Mary's county.
2. An act for the benefit of Henrietta Adams, of Charles county.
3. An act to revive and make valid the proceedings of the vestry of Saint Luke's Parish, in Queen-Anne's county.
4. An act to record a deed from John Hall to Henry Stauffer, and one other deed from Henry Stauffer to James Campbell, of Baltimore county.
5. An act to revive and make valid the proceedings of Worcester parish, in Worcester county.
6. An act to vest the free-school property, in Dorchester county, in the trustees of the poor of said county.
7. An act for the benefit of John Frederick Amelung.
8. An act for the relief of David Jones and Elizabeth his wife.
9. An act to repeal part of an act, entitled, An act for removing original papers in the late prerogative office to the several counties in this state.
10. An act to repeal an act, entitled, An act respecting insolvent debtors, and to revive another act, entitled, An act for the relief of insolvent debtors.
11. An act for the more effectual punishment of criminals.