

C H A P.  
III.

up and part with to their several and respective Creditors, if they would accept of the same, and grant the said Petitioners their Liberty, which seems so unlikely for them to obtain, that (unless reliev'd by a particular Act to be pass'd in their Favour, which by their said Petitions they have humbly pray'd) they must inevitably continue Prisoners for Life; and as the Allegations of the said Petitioners appear to this General Assembly to be true, and that their lying in Goal can be of no Advantage to their Creditors, it is humbly pray'd that the said Petitioners may be relieved according to their Prayer, and that it may be Enacted;

Prisoners to  
be discharged  
on delivering  
up their Ef-  
fects, on  
Oath.

II. And be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That in case the said Prisoners shall deliver up and surrender, or cause to be delivered up and surrendered to the Sheriffs of the respective Counties aforesaid, in the Presence of Two Justices of the Peace of the Counties aforesaid, whom the said Sheriffs are hereby required to summon, at the Request of the said Prisoners, at some convenient Time after the Receipt of this Act, not exceeding Five Days, all their Real and Personal Estate, either in Possession, Reversion, Remainder, or in Trust, or in or unto which they have any Claim or Interest whatsoever, and likewise before the Day before-mentioned, convey, assign, transfer, and make over unto the Sheriffs, respectively, for the Use of the said Creditors, all such their Estate, Interest, or Claim as aforesaid, after such Manner, as by the said Sheriffs, and by the major Part of such Creditors, or such of them as shall think fit to direct therein, or their Council Learned in the Law, shall reasonably devise or require, at the Costs and Charges of the Persons who shall claim Benefit thereof, so that the said Prisoners be not burthened with any Warrantees thereby, other than against themselves, or those claiming by, from, or under them, and that the said Prisoners, at the Time of such their Surrender, and transferring their Estate as aforesaid, shall take their solemn Oaths (or Affirmation if Quakers) before the said Two Justices aforesaid, to the Effect following, viz. " I A. B. do Affirm, or solemnly Swear, That the Goods, Debts and Effects, which I have delivered, assigned, and made over to the Sheriff of ——— County, and in Trust for the Use of my Creditors, is the whole Estate both Real and Personal of my own in Possession, or that I have any Title to in the World, and that I have not any Estate, Goods, or Effects of any Kind whatsoever, left either in Possession, Reversion, or Remainder, (the necessary Wearing Apparel of myself, Wife, and Children, and Working Tools, excepted;) and that I have not, directly, or indirectly, sold, leased, or otherwise conveyed, disposed of, or intrusted, all, or any Part of my Estate, thereby to defraud my Creditors, or to secure the same, to receive or expect any Profit or Advantage thereof. So help me GOD:" It shall and may be lawful for the Sheriffs of the Counties aforesaid, after the End of the said Five Days, and they are hereby required to discharge the said Prisoners, and suffer them to go at large.

The Oath.

To be discharged from  
future Arrests  
on Appearance, &c.

III. And be it further Enacted, That if the said Prisoners, or any of them, shall be arrested or imprisoned on any Process sued out on any Judgment or Decree obtained against any of them, for any Debt, Damages or Costs, contracted, owing or growing due before the End of this Session of Assembly, the Court out of which such Process issued, shall and may discharge such Prisoner, on Motion. And if the said Prisoners, or any of them, shall be arrested or imprisoned on any Process, for the Recovery of any Debt, Damages, or Costs, contracted, owing or growing due before the End of this Session of Assembly, the Court or Justice before whom such Process shall be returned, shall and may discharge the Party arrested, out of Custody, on his or her common Appearance being entered, without any special Bail. Provided, That the Discharge of the said Prisoners, or any of them, shall not acquit any other