

C H A P. XX.

An ACT for the Relief of *Thomas Weems*.

WHEREAS *Thomas Weems* of *Anne-Arundel* County, by his humble Petition to this General Assembly, hath set forth; That he is indebted in very considerable Sums of Money, much more than he is able to pay; that he is now in the Custody of the Sheriff of *Anne-Arundel* County, and can never hope to pay his Debts or procure a Maintenance, without obtaining his Liberty: And prayed this General Assembly to pass a Bill for his Relief, that, on delivering up all his Estate to his Creditors, his Person may be free from any Arrest for any Debts now due; Which this General Assembly hath been pleased to grant.

Preamble.

II. Be it therefore 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 *Thomas Weems* shall deliver up and surrender, or cause to be delivered up and surrendered, to the Sheriff of *Anne-Arundel* County aforesaid, in the Presence of Two Justices of the Peace of the County aforesaid, whom the said Sheriff is hereby required to summon, at the Request of the said *Thomas Weems*, at some convenient Time after the End of this Session of Assembly, all his real and personal Estate, either in Possession, Reversion, Remainder, or in Trust, or in or unto which he hath any Claim or Interest whatsoever; and likewise convey, assign, transfer and make over, unto the said Sheriff, for the Use of his Creditors, all such his Estate, Interest or Claim as aforesaid, after such Manner as by the said Sheriff, and by the major Part of his Creditors, or such of them as shall think fit to direct therein, or their Counsel learned in the Law shall reasonably devise or require, at the Cost and Charge of the Persons who shall claim Benefit thereof, so that the said *Thomas Weems* be not burdened with any Warrantee thereby, other than against himself, or those claiming by, from or under him; and that the said *Thomas Weems*, at the Time of such his Surrender and transferring his Estate as aforesaid; shall take the following Oath before the said Two Justices, *viz.* "I *Thomas Weems* do solemnly swear, That
 " the Goods, Debts and Effects, which I have delivered, assigned and
 " made over to the Sheriff of *Anne-Arundel* County, 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 Apparel of
 " myself 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 Sheriff of the County aforesaid, to discharge the said *Thomas Weems*, and suffer him to go at large.

Thomas Weems to deliver up and surrender, on Oath, before Two Justices of the Peace, all his real and personal Estate, to the Sheriff of *Anne-Arundel* County.

The Oath.

III. And be it further Enacted, That if the said *Thomas Weems* shall be arrested or imprisoned, or any Process sued out, on any Judgment or Decree obtained against him, 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 the said *Thomas Weems* on Motion. And if the said *Thomas Weems* shall be arrested or imprisoned on any Process, for the Recovery of any Debt, Damages, or Costs, contracted or growing due before the End of this Session of Assembly, the Court or Justice before whom such Process shall be returned, shall

To be discharged, if arrested or imprisoned, on any Process, &c. for any Debt contracted before the End of this Session, on Motion, &c.