

An ACT to prevent forestalling and engrossing, and for other purposes therein mentioned.

Preamble.

WHEREAS all endeavours to enhance the common price of merchandize, or the necessaries of life, and all practices for that purpose, ought to be restrained as far as possible, and the wicked arts and avarice of forestallers and engrossers in this state having hitherto eluded the salutary laws made to punish such grievous and oppressive practices :

Persons buy-
ing goods, &c.
coming to
market, &c.
adjudged
guilty of fore-
stalling, &c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That if any person shall buy, or cause to be bought, any goods, wares, or merchandize, coming to any market or fair within this state, to be sold in such market or fair, or coming to any city, town, port, harbour, haven, or creek, within this state, to be sold, or shall make any bargain, contract, or promise, for the having or buying of any goods, wares, or merchandize, or any part thereof, so coming as aforesaid, before the same shall be in the market, fair, city, town, port, harbour, haven, or creek, ready there to be sold, or shall induce any person coming to this state, or to any market or fair therein, to abstain or forbear to bring any goods, wares, or merchandize, to this state, or any part thereof, shall be adjudged a forestaller, and on conviction thereof in the general or any county court, shall be fined by the court not exceeding five hundred pounds, or imprisoned not exceeding one year, or both, in the discretion of the court. Provided that the buying any goods, wares, or merchandize, coming to market, by any person, for the use and consumption of himself or family for a year, shall not be deemed forestalling.

Persons not to
buy to sell a-
gain, except
from the ori-
ginal impor-
ter, &c.

III. *And be it enacted,* That if any person within this state shall buy to sell again within this state, or in any of the adjoining states, any butter, beef, pork, cotton, wool, flax, woollens, hemp, tallow, raw hides, tanned leather, shoes, or salt, of the produce or growth of, or raised or manufactured in, this state, or if any person within this state shall obtain or get into his hands, by buying, contracting, or promise taking (other than by demise, grant, or lease of land, or in payment for debt) any goods, wares, or merchandize, within this state, except from the original importer or manufacturer, with intent to sell the same again within this state, or in any of the adjoining states, such person shall be adjudged an engrosser, and, on conviction thereof in the general or any county court, shall forfeit any of the articles aforesaid, so bought or got into his possession, one half to the state and the other half to the informer, and may be fined not exceeding five hundred pounds, or imprisoned not exceeding one year, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Proviso.

IV. *Provided always, and it is hereby declared,* That the buying of any goods, wares, or merchandize, by any agent of this or the United States, for the public use, or the purchasing materials for the carrying on manufactories, and so converted in the house of the purchaser, or the buying of provisions by any licenced ordinary-keeper,
for