

it, and the same thereby became vested in the state: And whereas in the declaration of independence by congress it was declared, that thereafter the subjects of Great-Britain should be considered by the United States enemies in war, in peace friends: And whereas it is not in the power of this state to raise the money required by congress to carry on the present just and necessary war, without compelling many of its subjects to sell their property to raise the taxes, and justice, policy, and necessity, dictate the propriety of first selling and applying the property of our enemies towards defraying the expences of the war: Wherefore,

*Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That all property within this state, which heretofore belonged to any British subject, (debts only excepted) shall be seized and is hereby confiscated to the use of this state.

*And,* To ascertain what persons shall be deemed and adjudged British subjects within the meaning and intention of this act,

*Be it enacted,* That every subject of Great-Britain, who came not into and resided within this or some one of the United States, before the fourth day of July, in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, and was not on the said day an inhabitant and resident of this or some of the United States, unless he hath since that day become a subject of this or some one of the United States, by taking an oath of allegiance to this or some one of the United States, or since that day been employed in the service of the United States or any of them, or withdrew himself from the British dominions, and manifested his attachment to the present revolution, and shall be certified to be the friend of America by any minister of the United States in Europe, shall be and he is hereby declared and adjudged to be a British subject.

*And be it enacted,* That every subject of Great-Britain, who became a subject of this or any one of the United States, as aforesaid, or was employed as aforesaid, or withdrew himself as aforesaid, if he hath at any time heretofore since the said fourth day of July, in the year seventeen hundred and seventy-six aforesaid, freely joined the British army or navy, or accepted protection from any commissioner or officer of Great-Britain, or since that day freely joined, and by some overt act adhered to, the subjects of Great-Britain, or since that