

the general assembly) and all debts for confiscated property sold, were formed into a consolidated or aggregate fund for payment of the interest and principal of the public debt. I do not mean to notice any further the financial provisions of this act, but only to state what concerns the subject of manors and reserves. By the 9th section it was directed that all confiscated British property remaining undisposed of should be immediately sold by the intendant of the revenue, except New Connaught manor in Cecil county, and such parts of My Lady's manor and reserves as were settled on, and to the purchase of which a preference was given to the settlers by the law of April 1782 : the 10th section, referring to an act of April 1782, ch. 60, which vested in the commissioners a variety of powers not necessary to be here recited, makes further provision for compelling purchasers to fulfil their contracts, and for voiding those contracts where necessary, and recovering damages for detention and waste. By the two succeeding sections it was provided that the tenants of New Connaught manor should have a preemption as to such parts thereof as they possessed under lease from or under the title of Talbot, or any of the late proprietaries, at a reasonable and moderate valuation, to be determined by the intendant of the revenue, or by persons of his nomination, not living in, or within fifty miles of, Cecil county ; out of which valuation should be deducted the existing leases for lives or years, in the computation whereof the length of the term for years, the age and health of the tenant for life, and the chance of the reversion, were to be considered, and if the tenants should refuse to purchase on the terms so adjusted, the intendant was to sell the lands for the highest price that could be obtained. The same preference of purchase was given to the tenants on any of the manors, and the settlers on the reserves, in respect to such parts of the said manors and reserves as they then severally possessed or occupied, and with the same provisions as to valuation. In either case the improvements on the land were not to be valued.

The completing of titles to purchasers of confiscated property had been hitherto but partially regulated. In 1785 an act passed (ch. 46) "ascertaining the mode of granting titles to the purchasers of certain confiscated British property." By this it was provided, that the purchaser of any land lying within any manor or reserve, and sold by the intendant, or the commissioners of confiscated property, should "upon return of a certificate of survey thereof to the land office for the western shore, and the same being examined and passed, and after the expiration of six months from the said return, and upon payment of the purchase money, to be endorsed on the said certificate, be entitled