

## CHAPTER 20.

AN ACT to punish Certain Crimes and Misdemeanors, and to prevent the growth of toryism.

Preamble.

WHEREAS the clemency of this state towards such of its subjects and inhabitants as are inimical to its freedom and independence, has not had the desired effect of reclaiming them from their evil practices, but still pursuing their dark and criminal designs of enslaving America, they continue to encourage and promote the operations of our enemies: And whereas every hope of uniting to the interest of their country the affections of these its unnatural and implacable enemies is extinguished, and great disadvantages have arisen, and still more dangerous consequences may be apprehended, from a delay of effectual measures to suppress or remove them from the society of a free people, constrained by oppression to declare their independence, and determined at all events to maintain the same;

Certain persons to suffer death, &c.

SEC. 2. *Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That if any subject or inhabitant of this state shall, within or without the same, and if any person whatever, being an inhabitant of any other of the United States, shall, within this state, levy war against the United States, or any of them, or shall adhere to any person bearing arms, or employed in the service of Great Britain, against the United States, or any of them, or shall afford such persons, or any of them, any aid or comfort, or shall give them, or any of them, or any subject of Great Britain, any intelligence of the warlike preparations or designs of the United States, or any of them, and shall be thereof convicted in the general court of this state, or shall stand mute, or peremptorily challenge above the number of twenty of the pannel, shall be adjudged guilty of treason against this state, and shall suffer death without benefit of clergy, and forfeit all the estate which he had at the time of the commission of the crime, to the use of this state; and the several crimes aforesaid shall receive the same constructions that have been given to such of the said crimes as are enumerated in the statute of Edward the third, commonly called the statute of treasons.

See October, 1777, ch. 20, sec. 29; 24th article of bill of rights; 1809, ch. 125; 1809, ch. 138, sec. 2.

The constitution of the United States transfers to the federal government the power, and defines treason against the United States.

To lose their estates &c.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That if any subject or inhabitant of this state, having knowledge of the actual commission of any of the crimes aforesaid, above declared to be treason, shall conceal the same, and shall not, as soon as conveniently may be, disclose and make the same known to the governor, or some one of the judges or justices of this state for the time being, such person, on conviction thereof in the general court, shall be