

SEC. 5. *And be it enacted*, That any lands within this state, of which any person has or shall hereafter die seized in fee-simple, without any heir of the whole blood who could have inherited if he had been a subject of this state, or without leaving any relation of the half blood within two degrees, that is, first cousins, as the same are reckoned by the common law, such lands shall escheat to the state, and the commissioners appointed to preserve British property may agree for the sale of the same, (giving the preference to those who have already applied to the land office for the pre-emption, and to those who shall first hereafter discover and apply to purchase at two thirds of the real value of such lands in specie, bills of credit, or crop tobacco inspected since the fifteenth day of September last, weighing not less than nine hundred pounds net each hogshead, to the value as the same would have sold for in the year seventeen hundred and seventy-four,) on condition that one-half of the consideration be paid within three months hereafter, or within two months after the application, and the residue within nine months after the first payment; and on application to the said commissioners for any escheat land, they may direct the clerk of the land office of the shore where the land lies, to issue a warrant to the surveyor of the county to survey the same, and to note in his return, the situation, quality and value, of the land and improvements; and the said commissioners shall inform themselves, by any other ways and means, of the true value of any such land; and if any person obtaining such warrant of escheat shall neglect to comply with his terms of payment, the land shall be subject to any new application which shall be first made after such default; and any money or tobacco agreed to be paid for the purchase of escheat lands, shall be paid to the treasurer of the shore where the land lies, and the treasurer shall give his receipt therefor, which receipt shall be produced to and lodged with the commissioners.

Lands to
escheat to
the state,
&c.

By November, 1781, ch. 20, section, 17, so much of this act as authorized the commissioners to grant warrants and to contract for the sale of escheat lands, was repealed; also see *Ib.* sec. 8, as to escheats.

SEC. 7. *And be it enacted*, That this state will for ever warrant and secure to the purchasers and their heirs any British property sold in pursuance of this act, and will protect them in the peaceable possession thereof.

Purchasers
secured, &c.

MAY, 1781.—CHAPTER 22.

AN ACT to direct the granting Letters Testamentary on a copy of a will proved where the testator dies.

Merged in 1798, chap. 101.