

C H A P. XXII. a report to the executive of the damage done by the enemy in his county, with the species of property carried off or destroyed, his opinion of the value, and the names of the proprietors; and, in this report, he was to include vessels destroyed on the stocks, or before they were rigged. For his trouble, the county court was to make him such allowance as they thought proper.

This provision being made in consequence of a requisition from congress, the executive was requested to transmit, to the minister of foreign affairs, quadruplicate copies of each report, under the seal of the state.

C H A P. XXIII.

An ACT concerning estates tail.

Preamble.

WHEREAS common recoveries are considered as a mode of conveyance by which tenants in tail are enabled to convey and dispose of their lands and tenements, but the said mode of conveyance is attended with an heavy expence and great inconvenience, by reason of a necessary and chargeable attendance in many cases on the general court :

How estates tail may be conveyed, &c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland,* That any person or persons, seized of any estate tail, in possession, reversion or remainder, shall have full power to grant, bargain, sell and convey, any lands tenements or hereditaments, whereof he, she or they, shall be so seized, by such manner and form of conveyance or assurance as any person seized of an estate in fee-simple may, by the laws of this state, grant, bargain, sell and convey, any lands, tenements or hereditaments, whereof such person is seized of an estate in fee-simple; and all and every such grants, bargains, sales and conveyances, of any person or persons so seized in tail, shall be good and available, to all intents and purposes, against all and every person and persons, whom the grantor, bargainor or vendor, might or could debar by any mode of common recovery, or any ways or means whatsoever, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

C H A P. XXIV.

A Supplement to the act for the liquidation and payment of debts against persons convicted of treason.

Preamble.

WHEREAS many persons may have claims against persons convicted and attainted of treason, and British subjects, whose property has been confiscated and seized by this state, and there is no mode by which such claims can be liquidated and paid :

Claims to be adjusted, &c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the general assembly of Maryland,* That every person, having any account, debt, claim or demand, against any subject convicted and attainted of treason, and whose property has been or may hereafter be sold by law, or any British debtor, whose property has been seized and confiscated, may lay his account, debt, claim or demand, before the auditor-general, who is hereby empowered and directed to liquidate and adjust the same, and the balance, if any, shall be signed by the auditor, and being examined by the governor and council, may be delivered by the claimant to the treasurer of the western shore, who is hereby directed to assign to him any bond or bonds, taken for the sale of the particular estate of which he was a creditor, that may be lodged in the treasury, or he may receive the money therefor, or a certificate, which may be discounted in taxes, at the option of the claimant or creditor, provided the same do not exceed the amount of the property sold as aforesaid.

Commissioners to sell property, &c.

III. *And be it enacted,* That the commissioners appointed for the preservation and sale of confiscated British property, are hereby authorized and directed to make sale, at public vendue, of so much of the property of such persons confiscated or forfeited as aforesaid, at one year's credit, with good bond and security, as will discharge the claims lodged as aforesaid; which said bond shall be lodged with the treasurer of the western shore, and may by him be assigned to any claimant or creditor, who had the account, claim, debt or demand, against the particular estate.

Claimant to receive a dividend, &c.

IV. *And be it enacted,* That when the just debts against any particular estate amount to more than the sales thereof, that it shall and may be lawful for the claimant or creditors aforesaid to receive a dividend, in proportion to each particular