

C H A P.
XXXIII.

import or bring into the state, or cause to be printed, reprinted, imported or brought into the state, any such book or books, writing or writings, without the consent of the proprietor or proprietors thereof first had and obtained in writing, signed in the presence of two or more witnesses, or knowing the same to be so printed, reprinted, imported or brought into the state, without the consent of the proprietors, shall sell, publish or expose to sale, any such book or books, writing or writings, without such consent first had and obtained as aforesaid, then such offender or offenders shall forfeit such book or books, writing or writings, to the proprietor or proprietors; and further, that every such offender or offenders shall forfeit two-pence for every sheet which shall be found in his, her or their custody, either printed or printing, published or exposed to sale, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act.

Titles of
books to be
entered, &c.

III. **And**, whereas many persons may, through ignorance, offend against this act, unless some provision be made, whereby the property in every such book as is intended by this act to be secured to the proprietor or proprietors thereof may be ascertained: Therefore, **Be it enacted**, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to extend to subject any person whatsoever to the forfeitures and penalties herein mentioned, or by reason of the printing, reprinting, importing, bringing into the state, or causing to be brought into the state, selling or exposing to sale, of any book or books, writing or writings, without the consent of the proprietor or proprietors, unless the title to the copy of such book or books, writing or writings, hereafter published, shall, before such publication by the proprietor or proprietors, be entered in a register, to be kept by the clerk of the general court for that purpose; which register may, at all reasonable and convenient times, be resorted to and inspected by any person, for the purpose before mentioned, without any fee or reward; and the clerk aforesaid, when and as often as thereunto required, shall give a certificate under his hand of such entry or entries, and for every such certificate may take and receive a fee of three shillings and nine-pence.

Actions to be
brought with-
in twelve
months, &c.

IV. **And be it enacted**, That all actions or informations for any offence that shall be committed against this act, shall be brought and commenced within twelve months after such offence committed, or the same shall be void and of none effect.

Proviso.

V. **Provided always**, That, after the expiration of the aforesaid term of fourteen years, the sole right of printing or disposing of copies shall return to the authors thereof, if they are then living, for another term of fourteen years.

Commence-
ment.

VI. This act to commence and be in force from and after the time that similar laws shall be passed respecting literary property in all and every of the United States.

C H A P. XXXV.

An ACT concerning the stock of the bank of England belonging to this state.

Preamble.

WHEREAS by the last account, dated in London the twenty-fourth day of July, seventeen hundred and seventy-five, rendered by Osgood Hanbury, Sylvanus Grove, and James Ruffell, trustees residing in London, to whom the direction and management of the capital stock of the bank of England belonging to this state was by law committed, it appears that the said capital stock, on the said day, amounted to the sum of twenty-nine thousand pounds sterling; and that on the same day, in the same year, the sum of four hundred and seventy-eight pounds three shillings like sterling money remained in their hands, to be invested; and this general assembly think proper to discharge the said trustees, and to receive the said stock and dispose thereof;

Power of
trustees to
create, &c.

II. **Be it enacted**, by the general assembly of Maryland, That every trust and power reposed in the said trustees, and every of them, except only the power and authority of transferring the said stock to the agent and trustee appointed by this act,