

Passed March
10.

An ACT directing what shall be good evidence to prove foreign and other debts, and deeds and wills, and instruments of writing executed in any of the United States, or in any foreign country, for allowing discounts, and for repealing an act of assembly therein mentioned.

Exemplification of record good evidence, &c.

BE it enacted, *by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That an exemplification of the record under the hand of the keeper of the same, and the seal of the court or office where such record may be made, shall be good and sufficient evidence in any court of this state to prove any debt of record made or entered in any other of the United States, or in any foreign country whatever.

What shall be good evidence to prove deeds, &c.

II. And be it enacted, That a copy of the record or register of any deed, will, or other instrument of writing, which the laws of the state or country where the same may be executed require to be recorded or registered, and which have been or shall be recorded or registered agreeably to such laws, under the hand of the keeper of such record or register, and the seal of the court or office in which such record or register has been or may be made, or a copy of any deed, will, or other instrument of writing lodged for safe keeping in any office or court, agreeably to the laws of the state or country as aforesaid, and certified as aforesaid, shall be good and sufficient evidence in any court of this state to prove such deed, will, or instrument of writing.

Oath of witnesses, &c. good evidence in certain cases, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That where any deed, will, bond, bill, note, or other instrument of writing, hath been or shall be executed in any other of the United States, or in any foreign country, and to give validity to which recording or registering is not or shall not be made necessary, proof to the execution of such deed, will, bond, bill, note, or other instrument of writing, by the oath or affirmation, as the case may be, of the subscribing witnesses to the same, or any of them, taken before any court, judge, or justice, or other officer of the state or country where such deed, will, bond, bill, note or instrument, hath been or may be executed, having authority by law to administer an oath or affirmation, as the case may be, and a certificate under seal from the governor, chief magistrate, or a notary public of such state or country, that the court or officer before whom such oath or affirmation, as the case may be, shall be taken, hath authority to administer such oath or affirmation, as the case may be, and that such oath or affirmation as aforesaid hath been duly made before such court, judge, justice, or other officer, shall be good and sufficient evidence in any court of this state to prove any such deed, will, bond, bill, note, or other instrument; and if all the witnesses to any deed, will, bond, bill, note, or other instrument of writing aforesaid, have died or shall die before the execution of such deed, will, bond, bill, note, or other instrument of writing, be proved as aforesaid, then proof, by a credible witness, to the hand writing of the party making such deed, will, bond, bill, note, or other instrument of writing, or to the hand writing of the subscribing witnesses to the same, or of any of them, taken and certified as aforesaid, shall be good evidence for the purpose aforesaid. Provided always, that in case any suit shall be brought in any court of this state, upon any such instrument of writing, proved as aforesaid, to recover any sum of money, or other valuable thing specified therein to be due, the party bringing such suit, shall, at or before the first imparlance court, make oath or affirmation, as the case may be, before some judge or justice of this state, or before some court, judge, justice, or officer of the state or country where such instrument in writing hath been or shall be executed, having authority