

fire in April last, and that Margaret McKinly, who is entitled to the dower in said lot, is not able to pay her proportion of the expenses of repairing or putting the walls now standing, in good tenantable order; AND WHEREAS, the said Samuel P. Smith and Reuben Worthington, have prayed the General Assembly to authorise the county court of Allegany county to adjudge and determine the annual sum, the said Mrs. Margaret McKinly, shall receive for her dower, and the prayer of the petitioners being reasonable and founded in justice and equity—Therefore,

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the county court of Allegany county, be and is hereby authorised upon the application of Samuel P. Smith and Reuben Worthington, their heirs or assigns, at their next ensuing term, by bill or petition setting forth the nature and object of their application, to order and direct the case to be docketed for adjudication. Authority to docket a case

Sec. 2. *And be it enacted,* That the court at which the petition shall be filed, shall direct a summons or citation to be issued notifying the said Margaret McKinly, of the nature and object of the petition, and the court shall, after hearing the allegations of the parties, adjudge and determine what sum under the circumstances of the case, the said Smith and Worthington, their heirs or assigns shall annually pay, to the said Margaret McKinly, as an annuity, for the space of three years from the adjudication of the same. To fix annuity for three years

Sec. 3. *And be it enacted,* That the sum that may be adjudged and determined upon by the said court shall be considered a compensation for the widow's dower, and may be collected and recovered in the same manner, as if this act had not been passed, but no greater or larger sum shall be recoverable than the sum adjudged as aforesaid, for the time as aforesaid. Which shall be recoverable, &c.

Sec. 4. *And be it enacted,* That if either of the parties shall prefer a trial by jury, the court at which the petition shall be filed, shall direct a jury to be impannelled to adjudge and determine upon any issue or issues framed under direction of the court, what annual sum shall be awarded to the said Margaret McKinly, and such finding of the jury shall be final and conclusive. Appeal allowed
Verdict final

Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the judgment of the court upon the decision or adjudication of the jury shall have all the force and effect, as if the decision or ad- Operation of decision