

evidence given in the cause shall be transmitted with the record to the court of appeals and thereupon such cause shall be heard, determined and adjudged *de novo*.

This section confines the authority to annul a marriage within the prohibited degrees in Baltimore city, to the superior and criminal courts upon application of one of the parties. A decree of nullity distinguished from a decree of divorce. *Ridgely v. Ridgely*, 79 Md. 305. See also, *Le Brun v. Le Brun*, 55 Md. 503.

1904, art. 62, sec. 15. 1888, art. 62, sec. 13. 1867, ch. 423.

15. All marriages made and celebrated in this State prior to March 22, 1867, by and between colored people are hereby confirmed and made valid to every intent and purpose from the time of the celebration of such marriages, respectively; and every such marriage shall be held and taken by all courts of this State to be good and sufficient in law to all intents and purposes; provided, that in every case the parties claiming to have been married by a competent person shall by sufficient proof before some justice of the peace, establish the fact of having been so married, a certificate of which shall be filed with the clerk of the circuit court for the county in which said marriage was celebrated, or the court of common pleas of Baltimore city, and be preserved with the register of marriage licenses in the office of the said clerk.

Where slaves ratified their marriage after they became free, their marriage is valid. *Jones v. Jones*, 36 Md. 456.