

parties, or any one of them, in the manner or form, or before the person authorized to take such act or acknowledgment, the circuit court of a county in which, by law, the said deed or bill of sale ought to be or to have been recorded, or the circuit court of Baltimore city, if the said deed or bill of sale ought, by law to be or to have been recorded in said city, may, upon the petition of any party to said deed or bill of sale, or his or their assigns, or any person claiming under them, setting forth the defects in the acknowledgment of said deed or bill of sale, pass an order directing the other parties thereto to appear and answer the said petition, and may cause notice to be given to such parties by summons or publication, according to the practice of the said court, and may direct testimony to be taken in relation to the matters in said petition, or in said petition and answer contained; and the said court may grant relief upon said petition by directing the said parties, or any of them, to acknowledge or to re-acknowledge the said deed or bill of sale, as the case may require; and the order of the said court, passed in the premises, directing the said acknowledgment to be made as aforesaid, shall operate in the same manner and to the same extent, from the date of the said order, as if the said party ordered as aforesaid to acknowledge or re-acknowledge the said deed or bill of sale, had thereupon so done; *provided*, however, that the rights of any person who shall not be a party to said proceedings, as aforesaid, shall not be in any wise affected by said order.

Petition to circuit court and answer, &c.

Testimony.

Order of court.

Proviso.

In force and approved March 30, 1868.

NOTE.—The above law was prepared by Messrs Gwinn, Maulsby and Carter, Commissioners appointed by the Governor to draft laws for the formation of Corporations and for other purposes, under section 48 of Article 3 of the Constitution. In their report to the General Assembly, February, 1868, they say "By the 31d section of Article 3, it is provided that the General Assembly shall not pass local or special laws in the cases enumerated, and shall pass general laws in such of the enumerated cases as are not already adequately provided for, and in other cases where a general law can be made applicable. We have supposed that the utmost limit of our duties could properly embrace only the subject of Corporations mentioned in section 48, and the enumerated cases mentioned in section 33, leaving the 'other cases where a general law can be made applicable' to be defined and provided for by the wisdom of the General Assembly

"Of the enumerated cases in section 33, general laws have already been provided, and are found in the Code, for 'extending the time for the collection of taxes,' 'granting divorces,'