

CHAP. 77. of a *feme sole*, in the same manner she would have been if she never had been married.

Benj. Jacobs not liable for debts hereafter contracted by her

Sec. 4. *And be it enacted*, That the said Benjamin Jacobs shall not be liable for any debt to be hereafter contracted by the said Martha Jacobs.

CHAP. LXXVIII.

Passed Feb 23, 1829

*An Act for accelerating and effectuating proceedings upon Writs of Mandamus, and for facilitating and determining the rights of Offices and Franchises in Corporations.*

Preamble

WHEREAS divers charters have been granted by the authority of this legislature, and divers persons have taken upon themselves, or may hereafter take upon themselves, to execute offices under the same; and where such offices are annual, it hath been, or may be, found impracticable, by the laws now in force, to bring to trial and determine the right of such persons to such offices, or any matter or thing touching the conduct or agency of such persons, within the year; and where such offices are not annual, it hath been, or may be, difficult to try and determine the right of such persons to such offices before they have done divers acts injurious to the interests of individuals, and prejudicial to the state: And whereas divers persons, who had, or may have, a right to such offices, have been, or may be, illegally ousted, or have been or may be refused to be admitted thereto: And whereas the only remedy in such cases may be by writ or writs of *mandamus*, the proceedings on which are dilatory and expensive; therefore,

Writ of mandamus issuing out of any court, return to be made to the first writ

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That from and after the first day of May next, where any writ of *mandamus* shall issue out of any of the courts of this state, such person or persons, who by law is or are required to make return to such writ, shall make his or their return to the first writ of *mandamus*, any law or usage to the contrary notwithstanding.

Party suing out may plead to or traverse the return and the party making such return may reply, demur, or take issue, &c.

Sec. 2. *And be it enacted*, That from and after the first day of May next, as often as in any of the cases aforesaid, or in any case of intrusion, or usurpation, or of any breach or violation of any of the terms, conditions, privileges or franchises, or of unlawfully holding of any of the said offices, or in, or under, any charter, or incorporation, granted by this state, any writ of *mandamus* shall issue out of any of the said courts, and a return shall be made thereunto, it shall and may be lawful to and for the person or persons, suing or prosecuting such writ of *mandamus*, to plead to and traverse all or any of the material facts contained in the said return; to which the person or persons making such return