

CHAP. 7.

ware, deceased, Susan H. Cummins, George W. Cummins, John H. Cummins, Alphonsa Black, William Cummins, Mary Cummins, Daniel Cummins, James D. Cummins, Ann W. Cummins, Martha Cummins, Robert W. Cummins, and Alexander G. Cummins, children of the said John Cummins, deceased, and John G. Black, who intermarried with, and is the husband of the said Alphonsa, by their petition to this General Assembly, represent, that the said John Cummins died in the month of July, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty three, intestate, being in his life time, and at the time of his death, seized in his demesne as of fee, of divers lands, tenements and heraditaments, situated partly in Queen Anne's county, in the State of Maryland, and partly in Kent county, State of Delaware, aforesaid—that under the law of descents, in this State and the State of Delaware, the said lands, tenaments and hereditaments have descended to, and upon the said twelve children of said deceased, as equal coparceners, subject to the right of dower therein, of the said Susan W. Cummins, widow of said deceased; that seven of the said children are infants, under twenty one years of age, and several of them of very tender years: And it being further represented by said petitioners, that if all the said lands and premises can be brought into one assignment of dower and partition, as if the same were situated wholly in this State or in the state of Delaware, the two third parts thereof would be capable of being divided among the said children of said deceased, into twelve equal parts, regarding quality as well as quantity, each of which would constitute a competent beginning in life, to such of the said children as are grown, and a competent support to those of them who are infants; but that if dower should be assigned to said widow, in both States, and the residue remaining in each after such assignment, be divided into twelve equal parts among the said children, the portions of the said children respectively, would be greatly diminished in value, especially to such of them as contemplate settling upon and occupying the same, from the fact that the share of each child must necessarily consist of several and distant allotments, and in different States—and it appearing to this General Assembly, that the existing laws of this State and the State of Delaware, respectively, furnish to the petitioners no authority for assigning the said dower, and making partition of the said residue among the said twelve children, in any other way than by assigning the dower and dividing the residue into the whole number of parts in each of the said States, that from the tender age