

or any other justice as are had in similar cases in the county court, to avail the plaintiff of the responsibility of the special bail in default of the surrender of the defendant in execution, within sixty days after such default and notice thereof to such bail. CHAP. 293.

CHAPTER 293.

*An act to regulate conjugal rights as they regard property.* Passed March 10, 1843.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That from and after the passage of this act, any married woman may become seized or possessed of any property, real or of slaves by direct bequest, demise, gift, purchase or distribution, in her own name, and as of her own property; *provided* the same does not come from her husband after coverture. Married women may hold property, &c. Proviso.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted,* That hereafter when any woman possessed of a property in slaves, shall marry, her property in such slaves and their natural increase shall continue to her, notwithstanding her coverture, and she shall have, hold and possess the same as her separate property, exempt from any liability for the debts or contracts of the husband. Her property not responsible for husband's debts.

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That when any woman during coverture shall become entitled to or possessed of slaves by conveyance, gift, inheritance, distribution or otherwise, such slaves, together with their natural increase, shall enure and belong to the wife in like manner as is above provided as to slaves which she may possess at the time of marriage. Slaves by gift bequest, &c. enure to the wife.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted,* That the control and management of all such slaves, the direction of their labour and the receipts of the productions thereof, shall remain to the husband agreeably to the laws heretofore in force, all suits to recover the property or possession of such slaves shall be prosecuted or defended as the case may be, in the joint names of the husband and wife, in case of the death of the wife, such slaves shall descend and go to her children and their descendants, subject to the use of the husband during life without liability to his creditors, and if she die without leaving children living, or descendants of such children living, they shall descend and go to the husband. Control and management of slaves, &c. to remain to the husband.

SEC. 5. *Be it enacted,* That the slaves owned by a feme covert under the provisions of this act, may be sold May be sold by the joint deed of husband and wife.