

and the right of an executor or administrator duly appointed by the proper authority of this State, shall be preferred to the right of the executor or administrator appointed by the authority of any other State, District or country; *provided*, that notice of the claim of the domestic executor or administrator to such stock be given to the proper officer having charge of the stock-book wherein such stock is entered, and having authority to make or allow a transfer thereof before any sale or transfer thereof has been actually made by the foreign executor or administrator; *and provided also*, that administration shall not be granted to any one in this State, except to the next of kin, residuary legatee or a creditor, who shall make oath to and exhibit the voucher of his claim before obtaining administration.

CHAP. 42.
 Executor of
 this State shall
 have preference

Provisoes

SEC. 3. *And be it enacted*, That no executor or administrator deriving his authority by letters testamentary or of administration granted in any other State, District or Territory of the United States, or any foreign country, shall be authorised to transfer any of the stocks embraced in the provisions of this act, until after such executor or administrator shall have given at least three months, notice by publication, weekly, during the said three months, in two daily newspapers published in the city of Baltimore, stating in such advertisement the death of his testator or intestate, and the amount and description of stock designed to be transferred.

No transfer to
 be made, &c.
 until notice be
 given, &c.

CHAPTER 42.

An act declaring Domestic Slavery to be lawful in this State. Passed Mar. 20,
 1840.

WHEREAS the courts in some of the non slave holding States require the owners of fugitive slaves to prove that slavery exists in this State, and it is right to provide a convenient mode of enabling such owners to procure a certified copy of a law proving that slavery exists by law in this State; Therefore,

Preamble.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That negroes and mulattoes have been held in slavery in this State as the property of their owners from the earliest settlement of this State, and are, and may be hereafter held in slavery as the property of their owners;

Slavery declar-
 ed lawful