

fraud or that it is in prejudice of creditors and for the sale of said negroes, for the payment of the debts of the grantor, it shall not be necessary to issue or serve the usual subpoena upon the said negro or negroes, mulatto or mulattoes, but in lieu thereof the courts shall upon application appoint some gentleman learned in the law as guardian *ad litem* of said negro or negroes, mulattoe or mulattoes, whose duty it shall be to appear, answer and make such defence for the said negro or negroes, mulatto or mulattoes, as the said negroes or mulattoes might or could do if they were free; and the court shall have full power and authority after a full hearing of the cause to pass such a decree as might be passed in cases where all the parties were freemen; and they shall direct all the costs and charges of the proceedings, including a fee of twenty or thirty dollars to the guardian, in its discretion, to be paid by the complainant, and to be taxed and allowed in his general bill of costs.

In force.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

CHAPTER 141.

Passed Mar. 8, 1856. AN ACT authorising the Cumberland Coal and Iron Company, to reduce the par of its Capital Stock.

May reduce the par value of its capital stock. SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the Cumberland Coal and Iron company may, at any general meeting of the stockholders thereof, or at any special meeting of the stockholders to be called for the purpose, upon notice given in such form and manner as is required for the call of special meetings of the stockholders by the existing by-laws of the company, determine to reduce and thereupon proceed to reduce the par of its capital stock, as much as fifty per centum, in such form and manner as the said company may deem the most expedient; *Provided*, the action to