

CHAP. 78. same, for her own use and benefit, and the same to dispose of according to her will and pleasure, without the molestation, interference, hindrance or consent of her husband, in the same manner she could or might have done were she a *feme sole*.

## CHAP. LXXIX

Passed Jan 25 1821 An Act for the benefit of Ely Dorsey, (of Ely,) of Frederick County.

Preamble

WHEREAS the said Ely Dorsey, (of Ely,) hath by his petition represented to this general assembly, that many years ago he purchased of Charles Ridgely of Baltimore county, part of a tract of land called Pleasant Fields, for which the purchase money hath been long since paid; that before a deed was made for the said land, the said Charles Ridgely died intestate as to the legal title in the land sold to said petitioner; and the legal representatives of the said Charles Ridgely are so numerous, and dispersed in so many different places, that the said Ely Dorsey, (of Ely,) has been unable to discover who they are, and is therefore without relief in a court of equity; Therefore,

On application,  
court to advertise,  
&c

1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the county court of Frederick county, as a court of chancery, upon a bill being filed by the said Ely Dorsey, (of Ely,) his heirs or assigns, against the legal representatives of the said Charles Ridgely, without naming them, to compel them to convey to him the said Ely Dorsey, (of Ely,) his heirs or assigns, as the case may be, all that part of the said tract of land called Pleasant Fields, bought and paid for as aforesaid, the said county court, instead of issuing subpoenas for the legal representatives of the said Charles Ridgely by name, to make them defendants, shall and they are hereby authorised to cause the object and substance of the said bill to be published once a week for six successive weeks in some newspaper printed in the city of Baltimore, to warn the legal representatives of the said Charles Ridgely, without naming them, or any of them, upon a day therein limited, to appear in said court, in person or by solicitor, to shew cause, if any they have, why a decree should not pass as prayed.

May either take  
the bill pro  
confesso, or issue com-  
mission, &c

2. *And be it enacted,* That if the legal representatives of the said Charles Ridgely, so made defendants, shall not appear to answer the bill of the aforesaid Ely Dorsey, (of Ely,) his heirs or assigns, as the case may be, after being warned as aforesaid, the county court aforesaid, as a court of chancery, may without the appearance of the absent parties, at discretion, either take the bill of the said Ely Dorsey, (of Ely,) his heirs or assigns, as the case may be, *pro confesso*, or issue a commission for taking depositions, which commission may be executed *ex parte* on the nonappearance of the legal representatives aforesaid, in person, or by solicitor or agent, and on the taking *pro confesso* or return of the commission, the county court aforesaid, as a court of chancery, may proceed to such decree as the justice, law, and equity of the case may require, and every such decree shall have the same operation, effect and consequence, as if the legal representatives of the said Charles Ridgely had regularly appeared to the bill of the said Ely Dorsey, (of Ely,) his heirs or assigns, as the case may be, and had answered the same, and the decree had thereupon regularly passed; *Provided always,* that if all or any

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