

Dec. Ses. 1823. nishment, by the payment of the fine to the owner or owners of such gate, imposed by this act, upon free persons for like offences, and provided also, that no free citizen shall be fined, or slave punished under the provisions of this act, in any case where such gates shall be found carelessly standing open, not hung upon good iron hinges, or otherwise in bad order and repair.

Repeal.

9. *And be it enacted*, That all and every law, usage or custom heretofore existing or in use, which is repugnant to or inconsistent with the provisions of this act, shall be and is hereby declared to be annulled, abrogated and repealed, so far as respects the county herein mentioned.

Presentments dismissed.

10. *And be it enacted*, That the county court of said county be and they are hereby directed to dismiss all presentments heretofore made against the owners of gates in said county, upon the parties paying the cost thereon.

CHAPTER 108.

Passed Feb. 7, 1824. An act for the benefit of George W. Neale, of Charles county, and for other purposes

Preamble.

WHEREAS, it is represented to this general assembly, that a petition was filed in Charles county court, as a court of equity, by Eleanor Neale, prochein ami of Elizabeth Neale, Henrietta Neale and James Neale, minor children of Charles H. Neale, late of the county aforesaid, deceased, for the sale of one undivided fifth part of a tract of land situated in said county, called "Gill's Land," and whereas, the said court did accordingly pass a decree for the sale of said land, and appointed John H. Lancaster, trustee to sell the same; that in pursuance of said decree the land was sold, and that a certain George W. Neale became the purchaser thereof, and has since paid the purchase money and received a deed for the same, from the said trustee, that the trustee now holds the money subject to the order of the said court; and whereas the whole of the papers in this case have been lost out of the clerks office of said county, and that there remains among the records of said court no further evidence of these proceedings than the deed aforesaid, and the said court cannot proceed to make final disposition of the case in consequence of the loss of all the papers, now to confirm to the said George W. Neale his title to the said land, and to authorise final proceedings in the premises—Therefore,

County court directed,

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the county court of Charles county acting as a court of equity, be, and they are hereby authorised and required to make such order and decree in the case of the petition filed in said court as a court of equity by Eleanor Neale, prochein ami of Elizabeth Neale, Henrietta Neale and James Neale, minor children of Charles H. Neale of said county, deceased, as they might or could have done if said petition and papers connected with it had not been lost, provided they are satisfied that the said petition and papers are lost; and that the sale and other proceeding thereon, have been conducted in every other respect fairly and without prejudice or injury to the minor children of the said Charles H. Neale, and any order or decree so made, shall have the same effect and validity as any order or decree of said court would have had if the proceedings in said case had been entirely regular.