

C H A P.
XIV.

state, and shall repeat and subscribe a declaration of his belief in the christian religion, and take, repeat and subscribe, the oath or affirmation in the same act prescribed, before the governor and the council, or before the general court, or any of the judges thereof, or before any county court, shall thereupon and thereafter be deemed, adjudged and taken, to be a natural born subject of this state, and shall be thenceforth entitled to all the immunities, rights and privileges, of a natural born subject of this state, subject nevertheless to the restrictions provided by the said act: And whereas, since the passage of the said act, divers foreigners have come into this state, and have settled and become inhabitants thereof, and have been induced, from the various advantages afforded by our government, climate, soil and commerce, to employ their money in the purchase of property, both real and personal, and to improve the same, thereby acquiring a just and equitable title to such property, but, through ignorance of the provisions contained in the before-mentioned act, or apprehending that taking and subscribing the oath of allegiance in the usual manner would entitle them to the advantages of property, the said foreigners have not taken and subscribed the oath prescribed by the act for naturalization, under the particular circumstances required by the same, whereby their titles to such real property as they have acquired since their settlement in this state may be drawn in question, to their great prejudice and injury: And whereas the said foreigners have always manifested a firm attachment to our government and laws, and it is conceived, that by securing their interest in our soil, their affections to this country will be more fully confirmed, and that justice and policy require that the hardships and inconveniences, under which they respectively labour, should be remedied; therefore,

Foreigners
may hold pro-
perty, &c.

II. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That all and every the said foreigners, who, since their settlement in this state, have purchased and acquired, by any lawful and fair means, any portion of property, real, personal or mixed; and have since possessed and enjoyed the same, and have still a just and equitable title thereto, whether such title be derived from grant, gift, purchase or devise, shall, by virtue of this act, hold, possess and enjoy, such property, real, personal and mixed, as fully and amply, and to all intents and purposes, as rightfully as the said foreigners would have been entitled to hold, possess, and enjoy the same, if they had respectively naturalised themselves according to the express provisions contained in the said act for naturalization.

If escheated,
state's right
relinquished,
&c.

III. *And be it enacted,* That in case any real property, purchased or acquired by foreigners since the passage of the aforesaid act, hath been escheated, it is hereby declared, that all the right and title of this state to the said property so escheated, and to any property so escheatable, shall be and the same are hereby relinquished, and vested for ever hereafter in the said foreigners, their heirs and assigns, saving nevertheless to all persons whatsoever, who may have heretofore acquired titles to any such escheatable property under the laws of this state, their several and respective rights; and all and every person and persons, who may have purchased, or otherwise acquired any real property from or under the said foreigners, or any of them, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, entitled to all and every advantage, with respect to such property, as if the same had been purchased or acquired from or under any foreigners who have naturalised themselves according to the provisions of the said original act.

Provide.

IV. *Provided nevertheless,* That the said foreigners respectively, before they shall receive the benefit of this act, shall naturalize themselves in the mode prescribed by the original act, on or before the first day of August ensuing, any law to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Provide.

V. *And provided also,* That no applications within the period limited by this act, to prejudice the rights of the said respective foreigners, or others, shall be admitted or received.

To be pub-
lished.

VI. *And,* in order to carry the good intentions, as well of this as of the said original act, into complete execution, *Be it enacted,* That the governor and council