

lands, are hereby declared to be and remain the property of their respective masters in manner hereafter declared. C H A P. LVI.

III. **Provided always, and be it enacted,** That nothing in this act contained shall be construed or taken in any manner or respect whatever to affect any right which any slave or slaves, imported by any of the said French emigrants, shall have acquired to freedom under the existing laws of this state. Proviso.

IV. **And be it enacted,** That all subjects of France as aforesaid, who have sought, or may seek, an asylum in this state, if they become citizens or settlers therein, shall be entitled to keep their domestic or house slaves, viz. A master of a family to the number of five, and a single man to the number of three, and hold the same to them and their legal representatives; and any such person or persons seeking an asylum in this state, that do not become citizens and settlers as above, shall be entitled to hold the same number of slaves respectively in this state for their own use, but not for sale, during their residence here, but no such French citizens shall be allowed to sell or dispose of their slaves to any person or persons residing in this state. Certain French subjects may keep slaves, &c.

V. **And be it enacted,** That every French subject as aforesaid, having imported, or that may import, more or a greater number of slaves than may be held by this law, shall and is hereby authorized to re-ship or export those exceeding the number permitted to be held or retained in slavery, and should those now in the state not be exported within one year after the date of this law, and those hereafter that may be brought into this state above the aforesaid number not be exported within one year after their importation, the same shall be and are hereby declared free. May re-ship them, &c.

VI. **And be it further enacted,** That every such French emigrant as aforesaid, who shall or may hereafter import any such slave or slaves as aforesaid, shall, within three months thereafter, deliver and lodge with the clerk of the county into which the same shall be first brought or imported, a list of such slaves so imported, and shall, at the same time, elect and notify in the said list to the said clerk, which of the said slaves he will retain as his domestic or house slaves, which list shall be recorded by the said clerk. And shall deliver a list, &c.

C H A P. LVII.

An ACT respecting the trustees of the new church in the city of Annapolis. Passed December 23.

**W**HEREAS, by an act of the general assembly, passed seventeen hundred and seventy-four, for building a new church in the city of Annapolis, John Ridout, Samuel Chase, William Paca, Upton Scott and Thomas Hyde, Esquires, were appointed trustees for the building the same, and were empowered to contract for the whole or any part of the work, and to recover all monies which were then subscribed, or which might thereafter be subscribed; and the sum of fifteen hundred pounds public money was given and appropriated by the said act towards building said church, and the quantity of one hundred and sixty thousand pounds of tobacco directed to be levied on the parish of St. Anne's for the same purpose: And whereas by a supplementary act, passed at November session, in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-five, the said trustees were empowered and directed to proceed to the execution of the trust reposed in them by the said original act, and were authorized to open new subscriptions for the purpose aforesaid; and the said last mentioned act, after reciting that several subscribers had died, and others removed, did enact, that the said first subscriptions should not be further collected: And whereas by an additional supplementary act, passed at May session, seventeen hundred and eighty-eight, the treasurer of the western shore was authorized and directed to pay to the trustees aforesaid the sum of seven hundred and forty-two pounds fifteen shillings, with legal interest thereon from the twenty-fifth day of May, in the year seventeen hundred Preamble.