

No 78.

*An Act for Securing Persons Rights to Town-Lands.*

WHEREAS it is represented to this General Assembly, that several Persons of this Province, and others, that have taken up Lots in several Town-Lands, laid out and surveyed for Towns, according to the Directions of several Laws of this Province heretofore made; (That is to say) One Law made at a General Assembly, held at the Ridge, in *Ann Arundel* County, the Second Day of *October*, One thousand six hundred eighty three, Intituled, *An Act for Advancement of Trade*; and One other Act, made at a General Assembly, held at the City of *St. Mary's* the First Day of *April*, One thousand six hundred eighty four, Intituled, *An Additional and Supplementary Act, to the Act for Advancement of Trade*; and the other Act, made at a General Assembly, held at the City of *St. Mary's* the Twenty seventh Day of *October*, One thousand six hundred eighty six, Intituled, *A further Additional Act, to the Act for Advancement of Trade, and the Supplementary Acts of the same*; and One other Act, made at a Session of Assembly begun and held at the City of *St. Mary's* the Twenty first Day of *September*, *Anno Domini* One thousand six hundred ninety four, Intituled, *An Act for Erecting Ann Arundel and Oxford Towns into Ports and Towns*; as by the several Acts of Assembly, remaining upon Record in the Secretary's Office of this Province, may appear: And notwithstanding the several Persons, who relying and depending upon the Benefits and Privileges in the said Laws granted, have taken up Lots in the said Towns, entred and paid for them, or were ready to pay for them, as the Law directed, and have built and improved thereon, yet they are now threatned, disquieted, and disturbed by the Persons claiming Right to the said Lands, upon Pretence, that because the said Acts are since repealed, the Titles of such Takers up, Builders, and Improvers, are destroy'd, and die with the said Acts of Trade, contrary to the true Sense and rational Construction of the same Laws, or any other oflike Nature; to prevent therefore and take off all such unnecessary Doubts and Scruples thereof, Be it Enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of His Majesty's Governor, Council, and Assembly of this Province, and the Authority of the same, That all and every Person or Persons, that, during the Continuance of the before-mentioned Acts of Assembly, did take up, pay for, or tendred, or were ready to pay for any Lot or Lots of Land in any Town-Land, laid out and allotted for Town-Lands by the former Laws, or any of them, and of the same Lot made due Entry, and hath built and improved upon the same, and followed the Directions of the abovementioned Laws; they the said Person and Persons, so taking up, entring, building upon, and following the Directions of the said Laws, their Heirs and Assigns, shall have, hold, and enjoy, a good, sure, and indefeasible Estate of Inheritance in Fee Simple, of, in, and to every such Lot and Lots of Land, so taken up and built on, as aforesaid, according to the said Laws and Directions, to them and their Heirs for ever, as fully, freely, and amply, to all Intents and Purposes, as if the said former Laws were still in Force, and had never been Repealed: Provided always, That where any Person or Persons, that hath or have so taken up, built, and improved, and hath not paid the Price set upon the same, that every Person is hereby enjoyned to pay the said Value of the said Lot to the Owner and Claimer of the Land, upon Demand, without Fraud or Covin.

AND whereas it is represented to this present General Assembly, that several of the Inhabitants of this Province, and others, that have taken up several Lots in several Town-Lands, laid out and surveyed for Towns, according to the Directions of several Laws of this Province lately made; That is to say, One Act of Assembly

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