

Passed May } ACT for the Encouragement of Iron
14th, 1719. } Manufactures within the Province.

IF any Person or Persons shall desire to set up Forging Mills and other Conveniencies for carrying on an Iron Work, upon any Land not before cultivated, next adjacent to any Run of Water within the Province, not being the Estate nor Inheritance of such Undertakers, nor leased to them, they may, (to the Intent thereon to set such Forging Mills and other Conveniencies for the carrying on such Iron Works,) purchase a Writ out of Chancery, directed to the Sheriff of the County where such Land lieth, requiring him, by the Oath of Twelve Men of his County, to inquire what Damage it would be to his Lordship or others, to have such Builders or Undertakers invested with an absolute Estate of Inheritance, in One Hundred Acres of such Land, proper for the setting up such Forging Mill and other Conveniencies for the carrying on such Iron Works as aforesaid, the Form of which Writ followeth, viz.

FREDERICK absolute Lord and Proprietary of the Provinces of Maryland and Avalon, Lord Baron of Baltimore, &c. to the Sheriff of——County, Greeting, We command you, that by the Oath of Twelve honest and lawful Men of the County, by whom the Truth of the Matter may be better known, you diligently inquire, if it be to the Damage of us or others if we grant unto N. N. of——County, One hundred Acres of Land lying at——in the County aforesaid, as may be most convenient for the building and setting up a Forging Mill and other Conveniencies, as shall be necessary for the carrying on an Iron Work; and if it be to the Damage of us and others, then to what Damage and Prejudice of us; and to what Damage and Prejudice of others, and of whom and in what Manner, and how, and of what Value the same Land is now, before any other Improvement of the said One Hundred Acres of Land, and who have the Fee Simple thereof, and what Lands and Tenements remain to the present Possessor, over and above the said One Hundred Acres of Land, and if the said Lands remaining to the present Possessor, over and above the said One Hundred Acres of Land, will suffice to uphold their Manor, viz. the Sixth Part of their Manor allotted them by the Conditions of Plantation, for the Demeses, as before the Alienation, so as the County by the Alienation aforesaid, in default of the present Possessor, more than was wont shall not be charged and grieved, and the Inquisition thereon openly and distinctly made to us in our High Court of Chancery, under the Seal and Seals of them by whom it was made, without delay send.

UPON Return of which Writ, in case the Person or Persons who by the said Inquest shall be found to be the true Owners and Possessors of the Land fit to build a Forge, Mill and other Conveniencies necessary for carrying on an Iron Work, shall refuse to build such Forge, Mill and other Conveniencies for such Work thereon, within Six Months from the Date to be computed and reckoned, and give Security the same Building to prosecute and finish within Four Years after the beginning and laying the Foundation of such Forge Mill, it shall and