

Passed 3d of
June, 1715.

An ACT for securing persons rights to town lands. Lib. LL. No.

4. fol. 183.

Preamble.

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 Anne Arundel county the second day of October, one thousand six hundred eighty-three, entitled, 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 and eighty-four, entitled, 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, entitled, 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, entitled, An act for erecting Anne 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, entered them 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 threatened, 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and disturbed by the persons claiming right to the said lands, upon pretence, that because the said acts are since repealed the titles of such takers up, builders and improvers, are destroyed, and die with the said acts of trade, contrary to the true sense and rational construction of the same laws, or any other of like nature; to prevent therefore, and take off all such unnecessary doubts and scruples thereof,

Titles confirm-
ed, &c.

II. 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 tendered, 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 above-mentioned laws, they, the said person or persons, so taking up, entering, building upon, and following the directions of the said laws, their heirs and assigns, shall have, hold and enjoy, a good, sure, and indefeazable 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 forever, 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.

Proviso.

III. 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 such person is hereby enjoined to pay the said value of the said lot to the owner and claimer of the land, upon demand, without fraud or covin.

Persons ena-
bled to hold
lots, &c.

IV. 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 made at a general assembly, begun and held at the port of Annapolis the second day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and six, entitled, An act for advancement of trade, and erecting ports and towns within this province of Maryland, one other act made at a general assembly, begun and held at the port of Annapolis the fifteenth day of April, one thousand seven hundred and seven, entitled, A supplementary act to the act for advancement of trade, and erecting ports and towns, and one other act made at a general assembly of this province, held at the port of Annapolis the twenty-ninth day of November, *anno domini* one thousand seven hundred and eight, entitled, An additional act to the supplementary act for advancement of trade, and erecting ports and towns within this province, and for sale of some public lands and buildings in the town of St. Mary's, in St. Mary's county, as by the several acts of assembly aforesaid, remaining upon record in the secretary's office may appear, relying and depending on the benefits and privileges in the said laws granted, did enter and build upon such lots, according to the directions of the said laws, BE IT THEREFORE ENACTED, *by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid,* That all and every person and persons, that, during the continuance of the before-mentioned laws,

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