

C H A P.
LIV.

the twentieth day of September next, as will procure fifty thousand pounds in specie, or continental bank notes, and to transmit the same to the treasury of the United States, or pay the same to the order of congress; and the said intendant may, also borrow specie, or continental bank notes, not exceeding thirty thousand pounds specie, and pledge the tax of five shillings for payment.

Reward to
owners of
mills, &c.

XI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the reward to the owner of every mill, for receiving any wheat hereafter delivered in discharge of taxes, and for grinding, bolting, packing, keeping and preserving the same for any time not exceeding two months, shall be one tenth of every bushel of wheat ground, bolted, packed, and kept for the time aforesaid.

Passed 15th of
June, 1782.

C H A P. LV.

An ACT to prevent suits on certain debts for a limited time. Lib.
TBH. No. A. fol. 200.

Suits not to be
commenced,
&c.

BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That no action or suit shall be commenced or prosecuted by any creditor against his debtor, for any debt, promise, contract or agreement, created or made before the first day of September, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, or between that day and the twelfth day of June, seventeen hundred and eighty, for gold, silver or sterling, before the first day of January, seventeen hundred and eighty-four, unless the debtor shall refuse or neglect to pay the interest due or which shall become due annually on such debt, in gold or silver, or in bills of credit, agreeably to an act for calling out of circulation the quota of this state of the bills of credit issued by congress, and the bills of credit emitted by acts of assembly under the old government, and by the resolves of convention, in thirty days after demand made, or hath removed, or shall be about to remove, himself or his effects out of this state, or shall refuse, on request of his creditor, to renew his obligation, promise, contract or agreement, and with security, if required; and the court, before whom any such action or suit hath been or shall be brought, shall inquire into the fact, and, *ex officio*, order such action or suit to be discontinued, if prosecuted contrary to this act; provided, that this act shall not extend to any action or suit commenced or prosecuted, at law or in equity, against any guardian, executor, administrator or trustee.

Proviso.

II. PROVIDED ALSO, AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any debtor has for sale any wheat, Indian corn, oats, tobacco, pork, stock of any kind, slaves or land, and his creditor or creditors offer to receive any of the articles above mentioned, in discharge of such debt, promise, contract or agreement, at the real value of such enumerated articles, which valuation shall be ascertained by any two or more of the commissioners of the tax for the county where such debtor resides, and if such debtor shall refuse to discharge his or her debt with any of the aforesaid articles, having such for sale, and making sale of any of the aforesaid articles to any other person than his or her creditor, after such offer made as aforesaid, (except so much as may be necessary to pay taxes or procure him or her the necessaries of life,) that in all such cases the creditor of such debtor shall be at full liberty to commence or prosecute his or her suit or suits.

Debtor to give
bond, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That for all debts on open accounts, or promissory notes, created or made before the first day of September, seventeen hundred and seventy-six, the debtor shall be compelled to give bond and security, including interest, to commence on such account or promissory note at the expiration of twelve months after the same was created or made, or pay the interest in current money, bills of credit as aforesaid, or any of the above enumerated articles, at his or her option, and give bond and security for the principal; and in case any debtor shall refuse to comply with the terms aforesaid, the creditor may bring suit, notwithstanding this act.

Actions not to
be commenced,
&c.

IV. AND, whereas many debtors may have renewed their obligations or contracts for debts or promises aforesaid, created or made within the time aforesaid, BE IT ENACTED; That no action or suit shall be commenced or prosecuted on any such renewed obligation or promise within the time aforesaid, unless the debtor shall refuse or neglect to pay the interest in manner aforesaid, or hath removed, or shall be about to remove, himself or his effects out of the state; and the court shall, *ex officio*, inquire into such action or suit, and discontinue the same, if prosecuted contrary to this act.

Time not to be
taken, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the time between the passing this act and the first day of January, seventeen hundred and eighty-four, shall not be taken as part of the time limited by law for prosecuting suits; and if any defendant shall plead the act of limitations, the plaintiff may, on the general replication, give this act and the special matter in evidence, without specially pleading the same.

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