

C. H. A. P. LXVI.

An ACT, entitled, An act to revive and continue an act, (a) entitled, An act for the punishment of horse-stealers and other offenders. Lib. JG. No. 2. fol. 528. Passed 30th of Dec. 1796.

(a) 1744, ch. 20, hereby intended to be continued to 20th October, 1803, but the title thereof misquoted. Another act was passed 1799, ch. 61.

C. H. A. P. LXVII.

An ACT relating to negroes, and to repeal the acts of assembly therein mentioned. Lib. JG. No. 2. fol. 529. Passed 31st of Dec. 1796.

Supplements-1797, ch. 15, 1798, ch. 76.

BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall not be lawful, from and after the passing of this act, to import or bring into this state, by land or water, any negro, mulatto or other slave, for sale, or to reside within this state; and any person brought into this state as a slave contrary to this act, if a slave before, shall thereupon immediately cease to be the property of the person or persons so importing or bringing such slave within this state, and shall be free. Negroes not to be imported, &c.

IT PROVIDED NEVERTHELESS, AND BE IT ENACTED, That it shall and may be lawful for any citizen or citizens of the United States, who shall come into this state with a bona fide intention of settling therein, to import or bring into this state, at the time of his or her removal into this state, or within one year thereafter, any slave or slaves the property of such citizen at the time of his or her said removal, which slave or slaves, or the mother or mothers of which slave or slaves, shall have been resident of the United States, or some one of them, three whole years next preceding such removal, and the same to retain as slaves. Proviso.

By 1797, ch. 15, this privilege is extended to the executors or administrators of such persons dying within one year after removal, for one year after such death, and is further extended to the issue of such slaves born after the removal of the person so dying, also to guardians of infants entitled on such persons dying within one year after removal, and to male infants so entitled after the age of twenty-one, and to female infants after the age of sixteen, in the same manner, and to include the issue, as in the case of executors.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to enable any person or persons, so removing as aforesaid, to sell or dispose of any slave or slaves imported by virtue of this act, or their increase, unless such person or persons shall have resided within this state three whole years next preceding such sale, except in cases of disposition by last will and testament, and dispositions by law for bona fide debts, or consequent upon intestacy. Persons not to sell, &c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed or taken to affect the right of any person or persons travelling or sojourning with any slave or slaves within this state, such slave or slaves not being sold or otherwise disposed of in this state, but carried by the owner out of this state, or attempted to be carried. Right not affected, &c.

V. AND BE IT ENACTED, That no slave manumitted agreeably to the laws of this state since the passing of the act, (b) entitled; An act to prohibit the bringing slaves into this state, or made free under the said act, or who shall hereafter be manumitted or made free in virtue of this act, shall be entitled to the privilege of voting at elections, or of being elected or appointed to any office of profit or trust, or to give evidence against any white person, or shall be recorded as competent evidence to manumit any slave petitioning for freedom. No slave manumitted to vote, &c.

(b) April, 1783, ch. 23.

VI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That no person brought into this state from any of the United States, who is bound to service for a term of years only by the laws of the state from which such person is brought, shall be considered as a slave for life in this state, but such person brought into this state shall serve for the time which the laws of the state from which such person is brought oblige him or her to serve, and no longer. Persons not to be considered as slaves, &c.

VII. AND, whereas negroes or other slaves may have been or may hereafter be carried out of this state during the infancy, or without the knowledge, authority or consent, of the real owners or proprietors of the same, and it is just and reasonable that the said owners or proprietors should be permitted to bring them in again, BE IT ENACTED, That if any negro, or other slave, hath been or may hereafter be carried out of this state, by any executor, administrator or guardian, or by any other person or persons, during the infancy or without the consent or authority of the real owner or proprietor of such negro or other slave, it shall and may be lawful for such owner or proprietor, at any time hereafter, to bring the said negro, or other slave, into this state again, and to have and enjoy the said negro, or other slave, as his or her property. Negroes carried out may be brought back, &c.

VIII. AND