

C H A P.
LXVII.
Citizens may
remove slaves,
&c.

VIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That it shall and may be lawful for any citizen and resident of this state, being seized and possessed of an estate of inheritance in his own right, or in the right of his wife, in land lying in any one of the adjoining states, and the owner of any slave or slaves employed or worked on the said land, to remove and bring such slave or slaves within this state on the land of such owner, for the use and benefit of the owner, his or her legal representatives, and not for sale; provided such slave or slaves hath or have been residents of some one of the said adjoining states before the twenty-first day of April, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, or is or are the descendant or descendants of any slave, being residents as aforesaid; and provided also, that a list of such slave or slaves, containing their names, sexes and ages, be delivered, in writing, and signed by the owner, his overseer or agent, to the clerk of the county into which such slave or slaves shall be brought to reside, within three months thereafter, and the said list shall be recorded at the expence of the owner of such slave or slaves, so brought into this state; in which list of negroes, so recorded, if title to them be acquired by will, the testator's name, the date of the will, and the place where recorded, shall be inserted, and if the title to them be derived from marriage, the name of the married person from whom the title is derived, shall likewise be inserted in said list, and the whole entered on record.

Citizens of adjoining states may remove their slaves, &c.

IX. AND BE IT ENACTED, That it shall and may be lawful for any citizen and resident of any adjoining (a) state, being seized and possessed of an estate of inheritance in his own right, or the right of his wife, in land lying in this (a) state, and the owner of any slave or slaves, residents of any adjoining state before the twenty-first day of April, in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three, or of the descendant or descendants of any slave, being resident as aforesaid, to remove and bring any such slave or slaves into this state, for the purpose of employing or working such slave or slaves on the land of such owner within this state, for the use and benefit of the owners, his or her legal representatives, and not for sale; provided, that a list of such slave or slaves be delivered, in writing, containing the names, sexes and ages, of said negroes, and signed by the owner, his overseer or agent, to the clerk of the county in which such slave or slaves shall be first brought to reside, within three months thereafter, and the said list shall contain a certificate as aforesaid, to be recorded at the expence of the owner of such slave or slaves so removed into this state.

(a) By 1798, ch. 76; this privilege is extended to citizens of this state, the possessors of land in this or any adjoining state.

As often as they think proper, &c.

X. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the power of removing slaves, as above allowed, may be exercised as often as the owner or owners of such slaves shall think proper, (b) on complying with the directions of this act.

(b) To the owners of slaves worked on the said land. The list is to be delivered to the clerk of the county into which such slaves shall be brought to reside. The list to be recorded, and the mode of acquiring them to be noted therein; and they may afterwards be removed, as often as the owner chooses, without recording them each time.

Certain slaves may be removed, &c.

XI. AND BE IT ENACTED, That if any citizen of this state hath acquired or shall acquire property in any slave or slaves, being residents of any of the United States before the twenty-first day of April, in the year seventeen hundred and eighty-three, or in the descendant or descendants of such slaves, being residents as aforesaid, by marriage, bequest, in course of distribution, or as guardian, such citizen may remove and bring such slave or slaves into this state, for the purpose only of employing or working such slave or slaves within this state, as herein before mentioned, and not for sale; provided, that a list of such slave or slaves be rendered in the manner herein before directed, by a citizen of this state, on his bringing slaves into this state as herein before allowed; and provided also, that the owners of such slaves may sell them after such slaves have been residents for three years within this state.

Part of an act repealed.
* 1752, ch. 1.

XII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That all that part of an act, * entitled, An act to prevent disabled and superannuated slaves being set free, or the manumission of slaves by any last will and testament, which is contained within the third section thereof, shall be and is hereby repealed.

Freedom may be granted by will, &c.

XIII. AND BE IT ENACTED, That from and after the passage of this act, it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons, capable in law to make a valid will and testament, to grant freedom to, and effect the manumission of, any slave or slaves belonging to such person or persons, by his, her or their last will and testament, and such manumission of any slave or slaves may be made to take effect at the death of the testator or testators, or at such other periods as may be limited in such last will and testament; provided always, that no manumission hereafter to be made by last will and testament shall be effectual to give freedom to any slave or slaves, if the same shall be in prejudice of creditors, nor unless the said slave or slaves shall be under the age of forty-five years, and able to work and gain a sufficient maintenance and livelihood at the time the freedom given shall commence.

XIV. AND,