

## AN ACT OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.

An act in favor of the President and Directors of the Potomac Company, and the Commissioners of the Federal Buildings—(passed November session, 1794.)

Wh<sup>ereas</sup> the President and Directors of the Potomac Company, and the Commissioners of the Federal Buildings, heretofore, by their petition to this General Assembly, set forth, that the labor of the Potomac Company is best performed by negro slaves; that it is highly expedient that the laborers should be frequently removed from one side of the river to the other, as the work cannot, with convenience, be effected by distinct sets of laborers for each side of the river, and that a great deal of labor will be necessary in the city of Washington, and the masters of slaves in each state, as well as the public, may reap considerable benefits from the privilege of taking them from either state; and that it is but just, that the citizens of both states should share in the advantages, as they have united in liberality towards the said city; and have prayed that a law might be made, permitting negro slaves to be employed by the public, on either side of the river Potomac, either in the works of the Potomac Company, or of the city of Washington; and it appearing to this General Assembly that the prayer of the said petition ought to be granted, in part: Therefore,

2 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it shall be lawful for the said Potomac Company, and for the said Commissioners, to employ any male slaves of the state of Virginia, in any part of the public works committed to their respective charge, and not otherwise, on either side of the river Potomac, and to remove them as often as may be necessary to and from either of the said states; and that the slaves so employed shall not acquire any right to freedom in consequence thereof: Provided always, That every slave brought from Virginia to Maryland, by virtue of this act, shall be carried back to Virginia within twelve calendar months from the final completion of the public works, either of the said city of Washington, or of the said river Potomac, respectively, in which the said slaves shall be employed, and that every slave not carried back, as aforesaid, shall be entitled to freedom at the expiration of twelve months, as aforesaid.

from officer, by whom they are at any time employed, to