

Attorney as a person attesting the same to be true; Whereas there was not any
 Attorney in Maryland nor hath been for many years of that name, and
 never any that had recourse to the Records so that the said Abstract appears evidently
 to be a forgery and imposition; And forasmuch as it appears that during the time
 of such Acts the said Riddledowns Ceaps there was some parts of the Records found Cut
 out and that for some defects of Assignments or in other manner Conveyances which
 probably were occasioned by the usual practice of the said Riddledown, or such like will
 designing persons; And whereas the said Riddledown has been known to personate
 others and has now produced sundry pretended Deeds of Sale to several of the Clerks
 of the County Courts to be recorded and made demands of the Possessors of sundry
 persons whose Sells he pretends to have bought and for that such purchasing
 cannot be ~~behold~~ free from the Imputation of Champerty if made by real Deeds,
 but that in truth the Deeds he pretends to hold by are by the most Distinguisht persons
 and of the best Credit justly suspected to be forged And for that it would be impract-
 icable to detect such forgery if the Deeds themselves should be withdrawn from
 such officers so as to leave an authentick Record thereof without leaving the
 Original Deeds that the hand writing of the pretended Grantors may be seen And
 for that it is easy for such a person by calling himself by the name of another and
 executing a Deed by such name out of his Companions in a strange place to
 Obtain such fraudulent Deed to be witnessed by men of good Credit who may as
 they think safely swear before a Magistrate that they saw the Person signing said
 and deliver that Deed though they may be wholly mistaken whether the Person so
 signing signed by his own Name, or by the name of One so fraudulently
 personated; and by that means Obtain such Probate of false Deeds as may make
 an undoubted Evidence of a Title after the original Deeds are destroyed which in
 this case the said Underwood Riddledown may easily do if he has the Deeds
 Redivered him by the Clerks; And whereas there is Original process out
 against him on one or more Judgments found against him in this Province
 some years since for crimes of an high Nature to which he has never answered
 but is now returned in prison on such process and that he fled from the Justice of
 this Province when bound by recognizance to answer the same

But therefore enacted by the right Honourable the Lord
 Proprietor by and with the advice and Consent of His Lordships Governours and the
 upper and lower Houses of Assembly of this Province and the authority of the same
 that it shall and may be lawful for the severall Clerks in whose Hands any such
 Deeds are and they are hereby required to detain in their Hands all such Deeds that
 they may be subjected to a legall Enquiry and Examination and if the said Riddledown
 shall surrender himself to Justice to undergoe a fair tryall of the facts he stands
 accused of and also give the persons in danger of being injured by such Deeds
 an opportunity of legally Contesting with him the validity of them; and until
 he shall stand to and abide the judgement of the Courts of Judicature thereupon
 And that any Clerk that shall presume to deliver any of the said Deeds to the said
 Riddledown Contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act shall forfeit
 and be removed from his Office