

Richard Clark, James Tapper, and Thomas Collins, in the Custody of the Sheriff of Anne-Arundel County; Philip Lynbam, Robert Mark, Thomas Catterall, John Bell, Jacob Myres, John Berisford, and Thomas Thompson, in the Custody of the Sheriff of Frederick County; George Clarke and John Brown, in the Custody of the Sheriff of Prince-George's County; and Thomas Wyley, in the Custody of the Sheriff of Calvert County; for a considerable Time past, and still continue in the like deplorable Circumstances, not being able to redeem their Bodies with all their Estate or Interest they have in the World, which they would readily surrender up and part with to their several and respective Creditors, if they would accept of the same, and grant the said Petitioners their Liberty; which seems so unlikely for them to obtain, that (unless relieved by a particular Act, to be passed in their Favour, which, by their said Petitions they have humbly prayed, they must inevitably continue Prisoners for Life: And for that the Truth of the said Petitioners Allegations is made appear to this General Assembly, and that the said Petitioners are fit Objects of Charity, and that their lying in Goal can be no Benefit to their Creditors: It is humbly prayed that the said Petitioners may be relieved, according to their Prayers, and that it may be Enacted,

II. AND be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That unless all or any of the Creditors of the said Constantine Bull, John Hayes, William Grace, Anne Garrish, John Hunt, John Green, John Nimmo, John Temple Parsons, William Maynard, William Greenwood, Peter Johnson, Goven Dunbar, Charles Mac Carthy, Lewis Deford, John Bush, Edward Dossy, Joseph Thompson, Abraham Dean, Patrick Carroll, Adam Gough, Elizabeth Grant, Thomas Somes, John Maccauly, Richard Walmsley, John Glover, Richard Clark, James Tapper, Thomas Collins, Philip Lynbam, Robert Mark, Thomas Catterall, John Bell, Jacob Myres, John Berisford, Thomas Thompson, George Clarke, John Brown, and Thomas Wyley, or the Creditor or Creditors of any or either of them, or the Attorney or Attorneys of such Creditor or Creditors aforesaid, within this Province, go to the Sheriffs of the Counties of Cæcil, Kent, Queen-Anne's, Talbot, Dorchester, Somerset, Baltimore, Anne-Arundel, Frederick, Prince-George's, and Calvert, within twenty Days next after the End of this Session of Assembly, and give good and sufficient Security to pay the Imprisonment Fees, as settled by Law, that shall or may become due from the said Prisoners respectively, after the End of the said twenty Days, and also find the said Prisoners sufficient Meat, Drink, and Cloathing, during their future Imprisonment; and in Case* they the said Prisoners shall deliver up and surrender, or cause to be delivered up and surrendered, to the Sheriffs of the Counties aforesaid, in the Presence of two Justices of the Peace of the said Counties, whom the said Sheriffs are hereby required to summon, on the Request of the said Prisoners, at some convenient Time after the Receipt of this Act, not exceeding ten Days, all their real and personal Estate, either in Possession, Reversion, Remainder, or in Trust, or in or unto which they have any Claim or Interest whatsoever, and likewise before the Day before mentioned, convey, assign, transfer, and make over, unto the Sheriffs of Cæcil, Kent, Queen-Anne's, Talbot, Dorchester, Somerset, Baltimore, Anne-Arundel, Frederick, Prince-George's, and Calvert Counties, for the Use of the said Creditors, all such their Estate, Interest, or Claim, as aforesaid, after such Manner as by the said Sheriffs, and by the major Part of such Creditors, or of such of them as shall think fit to direct therein, or their Council learned in the Law, shall reasonably devise or require, at the Costs and Charges of the Persons as shall claim Benefit thereof, so that the said Prisoners be not burthened with any Warrantees thereby, other than from themselves, or those claiming by, from or under them, and that the said Prisoners, at the Time of such their surrender and transferring their Estate as aforesaid, shall take their solemn Oaths, (or Affirmation if Quakers), before the said two Justices of the Courts of the Counties respectively aforesaid, to the Effect following, viz. I A. B. do affirm, or solemnly swear, That the Goods, Debts and Effects which I have delivered, assigned, and made over to the Sheriff of County, and in Trust for the Use of my Creditors, is the whole Estate both real and personal of my own in Possession, or have any Title to in the World, and that I have not any Estate, Goods or Effects, of any kind whatsoever, left either in Possession, Reversion, or Remainder, (the necessary wearing Apparel for myself, Wife and Children, and working Tools excepted) and that I have not directly or indirectly, sold, leased, or otherwise conveyed, disposed of, or intrusted, all, or any Part of my Estate, thereby to defraud my Creditors, or to secure the same to receive or expect any Profit or Advantage thereof: So help me GOD. It shall and may be lawful for the Sheriffs of the Counties aforesaid, after the End of the said ten Days, and the said Sheriffs are hereby required to discharge the said Prisoners out of their Custody, and suffer them to go at large.

Prisoners to be discharged on delivering up their Effects, on Oath.

The Oath.

III. AND be it further Enacted, by the Authority, Advice, and Consent aforesaid, That if the said Prisoners, or any of them, shall hereafter be imprisoned by Reason of any Judgment or Decree obtained for the Payment of any Debt, Damage or Cost, contracted, occurred, or occasioned, owing or growing due before the End of this Session of Assembly, upon every such Arrest, on any such Judgment or Decree, or for any such Debt, Damage or Cost, it shall and may be lawful for the Judge or Justices of the Court where any such Process shall issue, upon shewing a Duplicate of the Discharge of the said Prisoners, or any of them, being so arrested, to release and discharge out of Custody the said Prisoners, or any of them, provided the said Prisoners, or either of them, being so arrested, shall and do enter his or their Appearance, or procure some Attorney to appear to every such Action, and plead thereto. Provided, That the Discharge of the said Prisoners, or any of them, shall not acquit any other Person from such Debt, Damage or Cost, or any Part thereof, but that all such Persons shall be answerable for the same, in such Manner as they were before the passing this Act.

To be discharged from future Arrests on Appearance, &c.

IV. PROVIDED always, and be it Enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That notwithstanding the Discharge of the said Prisoners, or any of them, all and every Debt or Debts, due and owing from him, her or them, and all and every Judgment had, or Decree obtained, against him, her or them, shall stand and be good and effectual in Law, to all Intents and Purposes, against the Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, Goods and Chattels, of him, her, or them, and which he, she or they, or any other Person in Trust, for the Use of him, her or them, had at the Time of the Discharge of the said Prisoners, or any of them, or which he, she or they, at any Time hereafter, shall or may be any Way seized or possessed of, or interested in, to his, her or their own Use, or in his, her or their own proper Right, either in Law or Equity, (except the wearing Apparel and Bedding, or working Tools, of him, her or them, not exceeding

Debts to stand good in Case, &c.