

C H A P. XII.

An ACT for the Relief of certain languishing Prisoners, in the several Goals therein mentioned.

**W**HEREAS *James Daily* and *William Spry*, languishing Prisoners in *Queen-Anne's County Goal*; *Stephen Garland*, *Isaac Roads*, and *John Garlington*, languishing Prisoners in *Somerset County Goal*; *Levin Townsend*, a languishing Prisoner in *Worcester County Goal*; *Nathaniel Wickham*, *John Turnbull*, *John Lanham*, and *John Campbell*, languishing Prisoners in *Frederick County Goal*; *Dorcas Warner*, *William Clowes*, *Thomas Tyler*, and *George Cox*, languishing Prisoners in *Dorchester County Goal*; *John Brown*, a languishing Prisoner in *St. Mary's County Goal*; *Samuel Tannebill*, *Baldwin Skidmore*, and *John Brasbears*, languishing Prisoners in *Prince-George's County Goal*; *Augustine Pecker*, *Stephen Johnson*, *Nicholas Minskie*, *John Knox*, *Samuel Tunbridge*, *Luke Gill*, *Jasper Hall*, languishing Prisoners in *Anne-Arundel County Goal*; *John Hughs*, *Nathan Shaw*, *John Lemmons*, *John Grenif Howard*, *John Denning*, *John Jones*, *John Condron*, *Soloman Wheeland*, *Joseph Barham*, and *Thomas West*, languishing Prisoners in *Baltimore County Goal*; and *John Wood*, a languishing Prisoner in *Calvert County Goal*; by their Petitions to this present General Assembly, have set forth, That they have respectively continued Prisoners for Debt, in the Custody of the Sheriffs of the respective Counties aforesaid, for a considerable Time past, and still continue in the like deplorable Circumstances, not being able to redeem their Bodies with all the 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 reliev'd by a particular Act to be pass'd in their favour, which by their said Petitions they have humbly prayed) they must inevitable continue Prisoners for Life, and as the Allegations of the said Petitioners appear to this General Assembly to be true, and that their lying in Goal can be of no Advantage to their Creditors, it is humbly prayed that the said Petitioners may be relieved according to their Prayers, and that it may be Enacted;

Preamble, with the Names of the Prisoners relieved by this Act.

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 in case the said Prisoners shall deliver up and surrender, or cause to be delivered up and surrendered to the Sheriffs of the respective Counties aforesaid, in the Presence of two Justices of the Peace of the Counties aforesaid, whom the said Sheriffs are hereby required to summon, at the Request of the said Prisoners, at some convenient Time after the Receipt of this Act, not exceeding Five 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 beforementioned, convey, assign, transfer, and make over unto the Sheriffs, respectively, 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 who shall claim Benefit thereof, so that the said Prisoners be not burthened with any Warrantees thereby, other than against 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 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

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

The Oath.