

C H A P. VIII.

An ACT for the Relief of certain Prisoners in the several Jails therein mentioned.

**W**HEREAS James Gill and Elizabeth Philips of Prince George's County, Allen Davis, John Mankin, William Green, Peter Rigg of Charles County, Philip Tanner, William Gargill, James White, John Chamberlaine, James Kennedy, Abraham Weagly, Frederick Déplants, Henry Sickles, Valentine Sbriner, John Balsler, Frederick Becherer, William Hilleary of Frederick County, Robert Spickernall of Calvert County, Thomas Cooke junior, John Bailey, Elias Smith, John Driskell, Luke Mattingly, Barbary Richardson, Henry Carey, William Mitchell of Saint Mary's County, Justice Hoshell and Samuel Smith of Anne Arundel County, John Ward Son of Henry, John Hadaburch, Borden Wilcox of Cecil County, James Guffey, William Patter, Thomas Treadway, Levy Pottle, Francis Casey, Joshua Alender, Basil Francis, William Walsh, James Henderson, Joseph Miller, John Brown, William Lock, Moses Barney, and Mayberry Kelmer junior of Baltimore County, James Butler, Isaac Parsons, John Benny of Kent County, John Harrison of Dorchester County, Fenton Catten, John Gornwell, Mark Hitchens, Jesse Anderson, James Morns, George Benson, Thomas Jones, Edward Pettit, Thomas Wingate of Worcester County, James White, Matthew Errickson, Aaron Yoe, Peter Green, Henry Thompson, William Sylvester, Charles Clymer of Queen Anne's County, appear to this General Assembly to 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 relieved by a particular Act to be passed in their Favour) they must inevitably continue Prisoners for Life:

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

II. Be it therefore 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 End of this Session of Assembly, 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 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 such of them as shall think fit to direct therein, or their Counsel 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 burdened with any Warrantee 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, *I, A. B. do declare* firm, or solemnly swear, That the Goods, Debts and Effects, which I have

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

The Oath.