CHAP.
XII.

Keef, George Baxter, Joseph Finley, Jane Johnson, Joseph Robafs Rogers, Charles Kees, Thomas Tompkins, Peter Carroll, Joseph Smyth, and Charles Stewart, of Baltimore County, by their Petitions to this prefent General Affembly have fet forth, That they have refpectively continued Prifoners for Debt in the Cuftody of the Sheriffs of the refpective Counties aforefaid, for a confiderable Time paft, and ftill continue in the like deplorable Circumftances, not being able to redeem their Bodies with all the Eftate or Intereft they have in the World, which they would readily furrender up and part with to their feveral and refpective Creditors, if they would accept of the fame, and grant the faid Petitioners their Liberty, which feems fo unlikely for them to obtain, that (unlefs relieved by a particular Act to be paffed in their Favour, which by their faid Petitions they have humbly prayed) they muft inevitably continue Prifoners for Life; and as the Allegations of the faid Petitioners appear to this General Affembly to be true, and that their lying in Jail can be of no Advantage to their Creditors, it is humbly prayed that the faid Petitioners may be relieved according to their Prayers, and that it may be enacted:

Prifoners to be difcharged on delivering up their Effects on Oath.

II. **And be it enacted,** *by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Confent of his Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houfes of Affembly, and the Authority of the fame,* That in cafe the faid Prifoners fhall deliver up and furrender, or caufe to be delivered up and furrendered, to the Sheriffs of the refpective Counties aforefaid, in the Prefence of Two Juftices of the Peace of the Counties aforefaid, whom the faid Sheriffs are hereby required to fummon, at the Requeft of the faid Prifoners, at fome convenient Time after the End of this Seffion of Affembly, all their real and perfonal Eftate, either in Poffeffion, Reverfion, Remainder, or in Truft, or in or unto which they have any Claim or Intereft whatfoever; and likewife convey, affign, transfer and make over, unto the Sheriffs refpectively, for the Ufe of the faid Creditors, all fuch their Eftate, Intereft, or Claim, as aforefaid, after fuch Manner as by the faid Sheriffs, and by the major Part of fuch Creditors, or fuch of them as fhall think fit to direct therein, or their Counfel learned in the Law fhall reafonably devife or require, at the Cofts and Charges of the Perfons who fhall claim Benefit thereof, fo that the faid Prifoners be not burthened with any Warrantees thereby, other than againft themfelves, or thofe claiming by, from, or under them; and that the faid Prifoners, at the Time of fuch their Surrender and transferring their Eftate as aforefaid, fhall take their folemn Oaths (or Affirmation if Quakers) before the

The Oath.

faid Two Juftices aforefaid, to the Effect following, viz. I, A. B. *do affirm, or folemnly fwear, that the Goods, Debts, and Effects, which I have delivered, affigned, and made over to the Sheriff of   County, in Truft, for the Ufe of my Creditors, is the whole Eftate, both real and perfonal, of my own in Poffeffion, or that I have any Title to in the World; and that I have not any Eftate, Goods, or Effects, of any Kind whatfoever, left either in Poffeffion, Reverfion or Remainder, (the neceffary wearing Apparel of myfelf, Wife and Children, Bedding and working Tools excepted) and that I have not, directly or indirectly, fold, leafed, or otherwife conveyed, difpofed of or intrufted, all or any Part of my Eftate, thereby to defraud my Creditors, or to fecure the fame to receive or expect any Profit or Advantage thereof;* So help me GOD; it fhall and may be lawful for the Sheriffs of the Counties aforefaid, to difcharge the faid Prifoners, and fuffer them to go at large.

To be difcharged from future Arrefts on Appearance, &c.

III. **And be it further enacted,** That if the faid Prifoners, or any of them, fhall be arrefted or imprifoned, on any Procefs fued out on any Judgment or Decree obtained againft any of them, for any Debt, Damages or Cofts, contracted, owing, or growing due, before the End of

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