

Assembly, and after giving Ten Days Notice at the Court Houses of the respective Counties of the intended Sale of such Debtor or Debtors, expose to Sale, in the Presence of the said Justices, such Debtor or Debtors, and the Time of his or their Servitude, to the highest Bidder; and the Money arising from such Sale shall be as Effects of such Debtor or Debtors, in the Hands of the respective Sheriffs; subject as aforesaid to a Distribution in Manner aforesaid; and the Sale and Service of such Debtor or Debtors as aforesaid, is hereby directed to be taken as a full and sufficient Acquittal and Discharge against all Debts due from such Debtor or Debtors before such Sale; provided that in Case it shall appear to the Satisfaction of the said Justices, that any of the said Debtors have offered, since their Confinement, to make Satisfaction to their Creditors by Servitude; and that their Creditors have refused to accept the same, that the Time such Debtors have been confined in Prison shall be deemed and taken as Part of the aforesaid Five Years, and that they shall be obliged to serve only for such Time as will compleat Five Years from the Day of such Offer of Servitude; and that in Case any such single Persons as aforesaid have been confined in Prison for Five Years, or any longer Time, that the said Persons so confined shall be discharged, upon the same Terms and in the same Manner that Persons having Families are by this Act directed to be discharged.

C. H. A. P. XII, XIII.

XIII. Provided always, That this Act shall not extend to the discharging of any Person or Persons herein before-mentioned, from his, her, or their Imprisonment, for or by Reason of any criminal Matter whatsoever, any Thing herein contained to the Contrary notwithstanding.

C. H. A. P. XIII.

An ACT for the better regulating Attachments.

**W**HEREAS it is found by Experience, that the Laws now in being, directing the Manner of suing out Attachments, are not framed so as to afford equal Justice to Creditors, but commonly some of the Creditors secure their whole Claims, whilst others suffer a total Loss, and frequently doubtful and suspicious Claims take Place of honest Debts, by Contrivance and Fraud between absconding Persons and their Friends; for Remedy whereof for the future,

Preamble.

II. Be it enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That from and after the First Day of December next, whenever it shall happen, that any Person whatsoever of this Province, being indebted within this Province, shall actually run away, abscond, or fly from Justice, or secretly remove him or herself from his or her Place of Abode, or shall remove or be about to remove any of his or her Effects, with Intent to defraud his or her Creditors; any One Creditor, to whom the said absconding Person is indebted in the Sum of Fifty Shillings Current Money; or Four Hundred Pounds of Tobacco or upwards, over and above all Discounts, may make Application to any Provincial or County Justice, and on such Creditor's making Oath, or Affirmation if a Quaker, that the said absconding Person is bona Fide indebted to him or her in the Sum of over and above all Discounts, and at the same Time producing the Bond or Bonds, Bill or Bills, protested Bill or Bills of Exchange, promissory Note or Notes, or other Instrument or Instruments of Writing, Account or Accounts, by which the said absconding Person is so indebted; which Probate, or Affirmation as aforesaid, shall be indorsed thereon; and the said Creditor

If any Person indebted absconds or removes his Effects, &c. One Creditor may apply to a Provincial or County Justice, &c.