

CHAP. IX.

An ACT to make the Bills of Credit issued by Congress, and the Bills of Credit emitted by Acts of Assembly and Resolves of the late Conventions, a legal Tender in all Cases.

WHEREAS the Bills of Credit emitted by Congress ought to be supported at the full Value expressed in the respective Bills, as also the Bills of Credit heretofore issued by this State, and every Artifice to impair the Credit of the said Bills, by raising the nominal Value of Gold and Silver or any other Species of Money whatsoever, ought to be guarded against and prevented: Preamble.

II. Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That from and after the twentieth Day of *April* next, the Bills of Credit emitted and made current by Congress, and also the Bills of Credit emitted and made current by Acts of Assembly or Resolves of the Conventions of this State, shall pass current therein, and be received in Payment and Discharge of all Manner of Debts, Rents, Sum and Sums of Money, whatsoever, due or hereafter to become due, payable or accruing upon or by Reason of any Mortgage, Bond, Specialty, Bill, Note, Account, Promise, or any other Contract, according to the Sums the said Bills respectively entitle the Bearer thereof to receive, each Dollar therein expressed to be taken and esteemed at the Rate of seven shillings and six-pence, and of equal Value in the Payment of such Debts with a *Spanish* mill'd Silver Dollar weighing seventeen Pennyweight six Grains, any Clause or Proviso, or Device, in any Bond, Note, or other Instrument of Writing, to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. Bills of Credit to pass current according to their respective Sums, at the Rate of $\frac{7}{8}$ per Dollar, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That if any Creditor, from and after the said twentieth Day of *April* next, shall refuse to receive any of the said Bills of Credit, when tendered in Payment of any Debt, or any other Demand above specified, such Creditor, so refusing, shall for ever be barred from suing for or recovering such Debt or Demand, if tendered, or so much thereof as shall be tendered as aforesaid, provided such Tender shall not be less than one fourth Part of the Debt due, in any Court of Law or Equity in this State, and the said Debt or Demand, or so much thereof as shall be tendered, shall be for ever extinguished; and if any Suit shall be commenced for the Recovery of such Debt or Demand, after Tender and Refusal as aforesaid, the Defendant may plead Payment, and give this Act and the special Matter in Evidence. Creditors refusing to take such Bills in Payment of Debts, for ever barred from recovering them.

IV. And, Whereas divers Persons in this State, when they put Money on Loan, and in other Contracts, have bargained with and bound the Borrower or Purchaser to pay the Debt in Sterling Money, or Bills of Exchange payable in *London*, or elsewhere in the Dominions of the King of *Great-Britain*, and all Intercourse being now cut off between the United States and *Great-Britain*:

V. Be it therefore enacted, That where any Person stands bound to pay any Debt above specified, or any other Demand whatsoever, in Debts in Sterling to be discharged at Sterling