

IV. Be it enacted, That the Governor for the Time being, with the Advice of the Council, is hereby empowered to judge of and determine the Validity of all Elections for Sheriffs, and if it shall appear that such Elections have not been made fairly and freely, and agreeable to the Constitution of this State, shall issue new Writs of Election for Sheriffs agreeable to the Directions of the Form of Government.

C H A P.
XIX, XX.
Governor
may deter-
mine the Va-
lidity of E-
lections, &c.

C H A P. XX.

An ACT to punish certain Crimes and Misdemeanors, and to prevent the Growth of Toryism.

WHEREAS the Clemency of this State, towards such of its Subjects and Inhabitants as are inimical to its Freedom and Independence, has not had the desired Effect of reclaiming them from their evil Practices, but still pursuing their dark and criminal Designs of enslaving *America*, they continue to encourage and promote the Operations of our Enemies: And, Whereas every Hope of uniting to the Interest of their Country the Affections of these its unnatural and implacable Enemies is extinguished, and great Disadvantages have arisen, and still more dangerous Consequences may be apprehended, from a Delay of effectual Measures to suppress or remove them from the Society of a free People, constrained by Oppression to declare their Independence, and determined at all Events to maintain the same:

Preamble.

II. Be it therefore enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That if any Subject or Inhabitant of this State shall, within or without the same, and if any Person whatever, being an Inhabitant of any other of the United States, shall, within this State, levy War against the United States, or any of them, or shall adhere to any Person bearing Arms, or employed in the Service of *Great-Britain*, against the United States, or any of them, or shall afford such Persons, or any of them, any Aid or Comfort, or shall give them, or any of them, or any Subject of *Great-Britain*, any Intelligence of the warlike Preparations or Designs of the United States, or any of them, and shall be thereof convicted in the General Court of this State, or shall stand mute, or peremptorily challenge above the Number of twenty of the Pannel, shall be adjudged guilty of Treason against this State, and shall suffer Death without Benefit of Clergy, and forfeit all the Estate which he had at the Time of the Commission of the Crime, to the Use of this State; and the several Crimes aforesaid shall receive the same Constructions that have been given to such of the said Crimes as are enumerated in the Statute of *Edward* the third, commonly called the Statute of Treasons.

Persons levy-
ing War a-
gainst the U-
nited States,
&c. to suffer
Death, &c.

III. And be it enacted, That if any Subject or Inhabitant of this State, having Knowledge of the actual Commission of any of the Crimes aforesaid, above declared to be Treason, shall conceal the same, and shall not, as soon as conveniently may be, disclose and make the same known to the Governor, or some one of the Judges or Justices of this State for the Time being, such Person, on Conviction thereof in the General Court, shall be adjudged guilty of a Misprision of Treason.

Persons guilt-
y of Mispri-
sion of Trea-
son to lose
their Estates.